



The Islander

June 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
Next meeting will be June 21 at Jay Abbott Volunteer Fire House
The speaker will be District One County Commissioner Ricky Jones

Message from SGICC

President James Donald from May General Meeting

The May Civic Club meeting was the largest this year with 69 members attending. Membership currently stands at 408, up from 276 last month, as new residents are continuously encouraged to become a part of SGI Civic Club. After welcoming everyone and enjoying the great food, Club President James Donald went over the agenda. First order of business was to seek volunteer coordinators to help with Summer Bingo for June through August. Our two primary coordinators (Kelly Rowland and Ben Mathewson) are attending Fire training and will be unable to help this season. Their attendance in this training is essential in the island maintaining the current fire rating. The Volunteer Fire

Department continues to look for new volunteers.

Civic Club members are encouraged to sign up and help with Bingo as this is our primary source of generating
(See Message on Next Page)

Alberto Hits on Memorial Day



WK and Barbara Sanders (on right) look at surf on 12th St. West
Memorial Day celebrations in Franklin County were cancelled due to Sub-Tropical Storm Alberto.

(Message, from Page One)
funds for many charitable donations we make to the community each year. Our most urgent need is for a program coordinator to replace Kelly. If you are interested please contact her at krowland@mediacombb.net.

Fire Chief's Report: Jay Abbott made a few announcements. Kelly Rowland and Robin Wilcox completed EMT training that brings the total number of certified EMTs on SGI to four. We congratulate them for their achievement and selfless service! He next updated members on the emerging crisis in County Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He assessed EMS as critical, noting that there have been calls when ambulances were not available. In such instances, alternate transportation was successfully used to address the emergency. The county currently has only two of seven authorized paramedics. A new CEO of Weems has been hired and Jay suggested we give him time to address the problem. Meanwhile, Jay assures

us that he and other volunteers are doing their very best under



SGI Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Jay Abbott

current resources constraints. James and VP Mike O'Connell discussed community concerns about EMS during a recent visit with Commissioner Ricky Jones. The Commissioner shared that the County Commission is aware of the problem and hope to have a resolution soon. He believes hiring the new CEO is the first step in addressing these issues. Jay reported the chili cook-off netted about \$100k this year, exceeding last year's total of \$80k. Thus far, the 'hat drive' proceeds of \$42k have doubled from 2017. The FD goal is to raise \$43k. The members thanked Jay and his team volunteers for the job they doing to protect and to serve residents on this island.

Infrastructure Committee

Report: The featured presentation at the meeting was an infrastructure committee report from Vice President, O'Connell. Mike used a power point presentation to describe the work of the committee staffed by Will Jones, Skip Kemp, Mason Bean, Drew Robertson, Steve Childers, Steve McCann, WK Sanders, Linda Hockman, Phyllis Lewis, Don Murray & Pat O'Connell. Mike began by noting that Ricky Jones, County Commissioner for our district, has asked for recommendations to the new Island Corridor Overlay plan. The committee seeks to build on this initiative by providing a more comprehensive look at the infrastructure needs of SGI in general. Thus, the plan is called the Comprehensive Island



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Overlay Plan. The committee made a lot of headway since introducing the concept in April. Mike emphasized this is preliminary work and that issues were grouped into major categories--Infrastructure needs and Improving the safety and appearance of the island. Subsequently, six sub-committees were formed and each provided a status report. The goal is to have a strategic plan submitted to the Civic Club Board and general membership for consideration before end of year. Below is a short summary of highlights. Members may soon view more detail information, track the progress of the plan and provide comments on-line at www.stgeorgeislandcivicclub.org

INFRASTRUCTURE: Major focus areas are roads, erosion, standing water, restrooms, signage, and parking and vendor areas. Mike and Pat covered a plethora of topics and proposals related to these focus areas. WK Sanders reported on the restroom renovation and

expansion committee, Steve Childers reported on the resurfacing, parking and erosion plan to include paving the lot west of the paved visitor lot adjacent to the lighthouse (estimated \$10-15k). Signage repair/replacement committee headed by Skip Kemp is identifying needs and recommendations for swimming flags and memorial, Steve McCann reported the county has received bids to resurface the basketball court (\$7,800) and it should be completed in 2-4 weeks. In addition, the sub-committee is looking into locations and cost projections for previously mentioned improvements.

