

Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet



Ponce Inlet is and will be a residential haven for those persons who value nature, quiet, and privacy.

12th Annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade

The return of the 12th Annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday December 3rd and starts at noon. For more information, see page 25.



Inside this issue



Moment with the Mayor

Mayor Lois Paritsky shares some important information.....Pg 6



Town Manager Farewell

Message from Town Manager Jeaneen WittPg 10



Ponce Inlet Women's Club

Now accepting new members.....Pg 29

The Town of PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

“Joy of the Land and Sea”



Table of Contents

Citizens for Ponce Inlet.....Pg 4	Police Department.....Pg 17
A Moment with the Mayor.....Pg 6	Cultural Services.....Pg 19
Town Manager.....Pg 8	Garden Club.....Pg 26
Planning & Development.....Pg 12	Ponce Church.....Pg 30
Public Works.....Pg 14	Women’s Club.....Pg 31
Fire Department.....Pg 16	





Citizens For PONCE INLET

TOWN OF PONCE INLET

The purpose of the Town's section of this Newsletter is to provide information to its citizens and businesses that concern the workings of the Town government. Articles feature the various departments of the Town and include pertinent information to educate and inform individuals on issues of interest to them.

To avoid the appearance of political favoritism or viewpoints on public issues, the Town cannot accept political or public issue ads or ads from non-profit associations for publication.

CITIZENS FOR PONCE INLET (C4Pi)

The Citizens for Ponce Inlet Newsletter is published quarterly throughout the year to inform the citizens and businesses of Ponce Inlet about matters which may be of interest or have an impact on them. The Newsletter is not a public forum and no editorial articles or letters will be accepted for publication.

For 35 years the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Newsletter has been distributed in paper form. Volunteers on foot and sometimes roller skates faithfully delivered the letter to the households. As the years passed, the publication was mailed directly to all residents and property owners.

In 2020, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet (CFPI) created the website www.C4Pi.org and posted the first digital edition of the CFPI Newsletter with the Winter 2021 issue. The new digital version is emailed to all CFPI Members and to the Town's email list.

If you would like to be placed on the email list please go to www.C4Pi.org and JOIN – it's free -you will automatically be enrolled to receive the Newsletter and important notifications while enjoying other C4PI benefits.

The Citizens for Ponce Inlet is an independent organization and not part of the Town government. Read the Citizens for Ponce Inlet agreement with the Town on our website.

The Town's financial contribution relates solely to the CFPI/C4Pi Newsletter and insures all citizens in Ponce Inlet have access to this information and to the Newsletters provided on the www.C4Pi.org website. The newsletter does not accept paid advertisements and is distributed free of charge. We hope you find this information valuable.

Donations are welcomed and appreciated to help defray the costs of the many activities of Citizens for Ponce Inlet. These include the C4Pi website, www.C4Pi.org, the Annual Town Council Candidates Forum, and the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards events.

Donations may be made directly on the [C4Pi.org website](http://C4Pi.org) or by mailing a check made to:

Citizens for Ponce Inlet, Inc.
4670 S. Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Please visit www.c4pi.org for more information about our Organization.

Volunteers are always needed.

If you can help, please email:

info@c4pi.org or contact C4Pi on the bottom of our Home Page.

Citizens for Ponce Inlet is an all-volunteer Organization.

Board of Directors:

- Don Hampton, President
- Judy DiCarlo, Vice-President
- Sue Fillion, Treasurer
- Kathy Cannon, Secretary
- Lauren Albinson, Newsletter Editor
- Lynn Albinson, IT
- Joe Cannon
- Joe DiCarlo
- Elviria LaBarre
- Ellen Pagliarulo
- Jane White

Newsletter Content and Publication Requirements

The Quarterly CFPI Newsletters are finalized around the end of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for submitting content are as follows:

January 15th **Winter Edition**

April 15th **Spring Edition**

July 15th **Summer Edition**

October 15th **Fall Edition**

Upload your submissions:

<https://www.c4pi.org/newsletter-content-portal/>

This portal is intended to simplify the process of submitting content for the CFPI Newsletter Your content has two elements: text and photos (optional).

For assistance, directions to upload the information can be found on the webpage. Thank you for your continued contributions and support of the CFPI Newsletter.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about an upcoming issue of the newsletter or need assistance in submitting information via the portal.

Please email admin@c4pi.org with your contact information and questions.

A Moment with the Mayor

Hurricane Ian presented Ponce Inlet with a range of formidable challenges that included significant flooding, beach erosion, and damage to homes and buildings. Our highly skilled and dedicated Town Staff rose to the occasion. Several of our staff members left their own storm and flood-damaged homes to report to work in service of our Town and our residents.

In the most recent storm, Hurricane Nicole, the damage statistics and pictures do not reveal the utter devastation that this has had on the lives of our neighbors. Many homeowners point to the difficulty in obtaining an emergency permit from the DEP which is necessary for immediate repairs on coastal properties. Navigating the requirements and regulations of the Florida Department of Protection is complex and time-consuming.

Efforts are being made so that property owners can take action now to protect their properties while long-term repairs are considered.

An Emergency Permitting Open House is scheduled for December 1, 2022, at the Daytona Beach Shores Community Center from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. (Please see flyer on the next page for more detailed information.)

I welcome residents' general questions as well as any concerns specific to flooding and the hurricanes.

Please call: 386-310-4320 or email: lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org



Lois Paritsky

Throughout the holiday season, we are encouraged to reflect on the things for which we are most grateful.

I'd like to wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday spent with family and friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois A. Paritsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.





N E W S F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Nov. 22, 2022

Media contacts:
Kevin Captain, 386-748-3865
Pat Kuehn, 386-748-3989
Clayton Jackson, 386-473-5260
David Hunt, 386-473-4875
Heather Belden, 386-747-6344

Emergency permitting open house set for Dec. 1

Volusia County Government, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and coastal cities have scheduled an extended office hours open house to address emergency permitting for temporary and permanent repairs on coastal structures due to Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. The open house will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Daytona Beach Shores Community Center, 3000 Bellemead Drive.

