



THE ISLANDER



Franklin High School Varsity Golf team came in 3rd place during the SGI Civic Club Annual Golf Tournament and Charity Fundraiser where \$6700 was raised. This first-time event was a great success. Visit online at www.sgiCivicClub.com for more information about the event.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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District 7 House of Representative candidates came to the March SGI Civic Club's regular meeting to discuss their qualifications and positions

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Learn about the leadership of two of Franklin Counties very active and community-oriented libraries.

Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

Franklin County – April Dates Board of County Commissioners Regular Meetings

April 2, 16, 2019 @ 9:00 am
Commission Meeting Room, Apalachicola

Winter BINGO Ends – See you next year.

Forgotten Coast Parrot Head Monthly Gathering of the Flock

April 3, 2019 @ 5 - 7 pm
Doc Myers Island Pub & Sports Bar
www.docmyersislandpub.com

7th Annual Putt-Masters Mini-Golf Event to support our local libraries

April 6, 2019 @ all afternoon
Red Pirate, Eastpoint
barbara.iman@gmail.com for information

SGI Paint Out

April 7-13, Various Island Locations
www.sgiPaintOut.com

SGI Civic Club Meeting (3rd Thursday)

April 18, 2019 @ 6:30 pm, SGI Firehouse
Speaker: Sherrif AJ Smith

SGI Lighthouse Full Moon Climb

April 19 @ 8 - 9:30 pm
May 18 @ 8 - 9:30 pm
850-927-7745 for information

SGI Brewfest

April 27, 1 - 4 pm
Paddy's Raw Bar
www.paddysrawbar.com

Forgotten Coast Quick Draw

May 4
Registration 8 - 8:45 am,
Event Competition: 9 - 11 am
www.forgottencoastenpleinair.com

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

Civic Club Hosts All Candidates for District 7 Florida House Seat



Virginia Fuller (R, Perry)



Ryan Terrell (D, Tallahassee)



Jim Morris, SGI Civic Club VP, moderated a full panel of Democratic and Republican candidates, although Ryan Terrell, the lone Democrat, arrived just at the conclusion of the forum. A traffic accident between Carrabelle and Eastpoint delayed his arrival and that of Republican candidate from Perry, Virginia Fuller. Lynda Bell, Republican candidate from Tallahassee, sent her husband Mark because she was called to D.C. in her role as president of Florida Right to Life. Despite these setbacks, Fuller, Jason Shoaf (R-Port St Joe) and Mike Watkins (R-Panacea) shared the table introducing themselves and answering specific questions posed by members of the Civic Club. A dinner crowd of more than seventy attendees represented the largest crowd gathered this campaign season, according to the candidates.

Florida House seat 7 includes portions of ten counties, making it one of the largest, most rural, and poorest districts in the state. The seat is vacant at this time because the former representative Halsey Beshears was appointed by Governor Rick DeSantis to head up the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The Republican primary election is scheduled for April 9, followed by the General Election on June 18. Given the county's dependency on state funding for education, road building and other necessities for the area, this election is critically important.

The Civic Club encourages all full or part time residents who qualify to register to vote in this area. To find out if you qualify, check out the Franklin County Supervisor of Elections website: <https://www.votefranklin.com/> SGI residents vote at the United Methodist Church.

To learn more about the candidates, check out these links below which lead you to Florida Secretary of State, Division of Elections.

Find out how these candidates make their own money and who is financing their campaigns to represent you.

Lynda Bell (R, Tallahassee) – <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanDetail.asp?account=74110>

Virginia Fuller (R, Perry) – <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanDetail.asp?account=74115>

Jason Shoaf (R, Port St Joe) – <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanDetail.asp?account=73969>

Ryan Terrell (D, Tallahassee) - <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanDetail.asp?account=74001>

Mike Watkins (R, Panacea) – <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanDetail.asp?account=70382>

The Civic Club asked Candidates for District 7 to submit a photo and summary of their candidacy. Below are responses received by our publishing deadline:

Lynda Bell (R, Tallahassee)

Lynda Bell is a conservative Republican who will stand with President Trump to support his pro-America agenda. She is the only candidate to receive an “A Rating” from the NRA, she is the President of Florida Right to Life, and she supports Trump’s wall. Lynda, a devout Christian, joined the race after Governor Cuomo made it easier for New Yorkers to get third trimester abortions. She is the City Manager of Sneads, Florida, and has a track record as a fiscal conservative job creator. She is the former Mayor of Homestead, Florida.

Jason Shoaf (R, Port St Joe)

Jason Shoaf was born and raised in Port St. Joe. Now, he and his wife, Ashley, are raising their twins there. Jason is the Vice President at the St. Joe Natural Gas Company and owns two small businesses in the community. This is the first time Jason has run for office. Jason is a conservative who supports President Trump. He’s a lifetime member of the NRA, and he’ll fight to defend the Second Amendment. He’s 100% pro-life. When he’s elected to the Florida House, Jason will focus on helping our region recover from Hurricane Michael and rebuild stronger and better than ever.

Mike Watkins (R, Panacea)

Mike Watkins was raised in rural North Florida, is an eighth generation Floridian, life-long Republican, lives in Wakulla County (Panacea), and has two daughters.

Mike has worked in the counties of House District 7 for almost 27 years, and his work experience has been in the area of health and child protection services.

Mike stands with President Trump in combating the Opioid Epidemic, supported Governor DeSantis and served on his Transition Team for health care. Mike is a lifetime member of the NRA and a concealed weapon permit holder. Mike’s Endorsements include seven (7) Sheriffs, the PBA (law enforcement and corrections officers), and professional firefighters. Mike knows our community, respects our traditions and is one of us!



Lynda Bell (R, Tallahassee)



Jason Shoaf (R, Port St Joe)



Mike Watkins (R, Panacea)



Above - St. James Bay Golf Club was a perfect location for the SGI Civic Club event.



First place winners at the 1st Annual SGI Civic Club Golf Charity Tournament show off the Civic Club's Golf Trophy they will hold until next year.



Golfers lined up at the St. James Bay Golf Club in Carrabelle to support the SGI Civic Club's fundraising efforts.



Key corporate sponsors – Capital City Consulting, Duke Energy, and Donald & Associates – helped make this event a great success.

First Annual SGI Civic Club Charity Golf Tournament got off the ground with great success.

The idea of a Charity Golf event came from James Donald, the Civic Club's most recent past president. He pull together his troupe of volunteers, obtained corporate sponsorships, and drew a nice crowd for this new event that is sure to grow with each and every year. The weather and course couldn't have been more ideal and the St. James Bay Golf Club offered players an excellent opportunity to give by doing what they love. The event profit was over \$6,700 and is still growing with sales of tournament shirts, golf hats, and coffee mugs featuring our special SGI Civic Club logo. All funds raised will be used to support local causes. Visit www.sgicivicclub.com for more information about these items and contributing to this charity effort.

2019 Annual Chili Cookoff Successful Despite Ran

By Sheryl Crouse, St George Island Chili Cookoff Board of Directors

The board went into the 37th Annual Chili Cookoff months in advance with some anxiety. There were a number of leadership changes, new volunteers, and many more helpers that needed to be recruited. Veteran volunteers led the way with their knowledge of the administration of the event, the timing, and key leaders for each area. New volunteers came on with energy and ideas. Everyone worked extremely well together, and organization again improved this year.

The event flowed without a hitch until the weather struck. Unfortunately, we are always at the mercy of weather on this island (as Hurricane Michael reminded us) and for the first time in years, CCO day was rainy from start to finish. The rain impacted some areas only minimally such as race, auction, art preview and sale, and Cookoff merchandise sales. Other areas, such as food and beer sales, saw drastic impact. Gate entrances were down over 50% from sunny 2018.

For those who came out, the event was still fun! There were

SGL Trash Patrol does its magic again after the 2019 Chili Cookoff!



Above - The Chili Cookoff at Lighthouse Park

some crazy costumes, fantastic food, and the band blew the roof off the stage with music that had people paying to get in until almost 4pm. There was a dance contest on the cookoff side, the crockpot chili were a huge hit this year with participants and tasters, and the auction tent was hopping with a great new auctioneer who moved fast while keeping things fun. The golf event on Friday was a massive success. Everyone had a blast and wants to play again next year—register early to get your spot! Art preview was a great evening of conversation, friends, and some awesome silent auction items sold that night!

