



# The Islander

November 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club  
The November meeting will be held on November 15

Dear Civic Club Member,

REMINDER! We invite you to attend our monthly Civic Club Meeting Thursday, November 15. This month's meeting will provide an opportunity for you to cast your annual "end of year Civic Club ballot." You will be voting on three items this year:

1. 2019 Officers
2. Volunteer of the Year
3. Revised SGI 2025 Vision Plan

**(SPECIAL NOTE: BECAUSE OF HURRICANE MICHAEL, THE CIVIC CLUB BOARD IS EXTENDING THE VOTE DEADLINE UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 2018. PAPER BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE NOVEMBER 15 CIVIC CLUB MONTHLY MEETING FOR THOSE UNABLE TO VOTE ELECTRONICALLY. BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED OR EMAILED BY**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2018 IN ORDER TO BE COUNTED. EMAIL THE ATTACHED INTERACTIVE SGI CIVIC CLUB BALLOT TO CIVICCLUBBALLOT@SGI2025.COM OR PRINT AND MAIL TO SGI CIVIC CLUB, PO BOX 451, EASTPOINT, FL 32328.)**

You can review the Revised SGI 2025 Vision Plan at the website, [www.sgi2025.com](http://www.sgi2025.com). SGI 2025 Vision Plan builds on the County's Corridor Overlay Plan Ordinance passed in 2017 which prescribes a vision and standard for the SGI business district. The plan reflects the great work that the Civic Club's Infrastructure Committee has done in suggesting future improvements needed on the island. Also, it reflects your input and the responses from more than 100 of you that wrote us, completed on-line surveys and/or attended the many discussion sessions conducted during the year.

Finally, in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, it's more important than ever that Civic Club members speak with a common voice for the needs of our island community. Come to the meeting on November 15, enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie, and be informed on all the issues affecting our community. Hope to see you there!

*James*

James Donald  
President, SGI Civic Club

### **Florida's Forgotten Coast Bruised but not Broken**

Franklin County restaurant owners, workers and community volunteers gathered together to feed more than 5,000 hurricane survivors for five days following the devastating October 10th Hurricane Michael. When you come visit, please tell them thank you - their spirit of volunteerism is what makes Florida's Forgotten Coast home.

### **Events, Lodging, Restaurants and Shopping Reopening this month all along the Coast**

Dozens of Franklin County businesses from Alligator Point to Apalachicola are reopening their doors following the October 10th catastrophic hurricane Michael. One by one, popular Franklin County eateries, storefronts and vacation rentals along the coastline have swept

out the storm muck, repaired damage and put out the welcome sign just as cool fall breezes are scheduled to arrive.

Franklin County was lucky; the coastal communities here were spared much of the wrath of the monster storm that wreaked deadly destruction in neighboring Gulf and Bay counties. Still, the county was damaged – much of the brunt of the storm targeting St. George Island and Alligator Point peninsula.

Business owners and vacation property management companies on St. George Island and Alligator Point have been making repairs to more than 800 vacation rental units in the area and taking inventory in preparation to resume fall rental activities.

“Our homes are in surprisingly good shape,” said Sam Gilbert, general manager at Suncoast Vacation Rentals, one of several property management companies on St. George Island.

According to Gilbert, elevated rental houses on the bayfront and beachfront generally lost whatever was under the house and many units have several feet of sand to clean up but most of the damage involved minor roof and siding loss. “We are hoping to welcome guests back by mid-November but we are keeping an eye on the progress of debris removal. We want to make sure that when our

guests return, they have the same good experience they are used to when they visit,” he said.

Tourism leaders say that cleanup has been steady – a testament to a unified local government effort and community resiliency.

“There is still a lot of clean-up and repairs to do because many of our local lodging facilities and restaurants experienced significant damage but local businesses are definitely beginning to reopen,” said Curt Blair, Franklin County Tourist Development Council Director. “Yes, there are still some road hazards but we expect things to be up and running by the first of November.”

### **Hurricane Michael Hits Panhandle**

Hurricane Michael blew through the Panhandle on October 10th as a Category 4 hurricane and continued to move north through Georgia and into the Carolinas and Virginia. Michael is the strongest storm on record to hit the area.

Our neighbors to the west took a direct hit and left mass destruction in Port St. Joe, Mexico Beach, Panama City and everything in between. Cape St. George Lighthouse still stands tall with no damage and although the Keeper’s House had several feet of water underneath, it also came thru with minor damage.

### **SGLA to sponsor 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Event**

Veterans Day Ceremony in Lighthouse Park—Saturday, November 10th at 3 PM.

The state park is offering free 1-year admissions to Vets and offers ADA accessibility throughout the park

### **November Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse**

The November Full Moon Climb at the Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island will be held on Friday November 23. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 5:30 - 7:30 pm and will include light hors



d'oeuvres. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for members of SGLA. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended.

