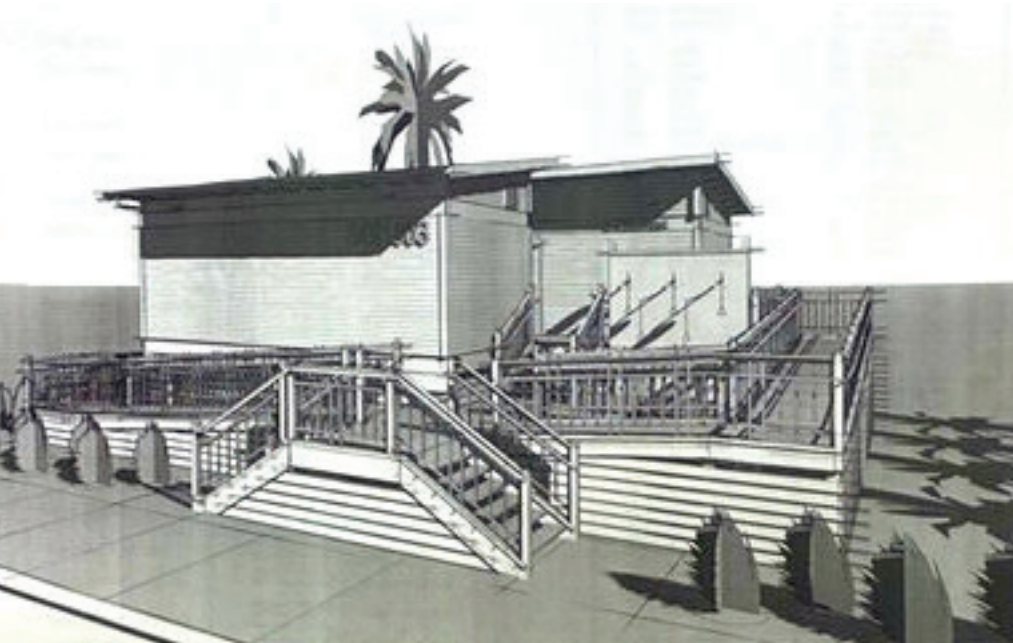




THE ISLANDER



The all-new SGI restroom design is out for bid.

Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

SGL Lighthouse Full Moon Climbs

August 2 @ 8 - 9:30 pm
September 1 @ 7:45 - 9 pm
850-927-7745 | www.stgeorgelight.org/events

Franklin County Board of County Commissioners – July & August Dates

July 14, Aug 4, 18 @ 9 am - Regular Meetings

Second Annual SGI Civic Club Golf Tournament Charity Fundraiser

Oct 16, 2020 @ 9 am - 5 pm
Contact jdonal278@gmail.com
register at www.sgicivicclub.com/events.html

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The new restroom pavilion will be similar in exterior design to the Old Florida existing beach park facilities. The Lighthouse and Keeper’s House will continue to be the focus of the island’s center.