IMPROVEMENTS: Ideas these committees are exploring include resurfacing the basketball court, adding a pickle-ball court and/or outdoor fitness area, and exploring a community center for recreation, meetings, weddings, etc. on the land adjacent to the lighthouse.

FUNDING: The committee has identified several untapped funding sources, including

private foundations, state and local governments, and local Tourist Development Tax dollars. The largest and most potentially significant of these funds now available are those resulting from state and federal litigation with the companies involved in the BP oil spill. From our non-professional analysis of the funds available through Franklin County government and the direct benefit to SGI Projects, this is what the committee learned:

☒ TDC Tax: The full data is not readily available; however, it appears that the Franklin TD or “bed” tax (2% on short term, less than six month, rentals) generates \$1.2M to \$1.5M annually. It appears that the majority of these dollars are generated on the island. Although the island obviously benefits from dollars spent on items like county-wide advertising and beach clean-up, the Island received only \$26K in direct benefit projects in 2017.

EX Federal RESTORE Funds:
Out of this \$8B fund over 15 years, Franklin has allocated \$23.9 M on local projects; working with the federal agencies, the county has participated in regional multi-county projects exceeding \$141.3M. SGI has received none of these funds for island projects.

EX State TRIUMPH Funds:
Out of the \$1.5B over 15 years, in 2018 Franklin County currently has pending 13 applications totaling \$22M. None of these applications contains a SGI-specific projects.

According to authorities, SGI has not received any funding because SGI has not applied for funding in a formal manner. To fill this void, the Civic Club, through its new Infrastructure Committee, is seeking volunteers with broad experiential background in grant writing and in areas of contracting, construction, beautification, and tourism to assist us in tapping into these opportunities. To date, more than fifteen members have volunteered. We intend to create

a Comprehensive Plan for improvements to the public areas of the Business District and request these monies after we have received broad input from members of the Civic Club, the island business community and our residents.

The general consensus of members at the meeting is that SGI must have an organized, well laid-out plan for the future as it fulfills its core objective of taking concerted action on matters that will in any way affect the welfare of the Island. The Civic Club hopes to partner with other organization on the island to accomplish its goal.

Florida State HB 631:

President Donald reported on Florida State HB 631 that relates to customary use and private ownership of beach that goes into effect July 1, 2018.

(See HB 631 on Page Six)

(HB631, From Page Five)

He read aloud a summary of Issues. Preliminarily, there did not appear to be a great deal of concern at the meeting as SGI typically does not appear to have the same level of tension as describe in other more

populated areas of the panhandle such as Walton & Bay Counties. The following link provides more insight on the law and its impacts, <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/00631/?Tab=BillHistory>



Other Club Updates and Announcements.

- ☞ Forgotten Coast Parrot Head welcomes new members and will have it's Longest Day of the year Alzheimer's Association fundraiser on June 21st
- ☞ Club member Dan Mohn invited members interested in photography, i.e. learning, outdoor trips/outings, etc. to contact him at dmohn51@gmail.com start a photography class.
- ☞ ECCC Fish Fry. Martha Hodge asked for volunteer support for the upcoming Senior's of Franklin County 2nd Annual Fish Fry event to be held August 9th. Several members volunteered to help.

☞ Political Forums July 18 & 19. Diane Bodenhamer asked for volunteers to help with the political forums being held July 18 & 19 for Judge and Tax Collector, respectively.

James closed the meeting by thanking Mike and the Infrastructure Committee for their good work. He reminded everyone that Commissioner Ricky Jones will be our guest speaker at the June 21st meeting to discuss the Corridor Overlay Plan. He will also take questions regarding other concerns of his constituents on the island. James gave special thanks to our hosts: Steve & Glenna Smith, Martha Hodge, Kathleen and Mason (50-50). Mason & Marilyn Bean and Paul & Gail Riegelmayr will be our hosts for the June Meeting. The 50/50 pot of \$65 was won by Newt Colston who donated the winnings to the Franklin County Library.

June Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse
The “Strawberry” Full Moon

Climb will be held on 

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.
Because space is limited,
reservations are recommended.
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 without
reservations 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.

For reservations or more
information, please contact the
Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-
927-7745.

