

St. George Island



CIVIC CLUB

October 2020

NEWSLETTER

THE ISLANDER

The St. George Island Civic Club presents

THE 2ND ANNUAL Golf Tournament & Charity Fund Raiser

AT THE BEAUTIFUL ST. JAMES BAY GOLF CLUB

OCT
16
2020

INFO & REGISTRATION AT

www.sgiCivicClub.com/events.html

Review our
COVID SAFETY MEASURES

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Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

Online Candidate Forum Rebuttal

www.sgicivicclub.com/2020-forums.html

Franklin Board of County Commissioners

October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17

@ 9 am, (Regular Meetings)

Via ZOOM, Apalachicola

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

SGI Lighthouse Spooktakular

October 30 @ 6:30-8:30

850-653-6880 | info@stgeorgelight.org

SGI Lighthouse Sunset /Full Moon Climb Halloween Hunter's Blue Moon

October 31 @ 6:45 - 7:30 pm

850-927-7745 | www.stgeorgelight.org/events

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

Announcing slate of volunteer candidates for 2021 Civic Club Board of Directors. Nominations from the General Membership remain open until November 15.

The following members have agreed to serve on the 2021 SGI Civic Club Board of Directors. Many are returning volunteers who are willing to serve again since 2020 club activities were so negatively impacted by the pandemic. Please review the list of candidates. We have a full slate but if you or someone you know is also interested in volunteering email mikeoconnell@sgicivicclub.com to nominate that person. For your convenience, you may also call Past President Mike O'Connell, 850-408-1773, with that name and contact information. The General Membership will vote on all the candidates who have volunteered to serve during the third week in November.

THE SLATE OF VOLUNTEERS FOR 2021 CIVIC CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jim Morris



Bill Mills



Phyllis Lewis

PRESIDENT: Jim Morris

“Two months after being elected your Club President the Covid 19 shutdown took place. In compliance with governmental regulations and to protect the health of our membership, your Board of Directors (BOD) voted to suspend our regular membership meetings until safety could be assured. Even so, the BOD and the various committees have continued to meet on a monthly basis to continue working on behalf of the Civic Club and SGI as a whole. Hopefully, in the near future, life will return to normal and Civic Club activities can fully resume unencumbered. I and the other non-retiring members of the current BOD would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving through the 2021 term in order to continue pursuing the goals set in the interrupted and unprecedented year of 2020.”

VICE-PRESIDENT: Bill Mills

“I am the current Vice-President of the SGI Civic Club and have volunteered to serve in that role again. I also serve as Regional Director of Freshstart Visions, which is a re-entry program for ex-offenders focusing on providing transitional housing and employment. I am committed to supporting the Civic Club Board and its members as they strive to maintain and improve the unique characteristics of this special island.”

TREASURER: Phyllis Lewis

“I was introduced to SGI in 1990 and when I retired in 2002 from AT&T, it was the only place I wanted to live. I've been the Lighthouse Association Treasurer for ten years and have served as Civic Club Secretary - twice. I have enjoyed being involved as a Member At Large this year and look forward to the Treasurer's position in 2021.”

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Chris Vitali



Erin Griffith



Carol McCormick



Bernie Boehnlein

SECRETARY: Chris Vitali

“We have been vacationing in SGI for over 25 years and became homeowners in 2014 due to our love of the island. New Jersey was our full time residence up until retirement in 2019. Both my husband Robert and I look forward to immersing ourselves in the island life.”

AT-LARGE: Erin Griffith

“My husband Todd and I have lived on St. George Island since 2015. I currently serve as the Assistant Finance Officer for the Franklin County Clerk of Courts. My interest in government and community projects runs deep.

I am proud to serve on the Board of Directors of the St. George Island Civic Club. This club is important as it helps provide direction and input from citizens in our small community. The club is made up of members who want to make a difference. I hope we are able to all be together again in 2021 and continue efforts to make Franklin County better and brighter!”

AT-LARGE: Carol McCormick

“As a 5th generation native of the area, 35+ year property owner on SGI and 5 year full-time resident, I am committed to preservation of the natural beauty and controlled growth of St. George Island. I am a retired RN and managed a successful health care agency for 32 years. I’ve served on the Board as Treasurer for two years and am willing to remain on the Board for another term. I have enjoyed meeting and working with others who share my dedication to our Island community.