If you missed the event you missed a lot! NONE of this happens without our volunteers and residents. The best auction items were donations from our island community, and the ARMY of volunteers needed to run this event are our biggest asset. We have so much fun working with and talking to each other that we almost forget this event is a critical fundraiser for our volunteer fire department and first responders. No one wants to see a fire truck or a first responder vehicle in action. But when they do get the call, it is imperative that they have the right equipment and training to save lives and property. That's what this event is all about; it's just hard to remember when we are having so much fun!

For those of you hard number fans, here is some information (all numbers are approximate): Even though our sales were down we still made \$14,800 from food and beer. The auction stayed steady bringing in about \$20,000. We are currently at an approximate net profit of \$65,000 with a few bills still outstanding.

The SGL Chili Cookoff Board focused on organization, mission, and fun, and we can't wait to do it again next year!
SEE YOU THEN!



On the rainy Sunday morning following the Chili Cook Off, the intrepid Patrollers made quick work of tidying up the litter in SGL's commercial area.



The SGL Trash Patrol, brainchild of islanders Barbara Sanders, Bob Pruitt, and Ada Long has provided three annual collective cleanups, since 2009, within a grid of the whole island between the State Park and the Plantation covering 57 neighborhoods with one or two volunteers responsible for cleaning up each neighborhood. Virtually all of the residential neighborhoods have long-term volunteers. Except for individual efforts by business owners on their own property, the commercial district typically lacks ongoing volunteers.

The three annual events include the day after Chili Cookoff, the day after July 4th, and the annual Coastal Cleanup. This year the group performed a Post-Michael Cleanup with the largest number of volunteers (62) EVER!! The average for an event is about 20-25.

Ada's email list has more than 75 year-round volunteers and organizes more than 110 people for the annual Coastal Cleanup on the island. She will soon make a plea for additional volunteers; both visitors and residents are welcome to join.

The group reports official collection totals for only the one event, the Coastal Cleanups, which average about 6 tons for the county and over half a ton for the island. A good estimate, however, for collections by the Trash Patrol over the past ten years: at least 20 tons.

The Trash Patrol credits county employees Fonda Davis and Link Carroll, from the Franklin County Departments of Parks and Recreation and Solid Waste and Recycling, with the success of the cleanups. The county professionals transport the collected debris to the land fill and assist with objects beyond the ability of the volunteers. Ada calls these people "fantastic" for their quick response and assistance for the island.

Ada Long can be reached at adalong@uab.edu



Serenity Seaside Resort

Sunday Afternoon Community BBQ

**April 7th
4 - 7 PM**

Please join us to see the New Proposed Serenity Seaside Resort & Custom Value Priced Homes

Enjoy Great Food by 10-4 BBQ Brews by Oyster City Brewing Co. and Great Wine

We look forward to hearing your ideas and making this A Special Place for our Community!

105 Island Drive (Last Driveway on Island Drive)
Questions??? - Lindlee@SerenitySeasideResort.com or 850 - 855 - 1434

A year ago planning began for a mixed use development in Eastpoint to be located on 57 acres at the southern end of Island Drive, near the approach to SGI Bridge. The development was met with opposition by locals from the island and Eastpoint. Now, the proposal looks very different after the organizers attempted to remove the elements that caused their neighbors' concerns. Owners Lindlee and Craig Dermody are extending the opportunity for additional public input before they go before the county government in the coming weeks. You are invited to see the proposed development on the site Sun, 4/7/2019.

Look for Membership Renewal information in the mail!



St. George Island CIVIC CLUB

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please join your Island friends and neighbors and support the St. George Island Civic Club in 2019 by becoming a new Club member or renewing your current membership. This year the Island needs you! In light of our membership from the dissolution of Hurricane Island and the overwhelming support of SGI's of the voting membership of the Civic Club for improved the storm water drainage and roads of our Bassein District, the Civic Club will be seeking greater support for grant funding and roads of our Bassein District, the Civic Club will be seeking greater support for grant funding and roads of our Bassein District, the Civic Club will be seeking greater support for grant funding and roads of our Bassein District.