Representatives will be available to answer questions and assist with state and local emergency permitting, especially concerning seawalls, sand sources and walkover repairs. Residents, consulting engineers and contractors are encouraged to attend so city, county and state employees can guide them through the process.

“Any resident who suffered coastal property damage and has questions about the permitting process is strongly encouraged to attend,” said Volusia County Growth and Resource Management Director Clay Ervin. “Staff representing multiple levels of government will be in the same room at the same time to speak individually to our impacted residents.”

Residents are also advised to contact city staff for permitting requirements within Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, New Smyrna Beach, Ormond Beach and Ponce Inlet. Those who live in unincorporated areas should contact the county.

For information on additional coastal questions, contact the following:

- Volusia County permit for vehicle access for closed beach driving areas: 386-238-4668 or 386-257-6000, ext. 21319
- Volusia County temporary permit: Jennifer Winters or Ryan Chabot, 386-238-4668
- FDEP field permit: Trey Hatch, 904-832-6757
- FDEP Coastal Construction Control Line permit: Doug Aarons, 850-245-7672

Two or more Volusia County Council members are expected to attend.

www.volusia.org

VOLUSIA COUNTY COUNCIL

JEFF BROWER
COUNTY CHAIR

BEN JOHNSON
AT-LARGE

BILLIE WHEELER
VICE CHAIR, DISTRICT 2

BARB GIRTMAN
DISTRICT 1

DANNY ROBINS
DISTRICT 3

HEATHER POST
DISTRICT 4

VACANT
DISTRICT 5

From the Town Manager, Jeaneen Witt...

Hurricane Recovery

Hurricane Ian will long be remembered throughout Florida. Ponce Inlet had perhaps its worst flooding experience in history. In the days leading up to this storm, we made sandbags available for 8 days to help you protect your properties and over 40 cubic yards was utilized, we staffed-up during the storm so that we could respond to your emergency needs and so that we were here to get out as soon as the wind speeds died down and we performed a town wide hazard assessment and cleared our roads as quickly as possible. Town emergency personnel performed one water rescue during the event, pulling a couple and their two dogs from their home. For the two days after the storm (Friday and Saturday), Town Hall re-opened to assist with your needs and the building department completed a town wide damage assessment. Approximately 200 homes in Ponce Inlet experienced flood damage in excess of 3 inches. The Town then activated the appropriate contracts for debris removal and the required monitoring of this removal for FEMA reimbursement. Before, during, and after the storm, we pushed out information on the Town's Facebook Page and on our website and via emails to those who signed up to receive them. There were some streets in Ponce Inlet that took almost a week to move the water out. While Ponce Inlet's stormwater system, built in 2005, created enormous drainage improvements through-out the community, this system was not designed to accept the nearly 21 inches of rainfall that we faced in this storm because under any engineering



design criteria, this type of rainfall event is just not supposed to happen. What we do anticipate happening though, are impacts from sea level rise and in recent years, the Town Council and staff undertook steps in conjunction with the American Flood Coalition and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council to adapt our planning model in understanding of this future occurrence; our experience with this storm provides even more information for the next stage of infrastructure planning whether the water comes from sea level rise or a rainfall event, to ensure Ponce Inlet's long-term resilience.

Congratulations go to Councilmember-Elect Joe Villanella and Current-Councilmember Bill Milano for the Election in August!

Please join us as at the inauguration ceremony on Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. Cake and refreshments will be served during a short break to follow.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

The final budget for the town for fiscal year 22/23 was approved by the Town Council on

September 26th with a millage rate of 5.3 mills. This millage rate is 0.6 mills below the prior year rate and considered a tax decrease of 0.44% below the rolled back rate. The Town Council made the decision to prudently use of some of the Town’s healthy reserve fund to provide property owners with a tax break during this time of rising costs for everything else. The town’s stabilization reserve and other unassigned fund balance has reached \$4,214,373, which equates to a 67% reserve / 8+ months. It is the highest reserve in terms of dollars in the town’s history; and is percentage wise less than one month below the reserve policy maximum.

The town’s budget has been created to meet or exceed our current level of service, even with the rising costs of many things for which we need to operate. Some highlights of this budget are: enables us to stay on-track in our multi-phase process for full implementation of the \$15/hour minimum wage law while addressing compression issues; continue our work in the three-year fire service accreditation process; to replace 2 failing retaining walls at Tina Marie Drive; to purchase additional public safety equipment; to provide park improvements at most of the town’s parks, including replacement of failing rip rap revetment at Elber’s Sunset Park and shade structures at the pickleball courts; and to complete a watershed master plan for increased ISO rating and subsequent town wide flood insurance rate reductions.

The town has three outstanding loans which were taken out for projects which provide long- term benefits for the entire town; most of these have the benefit of very low interest loans, due to the project serving an important public purpose. The town is mindful of its debt service and the remaining terms of each: 1) town hall & police department facility loan with 3 yrs. remaining, 2) stormwater improvements loan with 4 yrs. remaining, and 3) water system improvements loan with 14 yrs. remaining.

While the town continues to provide premium service to our residents and maintain a prudent reserve, you can see from the table below that Ponce Inlet’s tax rate continues to enable us to fall within the lower half of those rates paid by property owners throughout Volusia County:

<u>Taxing Authority</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>Composite</u>
County - Wilbur by the Sea (Unincorporated Northeast)	4.84	18.2602
Daytona Beach	5.53	18.2733
Daytona Beach Shores	4.64	17.1784
Debary	2.92	15.6115
DeLand	6.68	19.3709
Deltona	7.65	20.3368
Edgewater	6.70	19.4736
Holly Hill	6.25	18.7895
Lake Helen	6.85	19.5368
New Smyrna Beach	3.96	16.8753
Oak Hill	5.68	22.1038
Orange City	8.00	20.6868
Ormond Beach	3.76	16.3855
Pierson	6.10	22.6280
Ponce Inlet	5.30	17.8395
Port Orange	4.86	17.6105
South Daytona	7.75	20.2895