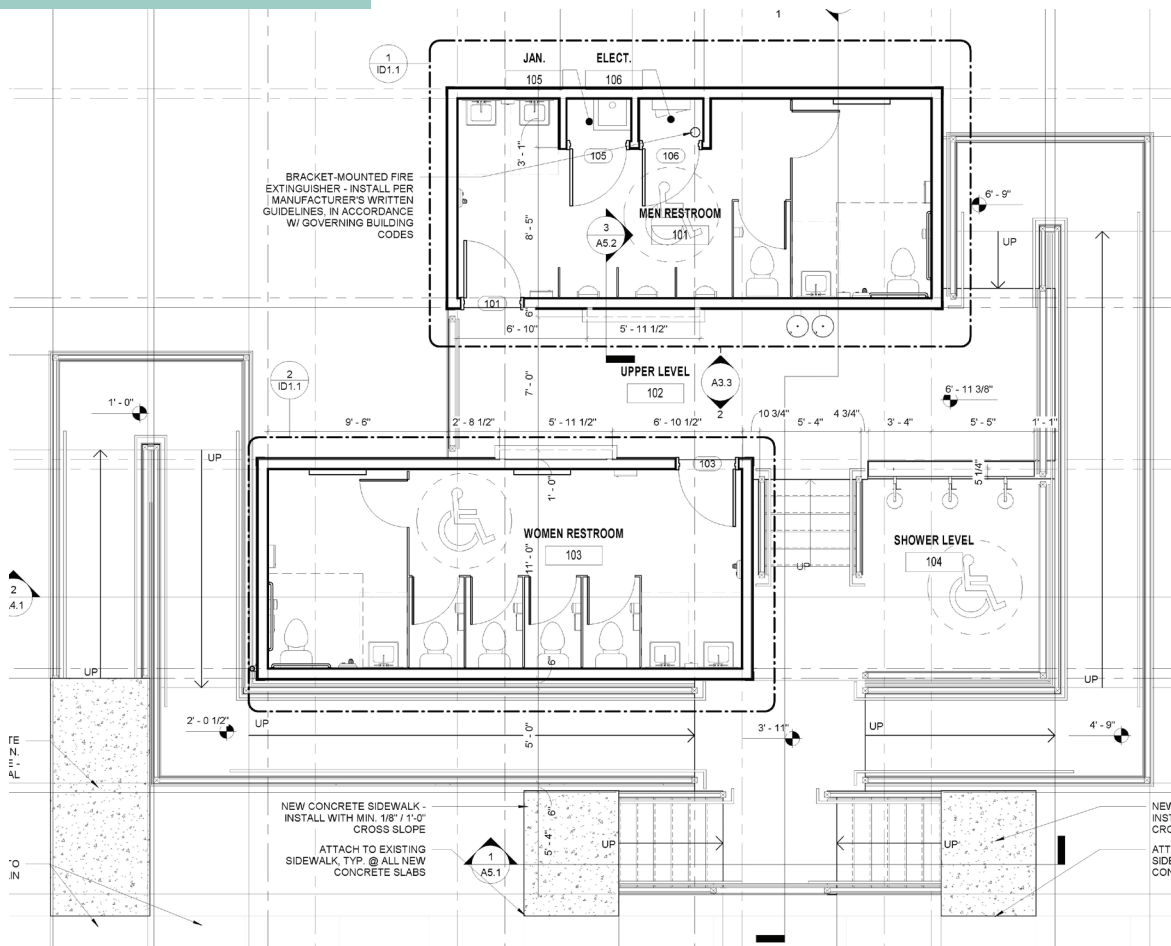
FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AREA EVENTS
CLICK www.ApalachicolaBay.org

First Key Infrastructure Project on Island in 20 Years Draws Nearer

The long-awaited St George Island Public Restroom Pavilion is finally coming to reality. The new facility is a SGI Civic Club priority for improvements to the island, ranked in “SGI 2025 Vision,” a long range planning effort by the Club developed two years ago. The county planning office has released the bid package and hopes that a contract can be awarded soon, with construction beginning later this year.

According to Dewberry Engineering who designed the facility, the new Pavilion will be built south of the Cape St. George Island Lighthouse Museum & Gift Shop, prominently located near the entrance to the beach access, recreational park, and west-side public parking area. The fully ADA compliant pavilion is equipped with 10 water closet fixtures (5 men and 5 women in two detached areas) and three manual outdoor shower units.

Club members and islanders were particularly concerned about creating a maintenance-free facility, given its heavy seasonal use. The architect addressed these concerns. All water closet and lavatory fixtures are sensor operated allowing for a hands-free experience. (No paper towels overflowing the trash bin.) The interior of the restroom facility is lined with fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) panels from wall to ceiling. The panels have a smooth finish that is easy to clean, low-maintenance, abuse-resistant and hygienic.



The new facility restroom near the SGI Lighthouse will provide quick and sanitary access for even heavy seasonal use, with 10 toilet units, and a self-cleaning and energy-efficient design.

The interior fixtures are LED (light-emitting diode) energy efficient lights, built with a digital timer, allowing the county to set seasonal timing of the lighting use remotely. Exterior lighting is LED with an amber color temperature, in keeping with our turtle friendly standards as well as being energy efficient.

