

St. George Island

CIVIC CLUB



February 2021

NEWSLETTER

THE ISLANDER

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER ISSUE



As much as for its natural attributes, St George Island is known for its passionate and generous inhabitants. Even short term visitors often find ways to contribute to our quality of life.

To honor that spirit of community, the SGI Civic Club is dedicating this newsletter issue to the many non-profit organizations that make up the fiber of this positive neighborhood environment. Particularly, this issue emphasizes the unique ways in which each organization is taking steps to protect its volunteers and participants during a pandemic. So if you are feeling a strong desire to connect, to focus on something other than the daily news and social media, find your match from this list of opportunities to volunteer in a time of Covid.

>> WANT TO BE INCLUDED? The SGI Civic Club plans to add this directory to www.SGICivicClub.com.

Contact Buena.Brown@sgicivicclub.com to have your volunteer organization's information listed.

Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

Town of SGI Incorporation Discussion

Feb 10, 10 am or 6:30 pm Zoom Meetings to discuss the future of the island
Info: www.townofsgji.com
Zoom link during the session of your choice:
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94479432296>

Franklin Board of County Commissioners Meetings

Regular Meetings - Animal Ordinance to be considered March 2
Feb 16, Mar 2, 16 @ 9 am
34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, FL.

Winter Bingo

Tuesdays, through March 30
(Dates are subject to change)
6:30 Sign In, 7 pm Play
SGI Firehouse on East Pine Road

SGI Civic Club Board Meeting

Feb 16 @ 4 pm
SGI Firehouse on East Pine Road

St. George Island Regional Charity Chili Cook-off & Auction

March 4-6 SGI Lighthouse Park
**Changes in events to be announced:
Watch for email notice**
www.stgeorgeislandchilicookoff.com

Forgotten Coast Plein Air

March 19-28
www.ForgottenCoastEnPleinAir.com

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

ARTS & CULTURE, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS:

“
As you grow older,
you will discover that you
have two hands — one for
helping yourself, the other
for helping others.”

— Audrey Hepburn



FORGOTTEN COAST
en plein air
America's Great Paint-Out

**Mark Your Calendars
Plein Air 2021
Is On!
March 19-28**

Ready to bank your art credits and see some new art, fresh off the easel or spend credits you already have? Click here to reserve your 2021 Collector Package! (We'll send you a reminder of art credits you have on our books)

Note: CDC safety guidelines will be followed and masks required for events

Visit ForgottenCoastEnPleinAir.com
for artists and events

CAPE ST GEORGE LIGHT, KEEPER'S MUSEUM & GIFT SHOP (year round)

The Cape St George Lighthouse and Museum seeks volunteers to serve as docents to provide guided tours of the historic displays that tell the story of our lighthouse and its keepers. The Gift Shop offers lighthouse memorabilia, jewelry and other merchandise by local artisans, children's items, and collectables unique to the coast. This iconic attraction is open every day except Thursday. Time required: docents typically work half day shifts on days they choose. The Lighthouse practices health safety measures, such as mask wearing and social distancing, for visitors and staff. Undergoing a major restoration of the facility this year, the Lighthouse Association is engaged in a key fundraising campaign to pay for needed improvements and sustainability protections. The Lighthouse Park, which surrounds the lighthouse facility and is county-owned, includes recreational facilities and restrooms and serves as a central gathering area for island tourists and Residents alike. Contact Amy Hodson to volunteer at execdirector@stgeorgelight.org and visit www.stgeorgelight.org for more information.

Forgotten Coast En Plein Air (early Spring event)

The Forgotten Coast Cultural Coalition is a regional nonprofit 501c3 in its 16th year of producing Forgotten Coast En Plein Air bringing internationally acclaimed artists and visitors to our area to document the people, places, history, and natural beauty of our coastal communities, from Carrabelle to St. George Island to Mexico Beach. Along with spreading the word about the beauty and heritage of our area, the underlying mission is to build relationships between people through volunteerism, strengthening the resiliency of all our communities in times of disaster and need. St. George Island will host demos and the popular Quick-Draw event this year along with demos and artists painting all along the coast. Student Art Day, Plein Church, and Art Collector gatherings highlight the week, with new paintings hanging daily for sale at the WetRoom, which alternates between Apalachicola and Port St. Joe each year. 50% of the proceeds from painting sales stay in our area, to support local art education, outreach, and economic development. Volunteers are welcomed in all areas. Contact info@PleinAirFL.com or Susan Bassett at (850) 323-0092.