November’s full Moon was called the Beaver Moon by both the Algonquin tribes and colonial Americans. The Native Americans used the monthly Moons and nature’s signs as a sort of calendar to track the seasons.

Why this name? Back then, this was the month to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs.

The November full Moon was also called the Full Frost Moon by other Native American tribes.

After sunset, people 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.

- In the wake of Hurricane Michael, the SGLA 10th Anniversary Celebration has been postponed
- Mark your calendars; February 9, 2019 for the 8th Annual SGI Tour of Homes
- Become a Tour of Homes Sponsor or Supporter—2019 TOH Sponsor/Supporter
- Become a Lighthouse Member today
- Want to volunteer—Become a lighthouse museum docent

### *Upcoming Events*

Bowery Station – Open Mic  
November 7, 14 and 21 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
17 Ave F, Suite C  
Apalachicola



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**

2nd and 4th Saturday from 9 AM until 1 PM. At Mill Pond, 479 Market St  
Apalachicola

Local seafood, produce, honey, homemade breads, pies, and other regional specialties are offered.



### **ANERR Estuary Class**

#### **Apalachicola Bay**

November 8 @ 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
\$25

Lecture by Dr. Sandra Brooke,  
FSUCML Research Facility

Have you ever gazed at the ocean and wondered what was out there? Well, humans have been doing the same thing for a very long time. Ancient civilization began sailing the seas around 4000 BC and the 15th century heralded ambitious voyages by the Chinese and Europeans. Early endeavors were focused on discovery

of new resources, but by the 17th century scientific voyages had begun.



Do you know what an estuary is and why it is so vital to our economy and way of life? Join us to explore the estuary we depend on. Learn about the habitats and creatures that make up our estuary and how the river and bay are intricately connected. We will see these habitats up close aboard the Reserve's research vessel the Henry Lee. The class will be based out of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive, Eastpoint. The class is \$25.00. Please register in advance, tickets available at <https://anerrestuaryclass.eventbrite.com/> For more information contact Anita Grove at (850) 670-7708 or [Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us).

### **Revealing the Secrets of The Deep: A Brief History of Ocean Exploration**

November 8 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
A Brief History of Ocean Exploration  
Today we have sophisticated ships and other tools to assist our understanding of the deep sea. This lecture follows human discovery of our oceans and presents a glimpse into the future of exploration. Dr. Brooke will also discuss being part of a research team that just recently discovered a new 85-mile long coral reef about 160 miles off of the coast Charleston, South Carolina.

### **Secrets of Byrd Hammock (Native American Program)**

November 10 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Come join this fascinating, free program about the secrets of early Native American communities found in our region. Saturday, November 10, 10 am-12 pm at the Upstairs Meeting Room at C-Quarters Marina, 501 St. James Avenue (US 98), Carrabelle, FL.

Hear about fascinating artifacts and discoveries found at Byrd Hammock Mounds, part of St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge featuring Thadra Stanton, from Southeast Archeological Center. See artifacts from the Swift Creek and Weedon Island early native peoples found at these sites.

Also joining the program will be Sammy Tedder, an accomplished musician, composer, and filmmaker who also makes artisan flutes from local river cane and enjoys building Native American drums. He will be

performing several songs using various instruments he has made from native material.



### **Speaker Series Program**

November 10 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Come join this fascinating, free program about the history of Carrabelle. At this season's Speaker Series Program, hear about the history of the Forgotten Coast Lighthouses, history of Dog Island, and Native American history of Carrabelle. Don't miss this special free program!

### **Apalachicola River & Floodplain**

November 15 @ 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
The Apalachicola River has been called "the Lifeblood of the Bay". It is vital to our way of life in Franklin County, the state of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. Participants will learn all about the ecology, culture, and history surrounding the Apalachicola River, as well as come to appreciate its importance in modern Florida. After the lecture portion of the class we will embark on a river journey aboard the Reserve research vessel Henry Lee to get an up-close look at some of the fantastic floodplain ecosystems and historic Apalachicola River distributaries. Tickets for the class are \$25 and must be purchased in advance. The class will be held at the

