



The Islander

July 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The July meeting **will not** be held due to the political forums
scheduled for July 18 and 19

Message from SGICC

President James Donald from June General Meeting

The Civic Club June 21st General Membership Meeting was attended by 74 members. Club President Donald welcomed everyone and briefed the agenda. He introduced a distinguished group of visitors and presenters including: County Commissioner Ricky Jones, County Restore Coordinator Alan Pierce, Apalachicola Riverkeeper Georgia Ackerman, Riverkeeper “Emeritus” Dan Tonsmeire and ANERR Anita Grove. Tony Middleton founder of the new Forgotten Coast Community Church blessed the food prior to our fellowship period.

The first speaker was County Commissioner Ricky

(See Message on Page Two)

SGICC Helps Eastpoint Fire Victims

The Civic Club joined with the Forgotten Coast Parrothead Club and Doc Myer’s Island Bar & Grill on June 30th for a fundraiser low-country boil for the victims of last weekend’s devastating wildfire in Eastpoint raising \$9,000.

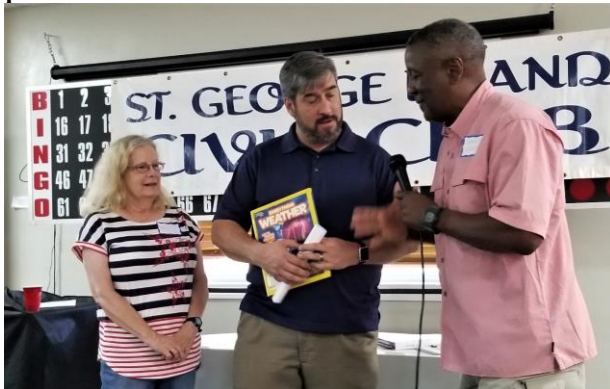
According to reports from the *Tallahassee Democrat*, 36 homes were destroyed and at least 10 more were damaged. As most of the residences were rental units, or too old, they were not covered by insurance.

Many other club members volunteered to help set up tables, monitor the silent auction and take in donations. For pictures of the fire disaster go to

<http://www.apalachtimes.com/photo-gallery/DA/20180630/NEWS/630009990/PH/1>

(Message, from Page One)

Jones. Ricky discussed the new SGI Business District Corridor Overlay plan that is designed to protect the SGI business district and environmentally sensitive town center of the island. It is noteworthy that Commissioner Jones led the effort on the County Commission to get the plan approved. Ricky welcomed collaboration with the Civic Club on infrastructure initiatives to improve upon the plan and define priorities related



President James Donald presents Ricky Jones with a book in the Eastpoint Library as Sherri Roberts, a library volunteer looks on.

to the island. He noted that tying the initiatives to the SGI Business Overlay Plan could increase support when the island's requests are presented to the County Commission Board. Next, Commissioner Jones introduced Alan Pierce, Franklin

County's RESTORE Coordinator. Pierce cautioned that the new business district overlay plan still has one pending legal challenge. He then described RESTORE (the Resources and Ecosystem, Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revive Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act) funding stream, explaining access, flow of money, outstanding requests, etc. He also shared that SGI last benefited from Florida DOT beautification funds approximately 20 years ago when \$100k was approved to enhance Franklin Blvd at the island's entrance. He noted that annually the County approves 2-3 beautification projects and that it has been a while since SGI was a recipient.

Pierce briefed that RESTORE funds will provide Franklin County with \$23M to be paid over a period of 15 years at an average of \$1.5 million a year. These funds will be held in reserve, sitting in a trust, to be used for the Environment, Economic Development and Infrastructure needs. The County must wait on the funds to be

released to Franklin County from U.S. Treasury. The RESTORE Act Committee's job is to vet competition for that money within Franklin County by considering needs and requests. Projects become part of a Multi-year Implementation Plan (MYIP). Ultimately, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will select which projects will be part of the MYIP. Examples of competing needs are the repair/restoration of Alligator Point Road, which is a county road that has no independent funding mechanism and beach restoration projects. Pierce also provided an explanation of a second pot of funds available called TRIUMPH (BP Oil settlement). TRIUMPH funds primarily target Economic Development whereas RESTORE funds are for Environmental Restoration, Economic Development and Infrastructure. Franklin County is currently projected to receive \$15M of these funds and maybe even more in the future. But it is important to note that to date, the County has not received any funds. The TRIUMPH Gulf Coast Board and its five

members manage and distribute these funds. Although requests do not have to go through the County Commissioners, it is suggested to obtain their support for future sustainability of projects. Pierce concluded his remarks by answering several questions from the audience. Donald thanked Commissioner Jones and Pierce for their updates. He noted the importance of the good work of VP O'Connell and the Infrastructure Committee are doing in their efforts to leverage these resource opportunities to make improvements on St. George Island. On behalf of the Civic Club, President Donald presented Commissioner Jones with a book to be placed in his honor in the Eastpoint Library. The book was selected in coordination with the library staff and supports of the County's 3rd Grade reading programs. Apalachicola Riverkeeper Georgia Ackerman and Dan Tonsmeire were the next presenters. Ackerman described the on-going efforts in the court to ensure an equitable sharing and management of water in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-

