



St. James City Civic Association
3300 Fourth Avenue, St. James City FL 33956
(Fourth & Lemon)

February 2017 Newsletter

For more information about our ongoing activities, visit our website: www.sjccapi.org

Got news? Send to SJCCAnews@gmail.com

The next newsletter will be published March 1.

Submit your news by 02/25/2017

February Members' Meeting: Monday February 20

Time: Potluck 6pm

Members' Meeting 6:45

Speaker 7pm: Michael Hannon

Topic: Response to Cape Coral's Effort to Annex Matlacha

You won't want to miss our next members' meeting! Our guest speaker, Michael Hannon, an experienced trial and appellate attorney, will be speaking about our legal battle against Cape Coral with the annexation of parcels they purchased in Matlacha.

Mr. Hannon began his legal career as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was a partner with Thompson O'Donnell LLP for 18 years, and founded Hannon Law Group in 2006.

Reminder - Article II: OBJECT OF SJCCA. "The object of the SJCCA is to provide and maintain a suitable facility to house all groups approved by the Board of Directors: to aid and encourage civic, charitable, social, educational and similar groups to use the facilities for the benefit of the community of St James City and Pine Island; to raise funds in any manner approved by the Board of Directors to maintain these grounds and buildings; procure land and, support charities approved by the Board."

Notes from our outgoing President, Deb Barnum:

Please give a big welcome to our new President Paula Bruckner. I have a feeling we will be seeing more good changes as the year progresses. She is a full time resident in Bokeelia so she has the whole summer ahead of her. She has the Good of the Organization in her heart. I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be your President this past year. I have never met so many wonderful, fun, caring people in my life, and all in one small space. I learned so much about myself. You never know what you are made of until you volunteer. All you volunteers are an inspiration. Very hard working folks. It brings the best out in people. What they say about doing for others is true, what you get back is 10 times what you give. I look forward to being the new Membership Chair and participating in my favorite activities and volunteering where I am needed. I love this community center and her inhabitants. Bless You, Deb Barnum

Notes from our incoming President, Paula Bruckner:

The Civic Association held Annual Elections on Jan. 16, 2017. Our executive board is as follows: Paula Bruckner, President, SueAnn Germani, Vice President, Jeff McCoy, Treasurer and Barb Covitz, Secretary. Deb Barnum, Charles Epranian, Ellie Fenyohazi, Bonnie Love, Shari Perkins remain on the board. The membership voted in new civic members Carlos Gomez & Dean Schwarz to be on the board.

On 1/21 the Civic held its **Big Breakfast** which was very well attended and was a very profitable fundraiser. Many thanks to the breakfast crew for all their hard work and delicious food: Charles Epranian, Denny and Andrea Dekker, Mary & Ross Halbeib, Paula Clegg, Terry Hood, Molly & Howard Dreiseszun, Joan Rosenburg, Linda Selleck, David Strawbridge, Lynne Smith & Harold Hilaski (I hope that I didn't forget anyone). The same day was our Rummage Sale run by Shelley McManus and her hardworking crew, including Ann Sayers, co- chairperson, Paula Bruinslott, co-chairperson, Jackie Morrison, co-chairperson, Buzz LaPlante, Kenny Johnsen, Cindy Sibson, Tracie Lewis, Karen Tramstraw, Stella Hauk, Carol Ramsey, Lynn Sarda, Dawn Lesocky, Carol Effort, Carl Hauk, Milli Kelly, John Nyhus, Betty Simmons, Pat Johnsen and the Hobby Club, Cindy Bickford, Alan Bickford, Naomi Brewer, Jim Brewer, Jodee Nelson and the exercise club, Denny Dekker, Barbara LaPlante, Bob House, Shari Perkins, Racchi Farrow & Son, John Farrow & friend, Dottie Kernaghan, Donna Cook, BJ Skribiski, Ellie Fenyohazi, SueAnn Germani (Nov. sale), Ruth Shreve (Nov. sale) Casey Robbins, Ray Robbins). Apologies to anyone whose name has been accidentally omitted.

President's note continued from page 1:

Membership, please remember that these are great fundraisers for us and it requires a lot of volunteers. Please consider volunteering your services in upcoming events.

On 1/22, Cindy Bickford brought in a very talented group of musicians, **Uproot Hootenanny**. It was a very enjoyable evening, well attended and a wonderful way to raise funds for our organization. Thank you Cindy for all of your hard work.

Repairs: We hired a contractor to replace the stairs on the outside stage and add handrails to improve safety.

Upcoming events: We are bringing **Euchre** back, every Monday, starting 1/30, in the small room from 1-3p.m. The **Diversity Interest Group (AKA DIG)** will have it's 1st meeting on 02/01 from 6-8p.m., please attend as we want your input!

Pickin' in the City returns on 2/5. Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 11, for the next Rummage sale and Big Breakfast, which we will be hosting the **MOTI (Museum of the Island)**. Sign up sheets are posted and volunteers are needed for this event – preparation, set up, serving, and clean up. Please consider donating a couple hours of your time. We need donations for the rummage and plant sale. Leave your gently used items in a 'Fill a Box' on the lanai, and contact Barb La Plante 283-1979 if you have plants to donate.

On 2/12 we are having the **American Pie Concert**, please see Cindy Bickford for tickets (call 282-9478). On 2/15, please join us for a fun afternoon at the annual **Valentine Card and Game Party**. On 2/16 there is a transition board meeting. Monday, Feb. 20th will be our **pot luck dinner**, membership meeting and speaker, all members are invited to attend. We currently have been experiencing low attendance at the monthly membership meetings and hopefully they can begin to become well attended as they have been in the past. Please check the calendar on our web site for more information.

Newsletter: Chris Miley will be vacating the position of Newsletter editor. She has done a wonderful job and now it is up to one of our wonderful membership to volunteer for that Newsletter position. Please consider it and let us know soon if interested.

President musings: I thought that perhaps you would like to know a little about me: Great short story: On a 2014 vacation in St. Lucia we met a couple (Dan & Erica Vernicky) and became fast friends. My husband (Craig) mentioned that he would like to purchase a 2nd home in a warmer climate to escape the harsh NY winters. The Vernickys were already snowbirds in PI and sang its praises, which led to us coming to PI for a week to look around with a realtor. We fell in love with PI and purchased our lovely Bokeelia home that same week. We became snowbirds, enjoying the laid back vibe vs. our

normal hustle & bustle life in NY. I looked for a mahjongg game and that is how I found the Civic Assn in SJC. I met so many wonderful people at Mah Jongg. I attended the card party & shortly thereafter was appointed to the board to fill a vacated position. Since then I have worn many hats as your Activity Coordinator, Nomination Committee Chairperson, one of the creators of the Diversity Interest Group and volunteered to help out wherever I could. Craig recently retired (I am a retired RN) and it was an easy decision to sell our LI, NY home and to make PI our new full time residence in Oct. Our daughter (Kaitlin) joined us in Nov. and she is enjoying the Island Time lifestyle very much. Who would ever imagine that a chance encounter in St. Lucia would lead to a great friendship and new home? The Vernickys are now full time residents too. Lastly, I would like to add that I am very humbled by your vote of confidence in me to serve as your President. Thank you, Paula Bruckner

Join the **SJCCA Exercise Class** on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30 am for a stretching and feel good workout. Classes are \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for nonmembers. All ages...men or women...are welcome. Call Jodee at 283-4790 for questions or just show up!!!

Mark your calendar for the annual **Valentine Card and Game Party**, sponsored by the Wednesday bridge and Thursday Mah Jongg. Tickets are \$15 and include continental breakfast and light lunch. You may purchase tickets from Pat 283-8368 or Ellie 973-650-9168. All proceeds benefit the SJCCA.

The **SJCCA Art Exhibit and Sale** will be held Saturday, February 11, from 8 am to noon. Come enjoy the **Big Breakfast**, served up the same day. Member exhibitor cost is 10% of sales, and non-members exhibitors pay an additional \$10 fee. We invite all our artists, crafters and photographers to show their work. Screens will be available for hanging your work. Call Shelley 239-910-3203

Island crafters have been busy decorating our hall for the valentines card party. We had a great time making flying fish from dried coconuts. Also we have created greeting cards, scrubbies, and more. We love to see new faces! Come join us for future projects, including garden whimsy, bird baths, crochet baskets, and bracelets. We meet every Wednesday from 9-11:30.

MahJongg meets at the Civic Center every Thursday at 1:00 pm. We play by the National Mah Jongg League rules, not for money but for beads to keep track of our wins. Everyone is welcome. We are always willing to teach newcomers. Per SJCCA the fee is \$2.00 for members and \$4.00 for non members. If you ever wondered about Mah Jongg come by for a friendly welcome and a chance to see how it is played. BJ 283-9140

GOLDEN BRUSH ART GROUP

Discover your inner artist and have fun at February workshops sponsored by Golden Brush painting group at SJCCA.

February 7th. 1 to 4. **Judi Revercomb**, decorative artist. Paint 2 wine glasses with "under the sea theme" Materials provided. Cost \$25. Call Linda at 283-5207 to register.

February 21st. 1 to 4. **Deborah Zwetsch** returns to lead acrylic painting of hibiscus flowers. Materials provided. Cost \$35. Call Linda to register at 283-5207.

We have decided not to do the **Photo Expo** this year due to lack of attendance and interest. We hope to return to it next year as we build up interest. We will be doing photo field trips starting next Monday. For more info please check the Pine Island Photography club Facebook page. Andy Bergsten

The SJCCA **Book Club** will meet February 13 at 9:30 in the big room. The book selection is Elie Wiesel's *Night*. Paula Bruckner will lead the discussion.

Wednesday, February 1 is the inaugural meeting of the **Diversity Interest Group AKA DIG**. We urge all of our membership and community members to please join us from 6-8 pm. Our 1st meeting will be very informal to gather direction & ideas from everyone on the direction that they would like to see this group move forward on. Please join us and lets make this a fun, informative and creative activity

Concert Series: Sunday, Feb 12: **American Pie Revisited** featuring John Reno performing songs form the 70's. John Denver, Neil Diamond, Jim Croce, etc. John's Croce Tribute last year was great. This show promises to match it!

The **Booster Club** is in high gear. This year we are raffling gift certificates to various Pine Island restaurant. Your favorite is probably one of them. Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$25. Proceeds are earmarked to upgrade the SJCCA building floor.

Anyone Interested??

We currently have an iPad Club for mobile device users. Is there any interest in learning more about your **Windows PC** - it's programs and software? How to use Outlook or Dropbox? Create a .pdf (portable document format) file, Excel spreadsheet, Google calendar?

Would you use **PayPal** as an option to purchase tickets to our events or renew your membership? We are considering adding this payment option to our website for your convenience

If you are interested or have suggestions, please contact Kathy Myers using our website's Contact Us form

Saint James City Civic Association
P.O. Box 605 Saint James City, FL 33956

General Members' Meeting: Monday
February 20
Potluck: 6 PM
Member's meeting: 6:45 PM Program
7 PM

Topic: Response to Cape Coral's Effort to Annex
Matlacha with Michael Hannon