



# THE ISLANDER



The Civic Club ended the year with the Annual New Year's Eve Bonfire with live music. Thanks to Mason Bean for organizing this event.

## Welcome, New Year 2019!

This month is perfect for assessing our past activities and for imagining the future.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THIS ORGANIZATION

Originally adopted in 1972, that we can use to design our course for the next year. We need the involvement of everyone to reach these objectives:

### Promoting Social Interaction:

Scientists tell us the secret of a long and happy life is continuing social engagement and warm friendships. The Club's monthly bring-a-dish dinners combined with short business meetings certainly contribute to that spirit. Our practice of bringing our own dishware is a small but fun step to reducing our footprint of disposable paper and plastic. Non-commercial, non-denominational, non-political, these important gatherings are good for islanders. We'll continue this tradition in 2019. Please volunteer to help hostess at least once this year, and feel free to send your suggestions for improvements to the board.

## Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

**SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)**  
Jan 17, 2019 @ 6:30 pm, SGI Firehouse

**SGI Lighthouse Full Moon Climb – Wolf Moon**  
Jan 20 @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
850-927-7745 for information

**SGI BINGO – January Dates (Tuesdays)**  
Jan 22, 29 Tues @ 7 pm, SGI Firehouse

**Franklin County – February Dates BOCC Regular Meetings**  
Feb 5, 19, 2019 @ 9:00 am  
Commission Meeting Room, Apalachicola

**SGI BINGO – February Dates (Tuesdays)**  
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 7 pm, SGI Firehouse

**SGI Tour of Homes and SGI Plantation Mixed-Media Art Show**  
Feb 9 Saturday @ 10 am - 4 pm  
850-927-7745 for information

**SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)**  
Feb 21, 2019 @ 6:30 pm, SGI Firehouse

**SGI Chili Cook-Off, Golf Tournament, 5K Run, Chili Competition & Charity Auction**  
Feb 28-Mar 2, 2019 @ 9 am - 5 pm, Lighthouse Park

**First Annual SGI Civic Club Golf Tournament Charity**  
March 22, 2019 @ 9 am - 5 pm  
Contact [jdonal278@gmail.com](mailto:jdonal278@gmail.com)

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AREA EVENTS  
CLICK [www.ApalachicolaBay.org](http://www.ApalachicolaBay.org)

## Providing a forum for discussing issues that interest and impact island residents and homeowners:

Our monthly meetings focus on timely topics of greatest interest to our members. In 2019, our January meeting will host a valuable friend to the island, Fonda Davis, the Interim Director of Parks & Recreation and also the Director of Solid Waste for the county. It is Fonda's team that helps maintain our county-owned land and facilities, including the recreational features at Lighthouse Park and the public beach. On this occasion, he will address issues related to code enforcement and trash disposal. Later meetings will include Franklin County Emergency Management Director Pamela Brownlee, who will bring us up to date on the Michael-related repairs and the county's efforts to receive state and federal reimbursement. The much-beloved Franklin County Library will have a slot to inform our members of the many services provided at that facility. And owners of the proposed Eastpoint development, called "Serenity Resort Development," designed to include a combination of middle-income residential houses and short term RV rentals, will be on hand to inform you of their plans before they are scheduled to present to the Board of County Commissioners. Do you have other ideas for speakers and issues of interest for discussion?

## Supporting the St George Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders:

In 2018, just as in other years, the Civic Club made our Volunteer Fire Department a top priority for fundraising. Our biggest single monetary gift was \$3000 contribution toward a new barbeque cooker that the fire department uses often for its own fundraising and other functions. In the past the Club has contributed to the cost of special project upkeep of the Firehouse facility, such as new air conditioning and parking refurbishment. The Club also pays \$3600 a year for that monthly use. The Club additionally supports the department by actively recruiting volunteers and sponsors for the Fire Department's main fundraising event, the Chili Cook-Off in March, and most recently made a plea for new members of these two valuable units. How can you help these organizations this year?

## Supporting other community interests:

The Club's assets are its people and the results of its fundraising efforts. We welcome all our local charitable organizations to make a pitch at our monthly meetings or submit articles for our newsletter to solicit recruits and donations. These activities—whether picking up trash on the island, assisting a foster child navigate the system, bringing the arts or lively entertainment to the island—are opportunities to express the generosity which is the spirit of St George Island. How will you be engaged this year, and how can the Civic Club help? In 2018, our beloved and famous family night bingo was terminated after a well-meaning citizen pointed out that such activities involving minors are against Florida law. The board is considering other programs, but it is difficult to identify another old-fashioned, all ages pleasure like quarter-a-card bingo. The modest funds raised are used by the Club's Fundraising Committee, after approval by the General Membership, to support as many of the charitable organizations that come to us seeking assistance. Join us in supporting other community interests this year.



The Chili Cookoff is a multi-day event that raises money for the fire department. The Civic Club helps recruit volunteers and sponsors for the event that includes a golf tournament, 5k run, chili competition, tour of the fire departments and an auction.



