



The Islander

December 2018

A Publication of the St. George Island Civic Club
The December meeting will be held on December 20

Message from the President

November 15 Meeting

One hundred and one members attended the November monthly civic club meeting. The larger than usual turnout may be attributed in some measure to the annual November voting cycle that this year included an up or down vote on the proposed SGI 2025 Vision Plan. Club President James Donald welcomed everyone, shared the agenda for the evening and Joyce Estes was called upon to bless the abundance of food enjoyed during the festive evening.

Next Donald introduced the new SGI Fire Chief, Kevin Delahanty, noting his long tenure with the VFD and his broad experiential background. While out-going Chief Jay Abbott did not attend, Donald commended him for his good work in supporting the SGI Community for many years. Kevin gave a brief update reporting seven new volunteers had completed Firefighting 101 Training. He made an appeal for new members sharing that

the VFD is always accepting applications from any volunteers who are interested in being on the team. In response to a question about age limitations, Kevin noted that there are a variety of positions on the team in which age was not a significant factor such as driving the fire truck, providing hose support, directing traffic, etc. In addition, Chief Delahanty stated that there continues to be a great need for additional Medical First Responders who are certified through a 40-hour course. He announced that the VFD Board is always looking for interested community members to become Board Members as openings are available. The Chief reported that the VFD is looking for volunteers to help with the Chili Cook off scheduled for March 2, 2019. A list was circulated among members in attendance to sign up for any of the volunteer opportunities that the Chief discussed. The Chili Cook-Off is the VFD's major fundraiser during the year and is its principal

source of financial support. The fundraiser kicks off with a golf tournament on Thursday, February 28, 2019. He also shared that the popular VFD Annual Hat Drive is about to kick off within a few weeks and that donation request letters are to be mailed out shortly.

Delahanty then briefly mentioned the challenges with the 911 emergency call dispatch service antenna that was damaged by a lightning strike. While this has caused concern, Delahanty assured members that the work-around put in place has effectively minimized the risks in 911 response to emergency calls. He stated that the County Commissioners would be voting on funding equipment upgrades to fix the problem at the Tuesday, November 20th County Board Meeting and asked for the community to attend and support. (*UPDATE: The equipment upgrade has been funded by the Board of Commissioners, and a contractor has been hired to fix the problem.*)



The new BBQ cooker paid for by the Civic Club and the SGI Volunteer Fire Department

Finally, Delahanty thanked the Civic Club for sponsoring the purchase of the new VFD BBQ smoker that is used to support the many SGI Community fundraisers and activities. Delahanty announced that the new smoker will be used during the upcoming Annual Fire Department Meeting on December 8th at 4pm. Civic Club members were invited to attend.

Following the Chief on the agenda, VP Mike O'Connell briefly discussed SGI 2025. He extended his appreciation to all committee members who have generously contributed their time and resources for its success. He singled out Buena Brown, Mayra Harper and his wife Pat for their efforts developing the website, tabulating the feedback/comments for the balloting and overseeing the planning and feedback process.

Next, Eric Roberts, the Civic Club's Newsletter editor since 2009, announced his retirement from this position due to health issues. Eric said he thoroughly enjoyed being the editor and thanked everyone for their support and patience. Buena Brown will be assuming this role in the New Year. Eric's last newsletter will be the December edition. Eric was commended for his decade of publishing and leadership and the membership graciously thanked Eric with a standing ovation.

Donald then introduced 2019 Slate of Officers noting that early voting suggested the membership's

overwhelmingly support for the slate and Martha Hodge as Volunteer of the Year. *[Special note: Final results published on November 21 indicate that more than 97% of endorsing the Slate; 88% approved for Martha Hodge for Volunteer of the Year and 78% approved the Revised SGI 29025 Vision]*

Past President Diane Bodenhamer then presented the 2018 recommended end of year donation list. Bodenhamer thanked the executive committee who worked hard to come up with these recommendations. She announced recommendations totaling \$5300:

- Cat Allies-\$250;
- FL Wild Mammals Assoc-\$250;
- Humane Society-\$250;
- Friends of the Franklin Co Library-\$250;
- Bring me a Book Franklin Co-\$500;
- Franklin County School Lunch Program-\$600;
- Big Bend Hospice-\$1000;
- ECCC-\$1000; and
- Fresh Start Program Substance Abuse Program-\$1200

Bodenhamer noted that donations were down from last year's \$11,000 due to the loss of the summer bingo revenue and the club's decision earlier to donate \$3,000 to the SGI VFD to purchase the smoker. After some discussions about how the executive committee came up with its recommendations, Steve Childress

motioned that the recommended list of donations be approved. Tom Woods seconded and the motion was carried. President Donald noted that the Fundraising Committee had come up with several ideas to increase donations. He shared that the Club is tentatively looking at a couple of fundraising options in 2019 including Civic Club sponsored golf tournament and a Summer Carnival idea that has great potential.

By way of general updates, member Barbara Sanders announced a new Education Foundation initiative, "Take Stock in Children" created to raise funds for children in school grades 6-12. The foundation is looking for volunteers and anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact her.

President Donald announced based on the votes received Martha Hodge was elected as the Volunteer of the Year recipient. Based on her health issues and her availability, Donald announced that she will be honored at a date to be determined likely in early 2019.

Member Brian Robinson reminded everyone of the planned island clean up Saturday, Nov 17 at 9:00 at the Lighthouse. Ada Long then provided further emphasis, noting the Saturday's event would focus on the Commercial District, 3rd St East to 3rd St West, Bay to Gulf. Volunteers were asked to report to the steps of the Lighthouse where they would be provided with water, snack, t-shirts, gloves and bags.

[Special Note: More than 60 members showed up for the island clean up. We thank everyone for the support!]

The 50/50 raffle was won by Diane Bodenhamer.

Donald concluded the meeting by reminding everyone that the December 20 meeting would be the Civic Club's Annual Holiday Gathering and urging all to come out and enjoy the holiday festivities. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

SGI 2025 Action Plan

We thank all of you for your support of the Revised SGI 2025 Vision. More than 78% of you voted "Yes" to the plan. Attached is the News Release that describes the plan and this historic vote. Here is a short summary: "Nearly nine months after the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 2018-02, which describes a Vision for the private properties in the commercial district of the island, the SGI Civic Club has produced a long-term Vision for publicly owned land in that same area, from 3rd to 3rd Streets, from beach to bay. The Civic Club's SGI 2025 Vision Plan followed the language of the Ordinance by choosing improvements to create a more welcoming entrance to the island, preserve the unique character of St George, and create a more attractive and prosperous business community for residents and visitors... Importantly, the SGI 2025 Vision represents the first time that the county

will have the elements of a long-term plan for this unincorporated area, developed through a citizen-driven, consensus-building process. According to county records, it has been more than twenty years since the county has provided significant capital investments to the island.

Here is a short summary of the vote:

Revised SGI2025 Vision-- Yes, 78%

SGI 2025 Vision Projects: All passed. Listed by order of highest percentage of votes:

Roadways, stormwater runoff, sidewalks, alleyways	96%
Lighthouse Park Restrooms	94%
Boat ramp re-engineering	93%
Fishing Pier Restrooms	91%
Franklin Blvd Beautification	86%
Improvements to recycling	86%
Children's Playground	84%
Causeway Improvements	82%
Parking Area Improvements	79%
Waste Water Study	74%
Lighthouse Park Fitness Loop	64%
Community Center	57%
Pickle Ball Court	56%

Finally, we want to thank all of you who worked very hard supporting your Civic Club during the past year. The fact that a record 100 members show up for the General Membership Meeting on November 15 speaks volumes about the increase in interest and support of the SGI Civic Club. A special thank you to Mike & Pat O'Connell for their leadership on the Infrastructure Committee and to all the members of the Committee whose work has led us to this consensus vision for the future. In many ways their work has just begun. Committee Members: Diane Bodenhamer, Ben Mathewson, Kelly Rowland, Buena Brown, Debra Cizek, Phyllis Lewis, Don Murry, Lari Murry, Bunnie Ison, Betsy Nofziger, Linda Thurman, Falon Mihalic, Linda Hockman, Lon Wilkens, Mason Bean, Skip Kemp, Steve Childers, Scott McCormick, Steve Smith, W.K. Sanders, Valerie Williams, Will Jones. WELL DONE!

James

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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, 2018. The Sunset/Full Moon Climb will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will include light hors d'oeuvres. Because space is limited, reservations are recommended.

The sun will set at 5:41 p.m. and the "Beaver" moon will rise at 6:26 p.m. The November full moon is called the Beaver moon because beavers are now preparing for winter, and it is the time to set beaver traps to ensure a supply of warm winter furs before the swamps freeze over. 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 \$15 for the general public and \$10 for members of SGLA.

- 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

December 5 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 December 12 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 December 19 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 December 26 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 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.

SGI Palm Tree Lighting

Greet Santa when he arrives at St. George Island's Lighthouse Park on



Friday, December 7 and enjoy the festive illuminating of holiday lights on the Cape St. George Lighthouse, Visitor Center, and along Franklin Boulevard. There will be a fun run, goodies, carolers, and of course, Santa. and tree lighting will occur about sunset.