HISTORICAL FACILITIES – Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The State Park system offers volunteer opportunities at its two Apalachicola parks: Orman House, a stately antebellum home with botanical garden overlooking the Apalachicola River, and the historic John Gorrie Museum Grounds. Volunteering as docents or greeters can select hours of service. Masks are required inside buildings. Contact Melody Brennan at the SGI Ranger Station at 850-927-2111 or by email at melody.brennan@FloridaDEP.gov

ARTS & CULTURE, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS:

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”.

– Author Unknown

ROCK BY THE SEA (Spring event)

Rock by the Sea is a nonprofit charity that raises funds through its unique combination of bringing live music and joy to the area. Its key events are the four night music festival in May, accompanied by the Rock by the Tee Golf Tournament, and Write by the Sea—a week-long musicians’ retreat culminating in a performance of music created during the retreat. Rock by the Sea sponsors are making plans to bring multiple smaller events to the area. To accommodate health conditions, managers have scaled back the size of the events, focused on open air venues, and encouraged appropriate social distancing and mask wearing. Since its inception 15 years ago, Rock by the Sea has donated more than \$800,000 to its designated charities. The major charity is Pediatric Brain Cancer/Cancer Research, but the focus of Rock by the Sea has expanded to include the creation of the program “Music as a Second Language,” the Summer Reading Program at the Franklin County Public Library, and other local entities. Time required depends on event and tasks. Rock by the Sea has a volunteer Board of Directors and NO paid employees. To learn more, check out the website: www.rockbythesea.org

CHILI COOKOFF – SGI Volunteer Fire Department & Emergency Responders

– This annual major island attraction for visitors and islanders is scaled back this year. However, more than ever, community Volunteers can help by providing desirable and quality items for the ONLINE Auction. As the most profitable element in this critical fundraiser for the Fire Department, the ONLINE Auction can help overcome the losses in other revenues. Volunteers and local merchants can contribute moderate and big ticket items by contacting sheryl.clouse@gmail.com. The Red Pepper 5K & One Mile Fun Run and the Chili Cook Off Golf Tournament will continue as scheduled. The Big Chili Sale will include to-go food sold in the Lighthouse Parking Lot. See [St George Island Chili Cook-off - Florida's Forgotten Coast](#).

SGI PAINT OUT (late Spring event)

The SGI Paint Out, a non-profit 501 C (3) organization, promotes art and businesses in Franklin County with the goal to make the beautiful “Old Florida” of the Forgotten Coast a premier art destination. During the week of May 1-7, 2021, the Paint Out will feature sixteen acclaimed artists painting outdoors in the four scheduled community areas of Apalachicola, Carrabelle, Eastpoint, and St George Island. The organization needs volunteers to “sit” with paintings on display in the “Wet Room Gallery,” and to distribute literature on the invited artists and Paint Out events, which include workshops, wine tasting and this year’s “Pat Gore Memorial Quick Draw” on Sunday, May 2. Time required: few hour shifts during event. Covid guidelines—wearing masks, using hand sanitizers, and practicing social distancing—will be observed. Contact: Valerie Williams (931)580-8110 or www.sgipaintout.com

ARTS & CULTURE, ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS:

SGI BREWFEST – Franklin County Humane Society (Date to be determined)

This major fundraising event focuses on bringing together local, regional, and national breweries to create the largest event of its type in the area. The event will be scaled down as the national breweries are not able to join us during the pandemic. Time required: few hours commitment day of event. All proceeds benefit homeless dogs and cats of Franklin County. Tickets & information available at www.sgibrewfest.com.

