



The Islander

September 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The September meeting will be held on September 20.
There will be a presentation by the SGI2025 Overlay
Committee

President's Notes on August 16, General Membership Meeting:

Despite busy summer vacation schedules, attendance continued to be up with 60 members attending the August 16th General Membership Meeting. Club President James Donald welcomed everyone, John Stewart blessed the food and members enjoyed a delicious potluck meal that featured a wide assortment of homemade desserts. After the meal, Donald briefly went over the agenda and invited new members to introduce themselves. The club warmly welcomed new members Kris & William "Boogie" Knight, Brian & Melinda Lombardino, and returning Susan Bassett. Susan introduced her

guest, Lindlee Dermody who recently purchased 57 acres at the corner of South Bayshore and Hiway 98. Dermody invited the Civic Club members to share ideas about the development of this prime real estate.

President Donald noted that although the Hurricane season has already begun, we must be vigilant as the most dangerous part of the season approaches. He then introduced the featured guest speaker for the evening, Tress Dameron, Franklin County Emergency Management Coordinator. Dameron talked about hurricane preparedness and described the Island's big need to have local volunteers become CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members. She described CERT as the eyes and ears on the ground who conduct initial damage assessments in the

event of a major incident or disaster. Currently there are CERT teams in Apalachicola, Eastpoint, Carrabelle, and one on SGI. Dameron praised SGI's two CERT members, Harvey and Mary Schoonmaker and noted that is critical that we recruit more CERT members on the island. Applicants must be 18 years of age. The training program is only 16 hours and can be conducted here on the island. Anyone interested in joining this team should contact Tress or the Franklin County Emergency Management Office at 850-653-8977 (ext 3 for Tress) or em2frank@fairpoint.net. Dameron was asked about what appeared to be an early closing of the bridge during last Fall's Hurricane Irma. Dameron explained the policy is that bridges close when the threshold of sustained winds of 40 mph (10 minutes or more) is reached. She emphasized there is always the 'cone of uncertainty' and a designated Franklin County Emergency team makes the decision. She also described the order of mandatory evacuation is issued 36 hours out. Dameron noted that the entire process is

carefully considered not only because of the more familiar potential for catastrophic human and materiel losses, but also the economic consequences of miscalculations. Dameron concluded by stressing the importance of having re-entry tags to return on to the island. Following her presentation, Donald thanked Dameron on behalf of the Civic Club and presented her with a book inscribed in her honor, which will be placed in the Eastoint Library to support the 3rd Grade Reading Program. Next on the agenda, Club member Denise Butler, of Butler Insurance Agency, expanded the topic of hurricane preparedness by describing important before and after the storm considerations for homeowners. Butler provided a wealth of helpful information that was well received by the Club members in attendance. She started with some timely and good news from the Lime Rock Fire disaster in Eastpoint in June, noting that residents in the Eastpoint fire, who had insurance, had checks in their hands, and policies paid in full, within 3-4 days. Butler

emphasized the differences between two types of insurance content coverage: *Replacement* or full cost and *Cash Value* that takes factors in consideration such as age of item. Butler described differences and many of pitfalls that separated the types of policies. She reminded everyone that insurance does not cover aerobic septic systems or pavers. Most importantly, people need to understand differences between what is cover by wind or water (flood policy). She encouraged members to keep their policy information in their Preparedness Kits and to take it with them when evacuating. She suggests using phone camera photos to document possessions in advance. During the claims process, she urged members to keep good records, documenting dates, calls, times, places etc. Above all, avoid signing away benefits prematurely, perhaps the biggest problem in Florida. Butler provided a wealth of helpful information and closed with “be prepared, be patient.”

Infrastructure Committee

Update. Infrastructure Committee Chair Mike O'Connell followed with a brief update on the committee's work. He acknowledged the great efforts of all the committee members and thanked them for their time. O'Connell encouraged members to visit the new website at www.SGI2025.com and provide feedback. He updated the many visits committee members had made to better understand fundraising and grant processes that are key to resourcing the plan. He described a recent visit with former Speaker of Florida House, William Bense in Panama City. Bense is a member of the TRIUMPH Council that oversees a \$1.5 billion fund established primarily for economic revitalization in aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. O'Connell also discussed visits and opportunities related to RESTORE funds. It is anticipated that the \$10 billion RESTORE funds, set aside for five counties in the panhandle,

will be available beginning in Spring 2019. O'Connell emphasized that raising funds for the different projects in the proposed SGI 2025 Vision Plan is likely a long, deliberate process. There were a few questions following the update and committee member Pat O'Connell was asked for a quick overview of the plan and she provided a brief explanation. She reminded members that the committee looked at many infrastructure needs noting the many issues of parking, water drainage, restrooms, signage, etc.