Upcoming Events

Taste of Art – Silk Scarves



Learn a smorgasbord of silk
painting techniques to create
lovely silk scarves of your very

own design! Come to one or
all... everyone and anyone can
learn to paint on silk! Make some
new friends as you explore this
beautiful activity, and at the end
of the night, you take home your
creation. All supplies included.
No experience necessary. Classes
are \$35 and include materials.
Sign up for the FANTASTIC
four week series for \$100. Wine,
cheese and sundry artsy
munchies will be provided but
feel free to bring a bottle or
nibble to share. See you there!
Call 850-927-2303 or go to
www.forgottencoastart.com
to Register.

Summer Sea Turtle Talk



June 13 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

June 20 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

June 27 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Learn all about sea turtles at the
Apalachicola National Estuarine
Research Reserve at 108 Island
Drive in Eastpoint. For more
information, call (850) 670-7708
or go to

<http://www.apalachicolareserve.com/>

Bowery Station – Open Mic

June 6 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

June 13 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

June 20 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

June 27 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

This weekly event has been a mainstay in local entertainment for years and has fostered the development of numerous performers as they gain their confidence and stage presence. All levels of talent are welcomed and appreciated.

Bowery Station

17 Ave F, Suite C

Apalachicola. For more information, go to

<http://www.bowystation.us/>

FSU Marine Lab Lecture

Ed Moore, an area native whose family dates back to the founding of St. Teresa, will utilize maps, letters, newspaper articles, photographs, local histories, deeds and other legal documents to trace the origin and development of this community located in eastern Franklin County. The lecture is part of the Conservation Lecture Series,

The FSU Coastal & Marine

Lab will host a presentation on about the history of St. Teresa.

Ed Moore, an area native whose family dates back to the founding of St. Teresa, will utilize maps, letters, newspaper articles, photographs, local histories, deeds and other legal documents to trace the origin and development of this community located in eastern Franklin County. The lecture is part of the Conservation Lecture Series,

Enhancing Global Coastal Literacy in Florida.

(850) 697-4120

fsucml@fsu.edu

Annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament

The Tallahassee Builders Association 29th Annual Saltwater Fishing Tournament will be held at C-Quarters Marina on June 8 and June 9. There will be cash prizes for In-Shore and Off-Shore Grand Slams and the largest fish of various species.

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Fisherman's Choice Youth Fishing Tournament



The Annual Fisherman's Choice Youth Fishing Tournament will be held in Eastpoint on June 9. Kids 16 and under will fish for

fresh and saltwater species. Each entry receives a t-shirt, and after the tournament, entrees are invited to attend a cookout at Fisherman's Choice in Eastpoint. Entry is free. For more information, go to <https://www.thefishermanschoice.net/> or call (850) 670-8808.

Apalachicola Farmers Market
June 9 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
June 23 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Local seafood, produce, honey, homemade breads, pies, and other regional specialties offered every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 9 AM until 1 PM. It is held at Mill Pond, 479 Market St Apalachicola. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/ApalachicolaFarmersMarket/>

Women's Fishing Clinic
June 9 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
A free Women's Fishing Clinic will be held at the Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park on Saturday, June 9 from 9-5 pm. Hosted by the Florida Wildlife Commission, the day-long clinic will teach basic angling skills, safety, ethics and

conservation stewardship in a fun laid-back atmosphere. Participants will learn knot tying, cast netting rod and reel rigging, fish and habitat identification and catch-and-release techniques. If conditions allow, women will practice their newly learned skills fishing from the shore. Fishing equipment and bait are provided during the clinic, but participants are encouraged to bring their own gear. All participants must have a valid recreational fishing license. Registration is limited. For more information, go to <https://www.floridastateparks.org/park/St-George-Island> Or call (850) 927-2111

Mullet Toss
June 9 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
This event takes place on the second Saturday of June each year. The Mullet Toss is sponsored by The Blue Parrot located at 68 West Gorrie Drive St. George Island for the benefit of local charities. Visitors and locals compete for prizes and bragging rights. There are prizes for the longest throws in the men's, women's and kid's divisions. For more information, go to

<http://www.blueparrotsgi.com> or
call (850) 927-2987

Cuban Food History Demo

June 13 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
libraries in Eastpoint and
Carrabelle are teaming up to host
a unique variety of summer
reading programs this month.
The Eastpoint Library will host a
Cuban Food History and
Cooking Demonstration on
Wednesday, June 13 at 1 pm.
Marisella Veiga, author of *We
Carry Our Homes With Us – A
Cuban American Memoir*, will
share her memoir and the history
of some Cuban Recipes,
complete with a cooking
demonstration. For more
information, call (850) 670-8151

Traditional Japanese Drumming

June 14 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
This event is free and open to all
ages at the Eastpoint Public
Library. Join the Franklin County
Public Library's Summer
Reading Program Presentation of
Tampa Taiko Drums. This is an
exciting, interactive time of
traditional Japanese drumming
featuring BIG, LOUD DRUMS.

