



# THE ISLANDER

*Come in*

**WE'RE**

**OPEN**

**SGI Civic Club Meetings Resume April 15**

This is our first meeting since Covid — Bring your own food, flatware and beverage. Masks are required.

## IN THIS ISSUE

.....

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Appreciation Event To Volunteers of the Year .....        | page 2 |
| Chili Crawl Cleanup .....                                 | page 2 |
| Civic Club Volunteers To Make SGI Beautiful .....         | page 3 |
| Boat Ramp Report .....                                    | page 3 |
| SGI Civic Club Marched On for Vets .....                  | page 3 |
| NEW Public Beach Signage .....                            | page 4 |
| SGI Civic Club Monthly Meeting to Resume .....            | page 4 |
| Causeway Beautification Progress .....                    | page 5 |
| Professional Consultant for SGI Drainage TBD in May ..... | page 6 |
| SGI Civic Club Membership Drive .....                     | page 6 |
| Ribbon Cutting Event for SGI Restrooms Scheduled .....    | page 7 |

## Upcoming ISLAND EVENTS

### Franklin Board of County Commissioners Meetings

Planning & Zoning Board Meetings  
April 13, May 11 @ 6:30-7:30 pm

Planning and Zoning Board Meeting  
Application Deadline (May Meeting)  
April 27 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Board of Adjustment Meeting  
May 5 @ 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Board of Adjustment Meeting  
Application Deadline (May Meeting)  
April 14 @ 8:30 am - noon

Board of Adjustment Meeting  
Application Deadline (June Meeting)  
May 12 @ 8:30 am - noon

Planning and Zoning Board Meeting  
Application Deadline (June Meeting)  
May 25 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

BOCC Regular Meetings  
April 20, May 4, 18 @ 9 am

### SGI Civic Club Regular Meeting

April 15 @ 6:30 pm  
SGI Firehouse on East Pine Road



### St. George Island Lighthouse

Sunset & Full Moon Climb  
April 26 @ 7-9 pm

### SGI Paint Out

May 1-7 visit [www.sgiPaintOut.com](http://www.sgiPaintOut.com)

### ANERR

The Oyster Corps and O.Y.S.T.E.R.-Offer Your Shell To Enhance Restoration  
April 29 @ 3 pm -Anita Grove at (850) 653-5951  
Register for Sci-Café Virtual Series at  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8192155886799102224>.

### SGI Civic Club 2021 Golf Tournament & Charity Fundraiser

October 15, 2021

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FRANKLIN COUNTY AREA EVENTS  
CLICK [www.ApalachicolaBay.org](http://www.ApalachicolaBay.org)



## Save the Date



### SGI Civic Club 2021 Golf Tournament & Charity Fundraiser

October 15, 2021



### Golf Merchandise is still available.

( It's a great way to support our mission.)

Visit <http://sgicivicclub.com/pro-shop.html>



### Appreciation To Pat O'Connell And James Donald 2020 Volunteers Of The Year

The St. George Island Civic Club has many great volunteers! Matter of fact, it's 100% volunteer operated! After the Civic Club Board meeting on March 16th, the board took the opportunity to recognize two individuals as the 2020 Volunteers of the Year. All of our members will undoubtedly recognize the amazing effort and results that Pat O'Connell and James Donald contributed toward making 2020 a successful year on the island.

Pat works tirelessly on behalf of SGI including (but of course not limited to) attending all County Commission meetings to keep the Civic Club members informed of governmental affairs, organizing efforts to keep center island beautiful, and spearheading the grant proposal which is beautifying the center island entrance! What a great person to have in your corner!

James "retired" from the US Army only to devote countless energy to his community of St George Island. Many members know the work James performed as the chair of the SGI Civic Club Second Annual Golf Tournament and Charity Fundraiser. The outing was both a financial smash success and an opportunity for the men and women of the Club and community to enjoy a safe social event during a pandemic. James is constantly active in veterans' affairs, men's devotional groups on the island, and is instrumental in a prison ministry which significantly decreases the recidivism rates in our area. James is a tireless advocate for improved lives of all Franklin County residents and visitors.

Our sincerest thanks to Pat and James!



The cleanup crew was led by Ada Long, shown in second from top photo.



## Thank You To All The Volunteers Who Helped Clean Up After the Chili Crawl!

The SGI Volunteer Fire department held a chili crawl on March 6 to keep the spirit of the chili cook off alive! While the major Saturday event was not held this year, a large contingent of faithful chiliheads still supported the Volunteer Fire Department through the chili crawl, auction, 5K and other events. A special thank you to the 40 volunteers who cleaned up after the event on Sunday, March 7. The volunteers collected 42 bags of trash! Successful events on Saint George Island are always reflective of the efforts of many special people!

## Re-Engineering Plans For SGI Boat Ramp Draw Nearer

Franklin County Commission and islanders are hoping for success with an application for a state grant from Florida Wildlife Commission Boating Improvement Program. The planning and permitting grant will enable re-engineering for a breakwater, loading dock, and additional safety improvements. The grant application was due April 1, but everyone can send a letter supporting the county's application, particularly if it includes a personal story of safety hazards there.

### Send support letters to:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Boating & Waterways Section  
ATTN: FBIP Administrator  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600



Boatramp image by Jo Ellen Pearman

## SGI Civic Club Participation In Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Veterans Parade

The Civic Club marched in the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Veterans Parade on March 13th. This was a unique opportunity to honor those few remaining members of "The Greatest Generation." Our special thanks to all veterans and active military personnel. A thank you also to those who represented the SGI Civic Club banner at the parade.