Finally, Donald stressed that it is important for members to go to the website and provide their feedback. He added there is no speaker planned for the September 20th General Membership Meeting and the primary focus will be to update *2025 Vision Plan* and receive direct feedback from members. Donald stated that the board's recommendation is for members to vote by the end of September to endorse the plan's concept with the understanding that it is not the final product and much work remains to be done.

Ballots will be mailed to all 400+ members of Civic Club with a request that these be returned by September 30th.

Guardian Ad Litem Update.

Pat O'Connell announced that the Guardian Ad Litem Program still needs volunteers to advocate for children of abuse and neglect. Anyone interested should contact Pat at poconnell1414@gmail.com

Thank You's. Betsy Nofziger thanked the Civic Club volunteers who helped make the ECCC sponsored Sizzler such a success. She stated that it would not have been possible without the support of Civic Club volunteers. Donald commended Civic Club members, ECCC and the Parrot Head Club for the tremendously successful charitable fundraising events this summer.

Veterans Reveille Event

Don't forget the SGI Veteran's Group at Doc Myer's on Friday, September 7, at 3 PM for the next Veterans Reveille Event hosted by fellow

Vet and friend, Dan "Doc" Myers. The public is also invited to attend the Reveille each month. This month the planning for our next Veterans Day event on the Island this Fall will begin. A new member of the SGI Veterans Group is Arnie Miesch. Arnie is a 2-tour, brown water (served in the rivers) Navy Veteran of Vietnam. Franklin County Veterans Service Officer, Charles Elliott returns to do a short update on veteran benefits. Charles will bring his lap-top, and work one-on-one with veterans or veteran's family who need assistance. Some of our veterans have already been helped by Charles from interviews at prior Veteran's Reveille events. Also, please keep Fred Stanley in your prayers.

SGI2025 Overlay Plan

The Civic Club is making available several dates for members to participate in a full discussion of the SGI2025 Plan and to have all your questions and concerns heard. Please plan to attend one or more of the

“Listening and Discussion Sessions.” They will be held at the Firehouse at 10 am, Thursday, Sept 6 and 5 pm, Thursday, Sept 20 (prior to monthly Dinner Meeting) House Calls are also available. If you need a presentation to a small group, just email Vice-President Michael O’Connell at poconnell1414@gmail.com or call Michael at 850-408-1773. An added feature on our website: You can answer the comment survey anonymously by typing in “XXX” for your name and XXX@hotmail.com as your email address. There will be no identification associated with your comments.

“Celebrating Our Grandparents”

Please join the Elder Care Community Council (ECCC) on Sunday, September 9, from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Holy Family Senior Center 203 Dr. Frederick Humphries Blvd. Apalachicola. Seniors, if you need a ride please contact us at holyfamilyseniorcenter@gmail.com or 850.653.3134.

September Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse

The St. George Lighthouse Association will host a full moon climb September 24 from 8 to 9:30 pm. Climb to the top of the Cape St. George Light to watch the sunset and the rise of the full moon. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb includes light hors d'oeuvres and a sparkling cider toast to the full moon. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for members of the St. George Association. The September moon is called the Barley Moon because it occurs at time barley is harvested.



After sunset, people without reservations are invited to climb to the top of the lighthouse for a breathtaking view of the full moon, space and as time permits. Cost is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for SGLA members.

Sheriff Smith's Facebook Video on Recycling vs. Trash

Sheriff AJ Smith has heard our concerns about inadequate policing of the SGI Recycle Site. Please view his attached video link below as he promises more aggressive response to violators including use of cameras and serving warrants.

<https://www.facebook.com/417238151685349/posts/1820891201320030/>

Upcoming Events

Bowery Station – Open Mic

September 5

September 12

September 19

September 26 (all from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

Bowery Station, 17 Ave F, Suite C.

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.

Apalachicola Farmers Market

September 8 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

September 22 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

At Mill Pond, 479 Market St
Apalachicola

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

Guardium ad Litem

A class on Guardium ad Litem is scheduled in September for prospective GAL's in the Wakulla and Franklin county area. The training will be held on Saturday September 8th and 22nd from 10:00am to 5:00pm at the Wakulla County Community Center.

To register, call 850-606-1213 or visit www.gal2.org

Charity Boat Poker Run

In Carrabelle, on September 15, enter for the first-ever Amazing Boat Race and Poker Run.

This family-friendly event will include live music, raffles, food, drinks, auctions and much more.

