



The Islander

October 2017

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The next club meeting will be on October 19 at 6:30. This is our
Annual Luau Pig Roast at the Lighthouse. No speaker.

Sheriff Smith Spoke at September Meeting

James Donald, Vice President of the Civic Club opened the meeting and introduced Franklin County Sheriff AJ Smith who provided a laundry list of accomplishments and ongoing missions the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) is undertaking. His #1 motto/brand is "To Serve This Community" in which he and his staff are doing so at every given opportunity.

If you see something, say something. Don't wait until an incident has passed; call immediately. Networking is extremely important.

He commented that our community security vehicle has been out of commission for over a year and we should get another one soon. So many of FCSO vehicles had over 200k miles on them and he is slowly replacing them.

Basketballs are in all deputy's vehicles so they can stop and play with the children to become part of the community.

School is in session and the Sheriff's office strives to improve quality of life. The deputies have been instructed to ticket speeders, golf cart violators, and even cite garbage flying off trucks.

Each deputy will receive Critical Incident Training to include how to identify and handle mental health, drug violators, and even Bear training. A donor provided tickets for underprivileged children to attend a children to attend an FSU football game.

(See Sheriff, Page Two)

Franklin County Commission Acts on Moratorium and Height Restrictions

The Franklin County Commission voted for a moratorium on building in the business section in the Center of the Island for 6 months.

On another meeting on September 5, they also voted down a request to allow a builder to exceed the County's height restrictions.'

(Sheriff, From Page One)

The office has conducted concealed weapons classes and is actively soliciting Hurricane Harvey and Irma donations. When it appeared that Irma might be headed to our area, Sheriff Smith received calls from other sheriffs offering assistance.

Every Sheriff's office vehicle has been equipped with AEDs (defibrillators), radar, and floor jacks for helping residents change flat tires quickly.

The FCSO has been awarded a grant to purchase body cams

The office has received a new CAD system from Bay County. This alone saved \$100K-\$150K.

Sheriff Smith explained the new Fresh Start Prison Ministries program designed to help with recidivism. If he can save one resident; the program is worth it.

He is a big supporter of Team Challenge; two residents in the program now.

FCSO Statistics over the last 8 months:

Stopped 209 golf cart violators
200 speeders

Made 400 business checks

Resolved 4 burglaries

Explained staffing levels, zones, and challenges.

Other meeting news: Katy Buell with SGI Cat Allies spoke for a few minutes. The organization is a 501(c)(3) and donations are deductible. So far 626 cats have been

spayed/neutered and returned back to their original location which is required by law. Questions call 850-370-1125.

Eric Roberts then discussed the slate of officers for 2018 and solicited nominations for Vice-President.

Ben Mathewson will become a Director as Eric and Lon Wilkens will step down. Eric will continue to attend board meetings and write the monthly newsletter. Linda Thurman will continue as a Director. (Since the meeting, Sherri Roberts volunteered to be treasurer and Mike O'Connell to be vice-president) Diane Bodenhamer will join the board as past president. Kelly Rowland will continue as the secretary. Kelly was recognized and acknowledged for all her hard work and especially the great job on Bingo. Annual awards of charitable donations will be nominated in November and December.

Paul Riegelmayr made a motion to give \$500 to the FCSO Relief fund for Monroe County after the Hurricane Irma disaster in the Florida Keys. The motion was seconded and members voted in favor.

The October monthly meeting will be the annual pig roast at the lighthouse. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring a covered dish.

It was announced the SGI Lighthouse association will host its first Veterans Day recognition day. Veterans present were asked to stand.