Farewell Message from Town Manager

In June of this year, I provided the Town Council with my resignation, and four-months' notice before my actual departure date. Four months seemed like a lot of time but has certainly gone by very quickly. I've had the privilege of working for Ponce Inlet a total of 23 years, starting as a police dispatcher while attending college on my Air Force GI bill, and then later in my career coming back as the assistant town manager, which led to the town manager position I have held for the past 13 years. We have done so very many things together over these years but I especially enjoyed our quality-of-life work: initiating the building / rebuilding all town parks and the historical museum, enhancing all of our children's holiday events; and implementing some beautification improvements throughout the town, like replacing our old billboard directional signs with the island-themed directional signs you now see and choosing a theme of brick red concrete benches as an attractive seating opportunity around town, refusing advertising bench programs which could detract from the desired look in our community. The town is also readily positioned for a new sidewalk on Peninsula Drive, with the matching grant funds now set-aside. Improved infrastructure has been another area of focus and we completed a \$1.5 million dollar water system improvement project for the town and then took the lead for the installation of 2 gravity sewer projects, which was a first for Ponce Inlet, completing the installation of gravity sewer on Inlet Harbor(west) and Ponce deLeon Circle at little to no cost to the town; the design for the remaining sewer projects is almost complete, so the town may continue to apply for grants for these as shovel-ready projects.

Over the years, we have sought to keep up with the needs of the community by remodeling our organizational layout, more than once, and we revamped our town boards to better engage residents in the meaningful work of our local government. We have never sat still, but we have had detours along our way which postponed our progress, including three hurricanes and a national pandemic. Ponce Inlet has some truly excellent staff members at all levels within the organization and I could not have asked for a more robust team of individuals to work with.

It has been my pleasure to watch some of these fine individuals grow in their roles, or into new roles or expand their responsibilities beyond that which they were hired to better tap into their competencies. The town is also very fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers serving on our town boards or other capacities and an experienced and knowledgeable Town Council, made up of professionals in a variety of areas of expertise. I have respected Ponce Inlet's beauty for most of my life as a native "Daytonian", and my husband and I look forward to relaxing into the full resident experience now. I trust that Ponce Inlet's next town manager will serve us all very well.

Town Holiday Closings

Town offices will be closed Friday, November 11th – Veterans Day; Thursday & Friday, November 24th & 25th - Thanksgiving holiday; Friday & Monday, December 23rd & 26th - Christmas holiday; Monday, January 2nd - New Year's holiday; and Monday, January 16th - Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season.

Town Businesses on Website

Please check out our webpage for a directory of Ponce Inlet businesses. You'll be surprised by the variety of services so close at hand. This is a compilation of those within the Town limits who have obtained the required business tax receipt (formerly known as occupational license). This business directory can be found as a link to the Town's home page:

www.ponce-inlet.org

Town Council & Board Meetings

The Town Council meets the third Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 4300 S. Atlantic Avenue. Special meetings are scheduled and noticed as needed. The agendas for all Town Council and Town Boards are posted at Town Hall, on the Town's Facebook page and on the Town's website.

Keep up with what's happening in your Town

Please visit our website:

www.ponce-inlet.org for all public meeting notices and minutes, general information, and status of current or upcoming projects. Further, be sure to read the back of your utility bills for special announcements and important information. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our e-mail list through the website. If you have a Facebook account, please be sure to "like" us so you'll receive information regularly from our Facebook newsfeed.



From Planning and Development Director, Mike Disher...



Building and Permitting

Permits

As we consider repairing our homes and property after the hurricane, please remember that Building Permits are required for most kinds of work. **Permits are for your protection.** Getting a permit for the work ensures that it will be done per code; that the contractor has the right qualifications and insurance; and that the work will be inspected by the Town. If a handyman or contractor asks YOU to apply for the permit instead or tells you a permit is not needed, it likely means that person is not qualified to do the work and does not have insurance! Please contact the Building Division with any questions at 386-236-2182.

Emergency Permits

The Town allows work to begin without a permit in emergency situations only, under certain conditions. Even in emergencies, a permit is **STILL** required. The emergency does not relieve the contractor of the responsibility to obtain a permit and to

request inspections as required by the FL Building Code.

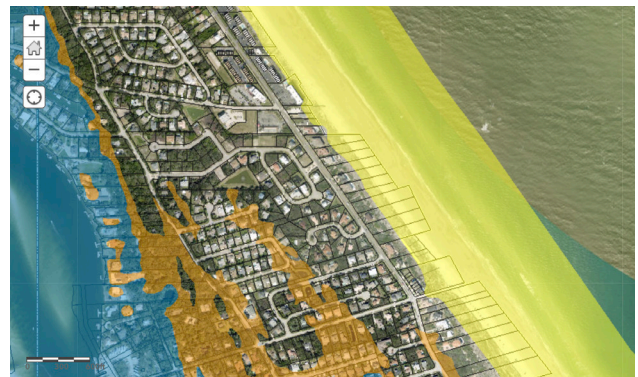
1. If the emergency occurs during the work week, the contractor must contact the Building Official to request permission for an early start **BEFORE** any work begins. Staff will then inform Code Enforcement so that everyone is on the same page.
2. If emergency work is needed over the weekend or holiday and Town offices are closed, the contractor must apply for the permit within **1 business day**, as required by the FL Building Administrative Code.

Over-the-Counter Permits (OTC)

The Building Division can issue certain types of permits Over-the-Counter at the Planning & Development Department while you wait. This includes work such as A/C change-outs, water heaters, and other simple plumbing replaced in the **SAME** exact location.

However, properties located in a special flood hazard area, based on FIRM flood zone maps, are **NOT** eligible for OTC permits. That excludes most properties located west of S. Peninsula Drive. Such properties are subject to stricter regulations to comply with federal flood- protection standards.

