



The Islander

December 2014

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club

The December meeting will be on the 18th at the Volunteer Firehouse. Bring a side dish and enjoy meeting with fellow Islanders. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meal at 7:00. There will not be a speaker.

University of Florida/IFAS Extension Director Speaks to members at November meeting

Les Harrison, the county extension agent based in Crawfordville spoke at the November meeting on proper ways to maintain shrubs and other plants on the Island.



Les Harrison

He described the proper make-up of soil needed to allow plants to grow in the sandy areas of our yards. Les said the first step is a soil test. You need this because what you don't know can hurt you.

(See Extension Agent, Page Two)

Fire Chief Jay Abbott unveils new Chili Cookoff Jackets and brings members up-to-date on the Fire Department

The jackets for the 2015 St. George Island Cookoff were shown at the November meeting by SGI Fire Chief Jay Abbott. This year the jackets will be made out of denim and will be available in both men's and women's cuts. The jackets will cost \$100 each as will the new baseball caps. The baseball caps will honor Fred Bono for his many years of volunteering with our Fire Department.

Jay also talked about a renovation of the Firehouse parking lot. The cost will be \$2,000. A discussion followed on the Civic Club donating this amount to our Volunteer Fire station. Jay asked that a decision be made soon so he could include that amount in next year's budget. Treasurer Mike O'Connell said we had enough money in the treasury to make this contribution.

Newt Colston pointed out that any amount over \$250 must first be voted on by the Board of Directors before bringing it to the members to vote on at a meeting.

It was pointed out that all of the Club officers were present and President Steve Childers asked the Board if they would like to vote on the matter. They agreed and Newt made a motion to donate the money and Fred Stanley seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and brought before the *(See Fire Department, Page Two)*

Time to Vote for Citizen of the Year

President Steve Childers announced that it was time to honor our Club's Citizen of the Year. Eric Roberts, who will count the votes, asked that nominations be sent to his personal email address at egrob2@fairpoint.net. He also asked for a note explaining why anyone making a nomination thinks their choice should be Citizen of the Year. Nominations should be sent to Eric by December 15th.

The names of the 2015 SGI Civic Club Officers to be Announced

The Nomination Committee is expected to bring nominations for the SGI Civic Club Board of Directors to the December meeting. The nominations will be announced and the members present will vote on the suggestions. Remember, this will be our Christmas dinner and there will be a short business meeting only, no formal speaker.

(Extension Agent, from Page One)

The nutrients needed for good soil are:
Nitrogen – The choice of source is important
Phosphorus – Likely not needed, and
Potash

These tests are available from A&L Labs, Water Agriculture Labs or the UF/IFAS Extension Service.

The results can tell you what you need to add to your soil for best results.

The advantages for commercial fertilizer are its known analysis, easy to measure the delivery, savings in labor and ease of application.

The disadvantages are the costs and they are not "organic."

The other options are compost, both plant and animal. The advantages are they can be "organic", they utilize waste materials, they have water holding capacity and add organic material to the soil.

The disadvantages are that the analyses may vary; it takes time to react or mature, the labor and delivery cost and ease of application.

Les also told the members that an alternative to plantings around the yard is the use of container gardening.

You can use containers to locate a plant where it needs to be but wouldn't ordinarily grow. You can use small spaces; place them in easily accessible heights and where you want some "excitement."

He said to consider weight and plant size and to be sure to provide good drainage.

His office is behind the painted lion in the park in Crawfordville and he can be reached at 250-926-3931 or harrisog@ufl.edu. There is a nursery behind the building that you can visit and see the different types of plants that grow well in this area.

(Fire Department, From Page One)

membership. Eric Roberts made a motion to provide the money and Diane Bodenhamer seconded. The motion was passed with no nay votes.

It is time to renew dues for 2015

Dues are \$20 per person and can be mailed to SGI Civic Club, P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. Now is the time to pay the dues for 2015.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St.

George Lighthouse

The December Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Saturday, December 6. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will include light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. Cost is \$15.00 for the general public and \$10.00 for members of the St. George Lighthouse Association.

(See Lighthouse, Page Three)

(Lighthouse, From Page Two)

The sun will set at 5:40 p.m. and the moon will rise at 6:12 p.m. on December 6.



After sunset, people are invited to climb to the top of the lighthouse for a breathtaking view of the full moon, as space and time permit. Cost is \$10.00 for the general public and \$5.00 for SGLA members.

The Cape St. George Light is located in St. George Lighthouse Park at the center of St. George Island, where Island Drive (the road off the bridge) ends at Gulf Beach Drive. Parking is available in lots at either side of the park.

Reservations are recommended; please call the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Upcoming Events

St. George Island - Lighting of the Palms



Saturday Dec. 6 - 2 East Gulf Beach Dr., St. George Island - Annual island holiday event features "Jingle Jog," music and refreshments; Santa arrives on a fire truck

and island palm trees are ceremoniously lit for the season.

Apalachicola - Holiday Fresh Market



Why fight the crowds and traffic at the malls? On Saturday, December 6 come for the day or the weekend and find one-of-a-kind unusual presents. You can shop in a relaxed, hassle-free environment and buy hand crafted Apalachicola specialties such as fresh seasonal wreaths, baked goods, artwork, wood carving, pottery, hand knitted goods. Your gift shopping has never been easier! For more info call (850) 653-9419 or go to info@apalachicolabay.org.

Eastpoint Christmas Parade & Celebration



Bring your golf cart, convertible, pick-up truck or boat on Friday, December 12. We'll end at the Pavilion on Patton Drive where Santa will arrive by oyster boat, there will be caroling and Santa will listen to children's wishes. 4:00 PM.

Carrabelle - Holiday on the Harbor

Marine Street will be glowing with lights, and the River Walk is the place for watching the decked out boat regatta on Saturday, December 13. Community groups will be selling festival food, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chicken Fingers and Christmas goodies.



Local vendors will have unique gifts. Shops in Carrabelle will be open! Please stop in. The Winners and Awards will be announced at C-Quarters Marina after the parade. For more information call 850-697-2585 or go to www.carrabelle.org

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourism Council for Upcoming events.



CHRISTMAS KITTENS

This is one of three nursing litters at the Franklin County Adoption center right now. The litter above is 5 weeks old and being weaned. The other two litters are 4

weeks old and will be starting the weaning process soon.

Keep in mind the holidays are right around the corner so if you are thinking of adopting a kitten for your child, now is the time to pick the one you want. They won't be ready for another 4-6 weeks but that's purrfect timing for Santa!

For more information, call the Humane Society at 850) 670-8417

Winter Bingo

The 2015 Winter Bingo season begins on Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jay Abbott Fire House on St. George Island.

2014 Board of Directors

Steve Childers **President**
schilders1946@hotmail.com

Chris Jensen **Vice-President**
jensenchris@me.com

Mike O'Connell **Treasurer**
poconnell1414@gmail.com

Linda Thurman **Secretary**
sgibeach1@gmail.com

Directors:

Fred Stanley
Fred_stanley3@yahoo.com

Lon Wilkens
pennywilk@charter.net

Immediate Past President

Newt Colston
newtcol@gmail.com

Please visit our website:

www.sgicivicclub.org for the latest news from St. George Island and the surrounding area. Email us at sgicivicclub@gmail.com Dues are \$20 per person and can be mailed to SGI Civic Club, P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328. Now is the time to pay the dues for 2015.

The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts,
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