



THE ISLANDER



We had some great volunteers representing our Civic Club and SGI Fire Dept. raised \$1,140 for Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department. Volunteers included : Chief Kevin Delahanty, Ben & Sharon Mathison, Terry & Linda Burbee, Paul & Gail Rieglemeyer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The Civic Club is hosting a Candidate Forum during our regular monthly Dinner Meeting on March 21.

Candidates will have a few minutes to introduce themselves to the attendees as well as answer questions posed by the moderator. The event will begin at 6:30 with the Social time, followed by dinner at 7 pm. At 7:30, the actual candidate presentations begin.

Why is this important? For the first time in many years, the Florida House of Representatives District 7 seat is "open" with six candidates qualifying for the election. The seat was formerly held by Republican Halsey Beshears, who has family ties to St. George Island, and resides in Monticello. Beshears has accepted a position with the Governor Ron DeSantis administration as head of Department of Business & Professional Regulation. Because of his resignation, Franklin County and St. George Island currently have no House member representing the district during the 2019 Legislative Session, when both funding and policy decisions affecting this area will be made.

Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)

Feb 21, 2019 @ 6:30 pm, SGI Firehouse

Franklin County – March Dates BOCC Regular Meetings

Mar 5, 19, 2019 @ 9:00 am

Commission Meeting Room, Apalachicola

SGI BINGO – March Dates (Tuesdays)

Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 7 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

SGI Lighthouse Full Moon Climb

Mar 20 @ 5:30 - 7:00 pm

850-927-7745 for information

SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)

Mar 21, 2019 @ 6:30 pm, SGI Firehouse

Candidate Forum

First Annual SGI Civic Club Golf Tournament Charity

March 22, 2019 @ 9 am - 5 pm

Contact jdonal278@gmail.com

SGI Paint Out

April 7-13, Various Island Locations

www.sgiPaintOut.com

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AREA EVENTS
CLICK www.ApalachicolaBay.org



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.



Volunteer Fire Department is seeking quality donated goods: furniture, art, etc., for the fundraising auction.

Donations are tax deductible.

Volunteers will pick up your donation.

Message or call: Mason Bean, Chair of the Chili Cook Off,

850-653-6734



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.

Who is running for election to represent our community? Candidates on the Republican ballot include: Lynda Bell of Tallahassee; Virginia Fuller of Perry; Jason Shoaf of Port St Joe; and Mike Watkins of Crawfordville. District 7, which typically performs Republican, drew a lone Democrat, Ryan Terrell of Tallahassee. Civic Club Vice-President Jim Morris, who will serve as Moderator for the Candidate Forum, has invited all to participate in this Forum, the only one for this election.

When is the election? The Special Primary Election for Republicans is scheduled for April 9. The Special Election for both parties is June 18.

The deadline for registering to vote in the Republican Special Primary Election is March 11. For information, go to the Franklin County Supervisor of Elections Office in Apalachicola or go online at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/en/Registration/Index>.

SGI Civic Club 2025 Vision

During 2018 the Civic Club, with over 400 dues paying members and input from the community at large, developed a long range plan for improvements to the SGI Commercial District, which lies between 3rd Street West and 3rd Street East, and between the Gulf and the Bay. This was prompted by the adoption in February 2018 of a special county ordinance that added additional regulations for new businesses and future renovations of existing businesses. The ordinance also prohibits certain commercial activities deemed inappropriate for this family-oriented island tourist community.

The 2025 Vision addresses as a first priority infrastructure needs such as crumbling roadways and flooding problems, as well as the unsightly appearance of the entrance to the island. The plan also addresses existing facilities, such as the Lighthouse Park restrooms and the island boat launch, that need improvement. Ultimately, the plan calls for an “inclusive” recreational area and a small community center.

The next step is convincing the Board of County Commissioners that the island’s first priority is worthy of a grant through the RESTORE Fund, the dollars the county receives as a result of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Disaster. To learn how you can help, contact Michael O’Connell at poconnell1414@gmail.com.

2019 Funding-Raising Efforts

A critical mission of the Civic Club is to raise funds that can be shared in support of local charitable and non-profit associations, particularly those primarily assisting the island community. Among those, the top priority is the SGI Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders.