Supporting the SGI Volunteer Fire Department is the Civic Clubs top priority every year.



Painting produced by Ed Nickerson during the SGI Paint Out 2018, a non-profit organization that promotes the arts on the Island. SGI Paint Out 2019 will be April 7-13. Hosting an artist is an excellent way to get involved. For more info contact Bunnie Ison at (865) 599-4749 or visit [www.sgiPaintOut.com](http://www.sgiPaintOut.com).

## Providing leadership for Island improvements:

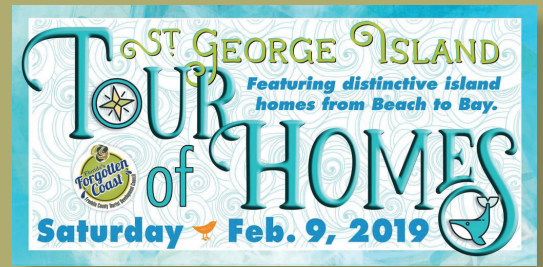
For over 45 years the Civic Club has taken initiative for capital improvements for the island. Our public restrooms, our beach walkovers, other small and large projects were accomplished in part through the physical labor of our members. Rural, unincorporated communities, like ours, often rely on such civic minded individuals. But as the island has matured into a more desirable location for permanent residents and upscale tourists, the need for investment in our infrastructure—particularly our crumbling roadways and stormwater drainage system—outpaces the ability of any voluntary, non-governmental entity. Our poorly engineered boat ramp and outdated bathrooms are examples of neglected but necessary facilities. More importantly, these needs can be met without placing undue burdens on our county funds because of the availability of Oil Spill grants from the 2010 Deep Water Horizon disaster and grants from state and federal agencies assigned these essential infrastructure responsibilities. The Civic Club took on the task of creating consensus among its members to determine the island's greatest needs within the overlay of the business district. That Vision for the future is known as SGI 2025. For the first time, the island has a citizen-driven, long-term plan that can guide county investments on the island. We all know that growth is coming; the Civic Club, with more than 400 members, wants to ensure that this growth is consistent with the unique character and spirit of the island.

## Playing a role in preserving and/or enhancing the natural beauty and ecology of the island:

In addition to representatives of governmental entities and charitable organizations, the Civic Club also invites speakers who can help us understand and appreciate our natural ecosystem and the role of humans in preserving it. Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) provided one of our most popular guests who helped us understand the 'water wars' affecting the Bay.

## Taking concerted action on matters which will in any way affect the welfare of the Island:

Starting in 2019 the Civic Club will have a new advisory committee, formed by the president, who will attend important local government meetings, such as those of the Board of County Commissioners and the Tourist Development Council. These boards have specific control over the expenditure of our local taxes. It benefits us all if we are aware of pending decisions that affect our island lives. Because of such awareness during the last couple of months, we were able to add our top priority infrastructure projects to the county's five year plan and have an opportunity to encourage the appointment of an SGI resident to the Tourist Development Council. Are you interested in participating? We hope to have enough volunteers that no individual will have to attend more than one or two meetings a year. We'll help you learn the issues and the workings of the local government. Good way to learn the history and the importance of the island to the local economy.



The Civic Club supports the SGI Tour of Homes to benefit the LightHouse. Visit <http://www.stgeorgelight.org/news-events/2019-sgi-tour-of-homes/> for tickets and information. SGI Plantation Clubhouse will host the Tour of Homes Mixed-Media Expressions in Art. This exhibit features the work of fabric artists, Judy Ehrhardt and Jane Broaddus and cut paper art of Beth Appleton. The winners of the 5th Grade Tag Art contest sponsored by Franklin County Tax Collector, Rick Watson will be displayed.



Civic Club monthly dinner meetings include speakers, such as those from Apalachicola National Estuarine Research to help us understand the issues that effect the Bay.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR BIGGEST FUNDRAISER

Every Tuesday through March, we need the following helpers:

- One greeter • One caller • Two bankers
- Three money collectors • One drinks/snacks person.

If you can help, please email [kellyrowland1812@gmail.com](mailto:kellyrowland1812@gmail.com).

### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Michael O'Connell ..... <a href="mailto:poconnell1414@gmail.com">poconnell1414@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Jim Morris ..... <a href="mailto:jim.morr98@yahoo.com">jim.morr98@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Loula Fuller-Myers ..... <a href="mailto:lfuller@fuller-myers.com">lfuller@fuller-myers.com</a>
Treasurer	Carol McCormick ..... <a href="mailto:carolflys@gmail.com">carolflys@gmail.com</a>
Past Pres	James Donald ..... <a href="mailto:jdonal278@gmail.com">jdonal278@gmail.com</a>
At-Large	Ben Mathewson ..... <a href="mailto:benz256@mac.com">benz256@mac.com</a>
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### COMMITTEES

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	Carol McCormick ..... <a href="mailto:carolflys@gmail.com">carolflys@gmail.com</a>

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE.