St. George PLANTATION

February 2026

THE PLANTATION POST

68 owners & guests enjoy Super Bowl LX Party

The ArtSocial Committee kicked off 2026 in style with its premier event, drawing a fantastic mix of owners and guests for a lively potluck celebration. The Super Bowl food lineup did not disappoint — everything from hearty soups and chili to chips, dips, and a tempting spread of desserts.

While there may not have been many die-hard Patriots or Seahawks fans in the room, the real win was the great conversation, new friendships, and shared laughter throughout the evening. Guests enjoyed raffle prizes including wine for the adults and chocolate footballs for the kids, while a few friendly competitors jumped into a game of cornhole.

A big thank-you to the volunteers who helped decorate, bartend, and keep the good times rolling. It was a fun, welcoming night — and a great way to start the year together!

See more photos, page 6

Celebrating *Successes*

Great communities don't just happen — they are built through consistent effort, accountability, and transparency.

We're pleased to introduce a new monthly feature designed to keep you better informed about the work being done throughout St. George Plantation. Each month, we'll highlight the efforts taking place to maintain, protect, and enhance our community.

Sometimes these elements are highly visible, like upgrading boardwalks, and sometimes they are behind the scenes, like progress with the status of our annual audit.

This feature will focus on three simple principles: **Do good work. Measure it. Share it.** Good work deserves to be seen, and progress deserves to be shared. We'll outline what was accomplished and why it matters, as our goal is to provide greater insight into how the SGPOA operates and how ongoing efforts contribute to the long-term value of The Plantation. We want to be fully transparent while highlighting the positive.

With that said, **our first update is a list of leadership accomplishments** presented by General Manager Michael Allen to the Board of Directors during the January 15 meeting. These reflect administrative accomplishments among the team.

See Accomplishments, page 5

Security training

SGPOA employees, specifically members of the Security team, continue to demonstrate their commitment to excellence. In January, several staff completed 40 hours of state-mandated training, earning their Class D Security Officer Licensure. This rigorous education ensures our team remains highly trained, knowledgeable, and prepared to provide outstanding service to our community. Pictured, from left, are: Jayden Justice, Rosie Davis (maintenance), Jonathan Jones, Director Bob Shiver, trainer Katerina Prozer, Allen Creamer, and Richard Polous. Prozer, an instructor with Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, led sessions meant to strengthen the professionalism and skills of our Security team. A second class is set for March.

Bathrooms at firehouse open for owner use

Our facilities team remains attentive to the needs of the community and continues working hard to address them. Renovations to the bathroom at the St. George Plantation Firehouse are underway, with several recent improvements completed. A new sidewalk extension now connects the front of the building to Sea Pine Drive and we've added a door closure along with a motion-sensor light for added convenience and safety. The bathroom is conveniently located near the pickleball courts, making it easily accessible for players and visitors alike. We appreciate all their hard work.

Board of Director President's message

Buck Bolden

For this Plantation Post, I would like to point out a couple of projects that are making great progress.

*As you walk, bike, or drive around the community, take a look at the **fire hydrants**. If you have paid attention to these over the last few years, you may have noticed they appeared in poor condition. We have been able to work with Water Management and the SGI Volunteer Fire Department to begin having the fire hydrants cleaned, painted, and tested. Not only will the appearance be better, I'll rest easier knowing that this critical part of our infrastructure is in top shape if there is a need to use them.*

*I'm particularly proud of our Plantation team pulling together to handle some infrastructure maintenance items. Be sure to look at enhancements to the beachside **boardwalks** as the Maintenance team works to refurbish ones that need attention. There has also been **brush clearing** around other vendor infrastructure items - all those boxes for cable, fiber, and power. If you can't see it, how do you know it is there?*

*Discussions have begun on how to expand and renovate the **gym** at the Plantation Clubhouse. If you have been to this facility during peak times, you know it is a crowded space. Look for more information on this in the coming months and please plan on participating so that your voices are heard during the planning stage.*

We are off to a great start to this year, and I look forward to continuing to serve as your Board President. Please contact me with any suggestions or questions.

Updates for the ARC

Tracee Sealy was recently named to the SGPOA Architectural Review Committee (ARC). She replaces Billy Schultz, whose term was up in late 2025.

The Committee will consider two additional candidates in the Feb. 12 meeting, as a replacement for Ken Goodman who resigned in January.

Additionally, SGPOA has contracted Mike Weiksner, J.M. Weiksner Sr. PE, as the primary CRE (Contract Review Engineer) for the review of ARC plans. George Johnson with Johnson & Miller Inc. is the backup CRA (Contract Review Architect). ARC meets the second Thursday of every month at 1 p.m.

Did you know?