Full Moon Climb at Cape St. George Lighthouse

The October Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Thursday, October 5. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 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. The sun will set at 7:20 p.m. and the "Hunters" moon will rise at 7:39 p.m. on October 5. The October full moon is called the Hunters moon because deer are being hunted by Native Americans to store up meat for the winter ahead. Since fields have been harvested, fox and other animals feeding on the grain refuse can be easily spotted by hunters. Full Moon names are attributable to Native American tribes, most notably the Algonquin, who named the moons to mark the changing seasons. 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. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended. For reservations or more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Diabetes Education Classes Begins at Eastpoint Library

Civic Club member Suzanne Laws is working with the library at Eastpoint to offer free diabetes education classes as a community project. The classes will be offered on the second Monday of the month from 4:30--5:30 p.m. They will be informal and consumer driven. The classes will be patterned after the American Association of Diabetes Educators' 7 Self-Care Behaviors. These include "Healthy Eating", "Being Active", "Monitoring", "Taking Medication", "Risk Reduction", "Problem Solving", and "Healthy Coping". The classes are designed for people who have type 1 and type 2 diabetes, prediabetes and their families.

Suzanne has been involved in diabetes education and management for 40 years and is now retired. She is a registered dietitian, certified diabetes educator, and a board certified advanced management specialist. She can be reached at (850)933-5770 or email at suzdiabed@juno.com

Rock By The Sea

Rock By The Sea presented a \$3,000 check to the FCSO for assistance to children in Monroe county (the Keys) affected by Hurricane Irma. This annual charity music festival was hosted by Harry A's Bar & Grill.

Upcoming Events

Photographer Workshop

On Sunday, October 1, at 711 Market Street Apalachicola, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Photographer Charlie Sawyer will demonstrate how to process and prepare any photographs you have taken, to make them look their best. He'll start out with the basic tools that are freely available on any computer (and on the web), and then demonstrate some advanced techniques that come with more sophisticated programs like PhotoShop.

Cost will be \$35 each workshop. Maximum 15 participants per workshop. Tickets will be available at <https://squareup.com/store/on-the-waterfront-gallery> or call 850-653-9699 to register in advance. Charlie is a retired leadership development facilitator, instructional designer, and educator. He is an award-winning fine art photographer and an amateur singer-songwriter. You can find Charlie on Facebook and LinkedIn. And visit Charlie's European travel blog at 1700Somewhere.com. Charlie lives with his wife in Apalachicola. Visit Charlie's website at: <https://charliesawyer.com/>

Pinkout

This local breast cancer awareness

event has grown to be a popular annual fall event on St. George Island. The October 6 PINK OUT festivities



begin at 6 pm at Paddy's Raw Bar at 40 3rd St E, St George Island and will feature a silent auction, live music, food and fun! For more information, call (850) 927-2299

Estuary Class

What is an estuary is and why it is so vital to the economy and way of life? Join the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve at 108 Island Dr, Eastpoint on Friday, October 6, 12:00-4:00pm to explore the estuary. Participants will learn about the habitats and creatures that make up our estuary and how the river (*See Estuary Class, Page Five*)

(Estuary Class From Page Four)
and bay are intricately connected. See these habitats up close aboard the Reserve's research vessel the Henry Lee. The workshop will be based out of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint, FL 32328. The class is \$25.00. Please register in advance. For more information, call (850) 670-7708, or go to: anerrestuaryclass.eventbrite.com/

Paddlejam

The fall version of the Apalachicola Paddlejam festival will be held October 6-8 in Apalachicola and on St. George Island. This three day

festival celebrates the Forgotten Coast through paddle sports, music and



food. The highlight of the event will be an attempt by paddlers to break the world record for the largest floating kayak raft. New this fall will be a paddling fishing tournament. For more information, go to www.paddle2love.com/

FSU “Whatever Floats Your Boat Regatta”

On Saturday, October 7, from 12 Noon to 3 p.m. at the FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory at 3618 Coastal Highway 98, come see if you can build and race a boat made entirely of recycled materials. Be as artistic or as whacky as you care to be. Build it to sail, paddle, or pedal across the finish line. Just build it and hope it floats to the finish.

Challenge your friends, colleagues, family, and neighbors to join the race or cheer on the boats!