PINK OUT – Franklin Needs, Inc

“This annual event is held in October, the Friday of Columbus Day Weekend, on the island at Paddy’s Raw Bar on the bay. It raises funds through a silent auction, live auction, raffles, live music, food and fun for the non-profit Franklin Needs, Inc. This organization provides funds for free mammograms and certain medical expenses experienced by under-insured and uninsured Franklin County residents. Volunteers can assist with set up etc. on the day of the event. Contact: Sheryl at sheryl.clouse@gmail.com

SGI LIGHTING OF THE PALMS & CHRISTMAS GOLF CART PARADE – SGI Civic Club and SGI Business Association (early December)

Weeks of decorating by volunteers lead up to the lighting of the palm trees that line the entrance to the island on Franklin Drive, culminating at the iconic SGI Lighthouse. Here Santa’s helpers deliver toys, treats, and hot dog dinners, and guide a walk down Santa’s lighted lane. Special children’s entertainment, depending on talents of volunteers, might include face painting, Santa’s letter writing, or outdoor games. All lighted golf carts are welcome to participate when creative minds compete for the brightest display of the year. Time required: 1. preparation for lighting and decorations (Thanksgiving week) and removal of lighting and decorations (January) can take several hours over a period of time. 2. Volunteering at event depends on role. Volunteer at sgicivicclub.com website.

SGI SPOOKTACULAR EVENT - The SGI Lighthouse Association (end of October)

This Spooktacular Trick-or-Treat Trail celebrates Halloween. 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. To get involved email info@stgeorgelight.org or call 850-653-6880.

SGI TOUR OF HOMES – SGI Lighthouse Association (early February)

With a blend of bayfront, center island, and beachfront homes, visitors get a glimpse of the finest in coastal living, from funky cottages to elegant homes. The TOH is a key fundraising event for the SGI Lighthouse Association, supporting the ongoing maintenance and repair of the Lighthouse. This event is now scheduled for February 13, 2022. Docents provide gentle guidance to tourgoers. Time required: 3 hour docent duties day of event. For information: sgitourofhomes.com. Is your home ready for the Tour? Contact execdirector@stgeorgelight.org.

“

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

– Gandhi

RECREATION

GOLF TOURNAMENTS – St James Bay – During this time, these events include special safety practices such as separate golf carts, temperature checks, and open air gatherings. Volunteers are used the day of event for registration, beer carts, “goodie bags,” hole monitors, putting contest judging, etc.

- Chili Cook Off Golf Tournament. First weekend in March.
Contact: blandiss46@gmail.com or www.stgeorgeislandchili-cookoff.com
- Rock by the Tee Golf Tournament (Rock by the Sea).
First Friday in May.
Contact: Steve@Rockbythesea.org or JoeWells261@gmail.com
- SGI Civic Club Annual Golf and Charity Tournament.
Mid October. Contact: James Donald, jdonal278@gmail.com and Home (www.sgicivicclub.com)

RACES & RUNS – Island Center – Volunteers provide water to runners, mark the course, and collect litter.

- Red Pepper 5K Run (Chili Cook Off Charity Event). First Saturday in March. Contact: Sheryl Clouse sheryl.clouse@gmail.com.
- St George Island 5K Sizzler and One Mile Fun Run. (Elder Care Community Council) First Saturday in August.
Ecccfranklin@gmail.com or 850-370-0116.

WINTER BINGO – SGI CIVIC CLUB – Volunteers at the SGI Firehouse distribute cards, collect funds, serve refreshments and call the letters/numbers. Tuesday Nights, January through March. Time Required: two hours a week. Attendance is limited; social distancing and mask wearing are required.
Contact: Ben Mathewson, benz256@mac.com.

“
There is no better
exercise for your heart
than reaching down
and helping to lift
someone up.”

– Bernard Meltzer.”



CIVIC SERVICE

“

We make a living
by what we get.
We make a life by
what we give.”

– Winston Churchill

ISLAND POSSE – Franklin County Sheriff A.J. Smith Volunteers assist county law enforcement work of the Sheriff’s office by participating in crime watch “Posse” efforts on the island. Background checks are required. Participation is dependent upon events and assigned occasional shifts. Contact: Christy Thompson c.thompson@franklinsheriff.com

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONDER –

St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services This 24-member, volunteer, non-profit fire, rescue and EMS department has the primary response area of St. George Island. Volunteers can perform a variety of chores but those responsible for fire and rescue require extensive training, general good health and fitness, and dependability. Contact: Chief Kevin Delahanty 850-653-6657.

