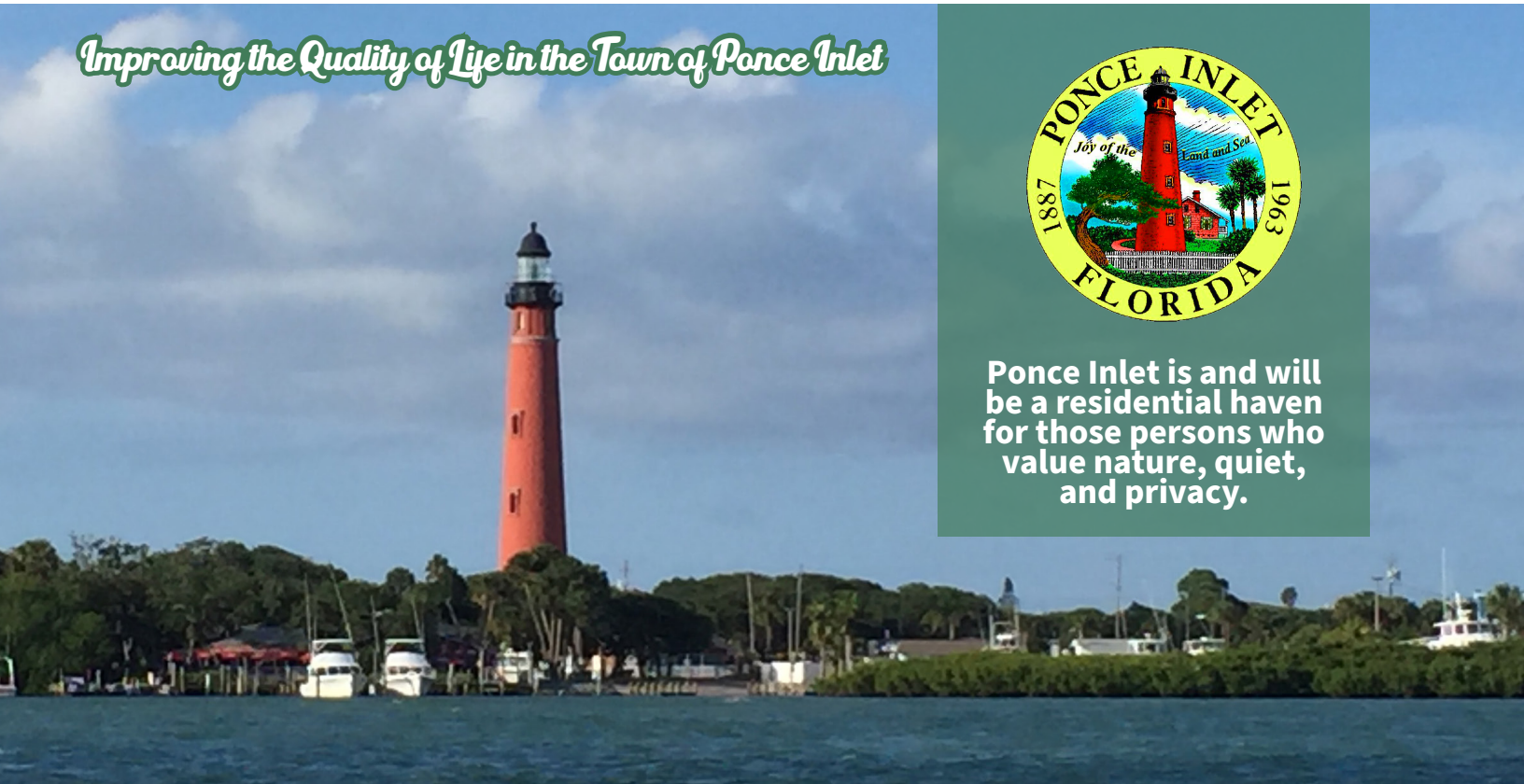


Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



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.

CFPI Announces 2023 Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners



CFPI is happy to recognize Pat Morris as Ponce Inlet's 2023 Citizen of the Year.