Supporting SGI's people and businesses

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

Please PRINT the information below. We will be communicating by email, and we appreciate our privacy. Please do not print your name unless your current email address. We will be glad to include more than just your email address. We will be glad to include more than just your email address. We will be glad to include more than just your email address.

If you are signing the form for someone else, please use their name on the form. Club dues are \$20 per person per year. Mail check and form to: St. George Civic Club, P.O. Box 603, Seaside, FL 32258

NAME _____ DATE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

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What's happening with SGI 2025 and County Government



Top Priority: Lighthouse Park Restroom Facility Renovations.

At its March meeting, the Tourist Development Council (TDC), chaired by Ricky Jones who represents the Island and Eastpoint voted unanimously to request that the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners authorize the expenditure of TDC funds for the preliminary design and cost estimates for expanding and reconstructing the well-used restrooms at Lighthouse Park. The new facility will accommodate multiple stalls for men and women and will meet ADA requirements and hurricane codes. This is a dramatic shift from the reception received last year by the SGI Civic Club when the TDC failed to act on a request for expansion of the restrooms. The structure is the only public restroom facility on the island, outside of the State Park, and serves more than fifty thousand visitors a year.

Top Priority: Commercial District Roadways, Drainage, Sidewalks, Alley-ways, Parking & Beautification.

Last year, at the request of the Civic Club, the Board of County Commissioners added this project to its statutorily required Comprehensive Plan. To assist the county in its pursuit of RESTORE dollars, the county has hired an experienced consultant who has had great success helping Gulf and other counties tap into these federal funds. Later this year the Civic Club hopes to work with our county commissioners and the RESTORE consultant to create a multi-year grant that can address these problems.

As an element of beautification, the Civic Club has requested improved maintenance and clean up of the island. The TDC is currently researching the issue of expanding SGI bridge trash pickup from twice a month to every week or more during peak season. Another request is the replacement of faded and illegible roadway signage and cross walks. That replacement of signage has begun with the use of FEMA funds for that purpose. Stay tuned for progress reports.

Ubiquitous Broadband Throughout the County:

Although this project was considered for economic development and educational improvement in the county, the expansion of high speed internet services in residential and commercial buildings outside of SGI was not included in the final SGI 2025 plan adopted by the membership last year. However, Franklin County Property Appraiser Rick Watson has taken on the challenge of developing such as grant with assistance from individual Civic Club members and the services

of a grants writer experienced in this field. He is currently meeting with county agencies, constitutional officers and the school board to determine the best approach in seeking federal funds available for similar rural communities.

In case you missed it:

Last year Franklin County acquired property previously owned by long-time island resident Walter Armistead. The undeveloped bayfront acreage, located on the corner of Franklin Blvd. and East Pine Avenue, becomes another county-owned parcel that can be enjoyed by all the residents and visitors of SGI. The acquisition occurred as part of a settlement between the county and developer who planned to use the site for a private recreational vehicle parking area. Currently, no plans exist for the future of the land.

ECCC provides roles for volunteers and support for seniors

The Elder Care Community Council has been hard at work providing daily lunch at Holy Family Senior Center along with various activities during the weekdays. Chair Yoga is offered Mondays at 10am. Other events include: Eating Smart & Being Active, Medicare Advantage Workshop, Express Yourself Through Dance, Senior Explorers Club and Senior Choir. We continue to recruit for the Neighbor Helping Neighbor county wide initiative and are looking for volunteers.

The Butterfly Garden at the Holy Family Senior Center in Apalachicola is showing signs of spring! The garden is being developed as a habitat for the monarch butterfly. Community volunteers cleaned the planter boxes back in October, before Hurricane Michael hit. The efforts were almost destroyed, but volunteers have been tending the garden twice a month, and the gardens are showing signs of spring. The volunteers, known as Butterfly Buddies, care for the garden and the community is invited to stop by. The Holy Family Butterfly Garden is recognized as a monarch way station by MonarchWatch.org. The Butterfly Buddies are in the initial stages of developing a plan for growing veggies in the garden to contribute to the healthy eating at the daily lunch program and delivery to homebound residents. The Butterfly Buddies will be celebrating Earth Day with a Nature Workshop and Lunch on Monday, April 22nd. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

Call for more information about ECCC: 815-509-5009 or email ecccfranklin@gmail.com and visit FaceBook for updates and events - Holy Family Senior Center and E Triple C - ECCC.