Staff will verify this for you at permit check-in or ahead of time upon request. You can also verify this yourself by entering the property address at Volusia County's online [Flood Risk Maps](#)



Code Enforcement

Solicitors

In the aftermath of the storm, you are likely to be approached by people wanting to trim your trees, repair your roof, and other types of work. Please know that ALL door-to-door solicitors operating in the Town are required to have a solicitation permit and undergo a background check before they can make unannounced house calls. Solicitors are required to carry the original permit on their person at all times while soliciting. If you have any concerns about solicitors in your neighborhood, please contact the Police Department's non-emergency line at (386) 236-2160.

Planning and Zoning

Tree Trimming and Removal

As we clean up from the storm, please remember:

- Removing a tree entirely requires a permit from the Town. No permit fee is charged if the trees are already dead or if they have cause damage or are likely to cause damage to existing buildings and structures.
- Trimming tree branches does not require a permit, as long as the trimming is not excessive to the point that it causes the tree to die.
- If done by a contractor, the contractor must remove the limbs from the property.
- If placed by the roadside for pickup, the trimmings cannot be greater than three feet in length and weigh no more than 40 pounds. Trimmings and debris piles cannot block the sidewalk or street.

Update on Mobile Food Vendors (Food Trucks)

Since 2020, the State of Florida has required local jurisdictions to allow food trucks in their community. Even though cities cannot prohibit food trucks entirely, they can create their own zoning regulations governing the appropriate location and operation. This work began in earnest in May 2022, when Planning Staff presented a first draft of the proposed regulations to the Planning Board. The Board reviewed subsequent drafts at its July and August meetings, incorporating input from the Board and public at each meeting. As part of the ordinance development process, Staff reached out to affected stakeholders that might want to allow food truck vendors on their properties, including the Ponce Inlet Business Association (PIBA) and managing operators of the Ponce Inlet Community Center, the Lighthouse, and Marine Science Center. Based on this input, the proposed ordinance would allow food trucks as a temporary permitted use in commercial zoning districts only.

At the August Planning Board meeting and September Town Council meeting, Volusia County Coastal Division and Legal Staff requested an exemption to the proposed ordinance to allow mobile food and equipment vendors within Lighthouse Point Park. After extensive public input, the Town Council voted to NOT grant the exemption for Lighthouse Point Park.

It should be noted, however, that as of now the County still intends to allow a vendor to operate in Winterhaven Park, pursuant to its beach concession contract. This vendor would be limited to the area of the park between the beach and the parking lot, where the restroom building and picnic tables are located. This part of the park is under the same County jurisdiction as the beach itself, over which the Town has no zoning authority. The County did not

request an exemption for Winterhaven Park because of this authority, as established in the County Charter.

At a special meeting on October 6, 2022, the Planning Board reviewed and recommended approval of the draft ordinance, incorporating the Town Council's direction. The Town Council will now vote on the ordinance at its October 20th and November 17th meetings. For more information, please contact the Town's Planning and Zoning staff.

Public Works Department

How to Reach Us:

In Person: 4875 S. Peninsula Drive

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm

By Phone: 386-322-6729

After-Hours Emergency: 386-547-1954

By Email:

Fred Griffith, General Manager:

fgriffith@ponce-inlet.org

Amber Spears, Office Manager:

aspears@ponce-inlet.org

Welcoming Fred Griffith General Manager of Public Works



The Town is pleased to introduce our new General Manager of Public Works, Fred Griffith. Fred comes to us with almost 40 years of technical engineering experience and specific knowledge of the wastewater system in Ponce Inlet from his thirty years with the City of Port Orange. Fred earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Toledo and his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida. We are very fortunate to have someone of Fred's expertise and he could not have come to us at a better time, as we examine our current infrastructure and plan our next steps regarding infrastructure improvements. Fred also has a history of volunteer commitments to the greater community as well, serving the Boy Scouts of America (1965-present), Volusia County Schools Science & History Fair Judge & Career Day Speaker (2000-present), the Girl Scouts Citrus Council (1996- 2009), Port Orange Jaycees (1984-2009), Math Counts (2000-2015), and City of Port Orange Youth Coach (1998-2004). When you see Fred out and about in Ponce Inlet, we hope you will extend to him a hearty welcome!

Storm Water Quick Facts

Did You Know That...

- At least 50% of the water quality problems in the U.S. result from NPS pollution (EPA).
- Five quarts of used motor oil can create an oil slick two football fields in size.
- Yard fertilizer runoff from residential areas is estimated to be responsible for one third of the excess nitrogen polluting our waterways.
- The first inch of runoff generally carries 90% of the pollution from a storm (FDEP).
- Storm drains do not go to sewage treatment plants, they lead directly to bodies of water.

Please assist us in being good stewards of the environment by keeping our stormwater

systems and, subsequently, our waterways clean.

Ponce De Leon Sewer Project

The septic to sewer project on Ponce De Leon Circle is currently at approximately 95% completion. The contractor is awaiting the arrival of the control panel responsible for operating the newly installed lift station, which is expected to be in mid-October. The completion of this project is currently anticipated to November 2022.

Town Wide Septic to Sewer Project

You may have noticed surveyors working and marking sites throughout the south end of town. These surveyors have been hired by the town's engineering firm to gather data for future sewer projects. These projects are currently in the design stage and approximately 9 months away from completion. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these projects, Fred W. Griffith, General Manager of Public Works, can be reached at the email above or via phone at 386-566- 2702.

Tina Maria Retaining Wall Replacement

Saboungi Construction has been contracted to perform the retaining wall replacements located at Tina Maria Circle and South Peninsula Drive. This project is expected to take about 3 months to complete. Please exercise due caution in this area as workers will be active and may implement traffic control measures to ensure the safety of the job site.

Water Meters

Please take care to ensure your water meter box is unobstructed by overgrowth of surrounding vegetation. Please do not place plants, décor, or landscaping products over these boxes, as it makes them inaccessible

for our technicians who read the meters. When meter boxes are obstructed, we leave a door hanger letting you know that action is needed. If you need help locating your water meter box, contact the Public Works Department and set an appointment for a technician to meet with you to assist.