AT-LARGE: Bernie Boehnlein (pronounced Ben-Line)

“My wife Annemarie and I have been owners in St George Plantation since December 2017. I retired from Coca-Cola Refreshments in 2018, after a 36 year career. I support the youth of Franklin County as a substitute teacher. We look forward to participating in and supporting the SGI Civic Club.”

Email mikeoconnell@sgicivicclub.com to make an additional nomination.

(Note: The 2021 Board will not fill the position of “Past President” so that Michael O’Connell can finally retire from his many years serving in various roles on the Board of Directors. The 2020 Board is recommending the addition of a third At-Large member for 2021 only.)

2020 PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES - An Overview

View all proposed changes at <http://sgcivicclub.com/about-us.html#bylaws>

SGL Civic Club rules require that every year ending in 5 or 0, the Club should review By-Laws and make recommendations for amendment, if any. The Proposed By-Law changes are found in their entirety on the Civic Club website (see address above). Please vote “yes” or “no” on the proposed changes on the website. Below is a summary for your convenience. These proposed changes and additions to the SGL Civic Club By-Laws are proposed by a committee for this purpose established under Article 11, Section 2, of the By-Laws. Michael O’Connell, Chair. Phyllis Lewis, Member. To make suggestions email mikeoconnell@sgcivicclub.com.

General Purpose of Proposed Non-substantive changes:

1. To reflect the 2019 changes in the legal status of the Civic Club from non-profit corporation to a tax-exempt charitable organization under state and federal law and to incorporate changes in operations required by this designation.
2. To codify that electronic notification, voting, discussion, participation, and payments are permissible.

General Purpose of Substantive Changes:

1. To provide for Officers to be selected by Board of Directors after election of directors by membership.
2. To provide for officers to be limited to two consecutive years in a specific office, such as president, VP, Treasurer, Secretary.
3. To provide for a nominations committee to solicit names from membership and recommend board candidates to vote of general membership.
4. To provide for a donations committee to solicit recommendations from membership and recommend a charitable donations list to a vote of the general membership.

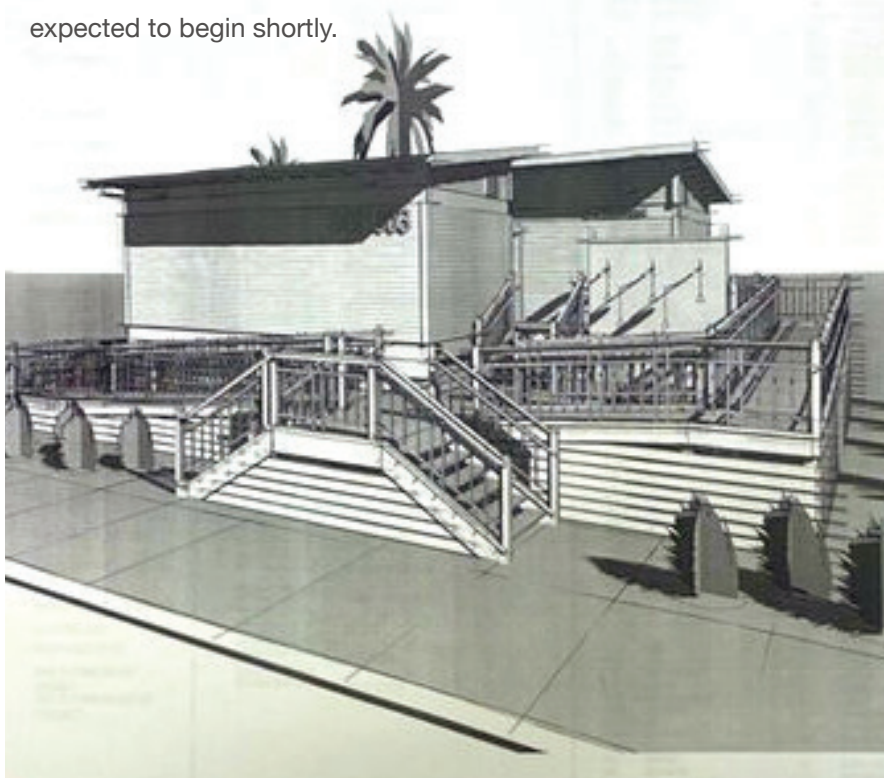
Section by Section Proposals Section by Section Proposals:

