



The Islander

October 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The October meeting is our annual Luau on the grounds of the St. George Lighthouse and will be held on October 18.

(Editor's Note: The September meeting featured a special presentation by the Infrastructure Committee. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, we invite you to go on-line at www.sgi2025.com and provide us with your feedback. Also, you may want view the September 6, 2018 Op-Ed by the Club President for Apalachicola Times in the [http://www.apalachtimes.com/news/20180906/managing-growth-for-laid-back-island.](http://www.apalachtimes.com/news/20180906/managing-growth-for-laid-back-island))

President's Notes on September 20, General Membership Meeting:

The September 20th Civic Club monthly membership meeting was well attended with 83 members present. Bill Mills blessed the food. Club President James Donald opened by

welcoming everyone and announcing the meeting agenda. He invited new members to stand and introduce themselves. Donald then recognized Newt & Adele Colston as long-time civic club members who are relocating to North Carolina. They will continue to be frequent visitors to the island.

Next Donald called upon Board Member and Nomination Committee Chair Ben Mathewson to present the proposed 2019 Slate of Officers to serve on the Civic Club Board. By Civic Club by-laws new officer and Director nominees for the board are required to be nominated at the September General Meeting and are subsequently voted upon at the November Meeting. Donald noted that during the August General Membership Meeting

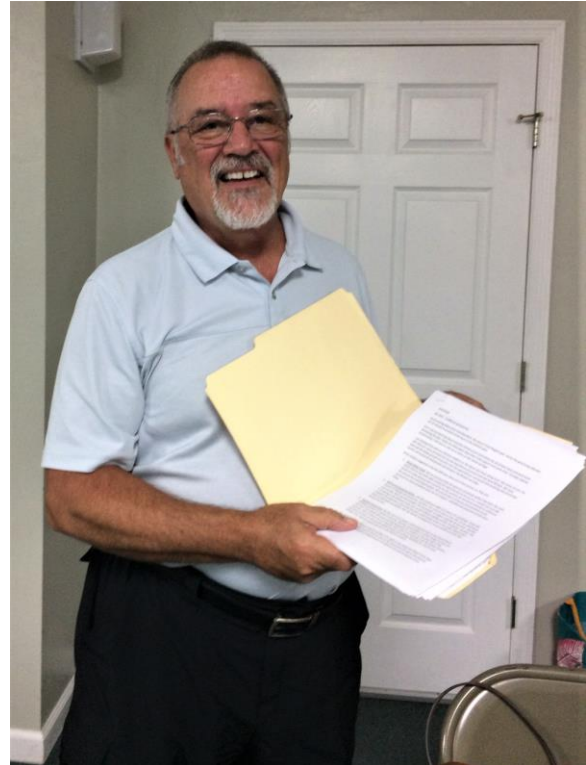
volunteers were sought who were interested in serving on the 2019 Civic Club Board. Two members, Jim Morris and Carolyn McCormick, expressed interest in serving. Mathewson then presented the following nominations for the 2019 Board:

President Elect: Mike O'Connell
Vice President: Jim Morris
Past President: James Donald
Treasurer: Carol McCormick
Secretary: Loula Fuller-Myers
At Large: Ben Mathewson & Pleas Howe.

Donald asked members for any additional nominations or volunteers who desired to serve. Hearing no additional nominations, Club Member Lee Harper “moved nominations cease” and the motion carried. Donald noted a special thanks to departing officers Sherri Roberts, Diane Bodenhamer, Linda Thurman, and Kelly Rowland for their outstanding service to the board.