SGI CIVIC CLUB – This non-partisan fifty year old, non-profit organization serves as a forum for political candidates and discussions of island-related issues through guest speakers. The government relations committee tracks local county government matters and another committee provides the newsletter containing items of interest for civic-minded volunteers. Monthly meetings are suspended at this time but the Board of Directors meets every third Tuesday at 4 pm at the Firehouse. Volunteers interested in current events, writing grants for island improvements, and communications, contact president Jim Morris, jim.morr98@yahoo.com and visit www.sgiCivicClub.com



Restrooms taking shape at Lighthouse Park show the separate women’s and men’s areas.
Photo by Michael Yelvington

CHILDREN

“

Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

– Steve Jobs

FRANKLIN SCHOOLS – Franklin County Schools offers many ways that volunteers can provide safe assistance and support to the students of our area. Background checks and Covid protections required. Time Required: typically one hour, certain weekdays during school year. Certain special events, such as proctoring tests, may require half days. Contact Morgan Thompson, HR Specialist, 850-670-2810, ext 4128. mthompson@franklincountyschools.org.

One-on-One Student Assistance:

- Tutors during school hours and after school for all grades, for homework help, especially math
- Mentors to assist with college applications, interviewing, grooming, etc.
- Photographers (modest experience required) to video student performance demonstrating reading, speechmaking, other skills
- Videographer of “field trips” to local sites or events that students might not have seen

Classroom Assistance:

- Assistants to help in the general classroom
- Readers for small groups in library (possible sponsor for Literacy Council)
- Assistants for science labs and experiments

Administrative Support:

- Organize and deliver mail
- Prepare, copy and deliver instructional materials
- Organize clothing in clothes closet
- Assist in library, purging, organizing, stocking inventory
- Proctor Spring state-required assessments (training provided to volunteers)
- Organize donated school/teacher supplies
- Organize treasure chest toys for young kids

Grounds Beautification:

- Provide hand work and maintenance of landscape beds on school grounds
- Donate supplies/maintain flower and plants to beautify athletic fields

Athletic Event Support: (often after school hours)

- Work in concession stands during events
- Manage equipment with direction from athletic director

CHILDREN

“

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

– Dr. Seuss

ED CORPS PRIVATE SCHOOL and CONSERVATION CORPS

– **Franklin's Promise Coalition.** Volunteers are sought to serve as mentors for youth 14-17 years in Ed Corps, a private school that provides academic training toward diploma or GED, and works in tandem with the Conservation Corps, which provides hands-on experience and service to the community. The areas of training and certification include 1. Natural Resource Management (prescribed burn preparation, living shoreline installation, etc.) 2. Construction (rebuilding boardwalks, etc.), and 3. Disaster Assistance (service after hurricanes, etc.) Background checks required. Time required: Dependent upon role served. Contact: Joe Taylor, franklinspromise@gmail.com. **More info at Franklin's Promise Coalition - Conservation Corps of the Forgotten and Emerald Coasts (wildapricot.org)**

GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT –

This statewide program, funded by the state, is managed locally through the Tallahassee office. Volunteers need a passion for kids, who may have been abused or neglected in the home, coupled with a fascination with real courtroom drama. The Volunteer, guided by professional staff, advocates for the best interests of the child before the judge after having made regular visits and inquiries regarding the child's life. Background checks and ongoing training are necessary but no other experience required. All volunteer service here is for Franklin County families. Time required: long term commitment for at least two years with regular monthly site visits, written reports, and periodic appearances in court. These events are conducted via electronic means at this time due to Covid. **For more information, Prospective Volunteers - Second Judicial Circuit Guardian ad Litem Program (gal2.org)**

FAITH-BASED PROGRAMS:

The churches and groups listed here support activities to promote positive youth development and offer a safe space for youth to explore their potential. All activities are based in health and safety guidelines that include temperature checks, social distancing, and mask requirements. Many programs require background checks for volunteers. This list of programs is not comprehensive but includes those that have ties to individual SGI Civic Club members. Other organizations are welcome to provide information for potential volunteers also.

- **EASTPOINT FIRST UNITED METHODIST YOUTH CENTER**

The ENGULF Program focuses on Community Outreach to youth generally ages 8-18. The Friday night program is 6:30-8:30 at Youth Center on 317 Patton Drive. Contact: Pastor Dee Allen deewesleyallen@gmail.com, 850-445-4934. The NEST is a major after-school program for the area and provides supervision and fun along with mentoring and coaching for all grades Pre-K through 12. **Contact Tammy Boone, 550-670-1030.**

CHILDREN

“

You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man.”