Since 1987, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Organization has selected, honored, and acknowledged a resident of Ponce Inlet or a Ponce Inlet employee involved in volunteer work who has made an outstanding contribution to the community.

A Lifetime Achievement Award is also given to one or more citizens who have provided over 20 years of volunteer service to Ponce Inlet.

Lifetime Achievement Award Winners this year are: Barbara Davis, Don Hampton, and Mary Ann Redinger.

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The Town of PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

“Joy of the Land and Sea”



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Citizens For PONCE INLET

Winners of the Achievement Awards

Pat Morris was selected as the 2023 Citizen of the Year, and **Barbara Davis, Don Hampton, and Mary Ann Redinger** received a Lifetime Achievement Award. A dinner to honor them was held at the Ponce Inlet Community Center on March 30th and was attended by friends, family, and town representatives.

Pat Morris



Pat and her husband Mark, last year's Citizen of the Year, decided to relocate to Ponce Inlet in 2014 after retiring from their careers in Pennsylvania. When they arrived, they knew they both wanted to become active volunteers in their new hometown.

After permanently moving to Ponce Inlet in 2015, Pat joined the Ponce Inlet Lions Club, where she became a director for several years and served as the club secretary from 2019-2021. Although no longer on the board, Pat continues to serve the Lions Club and has worked with her husband Mark for the past three years to organize and manage the Lions Club annual fundraising golf tournament.

This event is the Lions Club's largest fundraiser of the year and last year raised over \$12,000. Pat, who is working again with her husband and the Lions, is also responsible for the RJ Longstreet elementary

school pantry, which provides assistance to food insecure children and families. Prior to COVID, Pat was also a first grade teacher assistant at the school.

Pat previously volunteered at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse as a lighthouse guide for two years prior to COVID. In doing so, Pat enjoyed meeting out-of-town visitors, schoolchildren, and residents of our community, all while learning about the history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Pat especially enjoyed her tours with the schoolchildren and volunteering for the Climb to the Moon events at the lighthouse.

Pat currently serves on the Ponce Inlet Community Center Board of Trustees and has done so since 2019. She is an active participant on the PICC Board and enjoys working on various fundraising events, including the Community Center's Flea Market, Soup and Salad, and Frank Sinatra, and Irish Night Parties.

Pat also worked with other volunteer board members to improve the appearance of the center and regularly volunteers in the Community Center office.

In 2019, Pat joined the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet and, in 2020, began serving on its Board of Directors. Her first director position with the Garden Club was as first vice president. In November 2021, Pat took over as president of the club when the previous president resigned. Pat is passionate about being a member and president of the Garden Club and has recently been elected as president until 2025. For the past 3 years, Pat has co-chaired the Garden Club's annual Art, Craft, and Plant show, held each October. This particular show, for those who don't know, has been in our community for 40 years.

Pat helps organize and run the annual Ice Cream Social, a fun event for our community residents, and participates in the Ponce Inlet Christmas parade, and Ponce Preserves Planet. Pat clearly enjoys meeting and working with Garden Club members and looks forward to serving as their president again.

Most recently, Pat volunteered to become a director with C4PI. In this new role, one of Pat's primary responsibilities will be monitoring the C4PI website. Pat looks forward to serving on the C4PI board and will continue to volunteer and serve our community in any way possible.

Barbara Davis



In recognition of her numerous volunteer efforts, Barbara Davis received the Citizen of the Year Award 27 years ago.

Barbara has a long history of giving back to the community. She relocated to Ponce Inlet in 1989, and a year later she was chosen to serve on the inaugural Advisory Committee. From there, she worked with Animal Control Services and was the Chair of the Tree Board as well as a member of the Ordinance Review Committee. She was on the Planning Commission – twice.

She served as the treasurer of the Committee for Ponce Preserve, which raised money for it, and she chaired the Friends of Ponce Preserve for two years. From 2008 to 2011, Barbara served on the Town Council as Vice Mayor.

