



# The Islander

March 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club  
The next club meeting will be on March 15 at 6:30.

## February Civic Club Meeting By James Donald, President

Forty-nine Members were in attendance. CC President, James Donald, welcomed the attendees and reviewed the agenda. SGI Fire Chief Jay Abbott was invited to do 5-minute overview of the 2018 Chili Cook-off, March 1-3. This year's event occurs at the same time during FSU's Spring Break and a larger crowd is expected. Jay noted that planning for the Chili Cook-off was on track but noted an urgent needed for more items for the Saturday's Auction. He asked members to help him get out the word concerning these needs. He thanked everyone for their support of SGI VFD Hat Fundraising Campaign to date, noting that hat sales were an impressive \$35,500 in the first six weeks of the drive. This was welcome news since 2016 and 2017 drives were \$22,000 and \$38,000 respectively for the entire year. Jay also modeled the SGI Chili Cook-off Sponsor's jacket that is available to those that make a \$100 donation.

Next, James introduced the featured speaker for the evening, Kevin Begos of Franklin Solar Co-op. Kevin described the Solar Co-op industry as it relates to opportunities in Franklin County. He discussed how beneficial



**Kevin Begos**

it was for the communities to band together to get the best prices for solar energy. He encourages anyone who interested to check out the prices as estimates are free. He also noted that in the past 5 years prices  
*(See February meeting on Page Two)*

*(February meeting, From Page One)*  
for solar energy have dropped dramatically and are now more affordable. This program will launch in Franklin and Bay Counties beginning April 10 and already 50 residents in Franklin County have shown interest. First step is to call or sign-up on on-line at <https://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida/go-solar-in-florida/go-solar-in-a-florida-group/> A licensed solar contractor will provide a written quote to include how much can be saved. Residents will enter into individual contracts. In addition to the energy savings, there is a 30% federal tax credit. Examples of cost were 4 KW house would cost \$8-9k to install. A 3000 sq. ft. home would need an 8KW system and which would cost approximately 20K but then you get the tax credit. Duke Energy would buy your excess energy and you get credit for when you need it. How much energy the system produces is based on your house positioning to the sun. Systems have a life expectancy of about 25 years. Camp Gordon Johnston Association's president, Mr. David Butler, then took the floor to discuss the upcoming 23rd Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Day parade on Saturday, March 10. There will be a reception at the American Legion on Friday, March 9. The museum has a board of 12 and is always looking for volunteers. Veterans from the island

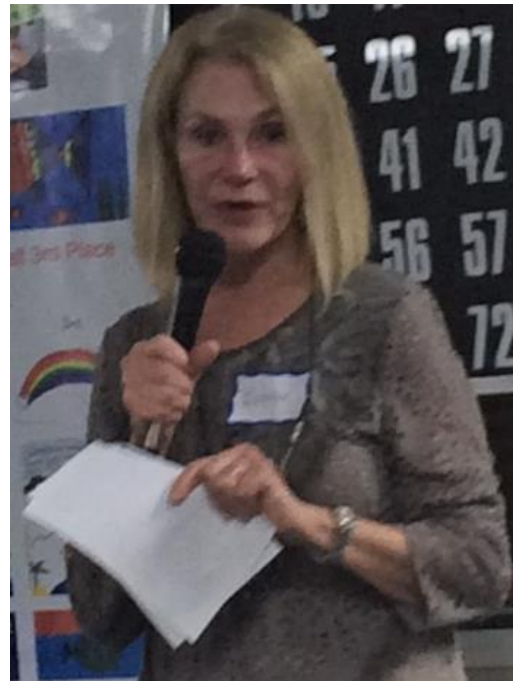
are invited to walk in the parade during the celebration.