Last year the Civic Club eliminated a long standing and popular practice of providing family bingo on the island. Per Florida Statute 849.0931, persons under 18 years of age are not allowed to attend Bingo. Although we can’t undo the past, SGICC must be in compliance moving forward.

Winter Bingo, for adults only, continues to be an important and FUN fundraising effort. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Island Homeowner Helps County with State Funding for Sand Loss on SGI

Editor's Note: Rebecca Dolan, PhD, retired Director of the Friesner Herbarium at Butler University and full time resident of SGI, put her experience to work to assist the county in identifying potential state funds that might be used to replace sand loss from Hurricane Michael. Thanks to Becky and the many island volunteers, we continue to supplement the human resources of our county and St George island remains a wonderful place to live.

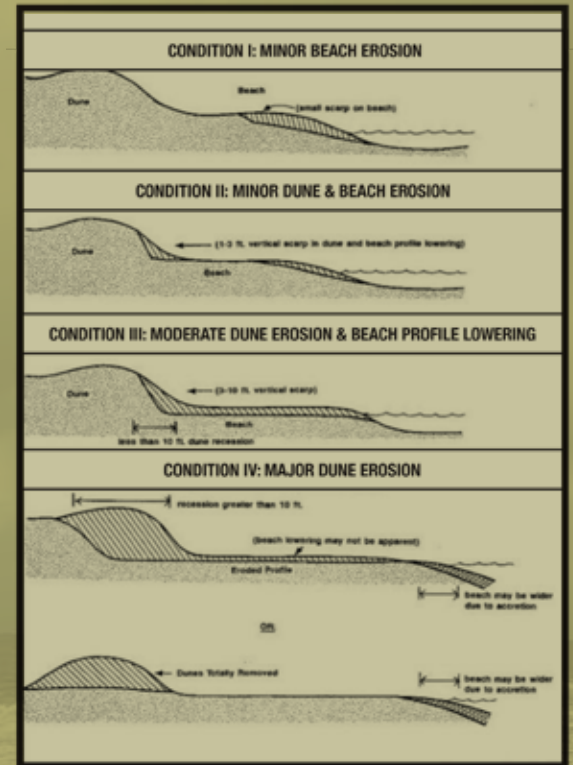
Sand Loss in Franklin County among State's Worst

By Rebecca Dolan, PhD

Hurricane Michael caused massive loss of sand dunes in Franklin County. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Water Resource Management, Beach Management Assistance Program, conducted preliminary surveys for sand loss from beaches and dunes following Michael. Their report classifies loss in almost all of Franklin County as Condition IV in their system, the highest category: Major Dune Erosion (see report: <https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/MichaelPreliminaryReport.pdf>).

The DEP is planning to ask the state legislature in March to appropriate special funding for hurricane recovery, including funding for dune restoration, and is seeking letters of support from impacted communities. At its February 19th meeting, the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to send a letter. The Commissioners directed that the letter request sufficient funds, based on engineering estimates, to rebuild dunes for all affected parts of the county. These estimates are: loss of one million yd³ of sand, with a cost of \$20 million to truck in appropriate replacement sand. The loss on St George Island along is considered over 400,000 cubic yards. At their meeting, Commissioner Smokey Parrish spoke to the environmental and economic importance of sand dunes to all residents and visitors of Franklin County and particularly on St George Island. The special funds, if allocated by the legislature, will likely require a local match. Commissioners stated this project is a priority for the county and that every effort will be made to locate a match, from RESTORE or other funds.

No time table for availability of the potential funds or initiation of the project is known at this time. This work would complement efforts that individuals are undertaking to help rebuild our dunes, including moving sand back to the beach, installing sand fencing, and planting sea oats and other dune plants to help the restoration process. A recent guide to sand dune restoration in the panhandle can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/SG/SG15600.pdf>.