If you are planning to leave town for an extended amount of time, consider turning off the water supply to the property. An unnoticed leak can lead to high water bills and costly repairs. Public Works staff can assist you by turning water off at the meter and locking the meter if requested, to prevent tampering and un-permitted use. Call 386-322-6729 for more information.

Water Quality

Over the past few months, Public Works has worked to flush drinking water lines by opening fire hydrants town wide as part of an intensive water flushing program in conjunction with the City of Port Orange. Most recently, crews installed automatic flushers on 2 fire hydrants. These flushers are set on timers and monitored by our technicians that are Water Distribution Operators to ensure proper use and operation.



From Fire Chief Dan Scales...



The Ponce Inlet Fire Department operates with a Deputy Chief, 12 full time firefighters and one Office Manager. Fire Suppression, Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are delivered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 9 of our crew are paramedic certified and 3 are Emergency Medical Technicians. This always ensures a paramedic on duty for our residents.

Call Information

January 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Fire – 6

Hazardous Conditions – 11

EMS – 573

Service Calls – 71

Fire Alarms – 60

Good Intent – 197

Transports (included in EMS totals) – 458

Total Fire Department Incidents - 918

Fire Station Tours & Birthday Parties

The Ponce Inlet Fire Department welcomes guests into our fire stations. Fire station tours are conducted for families, church groups, schools, social clubs, mom's groups and other organizations. All tours are personalized.

Our firefighters would also be happy to stop by your Ponce Inlet home during a birthday party.

If you are interested in having a fire station tour or having the crew stop by your party, please call 386-322-6720 during business hours Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.



Used Sharps Drop-Off Site

The Ponce Inlet Fire Department, located at 4680 S. Peninsula Drive is a used sharps drop-off site. Please be sure to properly package your sharps in a sharps safe recyclable container. Containers are available at the fire station if needed. We have the right to refuse any sharps that are not safely contained. Absolutely no containers are to be left in a fire station without the knowledge of personnel on duty. Sharps in a safe recyclable container will be accepted Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm. If you have any questions, please call 386-322-6720.

Santa Run

During the holiday season, the Ponce Inlet Fire Department drives Santa on his sleigh to spread cheer throughout every street

in town. Santa is escorted by firefighters, police officers and staff members. Residents are encouraged to wave Santa down for a photo! This event is for two nights, usually early in December. The first night is the north side of town including Calumet Avenue and the second night Santa drives through the south end of town. Please visit our website calendar to see scheduled dates for this event for this year.



Our fire department webpage also has links to various maps that represent concentration of fire and EMS responses.

www.ponce-inlet.org

Address:

4680 S Peninsula Drive

Ponce Inlet, FL

For emergencies, call 911

Non-Emergency: 386-248-1777 (Volusia County Dispatch)

Lobby Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm

Office Phone: (386)-322-6720



From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



The Ponce Inlet Police Department operates 24/7 with 13 full-time sworn officers, 3 part-time sworn officers, and 2 civilian administrative staff. It is fully accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. Each patrolman is assigned a patrol car and works a 12-hour shift. Our one investigator follows up on all reported crimes, handles property and evidence collection, audits training records, and functions as the liaison between the State Attorneys Office and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

Our Town continues to enjoy very low crime numbers. The Ponce Inlet Police Department does continue to investigate a greater number of fraud cases each year. Residents are cautioned against giving out any sensitive personal information over the phone or in an email. Scammers prey on older adults and use false promises to take their money. Remember...if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

Metrics through June 30, 2022

Emergency Calls 1
Priority 1 Calls 65
Priority 2 Calls 134
Priority 3 Calls 70
Priority 4 Calls 7
Traffic Citations/Warnings 789
Well-being checks 21
Animal calls 40
Arrests/Criminal Citations 61
Avg. Response Time 4:39

Street Legal Golf Carts

The Ponce Inlet Police Department receives a lot of questions concerning the use of golf carts on our town roads. Only golf carts that have been converted to street legal golf carts are allowed on town roads. Street legal golf carts have a maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. They must have a windshield, Seat belts, taillights, brake lights, mirrors, and turn signals. They must also be titled, registered with a license plate, and carry insurance. These low-speed vehicles are allowed on any road with a speed limit of 35 m.p.h. or less. Street Legal golf cart drivers must follow all traffic laws.

The Ponce Partners Program

Designed to be a safety net for those who have health problems, are elderly, or live alone. Any resident can become a member by completing a short request form. When you become a Ponce Partner you simply agree to contact the Police Department by phone each day before noon. If we do not hear from you, we call to see if you are ok. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we send an Officer out to check on your well-being. This program is set up to ensure some form of communication each day. We have a great relationship with all our

Ponce Partners and look forward to their morning calls. If you or anyone you know are interested all you need to do is contact the Police Department at 386-236-2160 or download the online application (PDF) from our website.

Citizen's Watch

The Ponce Inlet Citizens Watch Program is an important and valuable asset to the Ponce Inlet Police Department. The volunteer members are dedicated citizens who generously donate their time to assist the Police Department as extra sets of "eyes and ears" for the Town of Ponce Inlet.

Member's duties include residential security checks, miscellaneous pick-up and delivery services for the police department, and regular patrols throughout the town. Our members are provided with a vehicle consisting of amber warning lights, police radios, flashlights, traffic vest, raincoats, first aid kits and fire extinguishers. Our members currently patrol for 1-2 hours at a time. We also use members for some of the special events we have throughout the year. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested, please contact the Ponce Inlet Police Department at 386-236-2160. An application and background check must be completed before you begin.

Address:

4301 S Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Emergency Number: 911

Non-Emergency: 386-248-1777 (Volusia County Dispatch)

Lobby Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4:30 pm

Office Phone: (386)-236-2160

From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie French...



Events and Programs:

School's out for the summer, and although 5 of our summer programs were youth-focused, the 11 total programs between June-September still attracted many looking for fun despite the heat! The Cultural Services Department explored the world of sharks and watermelons, painted a flamingo floatie and dolphins riding the waves. And through crafts, we helped build connections with grandparents to their grandkids, locals with the importance of shells, and the many benefits of native plants!