The structure meets all current hurricane standards and is elevated on concrete piling to avoid flooding. The exterior cladding consists of cementitious siding, wood stud construction, aluminum louvers and a metal roof. All these exterior building components and materials were selected for their ability to withstand the waterfront environment and seasonal weather. The exterior lower deck of the pavilion with the outdoor shower units allows the beach goer to rinse before entering the facility or simply returning to the parking area. The breezeway landing between the Men's and Women's areas is on the upper deck, taking full advantage of the open view to the gulf.

The accessible ramps and stairways all are connected to the existing sidewalk south of the Lighthouse Museum. The existing restroom facility will remain in place until the new building is operational. The old structure may be removed at that time or turned into a dressing facility to reduce the impact on the restroom areas.

The new SGI Restroom Pavilion will be the single largest facility investment by the county on the island in more than twenty years. The Civic Club thanks Commissioner Ricky Jones, who chairs the Tourist Development Council (TDC), for shepherding this project through both the TDC and the County Commission. All Construction costs are financed through tourist short term rental fees, collected by the TDC.

The St George Island 2nd Annual Golf Tournament and Charity Fundraiser is rescheduled for Friday, October 16, 2020, at St James Bay. One hundred percent of the proceeds of the golf event supports the Club's annual charitable donations to worthy local causes. Sponsorships and Donations made to the canceled event have been carried over, but there is plenty of time if you are interested in participating in October. Send your information to James Donald, jdonal278@gmail.com.

OCT
16
2020

2ND ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT CHARITY FUNDRAISER



2020 Candidate Forums Planned

The SGI Civic Club **ALMOST** had a Candidate Forum for 2020 on July 11th. Concerns about community spread of the coronavirus, unfortunately, led the board to agree to postpone the event. The First Primary Forum is now tentatively set for early August. Those races include District 1 School Board and District 1 County Commission, with election day August 18. At this time, plans for a September 12th event for the November General Election have not changed. The venue for both public events will be the Pavilion of Doc Myers' Grill on the island. The restaurant and bar will be closed during the hours of the Candidate Forums. This open air location permits proper social distancing, and free masks will be available for everyone.

If circumstances require these proposed live events be canceled also, the Civic Club is prepared to video tape the Forums without a live audience and make the videos available through links on the Club website and other websites.

To include all our members in this event regardless of the format, we ask that you submit your suggested questions so that we can ensure the candidates address your concerns. Please submit your candidate questions to Moderator Bill Mills at generalmillsiv@gmail.com. In this unprecedented time, it is also a great idea to reach out directly to the candidates through their campaign addresses:



Ricky Jones,
Current District 1, County Commissioner

Continued on next page >

Ricky Jones Bio

I am 3rd generation Franklin County resident. I grew up in Eastpoint and graduated Carrabelle High School. My wife Elizabeth and I met while in college. We married in 1998 and both received our Bachelor's degrees from Holmes Bible College in Greenville, S.C. in 1999. We are the proud parents of Nathan, 20; Jonathan, 18; and Genesis, 16. Elizabeth and I are 1st generation college graduates and committed to seeing that our children will also have that opportunity. Our two sons are working toward their degrees and daughter Genesis is on track to finish as her class Valedictorian at Franklin High School. My wife Elizabeth grew up in Camuy, Puerto Rico, and it is important to us that our kids have an appreciation for a multilingual environment. We emphasize the importance of family by encouraging everyone to stay actively engaged in the sports and interests of each other. My family attends the Eastpoint Church of God, where I serve as an Associate Pastor and Council member.

Employed full time with Gander Auto Parts for more than twenty years, I gained valuable business experience serving as Manager of the national chain NAPA at both Apalachicola and Eastpoint locations.

In 2015, I was appointed by the Governor to serve as a commissioner on the Eastpoint Water & Sewer District.

Since election to Board of County Commissioners in 2016, I participated in multiple educational and regional opportunities on behalf of the county, including serving on Apalachicola Regional Planning Council and on the Board of Directors of Florida Association of Counties. I serve as Chairman of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council overseeing a \$1.4M annual budget. Currently, I am in line to serve as Chairperson of Board of



2020 Candidate Forums Continued

District 1 Non-Partisan School Board

Melonie Inzetta mkiafterschool@gmail.com

Tara Klink tara.klink@gmail.com

District 1 County Commission

This is an “Open” Republican Primary in which all registered voters can participate because no candidate from other parties qualified to run.