For more information, call (850)
670-8151.

Cinematic Journeys

June 16 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Apalachicola Center for
History, Culture and Art at 86
Water Street in
Apalachicola, will host
Cinematic Journeys, a
presentation by National
Geographic filmmaker Kevin
McCarey on Saturday, June 16.
McCarey, best known for his
Emmy-award winning
environmental work in films and
books, will talk about his
environmental film career that
has taken him from remote
Pacific Islands to Africa's
Kalahari Desert. The 3 pm talk
will be followed by a discussion
on writing the travel adventure
memoir. McCarey will also be
available afterwards to sign his
most recent work *Oceans Apart*.
Book signing from 5-6pm. For
more information, call 855-272-
5224.

Hobson Fulmer at Cat Pointe Music

June 20 from 7 to 9 pm
Hobson Fulmer returns to Cat

Pointe Music for an evening of acoustic music, stories and a good time. Known region-wide as the voice of the popular rock group Southern Flood, here is an opportunity to hear this talented performer in a more intimate setting with a repertoire that's multi-faceted and personal. Cat Pointe Music is located at 29 Island Drive, Eastpoint. The cost is \$3.

Magician Michael Crosniak

June 21 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Come enjoy an exciting hour of magic with a performance and workshop by Magician Michael Crosniak. Programs are free and open to the public. All ages welcome as part of the Franklin County Public Library's Summer Reading Program. 2 pm performance at the Eastpoint Branch Library; 4 pm performance at the Carrabelle Branch Library on US 98 in Carrabelle. The Eastpoint Public Library is at 160 Hickory Dip Rd. in Eastpoint. For more information, call (850) 670-8151.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper's Field Trips

June 23

Explore your river and basin with us the Apalachicola Riverkeeper's. Volunteer-led eco-outings are fun and memorable. Hike and kayak in the spring and fall or kayak year round. Group size is limited and registration is required. Trips are donation based.

Paddle trips and hikes are free to members. Donations are always appreciated, as this is a volunteer-based program. The skilled trip leaders truly enjoy introducing people to the river system. Loaner kayaks are also available.

Paddlers and hikers need to bring: water; snacks/lunch; sunscreen; and hat. Paddlers, please wear clothing that won't weigh you down if it gets wet. Synthetics like nylon blends are best. No jeans or boots.

For more information, go to:

www.apalachicolariverkeeper.org or call 850-653-8936

Sign up for the Apalachicola Riverkeeper mailing list to receive 4th Saturday Paddle and Basin Hike updates.

Forgotten Coast Parrot Head Club's 2nd Annual Longest Day

June 23 from 7:00 am - 11:00 pm

A fundraiser to raise funds and awareness for The Alzheimer's Association.

Schedule

7am – 5k Run

8am – 5k Phun Walk

1pm – Phamily Phun at Doc Myers' – Giant water slide, face painting, cornhole, and Dunk Tank with special guests – You know them all!

3pm – Cornhole Tournament

5pm – 5 O'clock Somewhere Party with Jimmy Buffett cover artist, Bwana Ray. \$10 Low Country Boil, The Landshark Team with giveaways, amazing Silent Auction, 50/50 raffle, and so much more! For more information, go to

<http://forgottencoastphc.wixsite.com/forgottencoastphc>

Will Keating, Puppeteer

June 28 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Puppeteer Will Keating will present a children's puppet show "Wizzle's New Beat" at the Eastpoint Library at 160 Hickory Dip Rd. in Eastpoint on Thursday, June 28 at 1 pm and

again at the Carrabelle Library at US 98 in Carrabelle at 4 pm.

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 sgicivicclub@gmail.com

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

The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts

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