Hurricane Ian came and left a mess, leaving us to cancel a few returned favorite programs, such as our night sky tour and "what's the buzz". We also have had to delay our Kathy Griscom Park Dedication Ceremony due to the lingering effects of the storm. All of these are planned to reschedule, so be sure to keep an eye out for those new dates.

The Department is gearing up for spooky and nostalgic events, ranging from our annual returns of Ghosts of Ponce Past, Children's Halloween Party, Town Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa, and assisting

with the Christmas Parade.

The Town of Ponce Inlet has numerous special events throughout the year. To determine if your event requires a Special Event permit, please review the Special Event regulations in the Town's Code of Ordinances. All questions can be directed to Jackie French, jfrench@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703

Upcoming Events:

October:

Ghosts of Ponce Past

Come hear spooky tales about Ponce Inlet and take a walking ghost tour of the Pacetti Cemetery. Saturday, October 22, 2022 @ 6:00pm-7:30pm

Jennifer; jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or (386)761-2408

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum: 143 Beach Street, meet outside on the lawn.

Children's Halloween Party

Come in costume and have spooktacular fun with children's games, haunted hay rides and more! Saturday, October 29, 2022 @ 5:30pm-7:00pm Davies Lighthouse Park, 4933 S. Peninsula Drive

Free; Jackie; jfrench@ponce-inlet.org or (386)322-6703

November:

Plant Walk

Join Sande Habali and members from the Florida Native Plant Society, PAWPAW Chapter who will lead a plant walk through the park.

Thursday, November 10, 2022 @ 9:00 AM

Free; RSVP by 11/03 required:

Jennifer; jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or (386)761-2408 Timucuan Oaks, 4550 S. Peninsula Drive.

Veterans Day Ceremony in Ponce Inlet

Friday, November 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Free; Jackie: Jfrench@ponce-inlet.org
(386) 322-6703 Davies Lighthouse Park;
4931 S. Peninsula Dr.

Lecture Series-NSBMH

Join New Smyrna Beach Museum of History's Greg Holbrook, Executive Director, who will share the historic mystery behind the Sheldon Family. Who were they and why were they so important to the area?

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

Free; RSVP by 11/8/22 required:

Jennifer; Jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or
(386)761-2408 Town Hall- Council Chambers;
4300 S. Atlantic Ave.

Lecture Series-Turtles

Join Marine Science Center's Allie Bernstein, Manager of Turtle Rehab, who will share a sneak peak of behind-the-scenes action. What happens from the time a turtle enters rehab until it's release date? Talk trends, species identification and what you can do to help!

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

Free; RSVP by 11/22/22 required:

Jennifer; Jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or
(386)761-2408 Town Hall- Council Chambers;
4300 S. Atlantic Ave.



December:

Town Tree Lighting and Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 2, 2022 @ 6:00pm

Free; Jackie; Jfrench@ponce-inlet.org
or (386)322-6703 Pollard Park;
4680 S. Peninsula Dr.

Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 3, 2022 @ Noon

The Parade will proceed along South Peninsula from Harbour Village to Davies Lighthouse Park.

Free; Jackie; Jfrench@ponce-inlet.org or
(386)322-6703



Merry Old-Fashioned Christmas Centennial Celebration!

Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Dream about the Future! Join us for our 100-year Meyer-Davis house celebration. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 10:30am with those detrimental to its protection, and throughout the day, good food, fun games and memorable crafts will abound!

Saturday, December 10, 2022 @ 10:30 AM-1:30PM

Free; RSVP by 12/03/22 required:

Jennifer; Jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or
(386)761-2408 Ponce Inlet Historical Museum 143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

Painting at the Museum- Christmas Poinsettia

Acrylic Canvas Painting Class for ages 7 and up. No experience necessary, instructor will guide you step by step. Wednesday, December 14, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

\$10. per person, all supplies included.

Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment required at Town Hall by 12/07. 386-236-2150

Jennifer; Jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or (386)761-2408 Ponce Inlet Historical Museum 143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.



Painting at the Museum- Winter Yeti

Acrylic Canvas Painting Class for ages 7 and up. No experience necessary, instructor will guide you step by step. Saturday, December 17, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

\$10. per person, all supplies included.

Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment required at Town Hall by 12/10. 386-236-2150

Jennifer; Jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org or (386)761-2408 Ponce Inlet Historical Museum 143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

Merry Old-Fashioned Christmas Centennial Celebration:

If you would, I would like to take you back in time, the year is 1922, a young man named Redwood Wharton, a local fisherman, decides he wants to purchase some land from the Hasty family who owned the land that the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum now stands on. He builds a small duplex cracker style cottage intended for use as a fishing rental. He uses reclaimed wood and works tirelessly as sweat pours from his brow in the hot Florida sun. Years go by and in 1941 the Meyer family purchases the home from Redwood Wharton. Mr. Edward Meyer is the last Civilian Lighthouse Keeper for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, and it becomes his family's permanent residence for many years, 63 in total. Imagine what went on in that tiny home all those years, children playing, families gathering, cooking, eating, hugs, parties, laughter, tears, visits from friends, neighbors, and the mailman. These memories of lives that today, even if we don't have a personal connection, we can imagine their accomplishments, commitment, and the joy they shared together. We celebrate this structure, this home and all the lives who passed through it, as it reaches its centennial celebration! We hope you will join us in celebration at the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum on December 10th beginning at 10:30am.

-Jennifer LaGreca



Ponce Inlet Historical Museum Centennial Celebration Art Contest Submission: Preserving Ponce History Youth Art Contest!

This year, we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Meyer-Davis House at the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum! One aspect of this celebration is the “Preserving Ponce History Youth Art Contest”, which is open to any Ponce Inlet school-aged resident (K-12th grade). The Town of Ponce Inlet is looking for students’ art that highlights the following prompt:

What would life be like as a kid, having fun and living in the Meyer-Davis House, in 1922?