Donald reminded the membership that in lieu of a guest speaker, this meeting had been set aside for an

Infrastructure Committee update of the SGI2025 Vision Plan. Using general consent, Donald adjusted the agenda to allow club member Paul Riegelmayr to present an alternative viewpoint to the SGI2025



Paul Riegelmayr

vision. Riegelmayr began by thanking the Infrastructure Committee for its hard work. He discussed six areas of concerns related to the long-term impacts on the quality of life on the Island. These included wastewater study, community center, east side causeway development, new parking features, boardwalk & fitness

trail, and the pickle ball court. He also urged delaying the previously announced ballot date of September 30 to allow more time for discussion. Following Riegelmayr's presentation, the President invited additional comments or questions related to this viewpoint and there were none. Donald thanked him for his input and assured Riegelmayr that his concerns would be considered by the Infrastructure Committee.

Next Donald introduced the Vice President and Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee Mike O'Connell. O'Connell introduced his wife, Pat, who provided the SGI2025 update. She began with a brief history. In February the county approved a new ordinance governing building in the SGI business district (3rd street west to 3rd street east; bay to gulf) and explained its origin. After the ordinance was approved, County Commissioner Ricky Jones, who represents the island and Eastpoint, agreed to receive input from the Civic Club for



Pat O'Connell

proposed capital improvements in the island Business District consistent with the ordinance. In March, VP Mike O'Connell was appointed by the Club President to lead an infrastructure committee. There began a process of meetings to gain input and create an ambitious wish list. Sub-committees were formed that included over 20 volunteer civic club members. Input was sought from a variety of stakeholders through radio announcements, social media, etc. In April the entire General Meeting was devoted to providing a comprehensive update on the Infrastructure Committee's strategic planning. A proposal was submitted to the Civic Club Board with plans to eventually be voted upon by members. As envisioned, SGI2025 will continually evolve

and could serve a basis for assessing island needs and desires. It will be presented to the full County Commissioner Board for a vote as it must be supported by them for the plan to move forward for grant development and working with county staff for funding. Donald urged the members to support a consensus vision that can help give guidance to the County for future investments. He stated that simply hoping investments will be made by the county has not worked in the past twenty years and is not an appropriate method for controlling the destiny of the island.

Pat also provided an explanation of funding sources available. State TRIUMPH oil spill money is used for economic development. Unfortunately, after meetings with TRIUMPH staff and members, the committee has concluded that none of the ideas proposed in SGI2025 meet the standards required for “transformative economic development” funding because they will not bring the number of jobs to the county that TRIUMPH expects. According to the TRIUMPH staff, the

proposals in SGI2025 are “quality of life” projects benefitting residents more than drawing tourists or new businesses. Sources other than TRIUMPH will be sought for these quality of life capital improvements. At the same time, the idea of expanding Broadband Internet services for the area may qualify for these funds.

RESTORE funding is federal oil spill money that is available and more flexible than that tied only to “transformative economic development.” The federal funding agencies within the RESTORE programs have already designated \$23.9M for “restoration” projects in the county, including improvements to boat ramps, providing water access through creating parks and constructing restrooms. None of these projects are occurring on SGI.

Other grant sources being investigated by the committee include FDOT, FL Dept of Economic Opportunity, USDA, FL Fish & Wildlife and other state and federal sources.

Following the presentation, members discussed various aspects. Many in attendance

expressed concern for when voting on the final version of the plan would occur and if the timing would permit adequate discussion throughout the island. Also, many expressed concerns that the Civic Club is taking input from non-islanders and non-property owners, who may not share the same interests as those who provide the most financial support and volunteer support of the island.

After discussion with the chair of the committee, Donald said that the club would try to complete the revisions to the plan by the end of October with a vote by email of Civic Club members at that time.

Donald encouraged everyone to visit SGI2025.com to review the vision and provide input. The plan is fluid and will continue to evolve as input is considered.