**David Butler**  
invited to attend the celebration. David brought and shared museum artifacts with the group. For more information go to:

[www.campgordonjohnston.com](http://www.campgordonjohnston.com)

Bunnie Ison and Buena Brown were



**Bunnie Ison**  
*(See Plein Air on Page Three)*

*(Plein Air, From Page Two)*

next on the agenda to explain the establishment of the non-profit SGI Plein Air Artist paint out event being held April 8-14. SGI is a paint-out destination to promote art on the Island. Four local artists will be painting and so far, 15 artists are already signed up for the paint out. The artists will have half and full-day workshops and thus far five businesses on the island will host 'meet and greets' for the artists. At the close of the event there will be a reception in the plantation sponsored by SGI Cantina, a new organic Mexican pub on the island. She stated individual donations would be accepted. She also stated that volunteers are needed and asked we all put the word out since this is the first SGI Paint Out. More information can be found at [www.sgipaintout.com](http://www.sgipaintout.com) or on Facebook.



**Rick Watson**

Tax Commissioner Rick Watson took the floor to thank the Civic Club for

sponsoring to buy art supplies for schools. He displayed a banner with the 5th and 6th grade kids' tag art entries and the winners. The contest resulted in over \$400 in cash prizes. Lastly, Civic Club member Cliff Butler who is also a member of the Apalachicola Bay Rotary club, talked about the plan revitalization of the rotary club.

James wrapped up the meeting with a few announcements. He thanked members for their great support of Bingo. He encouraged members to keep an eye out for membership renewals forms coming in the mail noting the deadline for annual renewals on April 1.

He also announced there will be at least two upcoming forums for judge and tax commissioner candidates to be held at a date to be determined before the upcoming elections. Diane Bodenhamer is the point of contact for the forums and can be reached at [bodenhmr@me.com](mailto:bodenhmr@me.com). He concluded by announcing that Sheriff AJ Smith will be guest speaker at the March 15 meeting to discuss security plans for Spring Break and summer season. The 50/50 pot of \$66 was won by Ben Mathewson.

### **36th Annual Chili Cook-Off**

St. George Island will host its annual Charity Chili Cookoff and Auction March 3. Activities include a golf tournament, 5K Red Pepper Run, Chili Cook-off, Auction and the *(See Cook-Off Page Four)*

*(Cook-Off, From page Three)*



naming of Miss Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Sauce. All proceeds benefit the Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responder Unit. This is the event of the year for our Volunteer Fire Department.

### **March 4 Clean-up**

A friendly reminder from Ada Long of the island cleanup on Sunday, March 4 after the Chili Cookoff. The Island is very happy to welcome others who just wish to show up at the Lighthouse at 9:00am on Sunday morning. Ada will have the usual trash bags, gloves, water, T-shirts, caps, and list of cleanup areas. As this is the biggest annual event on the Island, it also leaves the most trash.

### ***Upcoming Events***

### **Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days**

The Camp Gordon Johnston Association and WWII Museum

celebrates the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Camp Gordon Johnston Reunion Days on March 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> in Carrabelle, FL. A



weekend of meaningful events is planned specifically to honor our country's remaining WWII veterans as well as recognize and salute all veterans from WWII to present. All veterans, their family and friends as well as the general public are invited to Carrabelle for the celebrations. Saturday, March 10. The Camp Gordon Johnston Days Parade begins at 10:45 a.m. To enter the parade, you can sign up at:

<https://www.campgordonjohnston.com/visit/special-events/> or join the end of the line up.

Line up begins at 9:45 am at US 98 & NW 10th St.

A Military Vehicle Display will be in Downtown Carrabelle after the parade from 11:45 – until... To participate call 850-697-8575.

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Documentary videos to be shown throughout the museum.

Camp Gordon Johnston Days Dinner-Dance will be that night from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 201 NW Ave F.

*(See Gordon-Johnston on Page Five)*

*(Gordon-Johnston, From Page Four)*

Advance tickets: \$10. At the door: \$15. This event is open to the public with limited seating.