For more information, go to marinelab.fsu.edu/outreach/regatta/

Art & Wine Splash on St. George Island

The St. George Island Business Owners Association will host its annual Art and Wine Splash on Saturday, October 7. The event will feature an art show and wine tasting

Battle of The Bay

On Saturday, October 7, and Sunday, October 8, St. James Bay Golf Resort at 151 Laughing Gull Lane in Carrabelle will hold an open field event. The 2017 Battle at the Bay features a two-day, two-player team event, discounted Practice Rounds, *(See Battle, Page Six)*

(Battle From Page Five)

daily Proximity Contests, optional daily Skins Game, a Saturday afternoon Individual Shootout, and more. Competitors will enjoy exciting golf on the challenging, meticulously maintained Golf Course at St. James Bay, tee gifts, great prizes and outstanding southern hospitality. Please share these entry forms with all of your golfing buddies, business associates and club members, display them on community information boards. The more the merrier – everyone is welcome!

For more information, call (850) 697-9606, or go to www.stjamesbay.com/

Oysters 101

Come learn about the famous bivalves of Apalachicola Bay on Friday, October 13. This class offered by the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will explain all about the role that oysters play in the health of Apalachicola Bay. Discover what makes the bay so ideal for growing oysters, what gives Apalachicola oysters their distinct flavor, and how oyster bars benefit the ecosystem. After spending some time in the classroom, participants will get the chance to walk along an oyster bar, and look at its inhabitants under a microscope. This class is full of opportunities to learn more about the animals that live in the bay and along the tidal flats. Registration is required and the cost is \$25 per person. Visit

oysters101october.eventbrite.com/ to register. The class will meet at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, in the upstairs classroom at 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint. Participants need to bring socks or their own fishing waders.

Farmers Market



Visit the Farmer's Market at Scipio Creek from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. The Apalachicola Farmers' Market features high-quality produce, seafood and locally- produced goods directly to the people of Apalachicola and provides a place for the fishermen, farmers, and artisans of the community to sell their products

Murder at the Gibson Inn

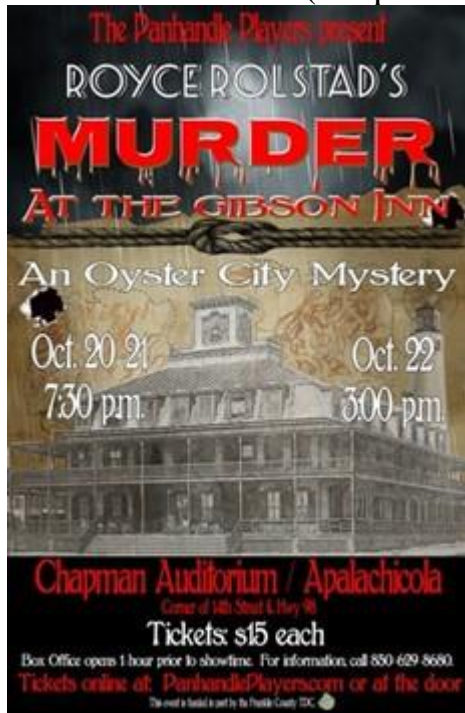
An Original Murder Mystery Opens Season

The Panhandle Players present *Murder at the Gibson Inn: An Oyster City Mystery*, an original (*See Murder, Page Seven*)

(Murder From Page Six)

play written and directed by Royce Rolstad, III. The play will open the community theatre's 2017-2018 season and make its world debut at the Chapman Auditorium in Apalachicola at 98 12th St, October 20, 21 at 7:30 pm, and October 22 at 3:00 pm.

Rolstad's first full-length play reveals a riveting plot of murder and mayhem in this fictionalized (but possibly true)



depiction of some of the ghosts thought to haunt Apalachicola's historic Gibson Inn. How did they become ghosts? Did they pass peacefully in their sleep, or did a dastardly deed do them in? Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased online at panhandleplayers.com or at the door one hour before curtain.