In addition, she was the Ponce Inlet coordinator for the Coastal and River Clean Up, a delegate to the Halifax/Indian River Task Force, and member of the Ponce Inlet Visioning Committee.

For the Marine Science Center’s fundraising efforts this year, she created a Christmas Tree with uniquely designed and painted wooden ornaments and a beautifully painted wooden surfboard. When requested to assist with an art project, she is always willing to do so, and whenever she learns that a young person in the community wants to learn to draw or play music, she is ready with art materials or musical instruments. You are likely to see Barbara performing at all of the town’s kid-friendly events, typically in full costume!

Barbara has consistently advocated for the protection of trees and parks, and most recently she encouraged the town to construct a pickleball court at Pollard Park.

We are so very proud and appreciative of Barbara’s efforts and delighted to present her with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award!

Don Hampton



Don is a true native Floridian. Born in Halifax hospital, Don grew up in the Daytona Beach area and moved with his family to Ponce Inlet in 1972. Following in the footsteps of his mother Wilda, Don has been involved in community service for many years. After living here full time for 35 years, Don has become one of the “old timers” of Ponce Inlet.

Don served on the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Association Board of Trustees for over 10 years. In 1999, Don was elected to the Town Council and served as a Council Member and Vice Mayor until 2001.

After his term on the Town Council, Don continued his community service on the Planning Commission in 2002.

That same year, the town began a visioning process, a project called “Charting a Course for Ponce Inlet”, and Don was appointed to that committee. He and the committee worked closely with an outside facilitator to create the vision statement for Ponce Inlet, which is the foundational touchstone that guides us today.

In 2012, Don was named C4PI’s Citizen of the Year for his many years of volunteer service to our community.

Don has been a board member of C4PI for over 20 years, most of which he served as president. He also edited the organization’s newsletter for 10 of those years.

Don just stepped down from his position as President of the organization a few weeks ago and continues as an executive advisor on the Advisory Board.

Ponce Inlet is very fortunate to have such a dedicated and loyal resident who has been willing to sacrifice such a tremendous amount of their time to help make Ponce Inlet such a great place for all of us.

Mary Ann Redinger



Mary Ann and her husband, Alan, moved to Ponce Inlet in 1992, and she soon began volunteering at the community center.

Through her friendship with Kay Davies, a PICCI board member and wife of Ponce Inlet's first mayor, Mary Ann became a member of the board and served as recording secretary for over 20 years. You can still find Mary Ann in the PICCI office as a dedicated volunteer.

Mary Ann became a member of Citizens for Ponce Inlet in the early 1990s. As treasurer, she initially sent postcards once a year to remind people to pay the \$10 membership fee. The newsletters were then personally delivered to each residence. Mary Ann received the Citizen of the Year Award in 2005 in recognition of her dedicated volunteer work.

One of Mary Ann's all-time favorite organizations is the Garden Club. She has held the positions of recording secretary and treasurer. She participated in all Garden Club endeavors, including the Arts & Crafts show and other fundraising events.

Mary Ann never hesitates to step up and pitch in when needed. She continues to volunteer as a street guard at the Christmas and Legends Parades.

Mary Ann and her husband established the cat colony at Jerry's when there were approximately 17 feral cats. They would trap, neuter, and release them. Currently, there are only two cats left in this colony, and a group of volunteers provides them with food and care on a daily basis.

Eighteen years after being named Citizen of the Year, and thirty-one years of volunteer service to our town, we congratulate Mary Ann on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Every year at the event, a photo of all previous Citizens of the Year and Lifetime Achievement award winners attending is taken – here is this year’s photo:



Left to Right: Tara Lamb, Deke DiCostanzo, Robyn Hurd, Don Hampton, Barbara Davis, Gary Smith, Mary Lou Hinson, Jim Hinson, Pat Morris, Judy DiCarlo, Mark Oebbecke, Ellen Pagliarulo, Liz Finch, Mary Ann Redinger, Pete Finch, Joe DiCarlo, Jerry McHugh, Judy Huggins, Faye McHugh.