Post-Storm Beach and Dune Erosion Conditions

Franklin County

LOCATIONS	REFERENCE MONUMENTS	Erosion Condition
St. Vincent Island	V301-V345	IV
Cape St. George Island State Pres.	R1-R51	IV
St. George Island Plantation	R52-R73	IV
St. George Island (with St. Park)	R73-R148	IV
Dog Island	R150-R192	IV
Alligator Point	R195-R209	II
Southwest Cape	R209-R217	III
Lighthouse Point to Bald Point	R217-R239	II

**“ The legend is
Climb to top of lighthouse
and touch a thing of blue; you’ll
gaze upon your one true love
before the day is through.”**

Is it true? Maybe, but it’s proven we need more volunteer docents now! Email kateaguair@stgeorgelight.org.





Elder Care Community Council (ECCC) is located in the beautifully renovated historic Holy Family facility in Apalach but serves seniors throughout the community.

“I believe in the ECCC mission of helping seniors in our community and feel the ECCC Franklin Neighbor Helping Neighbor will be another effective initiative in accomplishing that mission.”

Ellie Trujillo
ECCC volunteer and SGI Civic Club member
spearheading this effort

**Help with the
post-Chili Cookoff
cleanup on March 3.
Meet at the lighthouse
museum at 9 am.
Ada Long will provide
the trash bags, gloves,
water, and T-shirts.**

Elder Care Community Council (ECCC) launches new program:

ECCC of Franklin County announces the launch of ECCC Franklin Neighbor. This new program was created to connect the community at large with their senior neighbors. The goal of this initiative is to create a culture of directly helping one another, specifically those seniors who are in no position to help themselves.

This first phase of this program includes three initiatives to be coordinated through ECCC:

- **Friendly Visitor** - volunteers provide a consistent presence and emotional support to a senior one hour per week.
- **Respite Care** - volunteers help improve and maintain the quality of life for a caregiver by assuming the duties for caregivers who need a break.
- **Handyperson** - dependable volunteers assist seniors with odd jobs and basic home repairs.

ECCC is in the initial stages of launching this program. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Steering Committee or you want to serve as a “neighbor,” email us at ecccfranklin@gmail.com or call ECCC directly at 850.509. 5009. Please like us on Facebook to find all events and updates: ECCC - E Triple C and Holy Family Senior Center.

TRASH TALKIN - by Chris Jensen The Club welcomed Fonda Davis, Franklin County’s Solid Waste Director, to January’s dinner meeting to discuss matters of concern to all who live, work or visit our fragile coastal community: Franklin County Ordinance 2016-06, legal and illegal dumping, and current County recycle practices.

A copy of County Ordinance 2016-06 is available on the Solid Waste & Recycling Department’s website. Please read it and in particular the definition of “litter”. Section 4 prohibits dumping of litter on public lands. For Island property owners, Section 4 also prohibits dumping litter on any portion of the County’s right-of-way on your property. However, there is one narrow exception: a homeowner can place yard trash/debris harvested ONLY from his/her property on the county right-of-way of his/her property for pickup by the County. Each third week of the month, the County picks up right-of-way yard trash/debris on the Island. Call 850-670-8167 with questions or concerns.

Folks you pay to do your yard work MUST comply with this ordinance. Fonda advises you inquire whether your yard person is charging you to haul your yard trash/debris for dumping at Franklin County Landfill. Dumping your yard trash/debris on public land or another property owner’s right-of-way is PROHIBITED.

If you see illegal dumping, or if you have illegal dumping on your right-of-way, Fonda asks that you email photos and other identifying information to him at fcswd2@yahoo.com.

Fonda reports Franklin County is able to sell certain recyclables (cardboard, certain plastics for example). All others (green and brown glass bottles for example) must be put in the County’s landfill. If you have constructive comments or suggestions about recycling practices on our Island, Fonda encourages you to email him with them.

Many members report that, following Fonda’s very informative talk to the Club, they contacted Fonda about specific litter problems, and he responded by investigating and having the litter so identified removed by

his Department. If you are aware of illegal dumping by professional yard care folks who are paid for their services, Fonda encourages you to contact him since he knows these folks, he will investigate and take steps necessary to halt any and all illegal dumping on the Island. Thank you, Fonda!!

Interested in free day at our landfill? Interested in disposing of household hazardous waste? Check out the website at: franklincountyparks.com/solid-waste-recycling for the current county amnesty days and disposal protocols.