Flint (ACF) River Basin. Tonsmeire asked for the Club's support of the Riverkeeper's recent challenge in court of an Army Corps of Engineers decision that would negatively impact water flows in the ACF River Basin. He noted that as part of the ongoing challenge the Civic Club could file an Amicus Brief describing the impact on our community and our vested interests in the outcome of the case. An Amicus Brief could be prepared at no cost and there are no legal repercussions. President Donald informed the members in attendance that the Club would email a Q & A and downlinks to other pertinent information so that members could read more about the Amicus Brief. He noted that the email would also contain a ballot so that members could vote for whether they believed the Club should pursue the Amicus Brief. *(Editor's note: The ballot was passed by an email vote of 94 to 1 in support of the Amicus Brief. The Club will now move forward with a plan to obtain "pro bono" support in preparation of the Amicus Brief. Members will be kept informed of its progress.)* Riverkeeper Georgia Ackerman concluded her presentation by

reminding everyone of their monthly Kayak and Hiking outings and other learning opportunities. Donald thanked Ackerman and Tonsmeire for their work in protecting our beautiful, iconic environment.

Infrastructure Committee

Update: Club VP, Mike O'Connell gave a brief Infrastructure Committee update. Mike noted that their goal is to create a proposal to be submitted to the Civic Club Board and members in the fall. Mike also introduced newcomer to the Infrastructure team, Architect Fallon Mihalic.

Parrothead Club

Day of Year Event: Pam Tullous reminded everyone of the Parrothead Club's Alzheimer's Fundraiser, *Longest Day of the Year*, on Saturday, June 23rd at Doc Myers Sports Bar. Activities include a run, dunking booth, water slide, bag toss, silent auction and low country boil. She had tickets for sale.

Political Forums: Linda Thurman asked for volunteers to assist Diane Bodenhamer with the Judge and Tax Commissioner political forums to be held July

18 and 19, respectively. Diane is also asking that questions be submitted in advance. Contact Diane at bodenhmr@me.com.

Humane Society: Diane Howe announced that the Humane Society is in need of old towels. Towels can be dropped off at her residence on East Gulf Beach Drive or taken to the shelter.

ECCC Fish Fry: Martha Hodge reminded everyone of the ECCC Fish Fry, August 9th at the Holy Family Senior Center in Apalachicola. At this point, ECCC needs VOLUNTEERS, not money. Martha passed out a handout with a list of needs and asked members to sign up.

(Editor's Note: Martha was injured last week in an accident at home.)

Other Announcements: James announced after three weeks of Bingo, proceeds are \$1900. *(Editor's Note: due to all the Independence Day celebrations in Franklin County, and other considerations, the July 3 Bingo has been cancelled.)* Due to the Political Forums in July, the next monthly General Membership Meeting will be August 16th. The topic will be Hurricane Preparedness with Joe Taylor, Tress Reynolds and Denise

Butler. Donald concluded the meeting with a special thanks to our hosts Gail and Paul Riegelmayr and Marilyn and Mason Bean.

Steve Childers won the 50/50 pot and Diane Howe won a door prize given by Century 21's Marilyn and Mason Bean.

July Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse

On July 27, enjoy the Sunset and Moon Climb over the Cape St. George lighthouse. This full moon occurs in the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out from their foreheads in



coatings of velvety fur. It was often called the Full thunder Moon because it's when thunderstorms are the most

frequent in this part of the world. It's also called the Full Hay Moon.

There will be a total eclipse of the moon on July 27. However, it will not be visible in North America because it will happen during the daytime when the moon is below the horizon.

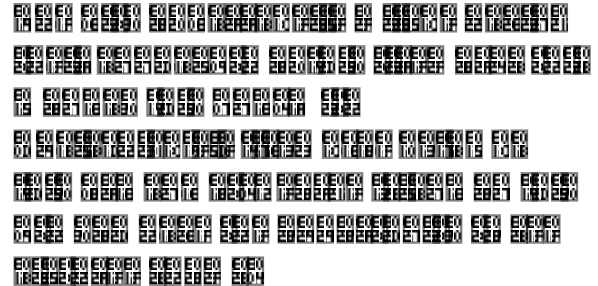
Because the moon arrives at apogee (its farthest point from Earth in its orbit) about 14 hours earlier, this will also be the smallest full moon of 2018. It will appear 12.3 percent smaller than the full moon of Jan. 1. The Moon climb is \$15 for the public and \$10 for SGLA members.