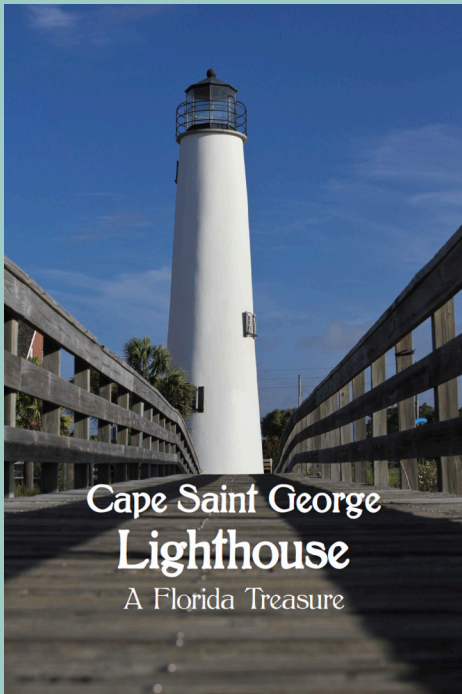
“Hope Park” brings new purpose to the abandoned land in Eastpoint.

The Eastpoint and St George Island communities celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of “Hope Park” on Bear Creek Road in Eastpoint, held March 24, at the site. The park is a concept by long time Franklin County resident and Civic Club member, Joyce Estes, working with county government, several local churches and SGI United Methodist Church. Donations funded the purchase of the two acre parcel from a foreclosure sale. Volunteers to help clean up the site of litter and trash have come from as far away as Ohio. The park will serve as a safe area for children to play and families to gather, featuring a community center and a sub-station for the safety programs of Sheriff AJ Smith. Located between Ridge Road and Wildemess Road, Bear Creek is in an area previously impacted by the Eastpoint fire. Hope Park, a cooperative private-public effort represents a new beginning for the area.

How can you help support our local libraries?

On Saturday, April 6th, businesses, groups and individuals will tee off throughout the afternoon at the **Red Pirate** in Eastpoint to determine the best “putters” in the area at the **7th Annual Putt-Masters Mini-Golf Tournament**.

Several ways to participate include gathering a team of four to play (\$55/person); sponsoring a hole (\$75); or a donation of any amount to Friends of the Library. Contact barbara.iman@gmail.com for additional information.



Cape Saint George
Lighthouse
A Florida Treasure

Pick up a copy of the new booklet
at the SGI Visitor Center designed by
Cindy Clark at Bay Media.

Volunteer at the Cape St. George Island Lighthouse & Museum

The St. George Lighthouse Association, Inc.
would love for you to volunteer. Volunteers are
needed to serve as docents in the museum, for
assistance with maintenance projects and for
helping with special events.

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Greet Visitors at the Lighthouse and Museum
- Interpretation
- Contributing to the Community
- Gift Shop Discount
- Invitations to Special Events
- Meet Visitors from Around the World
- Enjoy One of the Most Beautiful Views of the Gulf of Mexico and Beaches

Interested in learning more about volunteer
opportunities? Please contact Kate Aguiar at
kateaguiar@stgeorgelight.org or 850-653-5388.

Interview with Island Volunteer Extraordinaire Kelly Rowland

St George Island has enjoyed the amazing volunteer efforts of Kelly Rowland for eight years. Whether organizing and overseeing all the Civic Club charity bingo games for years—including providing home baked goods for sale or gifts—or answering a medical emergency call to an accident victim on the island, Kelly is known for her positive attitude and get-the-job-done work ethic. She served on the Civic Club board from 2014 to 2019 and was named by the membership as Citizen of the Year in 2014. She serves as Assistant to the Chief, as well as Firefighter One/EMT, at SGI Volunteer Fire Department. This designation means she is allowed to enter the “Hot Zone” of a burning building, wearing SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus). Recently, Kelly determined that she needs to move to Canada, where she will assist her aging parents. The Civic Club is using this opportunity to express its gratitude to this committed woman for her dedicated service.