1. **NEW Article 2: Technical.** Defines the new legal status of the organization.
2. **Article 4: Technical.** Deletes incorrect numbering.
3. **Article 5, Section 1: Substantive.** Provides for selection of officers of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer by the Board of Directors rather than General Membership. This change provides greater flexibility among directors and officers when needed due to resignation, illness or other extenuating circumstances. The General Membership will continue to elect the seven Directors.
4. **Article 5, Section 6: Substantive.** Limits an officer to serving no more than two consecutive years in a position, or until his successor is chosen. This provision ensures that officers will be replaced regularly.
5. **Article 5, Section 7: Technical.** Removes archaic language in order to conform By-Laws to federal law. A tax exempt charitable entity must purchase all items directly, not through a third party for reimbursement, in order to adhere to its tax-exempt status.
6. **Article 6, Section 1: Substantive, but tracks current practice and allows electronic participation.** Provides for a nominating committee to select a slate of Directors for election by the General Membership and provides for additional nominations and voting by members through electronic means.
7. **Article 7, Section 1: Technical.** Permits the president the option to appoint an independent CPA to review financial records for the preceding year. Provides for presentation to the membership of this report via electronic means.
8. **Article 7, Section 1: Technical.** Removes archaic language to conform By-Laws to federal and state requirements. See proposed Article 5, Section 7 above.
9. **Article 9: Substantive, but tracks current practice and allows electronic participation.** Rewrites this section on Donations to codify current practice of using a charitable donations committee to propose recipients, to establish a timeline for conducting this activity, and to provide for participation and voting by members in person, by mail, and electronically. Creates mechanism for emergency or time-sensitive requests for donations.
10. **Article 11, Section 1 and Section 2: Technical.** Permits the Board of Directors to propose amendments to the By-Laws through electronic means and on paper to members in attendance.
11. **Article 12: Technical.** Relocates “History” from the body of the By-Laws to an appropriate place on the Club website. Adds appropriate description of these proposals to history.

Groundbreaking for Public Restrooms at Lighthouse Park Scheduled for Oct 20.

This first shovel of sand, marking the beginning of construction, will be turned by District 1 County Commissioner Ricky Jones and representatives of the County Commission, Tourist Development Council, and Storm Construction at 2 pm on October 20 at Lighthouse Park on the island. Also present will be members of the Cape St George Lighthouse Association and the SGI Civic Club.

This infrastructure project is one of the top priorities of the **SGI 2025 Vision**, a long term range proposal for investments in the commercial center of the island, developed by the Civic Club in 2018. In addition to this project, the County Commission has approved a RESTORE grant to address storm water drainage, paving, and parking issues in that area. On August 18, the County Commission voted unanimously to award the construction of the SGI Public Restroom to low-bidder, Storm Construction of Carrabelle. Almost all subcontracting by Storm will be going to familiar local companies. Storm bid \$450,000 for the project, which is being paid for through tourist development fees imposed on short term rental properties. The restroom project represents the largest public works project on the island from the TDC funding source. Site work and construction is expected to begin shortly.



Portable Access Mat Installed October 1, 2020

At the request of the SGI Civic Club, County Commissioner Ricky Jones worked with Fonda Davis, Director of Parks & Recreation to place a roll out, portable access mat at SGI Lighthouse Park to provide access to the beach for wheelchairs, baby strollers, and wagons loaded with toys and gear. The mat has arrived and will be placed on site on October 1, at 10 am.

The mat will be located on the eastern edge of the Park, near the residential skinny minis. That location, already a sandy pathway created by pedestrians, will connect the paved parking and concrete sidewalk, along with the children's play area, to the beach near the water's edge. The ADA compliant access mats are removed when threatened by storms and withstand tough environmental conditions and traffic for years. They are cleaned by a simple leaf blower application. The cost is approximately half of the cost of a wooden board walk and will not need rebuilding, as is often the case for boardwalks after a tropical storm.

The access mats are currently available in the State Park and are enjoyed in many other communities along Panhandle beaches. This is the first portable access mat installed in Franklin County public beaches. Currently, beach accessible wheelchairs, baby strollers, and wagons are available for rent at several island outdoor sports shops. Another nice addition to our island community and Lighthouse Park.