About Us & Membership

The St. George Island Civic Club is located on St. George Island, Florida.

Our post office address is:

*St. George Island Civic Club, PO Box 451
Eastpoint, Florida 32328*

For nearly fifty years, SGI Civic Club has been a social and community service organization that brings together lovers of the island for monthly business meeting dinners and a host of year-round volunteer activities.

The Civic Club meets at the Jay Abbott Firehouse, St. George Island, every third Thursday. A social half hour begins at 6:30 pm with a dinner at 7:00 pm and a business meeting after dinner. Members are asked to bring their own dinnerware so that we can reduce our footprint of disposable plastic and paper on our island. Each member brings a side dish, appetizer or dessert, and the Civic Club provides the entrée. A guest speaker is usually on the agenda for the business meeting.

The purpose of the Civic Club is to support community-based projects and organizations. Our top priority is St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders, but we support with volunteers and donations many other functions. The Civic Club also schedules and coordinates forums for Franklin County Government Candidates for office.

Newsletters are emailed monthly and due to the rising costs of the USPS, we would prefer using email to contact our members.

YES, I want to join the St. George Island Civic Club

If you are signing up for two (2) please put each person's name on one of the lines below. Dues are \$20 per person, per year.

Mail check and form to:
St. George Civic Club, PO Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328

NAME	DATE	EMAIL ADDRESS

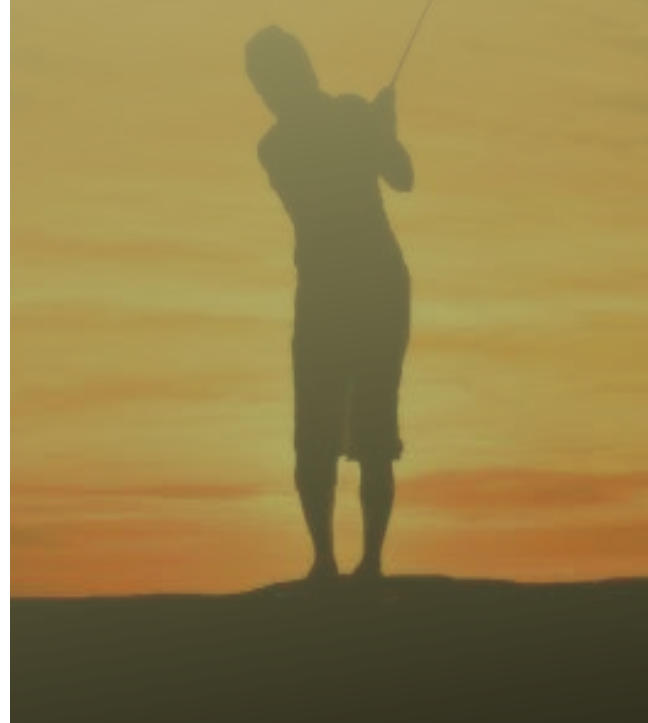
STREET ADDRESS	STATE	ZIP

NAME	DATE	EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS	STATE	ZIP

AMOUNT ENCLOSED	CHECK NUMBER

NEW SGI Civic Club Charity Golf Tournament



A new fundraiser planned is the First Annual SGI Civic Club Golf Tournament to be held at beautiful St. James Bay on March 22 from 9-5 pm. Civic Club logo items will be for sale and awarded as prizes. For more information, contact James Donald at jdonal278@gmail.com.

To help us identify other fundraising ideas, email Jim Morris, Civic Club VP at jim.morr98@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Michael O'Connell poconnell1414@gmail.com
Vice-President	Jim Morris jim.morr98@yahoo.com
Secretary	Loula Fuller-Myers lfuller@fuller-myers.com
Treasurer	Carol McCormick..... carolflys@gmail.com
Past Pres	James Donald..... jdonal278@gmail.com
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Gov't Relations	Pat O'Connell poconnell1414@gmail.com
Fundraising & Charitable Giving	Jim Morris jim.morr98@yahoo.com
	Carol McCormick..... carolflys@gmail.com

JOIN A SGI CIVIC CLUB
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.