After the Moon climb, 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.

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

Upcoming Events

Carrabelle 4th of July fireworks



Apalachicola Main Street



Independence Eve Celebration

On Tuesday, July 3 at Riverfront Park starting at 5 p.m join Apalachicola Main Street for the holiday celebration. The event features live music, food trucks, a parade, ice cream social, veterans' tribute, a performance of the National Anthem, and the best fireworks show on the Forgotten Coast. This year's featured entertainment will be the Bo Springs Band. The Red, White and Blue Parade coordinated by Franklin's Promise Coalition starts at Lafayette Park at 6:30. This Apalachicola tradition welcomes

golf carts, people on bicycles, and even dogs to get decked out in patriotic colors and join in. Free ice cream brings everyone together at Riverfront Park at the end of the parade. The fireworks are launched from a barge in the river, creating a spectacular display of lights over the water. Reserved seating is available. www.july3fireworks.com or 844-272-2523.

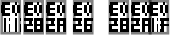

St. George Island Independence Day

Everyone is welcome to join in the annual July 4th celebration on St. George Island starting with an Independence Day Parade in the morning. Stick around all day and enjoy festivities and fireworks on the beach behind the Blue Parrot Grill about dark-thirty.

Bowery Station Open Mic

Each Thursday @ 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.

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Anniversary

July 6 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge is celebrating our 50th Anniversary on July 6th with complimentary boat transportation leaving every half hour from 9am to 3pm from Indian Pass boat dock for a short cruise to St. Vincent Island. The Refuge and Friends will host a summer picnic complete with a half-mile loop walking tour through lush tropical forest, continuing onto the white sugar sand beach for some serious shell searching, and finishing with a wander over dunes to view nesting and resting shore and water birds on the protected Point through a spotting scope. There will be abundant exhibits and activities for all along the way. Space is limited to 40 passengers each trip. 
 (850) 653-8808

Apalachicola Farmers Market

Local seafood, produce, honey, homemade breads, pies, and other regional specialties offered every 2nd and 4th Saturday from 9 AM until 1 PM.

Black Bear Program

The FSU Coastal & Marine Lab will host a Black Bear Presentation on Thursday, July 19 from 7-8 pm at their lab at Turkey Point. The program will feature a lecture by Don Hardeman, Jr., Black Bear Research Biologist, FWC Fish & Wildlife Research Institute. Attend and learn about current research investigating black bear behavior in the human-dominated landscape and the demography of the Apalachicola subpopulation of bears. For more information, call (850) 697-4120 or go to fsucml@fsu.edu

Seagrass Exploration

July 19 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Cool off this summer and learn about the important role seagrass plays in our environment and the creatures that thrive in this dynamic habitat. We will start at the St Joseph Buffer Preserve, 3915 County Road 30-A, Port Saint Joe, for a quick overview, then head out to Cape San Blas.



Here you can immerse yourself in the vibrant seagrass ecosystem with a guided snorkeling tour of the crystal-clear seagrass beds in St. Joseph Bay. Find out what you can do at home and on vacation to help further seagrass conservation. This adult-level class covers the basics of life in a seagrass bed, as well as the intricate ties between organisms, and important conservation and protection efforts in our area. Registration is required and is \$25 per person. Register at <https://anerrseagrassclass.eventbrite.com>. Participants are responsible for bringing their

own snorkeling gear, water bottle, towel and change of clothes. For more information contact Anita Grove at (850) 670-7708 or by email Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us.

Summer Sea Turtle Talk



Learn all about sea turtles at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. For more information, Call: (850) 670-7708



Field Trip

Explore your river and basin with us! Our volunteer-led eco-outings are fun and memorable. We hike and kayak in the spring and fall. We 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. Our 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, call 850-653-8936 or contact Apalachicola Riverkeeper at outreach@apalachicolariverkeeper.org to register or sign up for a mailing list to receive 4th Saturday Paddle and Basin Hike updates.

Annual Crab Cake Cookoff

July 28 @ 6:00 am - 8:00 pm
The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association will host the 3rd annual Crab Cake Cookoff on Saturday, July 28 in downtown Carrabelle beginning at 6 pm. Sample crab cake bites from local talented competitors and cast your vote for the greatest crab cake in Carrabelle. A fundraiser to benefit the Crooked River Lighthouse and the playground pirate ship "Carrabella". For more information, email carrabelleighthouse@gmail.com

*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.

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653-8861 (SGI Commissioner)

**Photos from Eastpoint Fundraiser
June 30, Franklin County
Commissioner, District One,
Ricky Jones, James Hargrove,
Jeff Moore and WK Sanders, all
club members, helped with the
cooking.**



*County Commissioner Ricky Jones and
Jeff Moore*



Mason Bean at the bean bag toss



James Hargrove and Jeff Moore



Allison Moore and Ricky Jones



Otis