Ricky Jones (Incumbent) ricky.jones@mchsi.com

Pinki Jackel pinkijackel@gmail.com

The Civic Club encourages everyone to participate in this important election which will impact the future decisions related to our island and county for the four-year terms and beyond. You can register to vote, request a mail ballot, review contributors’ lists, and learn about the candidates by accessing <https://www.votefranklin.com>, the website of the Franklin County Supervisor of Elections.



Pinki Jackel
Running for District 1, County Commissioner

Pinki Jackel Bio

I am Pinki Jackel and to many of you a familiar face. To those who do not know me, I was County Commissioner for St. George Island and Eastpoint for 7 years. I was Chairman of the Franklin County Board in 2011-2012. The Civic Club asked for a bio, so please don’t think I am being political. However, any biography about me certainly could not exclude the time I served as Franklin County Commissioner.

I was born and raised 80 miles from the Island. I grew up in a modest home on family farmland in a small town, Wacissa. My mother and father grew up there, so I was related to most of the town, sort of like Eastpoint. I am 62, and remember picking up sand dollars here with my feet when I was 7 years old. I live on St. George Island. So, I am a St. George Island girl with an Eastpoint heart.


I have a son, William, and a grandson, Buck. They love their “Pink Pink.” XoXo’s

My sister and I graduated from Florida State University. I would have done it first, but she was much older. LOL. My brother is older too.

Professionally, I have been a banker, mortgage broker, builder, title company owner, board member, and problem solver for over 40 years in Atlanta, Marietta, and St. George Island.

I love people, music, food, fun, laughing, singing, dancing, fishing, reading, planning, projects, giving, doing, Leading. I believe in the Bible, it’s important in my life.

I love it here, I always have. Thank you for letting me share this short story. I’m Pinki and I would love to meet you, ask for your vote, and talk about the future of where we live. I just want things to be good again. I’m available at voteforPinki.com.





Jim Morris, President
SGI Civic Club

“
One of the
missions of the
Civic Club is to
promote a sense
of community
and provide
opportunities for
service here
on the Island.”

Contact Jim Morris at
jim.morr98@yahoo.com to
serve.

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Civic Club Members,

With all that is happening in the world today I think you will agree that the people of St. George Island and Franklin County are truly fortunate. We should be thankful that we have avoided the brunt of the Covid-19 Pandemic as well as the civil and political unrest which has occurred in other parts of our nation. We all knew that SGI was a wonderful place, but that reality has been emphasized in light of current events.

As you are all aware, the virus and the resulting safety guidelines necessitated the cancellation of our monthly membership meetings. As the restrictions are gradually lifted, we are hopeful we can resume our meetings sometime in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, your Board of Directors has continued to meet on a regular basis and the business of the Civic Club goes forward. One of the items of business initiated by the BOD in 2019 was to employ the services of an independent CPA, Kim Davis, Apalachicola, to oversee and review the Civic Club finances on a semi-yearly basis. She also submits periodic filings with the State of Florida and federal government on behalf of the Club since it attained state and federal tax-exempt status last year. I'm happy to report that all of the Club's finances are in order, due to the meticulous work of Carol McCormick, our outstanding Club Treasurer.

One of the missions of the Civic Club is to promote a sense of community and provide opportunities for service here on the Island. Groups representing the Civic Club meet periodically to trim the palms and weed the flower beds bordering Island Drive and the public beach parking lot. Other volunteers pick up trash especially after major holiday events. Another group has taken on the task, along with the SGI Business Association, to decorate the palms on Island Drive and to put on what has become a large Christmas function located at SGI Lighthouse Park. When our dinner meetings resume, volunteers will be needed to act as hosts and hostesses to oversee setting up and breaking down the food buffet, if we are permitted to resume such offerings. One of the most important areas of service is to make yourself available to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. Our organization needs energetic individuals to step up to serve where needed for the benefit of our community.