Here's a timeline reflecting events on SGI from the Fla. Natural Areas Inventory:

1528 – Spanish explorer Panfildo de Narvaez visited a location near present-day Apalachicola. His expedition journal describes a coastal island that is believed to be Dog Island, St. Vincent Island, or St. George Island. DeSoto's party in 1539 probably sighted St. George Island as well.

1833 – A lighthouse was built at West Pass and moved to Cape St. George in 1848.

1852 – The lighthouse was destroyed by a hurricane and rebuilt on a location further inland, on Little St. George Island.

1861 – The Union had a blockade in the St. George area, although some vessels did enter and leave without Union interception.

After 1870 – A fire at the Franklin County Courthouse destroyed many of the county's land records including any source title for St. George Island.

1881 – Horace H. Humphries buys one-third of St. George Island for $21.

After 1910 – The St. George Island Company is formed by George W. Saxon from Tallahassee. A bayside wharf was built and in 1911 a small hotel called the Club House was built on St. George Island. Some lots were sold for $250 but very few cottages were built. Saxon decides to sell the island in 1916.

1921 – Baptist preacher William Popham bought the island for $27,224.50. Four years later he is convicted of mail fraud, serving less than 2 years.

1940 – Ownership of the island was passed to William H. Wilson.

1942 – The U.S. Government took control of the island for the duration of World War II.

Owners learn about coastal plantings

More than 30 owners and guests joined us in mid-January for the kickoff of the Wednesday Wonders series. The group was highly engaged, with lots of great questions about native plants. Featured speaker Anita Grove of the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve sparked lively discussion and enthusiasm. The series continues in February.
(See the schedule below.)

WEDNESDAY WONDERS

AT THE PLANTATION CLUBHOUSE

The SGPOA Recreation Committee will again sponsor this popular educational series, Wednesday Wonders, on the third Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

FEB 18 — **The Birds of St. George Island**
Collette Lauzau with the Apalachee Audubon Society presenting local and migratory species, seasonal patterns, and the vital role our barrier island plays in providing habitat.

MAR 18 — **The Shipwrecks of Dog Island**
Melanie Damour, maritime archeologist
Historic shipwrecks off Dog Island/St. George Sound.

APR 15 — **ANERR River Boat Trip**
A guided boat trip through the Bay, up the Apalachicola River and into the swamp areas, highlighting the ecosystem & wildlife.

MAY 20 — **Sea Turtles of St. George Island**
Our guest speaker will share insights into nesting habits, hatchling survival, and how you can help keep them safe.

Resort Village pool remains closed while a professional leak detection company works to find the source of our ongoing leaks.

We hope to have everything ready for Spring!

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

NovaCHARGE

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

St. George Plantation has two Level 1 EV chargers, located in the parking lot across from the mailroom at the Magnolia Clubhouse.

To use a NovaCHARGE charging station, simply download the ChargeUP app on your phone and set up an account, adding a payment method. Then, just scan the QR Code at the charging station and enjoy the rest of your time in The Plantation.

- Overnight Charging
- Convenient Location
- Perfect for Topping Off
- Compatible with all EV/hybrids*

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*An adapter may be required for some cars.

Fire hydrant upgrades

St. George Island Water Management Services (WMS) has begun work on the 88 St. George Plantation fire hydrants. The worker at left primes the hydrant for painting. More information is forthcoming.

Successes in Leadership

In 2025, Administrative Leadership accomplished the following:

- Filled all SGPOA administrative staffing vacancies and 90% of all support positions in both maintenance and security, thereby providing the needed staff to address owner needs.
- Held regular employee celebration luncheons to recognize, inspire, thank and update staff, supporting employee engagement and retention.
- Initiated SWOT analysis among administrative staff to address Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats to promote initiative-taking versus reactive responses.
- Held a successful Annual Owners' Meeting in October, with 140 in attendance and 366 owners voting.
- Increased communications overall with summaries presented to the BOD at monthly meetings and elevated communications for all BOD and Committee meetings.
- Completion of the 2026 Budget and establishing a stronger schedule for the budgeting process going forward, ensuring greater transparency and notice by presenting draft budget at Annual Owners' Meeting in October.
- Emphasizing a hospitality training focus for all office staff, security and any employee who interacts with owners and guests to provide a higher level of service.
- Partnering with the Facilities Manager to facilitate repairs and improvements for the safety and enjoyment of all owners/guests.
- GM has increased interaction with owners through his involvement with the board, committees, problem-solving and speaking one-on-one with owners, assuring the resolution of issues in a timely manner.

Thank you for reading, and we look forward to sharing these updates as we continue building a stronger community together.

Do good work. Measure it. Talk about it.

Warm regards,
Michael Allen | General Manager

Beginner Mah Jongg workshops popular with owners

Plantation owners and winter visitors alike took part in a two-session, Mah Jongg beginner workshop during February.