Kelly Rowland

CC: How did you choose to live on St George Island?

Kelly: I moved to Saint George eight years ago from North Carolina. My husband had just passed away unexpectedly and, frankly, I just wanted to disappear. My sister told me about the island. It sounded perfect for me.

CC: How did you become an active volunteer here?

Kelly: Once here, I felt lost and without a purpose. That’s when I contacted Jay [Abbott, former Chief of SGI Volunteer Fire Department] and asked about volunteering. Probably one of the best decisions of my life. The fire department gave me a sense of purpose. I took the First Responder class and started responding to medical calls. I attended Firefighter One class, Wildland Fire classes and EMT school. Chris Jensen [former president of SGI Civic Club] introduced me to the Civic Club. I think I initially started out in the “at large” position on the board and then served as secretary. Chris also got me involved in bingo. I think 2019 was my fifth year.

CC: Your delicious and beautiful baked goods are well known throughout the community and sought-after door prizes at Civic Club Bingo. How did you become interested in this?

Kelly: I started baking with my grandmothers and mother over 55 years ago. My grandmothers were famous for their cinnamon rolls and butter tarts.

CC: What are your plans now? Do you think you will return to St. George Island in the future?

Kelly: The plan was to leave April 5th. I'm still waiting for my dock to be replaced. I can't leave until that is done. I am going to VRBO the house. At this point, I don't know if I will come back. Maybe when the snow starts falling, I will reconsider.

CC: Anything you would like to say to the islanders?

Kelly: I just want to say that volunteering with the fire department and Civic Club benefited me more than anyone. It gave me a connection to the island and a sense of purpose.

I think we all need that. I meet so many wonderful people. I will miss Saint George but I am looking forward to a new challenge in Canada. I will be volunteering at the Grand Valley Volunteer Fire Department and helping my parents on the farm.



Parting gift to Kelly features her SGI home painted by Ed Nickerson of the SGI Paintout.

Civic Club Hosts Local Librarians

By Tom Wood

At our February 2019 Civic Club meeting we learned that our local libraries are in good hands. Our two librarians are Lisa Lance for the two Franklin County Library branches (Eastpoint, Carrabelle) and Jill Rourke for the Apalachicola Margaret Key Library. Both are fascinating library directors leading our very active and community-oriented libraries. You really should take each to lunch and learn more about them!

Libraries today are MUCH more than what they were when you grew up. Taking the time to browse both library Web sites will pay handsomely; go to apalachicolalibrary.com for Jill's library, and go to fcpl.wildernesscoast.org for Lisa's libraries. Franklin County residents and property owners can join both libraries for free, and winter visitors can join for \$10/year. Both libraries offer Web access, copying services, audio and print books (of course!), classes of all sorts, child and teen events and classes, access to Chilton Auto Repair Manuals, and much more.

The AMK library offers the intriguing Buddy the Reading Dog, the Memory Lab. Children learning to read get to read to Buddy, who listens carefully but doesn't judge. The Memory Lab springs from the Mexico Beach aftermath of Hurricane Michael, giving patrons a way to store important documents and memories which might be lost in a catastrophe.

The Eastpoint/Carrabelle libraries offer tax return preparation through the AARP Tax-Aide program, learning a second language, music as a second language, computer classes, yoga, an Anime club, and much more.

Use those Web sites! You'll need them to really appreciate what our libraries have to offer.

They're Painting Paradise {again}



April 7-13
2019
sgipaintout.com

Join in the fun during this week-long Island-centric painting event that has something for everyone: workshops, meet & greet happy hours at Island restaurants, an artist lunch and demos, a Starry Night Paint Out, and two art shows. The SGI Paint Out is awarding 10 Franklin County High School students a complimentary painting workshop with one of the event's professional artists and is supplying all the supplies. Visit online at www.sgiPaintOut.com for more

To help us identify other fundraising ideas or learn about our charitable giving, email Jim Morris, Civic Club VP at jim.morr98@yahoo.com

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