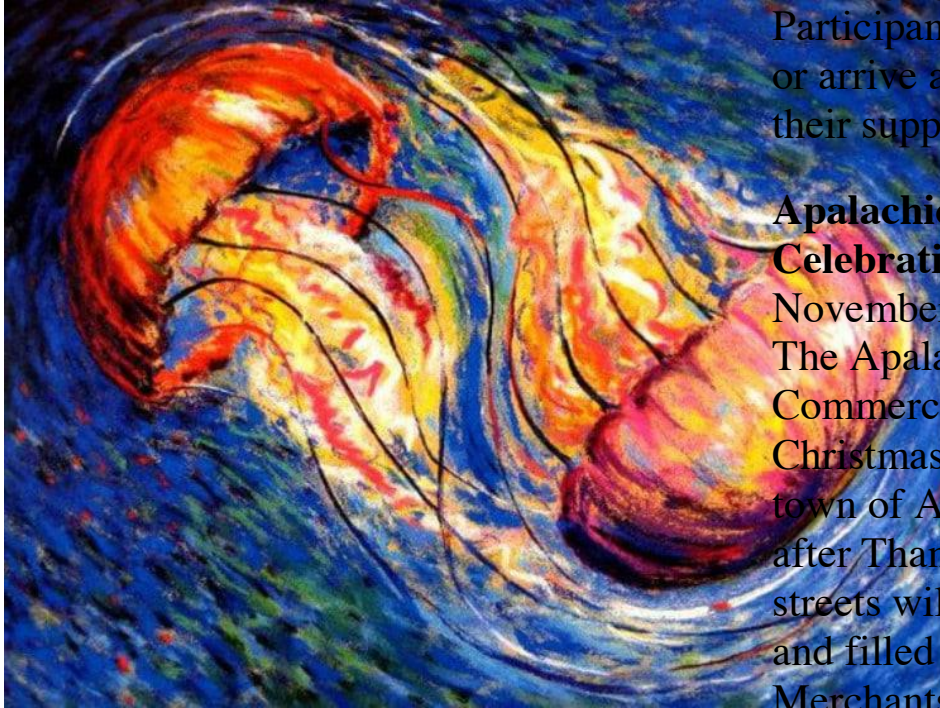


Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive in Eastpoint. Register online at <https://ANERRriverclass.eventbrite.com> For more information contact Anita Grove at (850) 670-7708 or by email [Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us).

### **Apalach Chalk Art Festival**

November 17 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
HCA will host the first annual Apalach Chalk Art Festival at Riverfront Park. Participants will create an artistic rendition of the festival's theme "Ocean Treasures" on a 5'x5' square of concrete sidewalk at Riverfront Park. Each participant will pay \$5 for a bundle of chalk and a square of the

sidewalk, up to 3 squares may be purchased but only 1 bundle of chalk



will be given. Participants will be allowed to bring their own chalk and supplies such as spray bottles, towels, etc. to use to create their artwork. The participants may bring items for inspiration and use in the creation, but chalk must be the prominent medium in the artwork. Beginning at 10am, artists will have 2.5 hours to complete their artwork. At 12pm, the artwork will be judged and the winners will be announced at 2PM.

The goal of this festival is to provide an event for families and artists from our surrounding communities to be part of a creative event that celebrates art and our community.

Each age group winner and will receive an award. The age groups are (0-5) (6-10) (11-14) (15-18) (19-Adult)

A 1<sup>st</sup> place prizes will be awarded for each age group.

Participants will be able to pre-register or arrive at 9am to register and get their supplies and square of sidewalk.

### **Apalachicola Downtown Christmas Celebration**

November 23

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce Presents the Apalachicola Christmas Celebration. The historic town of Apalachicola lights up the Day after Thanksgiving from 4- 8pm. The streets will be lined with luminaries and filled with holiday spirit.

Merchants will be open late and the sounds of carolers will echo through the streets filling the evening with the Holiday spirit.

Santa will arrive via shrimp boat at 4:00 p.m. at Riverfront park on Water Street. He will be at the park to hear all the children's Christmas wishes. The Orman & The Raney Houses will be decorated and open for tours. The Staff of The Chamber of Commerce will be giving out hotdogs for all the children who come to visit Santa. Join us for an old-fashioned Christmas celebration! Plus, help our great local shops by shopping on "Small Business Saturday". Visit our small local businesses in Apalachicola, Eastpoint and St. George Island. From art to jewelry, food or antiques, you'll find the perfect gift for everyone on your list, minus the crowds and the hassle of going to the mall.



## **Trips**

November 24

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.

## **Shop Small Saturday**

November 24 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Small Business Saturday is an American shopping holiday held on the Saturday after Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. First observed in Roslindale Village, Massachusetts on November 27, 2010, it is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which feature big box retail and e-commerce stores respectively. By contrast, Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local.

Small Business Saturday is a registered trademark of American Express corporation.

## **Secrets & Sweet Tea**

November 30 @ 7:30 pm - December 2 @ 8:30 pm  
\$15 per ticket.

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, November 30 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm; and matinee on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3 pm. \$15 per ticket and can be purchased online or at the door. Box office opens 1-hour prior to showtime.

*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 [sgcivicclub@gmail.com](mailto: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.  
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**October & November Pictures**

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*Harry A's Bar after Michael*



*Water surrounding Harry A's after Michael  
(Both of these pictures were taken by Patrick Kelly)*



*SGI Civic Club members Mary Lou Bassett and Carol Wheeler pose before the SGI Quilt to be raffled off at Chili Cookoff in March for the benefit of the SGI Volunteer Fire Department*