### **Eastpoint Volunteer Fire House Charity Rib Cook Off**



On Saturday, March 17, the Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department will hold their Annual Rib cook-off. Gates open at 9 AM with free admission. The event features Rib cook-off contest, silent auction, liars contest, live entertainment, rides and face painting for the kids. The Eastpoint Fire House is located one block north of US Highway 98 at corner of Sixth Street and CC Land Road in Eastpoint. BBQ dinners are served from 11:00 AM until the food is gone! Come out and enjoy a day of food, fun and music. All proceeds go to benefit the Eastpoint Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Tocamos Mas**



Tocamos Mas Returns to Carrabelle on Friday, March 23, at 8 pm at the Rio Carrabelle Arts Center, Corner of Hwy 98 & Hwy 67/Tallahassee Street. A fun evening of Mambo, Merengue, Bolero and Cha Cha! Get your dancing shoes on as Tocamos Mas transforms Carrabelle into little Havana!

For more information, call (850) 307-0098, go to:

[www.caribbeanraftrentals.com/events](http://www.caribbeanraftrentals.com/events)

### **2nd Annual Carrabelle Culture Crawl**



On Saturday, March 24, from 11 am to 3 pm enjoy the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carrabelle Culture Crawl! The Carrabelle Culture Crawl, is a free *(See Culture on Page Six)*

*(Culture, From Page Five)*

celebration of amazing art, music, history, food, and fun in the heart of downtown Carrabelle. It features a multi-venue showcase taking place at over a dozen wonderful galleries, museums, shops, restaurants, and spaces. Christie's Cottage Living, Shop by the Sea, Carrabelle History Museum and Cal Allen's Coastal Art Gallery are just a few of the fantastic locations that will be participating. Event maps showing the official stops will be available and the Gopher Tortoise logo will be displayed in the windows of participating locations. Guests may start at any of the participating locations and visit as many as time allows. Complimentary refreshments will be available at several venues and visitors have a chance to enter the drawing for some great door prizes. For more information, call 850-524-1153.

***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](http://www.stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org)  
Email us at [sgicivicclub@gmail.com](mailto:sgicivicclub@gmail.com)  
Also, check out our Face Book page. Search for SGI Civic Club, select "Like" and then Check "Follow" for additional information.

SGI Civic Club Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328

## 2018 Board of Directors

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[jdonal278@gmail.com](mailto:jdonal278@gmail.com)  
**Mike O'Connell** Vice-President  
[poconnell1414@gmail.com](mailto:poconnell1414@gmail.com)  
**Kelly Rowland** Secretary  
[krowland@mediacombb.net](mailto:krowland@mediacombb.net)  
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[sprobert@fairpoint.net](mailto:sprobert@fairpoint.net)

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**Diane Bodenhamer**  
Immediate Past President  
[bodenhmr@me.com](mailto:bodenhmr@me.com)  
**Linda Thurman**  
[sgibeach1@gmail.com](mailto:sgibeach1@gmail.com)  
**Ben Mathewson**  
[benz256@mac.com](mailto:benz256@mac.com)

### Franklin County Commissioner Contacts:

**Chairperson - Cheryl Sanders**  
[cheryl@franklincountyflorida.com](mailto:cheryl@franklincountyflorida.com)  
697-2534  
**Commissioner Smokey Parrish**  
[wardshrimphouse@yahoo.com](mailto:wardshrimphouse@yahoo.com)  
653-8790  
**Commissioner Noah Lockley**  
[noah@franklincountyflorida.com](mailto:noah@franklincountyflorida.com)  
653-4452  
**Commissioner William Massey**  
[william@franklincountyflorida.com](mailto:william@franklincountyflorida.com)  
653-8861  
**Commissioner Ricky Jones**  
[ricky@franklincountyflorida.com](mailto:ricky@franklincountyflorida.com)  
653-8861 (SGI Commissioner)

**The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts**  
[egrob2@fairpoint.net](mailto:egrob2@fairpoint.net)