(Editor's note: there is one more scheduled workshop on SGI2025, at 4 pm, Tuesday, October 9, at the Firehouse. Also go to www.SGI2025.com for more information)

President Donald gave a brief update on the club's support of ANERR Riverkeeper through an **Amicus Brief**. He noted a

recent email from Riverkeeper, Georgia Ackerman suggesting that getting the "pro bono" **Amicus Brief** done in mid-late October timeframe is the most likely scenario. He also updated the great work of the new **Fundraising Committee** appointed from volunteers at the August General Meeting. The primary goal of the committee is to review Club fundraising options for the future. He observed that the committee had already come up with several promising ideas, noting that these would be shared during the regular November membership meeting. Finally, Donald reminded members that during the November Meeting we would be voting on the Civic Club's Annual Volunteer of the Year Award. Please submit your nominations and brief statement of support in advance to Linda Thurman at sgibeach1@gmail.com no later than October 31 in order to ensure your candidate's name is included on the ballot for the November vote.

Burt McFarland won the 50/50 pot.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Veterans Reveille Event

Don't forget the SGI Veteran's Group at Doc Myer's on Friday, October 5, 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 continue. 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.

October Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse

The October Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Wednesday, October 24. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will include light hors



d'oeuvres. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended.

The sun will set at 7:00 p.m. and the "Hunters" moon will rise at 7:25 p.m. on October 24. This full Moon is often referred to as the Full Hunter's Moon, Blood Moon, or Sanguine Moon. Many moons ago, Native Americans named this bright moon for obvious reasons. The leaves are falling from trees, the deer are fattened, and it's time to begin storing up meat for the long winter ahead. Because the fields were traditionally reaped in late September or early October, hunters could easily see fox and other animals that come out to

glean from the fallen grains. Probably because of the threat of winter looming close, the Hunter's Moon is generally accorded with special honor, historically serving as an important feast day in both Western Europe and among many Native American tribes. 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 more information, please contact the Lighthouse Gift Shop at 850-927-7745.

Upcoming Events

Bay-Friendly Landscaping

October 23 from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Yard design and maintenance can have a big effect on adjacent water bodies. Participants will learn about resources to help them transform their yard into a low-maintenance, lush bay conscious landscape that attracts birds and wildlife. The class will also feature innovative Green

Infrastructure techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and



bio-swales. Participants can also, for a small fee, order their own rain barrel that they can take home. Class will be held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Center Find out more at Bay-Friendly Landscaping Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve Nature Center, 108 Island Drive Eastpoint, FL 32328

Bowery Station – Open Mic

October 10, 17, 24 and 31. All from 6 to 8 pm.

Bowery Station, 17 Ave F, Suite C.

This weekly event has been a mainstay in local entertainment development of numerous for years, and has fostered the

performers as they gain their confidence and stage presence. All levels of talent are welcomed and appreciated.



Pink Out

This local breast cancer awareness event has grown to be a popular fall event on St. George Island. The annual Pink Out! festivities begin at 6 pm at Paddy's Raw Bar on October 5 and will feature a silent auction, live music, food and fun!

Apalachicola Farmers Market

October 13 and 27 @ 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.

Paddle Jam

October 5 - October 7

The fall version of the Apalachicola Paddle Jam festival will be held in October, 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 [Forgotten Coast Paddle Club](#)

ApalachOktoberfest

ApalachOktoberfest 2018 will be one for the record books! This year's three-day event hosted by Bowery Station and Oyster City Brewing Company will feature great beer, eats, and the best in live music. Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6 will be at Bowery Station and feature The Mulligan Brothers, The Bo Spring Band, Clayton Mathis, The Turkeybusters, Johnny Barbato, and Ten Pound Pancake. Then, Sunday, October



7, the fun moves down to Oyster City Brewing Company and will showcase Boo Radley, The Currys, Matt Law and the Usual Suspects, Sticky Too, and Shaw Davis and the Black Ties. OCBC is batching up some of their famous Lyin' Fish Oktoberfest Lager for the occasion! Plan ahead for this year's ApalachOktoberfest 2018 and look for updates and full details at bowerystation.us.

Art & Wine Splash

October 6 @ 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm is the St. George Island Art & Wine Splash. This event takes place during what many locals consider their favorite month on the island, when temperatures are a bit cooler and the annual monarch migration brings beautiful butterflies to our shores. The event is sponsored by The St. George Island

Business Association. The festival features talented artists and craftsmen offering original and unique items. Artists will be showing, selling, and demonstrating their talents at various Island locations beginning at 2 pm to 5 pm.