Oysters 101

December 7 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 learn about Apalachicola Bay's famous bivalves! This class will teach you all about the role that oysters play in the health of Apalachicola Bay. Discover what makes the bay so ideal for growing oysters, what gives our oysters their distinct flavor, and how oyster bars benefit the ecosystem. After spending some time in the classroom, participants will get the chance to walk along an oyster bar and look at its inhabitants under a microscope. This class is full.

Apalachicola Farmers Market

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

December 15 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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



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

Holiday on the Harbor & Boat Parade of Lights

December 8 @ 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm



Carrabelle's 24th Annual Christmas Celebration!

Parade starts at 6:15 p.m. Find your favorite viewing spot for the Boat Parade along 2 miles of the Carrabelle

River. The Boat Parade can be enjoyed from anywhere along Marine Street & Highway 98. Sing Along & Awards ceremony at C-Quarters Marina after Fireworks. Join in the Fun with Your Family and Friends! Plan to attend and/or put your boat in the parade. Be a vendor. Visit with Santa & his helpers. Also, our Downtown Merchants will be open during the Festival for your shopping pleasure. Music and other Entertainment throughout the weekend. Free mini-train rides again this year!

All Boats Welcome-No Entry Fee-Any Boat That Floats! Captain's Meeting will be Dec. 8th at 3 pm at C-Quarters Marina. All vessels' Captain's must attend.

Living Shorelines

December 12 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Coastal erosion is a natural process caused by currents, wave action, wind, storms and even boat wakes. The traditional methods used to harden the shoreline like seawalls and rip rap can often increase coastal erosion and

remove the ability of the shoreline to carry out natural processes. The class is for residents and homeowners and will discuss living shorelines vs. harden shorelines, how to evaluate a shoreline by considering the physical factors such as wave energy, prevailing wind and wave direction, vegetation, and soil type, and present living shoreline methods, materials, permitting, and share success stories of local living shorelines. We will also look at types of plants to plant and visit a local living shoreline. The lecture is free. The class will meet at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, 108 Island Drive in Eastpoint.

To register, visit <https://livingshorelinesanerr.eventbrite.com>. For more information, please contact Anita Grove at 850-670-7708 or Anita.Grove@dep.state.fl.us

Eastpoint Christmas Celebration

December 14 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Join Eastpoint for the annual Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 14. Parade line up begins at 4 p.m. behind Seller's Plaza. The



parade runs down Highway 98, takes a right at Fisherman's Choice and ends at the Eastpoint Pavilion where Santa will have yummy treats on hand and his helpers will give out toys to all the good little boys and girls.

All Brass Christmas Concert

December 16 @ 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, the Alliance Brass is hailed as "the perfect blend of virtuosity and vitality" (2013 Chicago Brass Festival). The ensemble is comprised of some of the United States' finest young talents. The ensemble's members have performed all over the world from Canada and Mexico to Russia, the UK, Italy, and Japan. They have shared the stage with orchestras such as the Boston Pops, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra. These five virtuosos have also performed with the top chamber ensembles in the world including the Boston Brass, Synergy Brass, and more.

Dazzling audiences with a repertoire ranging from the early Renaissance to jazz and beyond, the “Alliance Brass Quintet has the ability to engage audiences both with excitement and insight about the instruments they play, offering a fascinating and rich musical performance” (Ravinia Music Festival).

In addition to performance, the ensemble is equally dedicated to the education of the next generation of musicians and music-lovers alike. Members of ABQ have served on faculties at some the top music institutions including the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, DePaul University, the International Festival and Institute at Round Top, and more. Beyond their teaching efforts, the ensemble also offers a wide range of programs designed to complement and enhance school music programs.

Apalachicola Riverkeeper’s Field Trip

December 22

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.



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.

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.

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The Islander is edited by Eric Roberts

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(Editor's Note: This will be my final newsletter. I've been diagnosed with Non-Small Cell Carcinoma (lung cancer) and am presently on chemo. This means it takes me 4 days to do a newsletter rather than the 2 days when I first took it over and it tires me out each day.

My wife, Sherri, and I have decided that my health is now our 1st priority so I am retiring. The Club will now have a communications committee with Pat O'Connell, Buena Brown and Mayra Harper taking over the newsletter and other communications with our members. Thank you all for the opportunity!)

2018 Board of Directors

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Commissioner Ricky Jones

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November Pictures
Veteran's Day 2018



Kelly Rowland baked another cake honoring our Veterans



Franklin County Sheriff Tony (AJ) Smith and Civic Club President Major General James Donald US Army (Ret) at Veteran's Day ceremony sponsored by the St. George Lighthouse Association. (See more pictures on Page 10)



Purple Heart recipient and Vietnam veteran Bob Holton was the Main Speaker



Refreshment table



Veterans attending 2018 Veteran's Ceremony at Lighthouse Park (over 100 persons attended the event) Sponsored by the St. George Lighthouse Association



Attendees pledging allegiance