– Seth Parker

- **BOY SCOUTS TROOP 22** meets at Eastpoint First United Methodist, 317 Patton Drive. Parents and Volunteers can fill a variety of scouting roles. Contact Dan McClellan, dan@mcclellanrealty.net, 850-566-8975.

- **HOPE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER IN EASTPOINT**

This lovely gathering place in Eastpoint is located at 159 Bearcreek Road, bordered by Wilderness and Ridge roads which experienced the devastating “Limerock” Wildfire several years ago. The Center is a project of island volunteers, donors and others who share a vision to create a permanent, safe place for youth and families of the area. The Center provides internet and computer access, recreational facilities, meeting space, and a sheriff’s sub-station. Opportunities for female volunteers to participate in ongoing programming include the Girls’ Teens & Pre-Teens Outreach Program, which offers fun-filled and faith-based programming. The Thursday Family Night Out, which includes movies, games, food, and faith-based lessons.

Contact Brie Rotelle at brie.rotelle@gmail.com. 267-490-0769. Website www.sgiumc.org.

4-H Youth Development Organization – University of Florida/ Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) The 4-H is part of the UF/IFAS local Extension Program mission. Volunteers can help 4-H youth grow and explore their potential in a wide array of subject areas. While Covid concerns continue to limit in-person opportunities, virtual programming opportunities abound. Contact: Erik Lovstrand elovstrand@ufl.edu. See the full website: [Franklin County - UF/IFAS Extension \(ufl.edu\)](http://Franklin County - UF/IFAS Extension (ufl.edu))



SENIORS, FAMILIES — & — ANIMALS

“

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.”

– Erma Bombeck

THRIFT STORES:

- **SGI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THRIFT STORE** operates from its tiny location behind the island's Methodist Church. It relies on donated goods and features slightly used household items and clothing. Volunteers haul items to create an open air shopping venue and organize displays during this popular Thrift Store's one morning of operation: Tuesdays between 9 am and 1 pm. Donated items must be in working condition, needing no repair, and worthy of purchase. Volunteers and customers must wear masks. **To drop off items, contact Kelley Carrell 850-653-6020 or kcarrell84@gmail.com**
- **TWICE BLESSED THRIFT SHOP** is found behind the First United Methodist Church at 14 David Street Eastpoint. Volunteers are sought to work in the Thrift Store on Thursdays & Fridays, 9 am – 1 pm. **Contact Dottie Thornburg, 678-576-1738.**

ELDER CARE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ECCC) – This not-for-profit serves the county to bridge the gaps in services for residents over age 55. Operating out of the beautiful, historic Holy Family Senior Center in Apalachicola, the organization prepares and serves lunch “to-go” Monday through Friday, delivering meals to home bound seniors. ECCC offers a variety of other volunteer opportunities, including “Neighbor Helping Neighbor,” a program that matches needs with volunteers who can provide handyman services, respite care or wellness checks and “Monarch Butterfly Buddies” that seeks amateur gardeners to tend plants at the Holy Family pollinator garden. In January, ECCC assembles New Year's Baskets with household goods, books, and blankets for distribution. Although fundraisers were cancelled last year, ECCC plans to host one fundraiser, the “Sizzler 5K Race & One Mile Fun Run” on St George Island, during the first week in August 2021.

Call 850-370-0116 or visit www.ecccfranklin.org.

PRISON MINISTRY – Franklin County Sheriff A.J. Smith

The department supports Faith & Character-based Jail Ministries and seeks volunteers for a variety of programs that help ex-offenders in their rehabilitation and return to society as law abiding citizens. Volunteer leaders can support programs related to Fresh Start Visions Substance Abuse Program, GED Preparation, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, Alcohol Abuse, Anger Management, Nutrition, Celebrate Recovery Substance Abuse, etc. Volunteers and participants currently meet by ZOOM and training is provided. “In-person visits” are expected to resume when appropriate. **Contact James Donald, FCSO Faith-based Coordinator, jdonal278@gmail.com, 404-405-7262. See also: <https://www.FranklinSheriff.com>.**