Setting this event apart from other arts and crafts shows is the special Wine Walk which will take place from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Art Displayed from 2 pm to 5 p.m. – Wine Tasting from 2 p.m. – 5 p. m.

Wild Week Guided Tours

The Friends of St. Vincent will host a week's worth of fun Fall activities as part of its Wild Week Guided Tours October 9-12. The four day event, which will take place on St. Vincent Island, will feature different activities each day including a guided tour with environmental speakers and a beachcombing tour, a tour and lesson on how to throw a cast/seine net and a trail bike tour. The wild week events are free but you must register. The Friends of St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge also has several volunteer

opportunities currently available for people interested in learning more about the island and volunteering their time to important activities there including red wolf tracking, sea turtle nesting, tour narrators and drivers, office help and grant writing. For more information, go to [Apalachicola Visitor Center](#) 122 Commerce Street Apalachicola.

Panhandle Players

Secrets & Sweet Tea is a southern comedy that takes place at the wake of Samuel Strainwhistle, a local Apalachicola millionaire. Various residents come to pay their respects, each hoping that Samuel has left a little something in his will for them. As the show progresses everyone learns the true secrets of these Apalachicola mourners.

Three performances choose one or attend all three: Friday, October 19th at 7:30 pm; Saturday, October 20th at 7:30 pm; and matinee on Sunday, October 21st at 3 pm. \$15 per ticket and can be purchased online or at the door. Box office opens 1-hour prior to showtime

at Chapman Auditorium, 155 Avenue E., Apalachicola

Car Show & Gumbo Cookoff

October 20 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Forgotten Coast Cruisers will host its 3rd Annual Car Show and Gumbo Cookoff at the Red Pirate Family Grill & Oyster Bar in Eastpoint. This year's event will benefit the Franklin Fire Victim Relief fund. Registration for the event is free but donations are accepted.

Lantern Fest

October 20 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Light up the night with the Crooked River Lighthouse at Lantern Fest, on Saturday, October 20 from 6 – 10 pm at the lighthouse park in Carrabelle Beach. Join the glow of 123 beautiful lanterns in celebration of the Crooked River Lighthouse's 123rd birthday! Local lore, glowing lanterns, music, dance, food and night time tower climbs bring magic and history together! This remarkable festival, best known for its awesome display of over a hundred colorful and handmade lanterns, also features

wonderful live music by Celtic musicians Aisha Ivey and Stephen Hodges, amazing performances by the TCC Dance Company, ancient craft demonstrators, star gazing with the Tallahassee Astronomical Society, children's activities, delicious food and desserts and special evening tower climbs of the tallest lighthouse on the Forgotten Coast.

Admission to this great celebration and wonderful music and dance program is only \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-16. Tower climbing tickets are just \$5 for adults and \$3 for children (must be 44" tall). Good food will also be available for purchase too. Be prepared to sing Happy Birthday to the 1895 maritime landmark!

Autos & Oysters Car Show

October 27 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Don't miss the award-winning Autos and Oysters Car Show! The show will be held on Water Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. Enjoy a fabulous lineup of cars, fresh oysters and hotdogs in beautiful Riverfront Park, music and more!

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at noon. The cost to enter your car is \$20. Awards will be given for the Top 50, Best of Show, Club Participation, Greatest Distance Travelled, and Sponsor's Choice. Awards will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Coming to town for the show? Package deals are in place to encourage visitors to stay, dine, and shop.

Ghostwalk



October 27 @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Hauntings will abound at Apalachicola's Chestnut Street Cemetery on Saturday, October 27 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 more than 100 years ago. The Ghostwalk will be held 6:30-8:30 pm. at the Chestnut Street Cemetery on Hwy 98 in Apalachicola.

*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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