This image of the Meyer- Davis House is from 1941. →



The Meyer- Davis House was built in 1922 by famous Charter Captain Redwood Wharton. Living in the 1920’s was very different than how we live today. Some say it was a simpler way of life and others, a harder way of life. No matter what the opinion was, kids always had something fun to do. They spent a lot of time outdoors in nature, sometimes enjoying fishing or swimming. Indoor activities may have been limited to the daytime as only half of all homes in 1925 had electric lights. Technology, like smartphones, computers, video games and even TV’s were not available in the 20’s. TV’s were first successfully demonstrated in the 1939 World’s Fair.

The Historic Museum at 143 Beach Street highlights some of the things kids did around the 1920’s. Come take a tour at the free Museum, Tuesday through Saturday 10am-2pm and get inspired to create your art for the contest that represents your view of life in the 1920’s!

Parents/ guardians, your students’ submissions must be received by Town staff no later than Friday, November 18

- Limit one (1) Entry per eligible student (K-12th grade). Student must be a Ponce Inlet resident.
- No larger than 18” x 24”
- Must be 2D
- Must be your own work/no copyrighted material
- No threatening, offensive or abusive material
- Original artwork/no reproductions or digital copies
- Include the following on the back of your submission:
 - Title
 - Medium
 - Name
 - Age & Grade
 - School
 - Address
 - Description (up to 3 lines)

One winner will be selected from each level: Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12) and will receive a certificate presented by Ponce Inlet Town Council; their art will be on display at the Historical Museum on the anniversary celebration and will be posted to the Town’s social media.

Mail or drop off submissions to Ponce Inlet Town Hall.

Attn: Jennifer LaGreca, Historic Museum Art Contest. 4300 South Atlantic Avenue Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: Jennifer LaGreca jlagreca@ponce-inlet.org 386.761.2408

ART CONTEST

Centennial Celebration



**Preserving Ponce History
Youth Art Contest**

What would life be like as a kid, having
fun and living in the Meyer-Davis House,
in 1922?

100 YEARS

PONCE INLET HISTORIC MUSEUM

Meyer-Davis House

CONTACT: JENNIFER LAGRECA 386.761.2408 JLAGRECA@PONCE-INLET.ORG



TOWN OF PONCE INLET'S

Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

Friday, December 2nd at 6:00 P.M.

Timothy Pollard Memorial Park-
4680 S. Peninsula

**Join us as we welcome the holiday season by
lighting the Town tree and a visit from Santa.**

**There will also be
musical entertainment & crafts.**

***All festivities will occur within the park**

For more information, call Jackie 386-322-6703

12th Annual



Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade

**PRESENTED BY
THE TOWN OF PONCE INLET
FEATURING THE ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND**

SATURDAY, 12/3

PARADE STARTS @ NOON

**PARADE ROUTE: S. PENINSULA
FROM HARBOR VILLAGE BLVD TO LIGHTHOUSE**

VIEW AREA: ANYWHERE ALONG PARADE ROUTE

**AWARDS ANNOUNCED & CONCERT
DAVIES PARK**

Awards announced immediately following the parade
awards presented at December Council Meeting.
Lions Club will sell food in the park.

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet



Club Flower: Gaillardia

Happy Fall!

First, the members of the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet send their thoughts and prayers to all of those in our town, the county and state who were adversely affected by Hurricane Ian and Nicole.

Unfortunately, because of the hurricane Ian, we could not have our September meeting, so it excited us when we held our 1st Membership meeting on October 26, welcoming back both our current and prospective members. Our guest speaker was Mr. Randy Clark. Randy, a local Ponce Inlet resident, shared his beautiful photos of our very special town. If you have not seen his photos that he posts on Facebook, I encourage you to do so. We enjoyed the opportunity to hear Randy share with us how he captures the essence of our Town in his photos.

Just to give you a snapshot of our year, we will also be hosting speakers at our November 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 meetings. In November we will have another Ponce Inlet resident, Ms. Arlene Wiershem, joining us. Arlene is a Master Gardener who will be speaking to us about beachside vegetable gardens. In January, Ms. Jenna Workman, of Fairy Tale

Gardens, will be visiting our club to speak about Succulents and in February will have a representative from Lindley's Garden speaking about Live Oaks.

In December we hold our Annual Holiday Luncheon. In March, we have our 'Looking to the New Year' and organizational meeting. April is always a special meeting for us since we hold our Annual Arbor Day Celebration.

At this meeting we will be celebrating the 29th Anniversary of Ponce Inlet being declared a Tree City. And finally, in May we have our installation of New Officers and say Good-Bye for the Season to our members. As a club we are also planning to participate in the town's Christmas Parade and the Marine Science Center's Christmas Tree Festival. As you can see, we have a lot going on this year.

In the meantime, our Club was very excited to be able to hold its Annual Arts, Crafts and Plant Show on October 14th and 15th. This is an annual event that our Club has been hosting for over 30 years. Highlights of our event included both indoor and outdoor vendors displaying and selling their often unique and varied handmade arts and crafts. Our Garden Club Crafters and JJ's Jewelry also joined in the fun displaying and selling some of their lovely crafts and handmade jewelry. And of course, we had our Annual Garden Club Plant sale showcasing some popular and unique plants rooted and planted from cuttings donated by our members.

Not to be undone we also featured our Annual Bake Sale and Potter's Café. All of our items for the Bake Sale are made and

donated by our members and if you did not get a chance to partake trust me, they were all delicious. Our Potter's Café offered our popular Walking Tacos and Hot Dogs. All food was cooked and prepared by our members and from all accounts everyone enjoyed our food offerings. Finally, our raffle items were a huge hit this year. We had 7 beautiful baskets which included our popular Lottery Wheel, Bedding Ensemble Basket, Wine Basket, Local Restaurants Gift Basket, and baskets donated by the Ponce Inlet Community Center and Marine Science Center.

As the saying goes a picture is worth a thousand words so I hope you enjoy these photos of our vendors and Garden Club Members.

Our Ponce Primers have already been at work beautifying the area around Town Hall and will continue their efforts throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to the effects of the Hurricane Ian around our town, we have

made the decision to postpone our Monthly Beautification Award to residents of Ponce Inlet. We will resume this special recognition starting in November.