During these stay-at-home-if you-can days, the Civic Club has monitored County Commission meetings and continued to pursue our normal business of providing leadership for island improvements. This special Summer 2020 newsletter contains news of many exciting projects that continue to move forward.

Continued on next page >

Beautification work at entrance postponed until Fall

Contracting for the state beautification grant to fund improvements to the entrance to the island is postponed until the Fall to allow for better planting conditions and avoid the possibility of stormy weather. The Bid Package will be released later in the summer to provide adequate time for permitting and planning. The SGI Civic Club partnered with the County Commission to develop a proposal and receive funding for these improvements from Florida Department of Transportation and received the funds earlier this year. Funds for development of the grant application and the landscape design were paid for through a \$5000 donation from a Civic Club member.

Election time is upon us once again. Historically the Civic Club has hosted political forums wherein the candidates running for office are asked to provide the audience with information concerning themselves and their various platforms after which they are asked pertinent questions posed by the moderator and the audience. These forums are an important public service provided by the Civic Club and an excellent way to determine the suitability of a candidate for office. We intend to continue that tradition. At this time we are hoping that the health situation will permit us to host our 2020 First Primary Candidate Forum in early August. Civic Club members Dan and Loula Myers have agreed to permit our organization to use the pavilion at Doc Myers before normal business hours when a date is chosen. We are optimistically planning a September 12th event for the General Election candidates. The spacious open-air location should permit adequate social distancing for our membership. If you have questions that you would like to see the Club pose to the candidates at these proposed events, please submit them to VP Bill Mills, generalmillsiv@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Jim Morris, President

O'Connell to Head Up Mandatory Review of By-Laws

The SGI Civic Club's By-Laws, originally adopted in 1972, have not been amended since 2013. Those standards of operations for the organization are being reviewed again in 2020, according to the mandatory review in Article 22, Section 2. President Jim Morris appointed Past-President Michael O'Connell to head up that review.

Michael is seeking advice and guidance from all members regarding the By-Laws, which can be found by clicking <http://sgicivicclub.com/about-us.html>. Issues that need review, but not necessarily a rewrite, relate generally to updates resulting from our newly acquired status as a federally qualified charity, our reliance on electronically based dues and donations collections, and the club's annual donations process; however, all objectives and practices are subject to review.

Please contact Michael at 850-408-1773 or poconnell1414@gmail.com with recommendations or to volunteer. Consistent with Michael's historical approach, meetings will be limited to one hour and the timeline for producing a report to be the board will be short.

Please join the effort to help set direction for the next decade for the St George Island Civic Club.

Record Crowds Bring Parking Nightmares

Inadequate parking is a growing problem for SGI, which has become more popular than ever with our reputation for low density development and widely accessible beaches. It seems that the lack of authorized parking spaces does not stop our eager beachgoers. They'll park anywhere!

Fortunately, a long range solution for in the business district is already in the works. In 2019, the County Commission approved the Civic Club's SGI 2025 stormwater and drainage recommendation as a top priority for the island business district. The stormwater mitigation effort includes re-engineering of many acres of county land and easements in the area, permitting the creation of pervious parking areas on Gulf Beach Drive from 3rd to 3rd. The Commission dedicated a portion of the county's RESTORE (Deepwater Horizon Disaster Settlement Funding) to perform the engineering design work, with the intention of using the same RESTORE funding source for multiyear implementation.

Meanwhile the Sheriff and County Commission have instituted aggressive ticketing and additional signage. Although county easements along Gorrie are legitimate parking areas, encroachment onto private property or blocking of driveways is subject to towing and ticketing. Private property owners are encouraged to take photographs of illegally parked vehicles and contact local towing services.

On July 7, the Commission instructed county staff to work with the SGI Civic Club and the SGI Business Association to develop additional recommendations for parking issues on the island. Watch for opportunities to participate in these critical discussions.



Certain 2020 Elections Ended in June

The Civic Club extends congratulations to our local Constitutional Officers re-elected without opposition. Rhonda Skipper, Property Appraiser, and Heather C. Riley, Supervisor of Elections, will be serving our county for another term. Neither faced opposition.