Mah Jongg is a four-player, skill-based tile game originating in 19th-century China, often compared to the card game Rummy. It involves drawing and discarding tiles (bamboo, characters, dots, winds, dragons and flowers) to form specific, ranked sets.

The workshop was led by June Lemke, an instructor at West Cobb Senior Center. She was assisted by local player Jackie Bell.

Join a Mah Jongg game any Monday at 1 p.m. in the Plantation Room. You must RSVP to play: Jackie3250@hotmail.com.

Marry Me Chicken

Source: The Food Network

A dish so good, makes you want to marry the chef! Cook time is 30 minutes.

Ingredients:

- Kosher salt & fresh ground pepper
- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 3 T. olive oil
- Four 6-oz. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 lrg. shallot, sliced thin
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 1 c. low-salt chicken broth
- One 6.3-oz jar sundried tomatoes in oil, drained & chopped
- One small chicken bouillon cube
- 1 c. heavy cream
- 1 t. dried oregano
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ c. freshly grated Parmesan
- ¼ c. thinly sliced fresh basil

Instructions:

Bring a large pot of water to boil over medium-high heat. Season water with salt. Add pasta & cook according to pkg. directions; drain and set aside. Keep warm.

Heat 2 T. of oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Salt & pepper chicken on both sides. Add to the skillet & cook until golden brown on the bottom, about 5 minutes. Flip with tongs and continue to cook until golden brown on the other side, about 5 minutes more. Remove to a plate.

Add remaining 1 T. oil & the shallot to the same skillet. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 1-2 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring continuously about 1 minute more. Add the chicken broth and scrape up any browned bits from the bottom. Add the sundried tomatoes, bouillon cube, heavy cream, oregano, red pepper flakes and ¼ t. salt. Stir until the bouillon cube is dissolved.

Bring the sauce to a boil, then reduce to a simmer over medium-low heat. Place chicken in the sauce. Cook until the sauce has thickened slightly and the chicken is cooked through (165 degrees), 5-10 minutes. Stir in Parmesan & basil. Divide among 4 plates & serve with spaghetti.

Upcoming BOD Meetings

*Held in the Plantation Room on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. unless otherwise stated.***

February 19, 5 p.m.

March 19, 5 p.m.

April 16, 5 p.m.

May 21, 5 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

FINCOM
Feb. 20, 10 a.m., Cypress Room

Infrastructure
Mar. 4, 10 a.m., Cypress Room

Recreation
Mar. 5, 11 a.m., Cypress Room

ArtSocial
Mar. 5, 1 p.m., Cypress Room

ARC
Mar. 12, 1 p.m., Plantation Room

All owners are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom. Zoom links are located on agendas posted on FrontSteps.

**Special meetings may be called with notification sent via FRONTSTEPS.

Volunteers solicited for sea oat seedlings planting

The Plantation has purchased sea oat seedlings approved in the 2026 budget. These are to be planted at the Plantation-maintained Resort Village Beach. Volunteers are needed to help. Expected arrival date: **March 31-April 1.**

Additional oats are available to owners who want to plant on their properties.
For more info, please text: **Carl Adams** (205) 335-8762 | **Scott Downing** (224) 600-6212 | **Greg Ohl** (734) 834-2184.

It’s not too late, you’re not too old: Cignetti proved it

“(Indiana University Head Coach Curt) Cignetti waited a long time to be a major college head football coach. Maybe you’ve been waiting a long time for your dream to come true. Have you ever wondered why some things have not happened as you hoped? You have done what is right, but there are no results.

Preparation takes time. And success happens when preparation meets opportunity. Cignetti’s background prepared him for this moment. His dad was a college head coach; he worked for other great coaches — including Nick Saban. He came up through the lower divisions and proved his systems and philosophy work. It took him years to become an overnight success.

We are often too hard on ourselves. We think we should be somewhere, reach a certain level, accomplish personal goals. But we aren't there yet. This brings unnecessary pressure, anxiety and self-doubt. Each person’s journey is different.

Ray Kroc, Vera Wang, Colonel Sanders, Martha Stewart all experienced success later in life. President Donald Trump is 79 years old, one of the oldest presidents in American history. You’re not too old. Time has not passed you by. Age is just a number; you determine your destiny.

It’s not too late for you. Sometimes we must wait longer than we want, but it is worth it. Sometimes there is rejection, but it is really redirection.

Maybe there are desires in your heart — hopes that are not being realized. Perhaps you believe that no matter how hard you work, no one seems to notice. Don’t grow tired of doing the right things. There will be a moment when all your hard work will be recognized.

Your time will come.”

- This is an exert from a Fox News article by Pastor Rick McDaniel. Reprinted with permission.

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ST. GEORGE PLANTATION	(850) 927-2312
www.stgeorgeplantation.com	1712 Magnolia Road St. George Island, FL 32328

The Plantation is our Special Place.