Excitement at the Camp Gordon Johnston Parade - photos by David Alderstein | The Times



# Civic Club VOLUNTEERS DO IT AGAIN!



Thanks to Civic Club volunteers who replaced the dead plants at one of the landscape beds on Franklin Blvd with palms and grasses. From Left, Jim Morris, president, Gary Mahoney, Bill Nichols, and Mike O'Connell. The guys will be taking responsibility for ongoing watering until the plants are established. Appreciation also to SGI Trading Company for providing the water.

A large sign titled 'Public Beach Access' with a blue header and a green background. It features several icons and text boxes: a wheelchair icon with 'This walkway is NOT Handicap Accessible' and a QR code; a sea turtle icon with 'Sea Turtle Nesting Season May 1 - Oct. 31.'; a glass bottle icon with 'Glass Bottles Prohibited'; a swimmer icon with 'Swim At Your Own Risk No Lifeguard on Duty Scan QR Code For Beach Conditions' and a QR code; a dog icon with 'All Animals MUST be on a Leash. Please clean up after your Pets.'; and a 'BEACH WARNING FLAGS' legend. At the bottom, it says 'You may access all beach-related information at [floridasforgottencoast.com/beachsafety/](http://floridasforgottencoast.com/beachsafety/)' and includes a 'MOBILE APP' download QR code. Beach flag locations are listed as: 2 East Gulf Beach Drive St. George Island, Carrabelle Beach Wayside Park 1880 West Hwy 98 Carrabelle, and 1336 Alligator Drive Alligator Point.

## New Beach Signs Posted In Public Beach Areas

The spring break and summer beach crowds are truly starting to build! The Franklin County Tourist Development Commission has installed new beach signs in areas of public beach access. The signs are designed to reduce the clutter of multiple existing signs and simplify communication of key items of public interest and safety. The scannable QR Codes will also take visitors to current beach conditions. This will greatly reduce the risk of any repeat of last year's beach tragedies. Thank you to the TDC!

## SGI Civic Club Members Meeting Resume – April 15

It is quite the understatement to say that the last 12 months have been challenging. There will be an in-person SGI Civic Club members meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 7PM at the SGI Volunteer Fire Department Station. (Feel free to let out an audible woohoo here!). With a sense of the utmost consideration to our members' safety, there will be no traditional buffet potluck dinner at this meeting. Please bring your own food and beverages. The agenda will not include the traditional feature speaker but will instead focus on celebrating the opportunity to see each other's faces! The Board will provide an overview of the events of the last 12 months. Now that tax filing day has been extended to May 17 you can spend the evening of the 15th with friends!



## Causeway Beautification Hits Snag And Gets A Benefit

An accidental cutting of electrical line by workmen of Lawnsapes of Bay County stalled installation of the Causeway Beautification Project but resulted in good news for the island. After the landscaping company installed all the pine trees, the project halted when the electrical meter and line supplying the irrigation system was damaged. Duke Energy then replaced the meter, and Mike Cates Electrical replaced the wiring. At the time, the county agreed to install additional electrical outlets so that our 2021 Christmas lighting decorations can continue toward the bridge, up Franklin Blvd to the Welcome Sign. Lawnsapes will complete the additional plantings and ground coverings, to complement the palm trees, in the coming weeks.





# PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS FOR SGI DRAINAGE DESIGN TBD IN MAY



The most significant infrastructure improvement to the island is soon to begin its planning and design stage. On May 4th, the County Commission will open Requests for Qualifications submitted by professional consultants interested in designing the stormwater drainage, roadway, and parking improvements in the island's commercial district. The county first made application for RESTORE funds (arising from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Settlement) of \$110,000 for this purpose in 2019, along with a similarly sized grant for planning and design for dune restoration along Franklin beaches. RESTORE funds will also be used for implementation of the new design. You can hear this discussion live on Forgotten Coast TV Facebook page.

## 2021 Memberships Drive In Full Swing - Join or Renew Now!

Please join your Island friends and neighbors and support the St. George Island Civic Club in 2020 by becoming a new Club member or renewing your current membership. This year the Island needs you! In light of our back-to-back natural disasters, there are many issues and concerns for our community and your involvement is critical.

### Our Club promotes these objectives:

- Support to the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department/First Responders;
- Providing a forum for discussing current issues that interest and impact Island residents and homeowners;
- Supporting other community interests with annual monetary donations to local charities;
- Providing leadership for Island improvements;
- Playing a role in preserving and/or enhancing the natural beauty and ecology of our Island;
- Taking concerted action on matters that will in any way affect the welfare of our Island;
- Promoting social interaction with our Island neighbors and friends with monthly dinner meetings featuring Local/State speakers on topics of interest to our Members.
- Provide an eNewsletter called The Islander on an regular basis to inform members about things that are relevant to Islanders.



## Pay Online At [www.sgiCivicClub.com/membership.html](http://www.sgiCivicClub.com/membership.html).

Or, 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

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 <http://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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Ribbon Cutting for SGI Restrooms - April 20, 2 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend the ribbon cutting of the island's beautiful new restroom complex at Lighthouse Park on April 20th at 2 pm. This long awaited amenity, costing nearly \$500,000, is funded by the tourism revenues from the Tourist Development Council. This project was a Civic Club SGI 2025 Vision priority.



## SGI CIVIC CLUB 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

**President: Jim Morris**  
jim.morr98@yahoo.com

**Vice-President: Bill Mills**  
generalmillsiv@gmail.com

**Secretary: Chris Vitali**  
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

**Fundraising & Charitable Giving: Bill Mills**  
generalmillsiv@gmail.com

**Communications: Bernie Boehnlein**  
bernie.boehnlein@gmail.com

**Website: Buena Brown**  
buena.brown@sgicivicclub.com

**Winter Bingo: Ben Mathewson**  
benz256@mac.com

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



**St. George Island**  
*Civic Club*