All proceeds benefit the Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend's clients, a nonprofit agency that provides medical and social work services to those who have seizure disorders and epilepsy. A map will be given to each participant. Participants will board their boats, leave the marina at 9:00 a.m. on a shot-gun start toward Dog Island, complete five fun challenges at various checkpoints, receive a poker card at each, return to the starting point and enter their hand into the computer. If the hand matches the preselected combination, they will win a Nissan Titan Truck from Kraft Nissan and a boat.

Registration through August 17 is only \$100 per person and includes breakfast, lunch and a swag bag full of goodies. Also get a VIP registration for only \$50 per person through August 17. This includes a chef's sampler from local coastal restaurants, wine, beer, open bar, a silent audition, a live band and much more.

You DO NOT have to own a boat to enter the poker run, but you MUST be 18 or older to enter. As many hands can be

played per person on each boat as it is legal for the boat to carry.

VIP Registration includes: Food, drinks, live entertainment, auction items and much more.

The VIP area will be open from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. and will be located at 260 Timber Island Road. Registration for those who are not pre-registered begins at 7:30 a.m.

For more info, go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ea-bb-presents-the-amazing-boat-race-and-poker-run-tickets-48041446259>

Franklin County Coastal Cleanup

On Saturday, September 15, The Apalachicola Riverkeeper organization, along with the Franklin County Departments of Parks & Recreation and Solid Waste & Recycling will host the 2018 Annual International Coast Cleanup in Franklin County. The cleanup, which covers the entire county from Alligator Point to west of Apalachicola is part of what is billed as the the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect our oceans, lakes and rivers. The event runs from

8:30am to 11:30am at 17 locations in Franklin County and an 18th location at Saint Vincent NWR. Event coordinators provide trash bags, T-shirts, gloves, water, snacks, and data cards. Volunteers should bring sunscreen, bug spray, protective clothing, and sturdy shoes.

In Franklin County last year, 388 volunteers, ages 5 to 75+, collected 3.5 tons of trash from the local beaches, bay, gulf, and river. Each year, volunteers not only remove trash from the environment but also record what they collect in order to develop ways to deter these trash problems in the future.

Cleanup locations are listed below.

Apalachicola: 10' Hole Battery Park – under the bridge

Apalachicola – Abercrombie Landing – 12th Street out about 4 miles

Bald Point State Park: 146 Box Cut Rd, Alligator Point

Carrabelle: City Pavilion on Marine Street

Carrabelle: Carrabelle Beach Across from the RV park

Eastpoint: Downtown Pavilion Area on HWY 98

Eastpoint: Marion Millender Park – off Patton St.

Lanark Beach: Public Access Pt. – Arizona St. south of Hwy 98

St. George Island: Downtown Lighthouse Park – in front of lighthouse

St. George Island State Park: Check-in at Park Gate (appropriate for adults)

For more information, call (850) 653-8936 or go to www.apalachicolariverkeeper.org


Rock By The Sea “Lite”

September 20 - September 22
Rock By The Sea present this “lite” charity music festival hosted at Harry A’s on St. George Island

It will feature artists including Steve Everett, Boo Radley, The Brown Goose, The Currys, Meaghan Farrell, Mentz, Tobacco Road Band and more. The Rock by the Tee Golf event will be held on September 21 at St. James Bay Golf Club in

Carrabelle. For more information, go to www.rockbythesea.org

Apalachicola Riverkeeper’s Field Trips

Explore your river and basin  September 22.


The volunteer-led eco-outings are fun and memorable. Hike and kayak in the spring and fall. 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, call (850) 653-8936 or go to:

www.apalachicolariverkeeper.org

Carrabelle Museum Day

Back by popular demand all three of Carrabelle's wonderful museums will open their doors free of charge on Saturday September 22, as part of *Smithsonian* magazine  14th annual Museum Day. This national celebration honors museums that follow the example of the Smithsonian with free admission. In salute to this day, Carrabelle History Museum, Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum, and Crooked River Lighthouse Museum will also have extended hours from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and special activities and exhibits including WWII military vehicles, a newly expanded Native Peoples exhibit and 103-foot tower climbs. Museum Day represents a nationwide commitment to access, equity and inclusion. Over 250,000 people participated in last year's event, and Museum Day 2018 is expected to attract more museum goers than ever before. Smithsonian recognizes the extraordinary power of museums to provide visitors with insight and inspiration.