SENIORS, FAMILIES & ANIMALS

“
Life's most persistent
and urgent question is,
what are you doing
for others?”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

FOOD PANTRIES – Franklin's Promise Coalition This organization collects food and household items from state and federal sources, along with local contributions, and coordinates with other individual pantries, in Port St Joe, Eastpoint, and Carrabelle, to see that local families do not go hungry. Like many small rural counties in Florida, the need is great. Since the Covid pandemic, the food pantries have moved from their permanent locations to supply drive-through “mobile pantries.” Conservation Corps “Opportunity Youth” helpers have often replaced senior volunteers during this time. Time required for volunteers is greatest on Mondays, often up to three hours, when the food supply arrives and must be “bagged” for drive-through or delivery. Safety precautions must be maintained inside buildings. **Contact:** Lori Switzer 850-323-0515. **More info at the website, Franklin's Promise Coalition - Hunger and Nutrition (wildapricot.org)**

FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY – The mission of the “Friends of the Franklin County Public Libraries,” a non-profit library support organization, is to assist the Franklin County Public Libraries’ goal to provide informational, educational, and cultural materials for the benefit of persons of all ages in the community. Branches include both Carrabelle and Eastpoint. The Friends welcome volunteer help of all kinds and skills from cooking to carpentry, from landscaping to legal expertise, from reading to carpentry, from working at fundraisers to being a board member. Time requirement depends on role: fundraiser, board member, library volunteer, or program volunteer. **Use website friendsfcpl.com.**

FRANKLIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY – The Humane Society is a non-profit whose mission is to provide a safe haven, medical care, food and loving attention until animals are adopted. The Humane Society is not utilizing in-facility volunteers at this time due to Covid-19; however, the organization is allowing part time and full time residents (this would include snowbirds who are here for several months) to participate in the “Adopt a Dog for a Day” program. This allows the volunteer to come to the shelter and choose a dog to take out to the beach or into town for several hours. The animal wears an “Adopt Me” vest or bandana so that people know the dog is available for adoption. This has been a fun experience for many people and has resulted in wonderful adoptions. **Contact Karen at 850-670-8417 or fcadoptioncenter@fairpoint.net. Check out www.forgottenpets.org**

AUDUBON FLORIDA – St George Island is home to many shorebirds, including the rare Snowy Plover. The Coastal Stewardship program of Audubon Florida seeks volunteers to assist in the protection of all species, as they nest along the Gulf. Periodic bird counts are critical to the tracking of birds’ reactions to changing natural climate. **Opportunities to engage in conservation as a citizen scientist or a volunteer can be found at <https://fl.audubon.org/get-involved>**

ENVIRONMENT

“

Alone we can do
so little; together
we can do so much.”

– Helen Keller

STATE PARKS – Florida Department of Environmental Protection

St George Island State Park is always looking for volunteers, especially those who want to come out for a few hours per week/month. Volunteers assist in cleaning up shorelines, collecting trash from road shoulders, painting, assisting in construction projects, turtle monitoring, just to name a few activities. Contact Melody Brennan at the SGI Ranger Station at 850-927-2111 or by email at melody.brennan@FloridaDEP.gov or Friends of the Franklin County State Park at fcfcsp.org

APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE (ANERR) – ANERR is part of a network of 29 areas representing different biogeographic regions of the United States. The local entity protects the area for long-term research, water quality and habitat monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. ANERR’s home is located at 108 Island Drive, just across the bridge at Cat Point in Eastpoint. Volunteers play special roles critical to ANERR’s work. The Reserve operates in accordance with CDC guidelines and follows strict safety protocols to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Email Janice Becker Janice.Becker@dep.state.fl.us.

Specialized Work in the Field:

Sea Turtle Patrol -- Volunteers take part in identifying and recording turtle nests during the summer nesting season on St. George Island. This activity requires participants to be fit enough to walk long stretches of beach. The most valuable turtle volunteer is the one who replaces exterior lighting with fixtures that meet federal standards that prevent disorientation by turtle hatchlings.

Check here for information on fixture types and penalties at <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/sea-turtle/lighting>

Citizen science microplastics sampling – Volunteers work at their own time and pace to collect microplastics from water and sediments around the estuarine system. Supplies and training provided by ANERR.