For more information, call 850-629-8680.

Lantern Fest

Come celebrate the birthday of one of Franklin County's oldest maritime landmarks as the Carrabelle Lighthouse Association presents Lantern Fest at the 1895



Crooked River Lighthouse, 1975 HWY 98 West in Carrabelle Beach on Saturday, October 21. Shipwreck tales, amazing dancers & musicians, glowing lanterns, great local food and night time tower climbs bring magic and history together. For more information, call 850-597-2732 or go to www.crookedriverlighthouse.org

Bay-Friendly Landscaping



The Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will be hosting a bay friendly landscaping workshop on *(See Landscaping, Page Eight)*

(Landscaping From Page Seven)

Friday, October 27, 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Yard design and maintenance can have a big effect on adjacent water bodies. Participants in the workshop will learn about resources to help transform a yard into a luscious bay conscious landscape. The class will also feature innovative Green Infrastructure techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and bio-swales. Following the discussion portion of the workshop participants will have the option, for a small fee, to assemble their own rain barrel that they can take home. The workshop will be held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve at 108 Island Drive Eastpoint. The class is free, but rain barrels are \$20.00 per barrel.

For more information, call (850) 670-7708 or go to bayfriendlyoctober.eventbrite.com/

Open House Band Jam

Open House Band Jam at Rio Carrabelle-3 pm-7 p.m.on October 28 at the Rio Carrabelle Arts Cent at the corner of Highway 98 and Tallahassee Street in Carrabelle. A number of popular local musicians will be playing all afternoon culminating in a jam session. Free hot dogs and hamburgers will be on the grill, bring your own beverage or enjoy one of ours! \$5 donation to cover expenses!

For more information call (850) 307-0098 or go to www.caribbeanraftrentals.com/event



Ghostwalk



Hauntings will abound at Apalachicola's Chestnut Street Cemetery on Saturday, October 28 when local history enthusiasts don the garb and take on the persona of the cemetery's more notable inhabitants to tell their tale of life in Apalachicola (See Ghostwalk, Page Nine)

(Ghostwalk From Page Eight)
more than 100 years ago. The Ghostwalk will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Chestnut Street Cemetery on Hwy 98 in Apalachicola.

Autos & Oysters

The Autos and Oysters Car Show on Saturday October 28, will be held on Water Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. The Cars will be judged by a team headed by J.C. O'Steen of Tallahassee. Awards will be given for the Top 50, Best of Show, Club Participation, Greatest Distance Travelled, and Sponsor's



CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Choice. Awards will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at noon. The cost to enter your car is \$20.

For more information, call 844-272-2523.

Thanks to the Franklin County Tourist Development Council for Upcoming Events. Go to:
<http://www.saltyflorida.com/events>

Please visit our website:
www.stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org
Email us at sgcivicclub@gmail.com
Also, check out our Face Book page. Search for SGI Civic Club, select "Like" and then Check "Follow" for additional information.

2017 Board of Directors

Diane Bodenhamer

President bodenhmr@me.com

James Donald **Vice-President**

jdonal278@gmail.com

Mike O'Connell **Treasurer**

poconnell1414@gmail.com

Kelly Rowland **Secretary**

krowland@mediacombb.net

Directors:

Lon Wilkens

lonandpenny@outlook.com

Linda Thurman

sgibeach1@gmail.com

Eric Roberts **Immediate Past**

President

egrob2@fairpoint.net

SGI Civic Club Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328

Franklin County Commissioner

Contacts:

Chairperson - Cheryl Sanders

cheryl@franklincountyflorida.com

697-2534

Commissioner Smokey Parrish

wardshrimphouse@yahoo.com

653-8790

Commissioner Noah Lockley

noah@franklincountyflorida.com

653-4452

Commissioner William Massey

william@franklincountyflorida.com

653-8861

Commissioner Ricky Jones

ricky@franklincountyflorida.com

653-8861

**The Islander is edited by Eric
Roberts**