The Civic Club does not typically track non-District 1 School Board races. In the case of Fonda Davis, District 3, the Civic Club extends a special recognition. In his professional life, Mr. Davis heads up the county's Parks & Recreation program, which oversees our island playground area and pickleball/basketball facility. He is also responsible for the collection of yard trash and other solid waste, including clean up on the SGI bridge. His crew often assists with distributing pine straw for landscape beds at the Welcome Sign, and along Franklin Blvd and the parking area of Lighthouse Park. He is a valuable partner of Civic Club efforts to maintain and improve the island.



Rhonda Skipper
Property Appraiser



Heather C. Riley
Supervisor of Elections



Fonda Davis
Director of Parks
and Recreation

Franklin County Senior Awarded Scholarship



By Rob Pierce, SGI Civic Club
Photo supplied by Cale Barber

Cale Barber, a senior at Franklin County School, is the inaugural recipient of the SGI Civic Club Eric Roberts Scholarship. The \$500 scholarship is in remembrance of Eric Roberts, who served as a Civic Club officer and communications person for

many years. To qualify, a student selects a major in some form of communications. As part of his application, Cale submitted an essay titled, "The Value of Quality Communication in Democracy and Daily Life." In his well-written composition, he addresses the importance of strong communication skills in one's ability to discern truth from propaganda and to be an active participant in communication. When asked how he developed his communication skills and interest, Cale credited not only his teachers at Franklin County School, but also his mother. Cale said, "She has made it a priority to expose me to many, many different places and experiences - through travel, discussion, and debate. She has taught me much about cultural awareness, about politics, and about the human condition."

Cale expressed his gratitude to the Club and said that he would "work diligently to make the scholarship committee proud." Cale enters Troy University in the Fall. The SGI Civic Club Eric Roberts Scholarship will be available to a deserving local senior again in 2021, if funds permit.



Eric Roberts, lead the Civic Club's communications efforts for many years. The scholarship is in remembrance of his service.

Island Gets Rare Asphalt Resurfacing

The county is entering into a federally funded contract for paving improvements at Apalachicola Airport because the airport is designated as a critical facility within our regional disaster response effort. To take advantage of having a major road builder conducting operations within the county borders, the county has negotiated with the vendor to perform several modest paving projects in Franklin without charging additional staging fees. The island will soon receive the benefit of this arrangement. Utilizing District 1 road building allocation based on gas taxes, Commissioner Jones received approval from the Commission to repave West Bayshore Drive, which connects to Franklin Blvd at one of the island's most heavily trafficked corners. The work on the road is a short term fix and does not represent complete reconstruction. This same roadway is a part of a major stormwater management redesign currently planned for the SGI Business District to be paid for through RESTORE funds, awaiting release from U.S. Treasury. That project completion is several years away.

2020 CENSUS is here!

We thank you for completing the census. Unfortunately, many residents have not. We want to make sure you know that everyone counts in Franklin County. We need you to respond today.



Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.

It's about the future.

The funding is for schools, children's services, health care, roads and bridges, and disaster relief.

It's about fair representation.

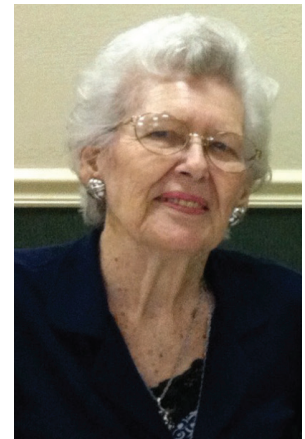
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to redraw the boundaries for the county commission to determine how many commissioners represent you.

It's in the Constitution.

It mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's Private.

All 2020 Census responses are kept confidential and private. It's the Law. Your responses cannot be shared and cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way.



\$14,000.00

That's how much you can bring to this county over the next ten years simply by completing the Census.



Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Pickleball Equipment Available at SGI Visitor Center

If you haven't introduced your family and friends to Pickleball, you need to set aside a breezy evening to be spent at the newly refinished court at Lighthouse Park. The lively game is perfect for all ages and groups. Instructions can be found on the Internet or at <https://www.playpickleball.com/how-to-play>. You can check out netting and playing equipment, furnished by the SGI Civic Club, at the Visitor Center. Return the equipment at the end of play or make arrangements for an early morning return. It's easy and healthy and free to play on St George Island.