Research Assistants - Volunteers assist Reserve scientists with collecting data in projects related to water quality, nutrients, meteorology, fisheries, zooplankton, and climate change. Volunteers need to be fit enough to lift equipment (as much as fifty pounds). They may also be on a boat for hours at a time with high exposure to inclement weather and conditions.

Roles at the ANERR Nature Center, located on Island Drive in Eastpoint, north of the bridge

- Greeters at the Nature Center
- Greeters and docents for special events like Estuaries Day in September
- Assistants with special on-site K-12 education programs
- Writers and graphic artists for creating press releases/stories/ photography and brochures

ENVIRONMENT

“

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

SGI TRASH PATROL – Whether joining one of the three-a-year organized business district-wide events or just picking up random trash, the most visible impact you can have on our environment is keeping it litter free. Volunteer to “work the grid” when you are on the island by taking responsibility for an assigned area within the residential streets. Join the team post Chili-Cook-Off Trash patrol on Sunday, March 7 at 9 a.m. at the porch of the Lighthouse Museum. T-shirts, gloves and other equipment available upon request. All open air, social distancing required. Text: adalong@uab.edu

GARDENING ACTIVITIES – The island and surrounding community offer multiple opportunities for volunteers to help create and maintain small venues of landscaped area.

ISLAND CENTER: St George Island Civic Club - Volunteers meet with hand tools and gloves three times a year to trim and clear the six tiny landscaped beds along Franklin Blvd and Chili Drive. Most work sessions take one hour on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Additional volunteers will be needed in the coming years to assist in the maintenance of brand new beds planted on the Causeway to the bridge. Contact: poconnell1414@gmail.com

FRANKLIN SCHOOLS – Manicured landscaping around school grounds and athletic fields has never been a priority for the school system. Volunteer who share a love of flowers and plants know that an attractive environment can make for school pride and community spirit. Time requirement varies. Background checks required. Contact: mthompson@franklincountyschools.org.

HOLY FAMILY SENIOR CENTER IN APALACHICOLA – Once a school serving African American children, this beautiful historic facility is the home of many services for local seniors. Its grounds feature Monarch Butterfly gardens featuring native plants and pollinators. Volunteer gardeners work independently or with others to tend these beds. Strict Covid guidance is followed. Call 850-370-0116 or visit www.ecccfranklin.org

ANERR – As part of its mission to protect the natural environment of this area, the Reserve's striking Nature Center maintains a demonstration garden of native plant species that can thrive here and contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Volunteers can serve independently or at designated times to tend to these low maintenance plants. Contact: Janice.Becker@dep.state.fl.us.

FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER CLASSES & PROGRAM – UF/IFAS Extension Office. In addition to traditional agricultural and horticultural services to the community, the county Extension Service provides the popular Master Gardener Program for volunteers interested in teaching others about the science and art of gardening in a Covid-safe fashion. The class will be scheduled soon. Check the website for information: Franklin County - UF/IFAS Extension (ufl.edu)

ENVISION ST. GEORGE ISLAND

Fostering the Future

A Zoom-based Visioning Session

February 10, 10am & 6:30pm



**Tell us about
your ideal
community!**

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Understanding the community we love to better plan for its future. Join us to discuss the treasures of SGI, areas for improvement, and strategies to achieve these goals.

Please note: both meeting times follow the same agenda.

HOW TO JOIN THE MEETING

Click the following zoom link during the session of your choice:
<https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94479432296>

Fill out the survey to let us know you're joining! Follow the link or scan the QR. https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ebORLPr6W10X1c



Moderated by FSU Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning

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SGI CIVIC CLUB 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Jim Morris
jim.morr98@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Bill Mills
generalmillsiv@gmail.com

Secretary: Chris Vitale
clfvitale@comcast.net

Treasurer: Phyllis Lewis
pj_hideaway@fairpoint.net

At-Large: Carol McCormick
carolflys@gmail.com

At-Large: Bernie Boehnlein
bernie.boehnlein@gmail.com

At-Large: Erin Griffith
erinhalegriffith@yahoo.com

2021 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

and
Carol McCormick
carolflys@gmail.com