Carrabelle History Museum

Ray Andersen, a local professional artist, will be at the museum from 10:00 am-12:00 pm working on a beautiful, historical mural of Carrabelle's working waterfront circa 1880-1920. This large painting in progress depicts a time when lumber, seafood, turpentine and people all met at the waterfront. Visitors can meet and talk with Ray about the mural and watch as he brings Carrabelle's history back to life. In addition, the museum has a recently expanded exhibit showcasing local history of Native Peoples including a remarkable newly acquired Native American pottery artifact. Also in keeping with this year's Smithsonian theme of "Women Making History", the Carrabelle History Museum will be featuring some notable women of Carrabelle. The museum will be highlighting women like Tillie Miller, Laura Wiggins, Cheryl Sanders, and many more who have served Carrabelle with honor. The Carrabelle History Museum also features artifacts and

exhibits on the Steamship “Tarpon”, the original “World’s Smallest Police Station”, Carrabelle industry and culture (seafood, logging, and gas stations), and Carrabelle families from the pioneer days to the present. The Carrabelle History Museum is located at 106 Avenue B, SE, Carrabelle.

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum

A new location and a new museum facility highlight this year’s Museum Day for Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum. The museum will be holding a ribbon cutting and grand reopening at 10:00 am in celebration of the new museum building. Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum is now located at Carrabelle Beach, where military troops practiced beach assaults for D-Day and other campaigns. During Museum Day, the museum will also be showing an exciting short film of the actual 1943 beach assault training that has only recently been discovered. WWII military vehicles will be on display and military veterans will be on hand.

Camp Gordon Johnston WWII Museum honors the military men and women as well as civilian personnel who trained and worked in Carrabelle and Franklin County during 1942 through 1946. The 4,000 sq ft Camp Gordon Johnston Museum houses numerous displays of military artifacts, photos and memorabilia of many types. Camp Gordon Johnston The museum’s new facility is across from Carrabelle Beach Park at 1873 Highway 98 West, Carrabelle.

Crooked River Lighthouse

During this special event, FREE lighthouse tower climbs will be available to all children (must be 44 inches to climb). Lighthouse tower climbs are available from 1:00-4:00 pm. Visitors can tackle all 103 feet and 138 inside steps and be rewarded by magnificent views of the St. George Sound and Tate’s Hell State Forest. Kids can make their own model of the Crooked River Lighthouse with card stock. Also the brand new plans for the pirate ship playground, “Carrabella II” will be on display.

Additionally, staff and volunteers will be offering a wonderful lantern-making workshop at the Keeper's House from 1:00-4:30 pm. Materials, instruction and hands-on help will be provided to make some unique, colorful lanterns for just a \$5 donation. At the end, attendees will get to take their own finished lantern home with them.

The history and the science of the Crooked River Lighthouse are displayed through interesting exhibits, including a historical setting of the early 1900's, examples of beacons, the methods of constructing a skeletal tower lighthouse, plus the original Keeper's House clocks, a barometer, a glass fire grenade, and more. Also, on the grounds, a nice park picnic area features picnic tables, picnic shelters and a small playground. Crooked River Lighthouse is located at 1975 Hwy 98 West, Carrabelle.

National Estuaries Day

It's all about the Bay on Sept 28 as the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (The

Reserve) celebrates National Estuaries Day at its Nature Center in Eastpoint. Activities will include dozens of free, fun and educational activities for kids and adults including marine animal touch tanks, and estuary-themed games. The Sea Turtles of the Forgotten Coast exhibit will demonstrate what a sea turtle nest might look like and show videos of nesting sea turtles and hatchlings. Attendees can also tour the ANERR's impressive 5,400 square foot Nature Center with its three large aquariums filled with local estuarine and marine life, an 80-foot long mural depicting the area ecosystems, and a hands-on Bay Discovery Room.

For more information, call (850) 670-7708.

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

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
egrob2@fairpoint.net

2018 Board of Directors

James Donald President
jdonal278@gmail.com

**Mike O’Connell Vice-
President**
poconnell1414@gmail.com

Kelly Rowland
Secretary
krowland@mediacombb.net

Sherri Roberts Treasurer
sprobert@fairpoint.net

Directors:

Diane Bodenhamer
Immediate Past President
bodenhmr@me.com

Linda Thurman
sgibeach1@gmail.com

Ben Mathewson
benz256@mac.com

Franklin County
Commissioner Contacts:

Chairperson - Cheryl Sanders
cheryl@franklincountyflorida.com

697-2534

Commissioner Smokey Parrish
wardshrimphouse@yahoo.com

Commissioner Noah Lockley
noah@franklincountyflorida.com

653-4452

Commissioner William Massey
william@franklincountyflorida.com

653-8861

Commissioner Ricky Jones
ricky@franklincountyflorida.com

653-8861 (SGI Commissioner)