Membership Renewal: Did you send yours Online or by mail?

We all took a break from our regular lives during the earlier part of 2020. Now we are back and getting on with it—getting on with the activities and events that make our lives on the island meaningful in many ways. In that regard, the membership of the St George Island Civic Club is building back up to its previous levels, although not as high as when we were debating the projects of SGI Vision 2025. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2020, please do so immediately so that we will have the resources to meet our obligations and continue our work on behalf of you and the island.



2020 Memberships Dues—\$20 Per Person

Pay Online at www.sgiCivicClub.com/membership.html.

You can bring this form to a monthly meeting to pay with cash, check or credit card or mail a check to: St. George Civic Club, PO Box 451, Eastpoint, FL 32328 or

NAME #1 _____ EMAIL _____

NAME #2 _____ EMAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWING MEMBERSHIP

CHECK TOTAL (Not tax deductible): \$20.00 \$40.00

2020 Tax Deductible Donations: Select a gift below for donations over \$100.

Donate Online at www.sgicivicclub.com/pro-shop.html

GIFT ITEMS: MUG CAP (CIRCLE ONE - navy or stone)

MEN'S GOLF SHIRT: MEN: CIRCLE ONE: MD, LG, XL COLOR CIRCLE ONE: navy or white

WOMEN'S GOLF SHIRT: CIRCLE ONE: MD, LG COLOR CIRCLE ONE: blue or white

PURPOSE OF DONATION: GENERAL OTHER _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____



As the island's oldest, not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the welfare of the island, the Civic Club is now a 501c3 charitable entity. That means your charitable donations are tax deductible. For donations of \$100 or more, the Civic Club provides logo items of modest value so the entire donation is deductible. Dues are not deductible because of the variety of events provided through the Club for members' benefit.

County Looks to Raising Tourist Tax to pay for Infrastructure Needs

The Franklin County Commission is considering increasing the Tourist Development Tax by one penny, from 2% to 3%. This action does not require a referendum but can be accomplished through an extraordinary vote of the five-member county commission.

The Commission will host a public workshop for discussion of the matter on July 7th. The actual vote has not been scheduled.

The Tourist Development Tax is imposed on all short term rentals within the county boundaries, whether rented directly by property owner or through an agency. Most Panhandle counties designate only tourist-related areas to collect and use the revenues; Franklin imposes its taxes county wide. The so-called “bed tax” on visitors is separate from a sales tax, which is paid by everyone on qualifying purchases. The Florida Department of Revenue collects the taxes and returns the funds monthly to the county for funding certain tourist-related functions. Any property owner who fails to charge, collect, and remit the tax to the state is personally responsible for paying the tax and guilty of a crime.

The County Commission makes final decisions about the expenditure of these funds, based on recommendations of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), comprised of local citizens appointed by the Commission. State law requires that the funds be used to promote and advertise tourism. To meet that goal, Franklin County previously spent 60% of the tax to support local projects that enhance the tourism infrastructure. An excellent example is the \$500,000 dedicated this year to the construction of new public restrooms at SGI Lighthouse Park, to be paid for over several years. Approximately 39% of collections is dedicated to advertising and promotion of tourism, including funding of local events. A small portion of the funds goes toward administration.

The additional penny proposed will increase the amount of funds that are available for infrastructure improvements, without an increase in administrative costs. The third penny being considered is well below the state cap on such taxes and the tourist bed tax imposed by neighboring counties. According to state data, tourism is a \$75 Million industry for Franklin County. In addition, our tourists tend to spend at one of the highest levels per capita with each

SGI CIVIC CLUB 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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jim.morr98@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bill Mills

generalmillsiv@gmail.com

Secretary: Stacy Pierce

Stacy.pierce@icloud.com

Treasurer: Carol McCormick

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MikeOconnell@sgicivicclub.com

At-Large: Erin Griffith

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pj_hideaway@fairpoint.net

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