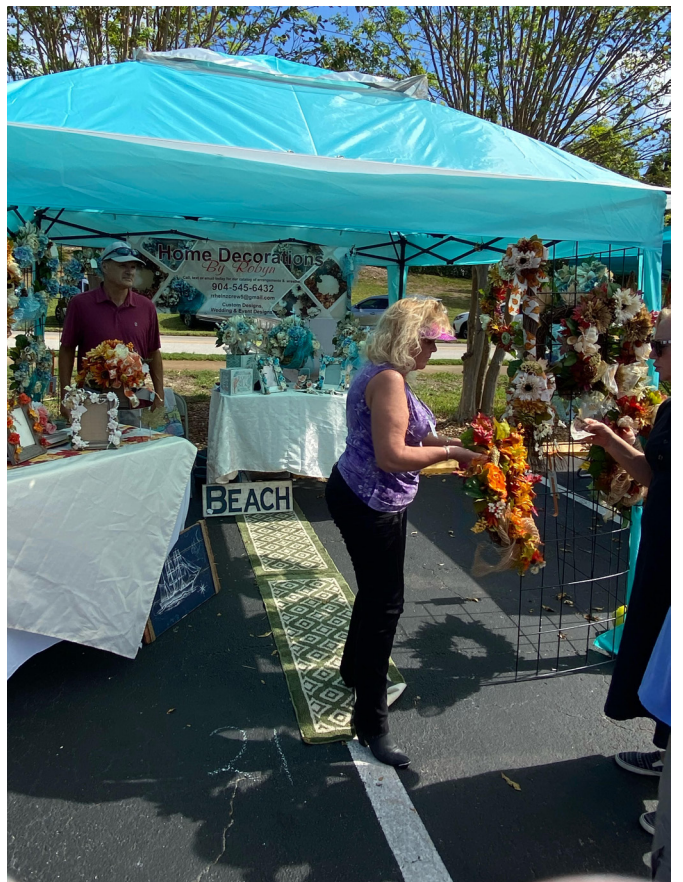
Our Garden Club works hard all year long to give back to our community and with the support of all of our members we can continue to do so.

As always, we thank all of our members for their ongoing support and contributions to our club.

Anyone interested in joining our Club or seeing what we are all about are welcome to join us as our guest at one of our Membership meetings, which are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month starting at 10:30AM at the Ponce Inlet Community Center.







Ponce Church

by Pastor Nina Tidwell



Ponce Church meets Sundays at 10:00am at the PI Community Center, 4670 S. Peninsula Drive, next to the fire station. Everyone is welcome at Ponce Church.

Established in 2003

Twenty years ago, the Lord led our family to the beautiful town of Ponce Inlet. One day, while Pastor Rick was walking on the beach, the Lord spoke to him and said, “There is no church in this town. I want you to start one.” In January of 2003, the Tidwell Family launched the First Church in the History of Ponce Inlet. Ponce Church is a Christian, non-denominational church that is active in obeying the words of Jesus by caring for the orphans and widows, giving food to the hungry, water for the thirsty, clothing, healing the sick, visiting those in prison, and providing shelter for the homeless, as Jesus said, “... If you’ve done it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me.” Matthew 25:31-46.

At Ponce Church, we teach the importance of obeying the words of Jesus through loving our neighbor. John 15.

Visit PonceChurch.com for more info., including Tabitha’s Housing for Adult Homeless Women. Thank you.

Legacy Housing for Age-Out Foster Youth

At Legacy House, we prevent youth homelessness and trafficking by providing safe housing for girls aging out of the foster care system. The Legacy Housing Project provides a safe support system which allows our youth to graduate high school, enroll in a local college, and obtain employment.

Legacy Housing Ranch

The Legacy Housing Project is also working to provide housing for boys aging out of the foster care system. To learn more, and how you can help, visit LegacyHousingProject.org. Thank you.

Join us at Ponce Church on Sundays at 10am, 4670 S. Peninsula in Ponce Inlet, 386-308-1533. Thank you.



LEGACY
H O U S I N G

Ponce Inlet Women's Club

Greetings All, my name is Cindy Pinion and I am President of the Ponce Inlet Women's Club. I am so excited to be a part of this new chapter of our organization. Like most clubs and non-profits, we have had our share of hardships because of the challenges of Covid. However, we want to come back strong and be an integral part of rebuilding our social gatherings and community engagement projects back into our fold.

I want to extend a personal invitation to each of you to join us each month on the second Wednesday at the Ponce Inlet Community Center for our monthly meetings.

For all up-to-date information, please join our Facebook page "[Ponce Inlet Women's Club](#)", or you may email us at: PIWC32127@gmail.com



Ponce Inlet Women's Club

Public group · 63 members

Join group





"Our Mission is to Educate and Preserve"

The Citizens For Ponce Inlet Website compiles and organizes all of the relevant and critical information you need into one single, easy to navigate information portal. It's like having the entire town at your fingertips. With just 1-2 clicks on your smartphone or desktop, you can access:

*Join
Today!*

- Monthly Police & Fire Activity Reports
- How Your Council & Board Members Voted
- Agendas & Minutes for All Meetings
- Extensive Library of Past Meetings
- Participate in our Surveys
- Live Streaming
- News Alerts
- Town News & Events
- Campaign Reports
- Quarterly Newsletters

Ponce Inlet's most informed citizens turn to C4Pi.org to obtain the information they need to be informed on town business, town events and town department activity.

Membership is free. Get informed. Join today.

Promoting and Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet

info@C4Pi.org

www.C4Pi.org

If enjoyed this newsletter, please consider supporting our efforts by making a donation and subscribe to our online quarterly newsletter by completing the form below:

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Email Address: _____

Please make checks payable to Citizens for Ponce Inlet, Inc.

Detach and mail to:

CFPI c/o Ponce Inlet Community Center, 4670 S. Peninsula, Ponce Inlet, Fl., 32127
or become a free member online and make your donation on our secure website with your credit card at www.c4pi.org Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you.