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Request for input on 2020 Charitable Donations

SGL Civic Club is considering how to make the best of our limited resources this year when the Club is still unable to accomplish in person meetings and dinners as in the past. Final decisions regarding donations will be voted on by the membership in November 2020. The Charity Golf Tournament is still scheduled for October, but participation may not reach past levels. Please review the three approaches proposed and make other suggestions for the best use of our Civic Club Charitable Donations.

Select your favorite approach for 2020 and then email mikeoconnell@sgcivicclub.com your preference:

Proposal #1:

Follow past practice of awarding small gifts (\$100.00 to \$2500.00) for local charities and worthy causes until the money is allocated. If this is your preference: name your first three choices for grants.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Proposal #2:

Focus on allocating all available funds to First Responders and Volunteer Fire Department for improving Water Safety and Rescue on the island through funding for training and equipment

Proposal #3:

Establish a fund to generate adequate funding to install permanent turtle friendly lighting at Lighthouse Park to reduce vandalism and improve evening use and safety of the Park.

Proposal #4:

(Other) _____



Commissioner Ricky Jones is surrounded by the Parks and Recs crew who installed the roll up beach access mat at Lighthouse Park. This is the first access mat installed on Franklin County Beaches. Also pictures are Fonda Davis, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, Michael O'Connell, Past President St George Island Civic Club, and John Solomon, Executive Director of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council.



2020 Franklin County Candidate Forum Went Digital

Candidates for Franklin County races were not able to have a live forum due to Covid but participated in a Q & A. Visit online to see how they responded, read rebuttals and find their contact information at

>> www.sgcivicclub.com/2020-forums.html

Tax Collector



Rick Watson



Danny Gay

Clerk of the Courts



Erin Griffith



Michele Maxwell

Sheriff



AJ "Tony" Smith



Carlton Whaley

Superintendent of Schools



Traci Moses Yoder



Steve Lanier

**READ THE
REBUTTAL
Online**

>> www.sgiCivicClub.com/rebuttal.html

Lighthouse Association Announces Halloween Event at the Park- Friday, October 30

By Amy Hobson, Executive Director, St George Lighthouse Association

The St. George Lighthouse Association will be hosting a **Spooktacular Trick-or-Treat Trail** on Friday, October 30th from 6:30-8:30pm. This safe, family-friendly Halloween event will be held in SGI Lighthouse Park. Multiple candy stations will be set up along the sidewalk "trail" with spooky decorations lighting up the park. Local businesses and residents are encouraged to set up a station to pass out candy. Space is very limited and spots must be reserved in advance by emailing info@stgeorgelight.org or by calling 850-653-6880.

The SGI Civic Club will be supporting this community event with our own tent and ghoulish volunteers providing treats and tricks for the kids. Businesses from the SGI Business Association will also be participating on the event.

Parking is available in the main lighthouse parking area. The Spooktacular Trick-or-Treat Trail begins at the western sidewalk closest to West Gulf Beach Drive. Guests are encouraged to wear their best fun and scary costumes. One-way walking traffic through the event will be enforced, and social distancing guidelines will apply. Masks are encouraged for those attending the event and are required for all those distributing candy. Disposable Halloween facemasks will be available for anyone who needs one, and sanitizing stations will be set up along the trail. Anyone wishing for curbside pickup of a treat bag can do so by calling in advance.

The St. George Lighthouse Association is a non-profit organization and continues to fulfill its mission through the support of our community, visitors, and lighthouse association members. While donations are not required, they are graciously accepted. We hope you will all join us for this free, fun, family event!

SGI CIVIC CLUB 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Jim Morris
jim.morr98@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bill Mills
generalmillsiv@gmail.com

Secretary: Stacy Pierce
Stacy.pierce@icloud.com

Treasurer: Carol McCormick
carolflys@gmail.com

Past Pres: Michael O'Connell
MikeOconnell@sgicivicclub.com

At-Large: Erin Griffith
erinhalegriffith@yahoo.com

At-Large: Phyllis Lewis
pj_hideaway@fairpoint.net

2020 COMMITTEES

Communications: Buena Brown
buena.brown@sgicivicclub.com

Winter Bingo: Ben Mathewson
benz256@mac.com

Gov't Relations: Pat O'Connell
poconnell1414@gmail.com

Fundraising & Charitable Giving:
Jim Morris
jim.morr98@yahoo.com