For more information about the Citizens for Ponce Inlet, you can go to the organization’s website at www.c4pi.org to learn about all it has to offer the citizens of Ponce Inlet.

A Moment with the Mayor

Ponce Inlet's Town Manager Executive Search

Ponce Inlet's Town Charter provides for a Town Manager who serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town. The Town Manager is responsible for the operation of the Town government and is directly accountable to the Town Council.

On June 22, 2022, after 12 years as our Town Manager, Jeaneen Witt tendered her resignation. The Council subsequently commenced a screening and selection process for hiring a new Town Manager, while taking steps to ensure there would be no disruption of the high level of services our residents have come to expect. Another important consideration was the impact the resignation and transition would have on our Town staff. Council recognized that it was imperative to ensure that our talented pool of employees remains and continues to implement the goals and objectives our Town has adopted.

Council engaged a professional recruiting firm to conduct a nationwide search for a new manager and approved a transition plan to provide continued management until a new manager could be selected. A cornerstone of this plan involved dividing the existing responsibilities between two current internal staff members.

Mike Disher, the Planning and Development Director, was appointed as Interim Town Manager, and Fire Chief Dan Scales was appointed in a newly created role as our Public Safety Director Pro Tem. Under this plan, the Police, Fire, Public Works, and Information Technology Divisions report to Public Safety Director Pro Tem Scales, and the Public Safety Pro Tem, along with



Lois Paritsky

Finance, Human Resources/Deputy Clerk, Planning and Development, and Cultural Services Divisions, report to Interim Town Manager Disher.

Interim manager Disher and Public Safety Director Pro Tem Scales led the town through back-to-back hurricanes, pursued grants and appropriations aimed at increasing our resilience, and for the first time in 22 years, entered into a contract with Ponce Inlet's Fire Union Local 4140.

The Town received a significant number of applications for the position of Ponce Inlet Town Manager, and after completion of the review and interview process, Mike Disher, by a unanimous vote, was offered the position.

We are delighted to make this internal promotion with such a qualified and dedicated person as Mr. Disher. His many years of valuable experience with the Town and his working relationships with Town staff make him an ideal fit for Ponce Inlet. Congratulations Mr. Disher.

The Mayor in Tallahassee

The Florida Legislature's regular session commenced in Tallahassee on March 7, 2023, and will end on May 5, 2023. Throughout the legislative session, I am engaged with our state leaders to advocate on behalf of Ponce Inlet and our residents. During the week of April 3, I traveled to Tallahassee to meet in person with our legislators for discussions focusing on the Town's appropriations requests, bills of local concern, and our residents' needs relating to the restoration of our beaches and the armoring of vulnerable properties.



Following the advocacy efforts by Volusia County, local officials, and state legislators, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC) announced a significant modification to the restrictive rules preventing work from taking place during turtle nesting season.

On April 14, 2023, FWC provided additional guidance to Volusia County residents that will permit coastal armoring projects to

begin and continue throughout the turtle nesting season, provided FWC wildlife protection guidelines are met. Prior to this notification by the FWC, property owners who had not started their construction by May 1 were not permitted to begin their coastal armament work until the end of turtle nesting season on November 1, leaving some properties at risk for further damage by hurricanes and the elements. In addition, permit applications may now be submitted after the May 1 deadline.

Finally, the County's long-awaited plans for the replenishment of sand on our beach are taking shape. According to information released by the County, approximately 550,000 cubic yards of sand currently situated on Rattlesnake Island have been earmarked for deposition on the beach, starting at the jetty and working northward. We look forward to learning more about the County's logistical plans and timeline in the near future.



For further information relating to FWC guidelines or to discuss any topic of interest, please do not hesitate to contact me at lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org or 386-310-4320.

COUNTY CORNER

Let me start off by introducing myself. I am Matt Reinhart, your County Councilman for District 2. I was elected to this position by the voters of Volusia County in November of 2022 and took office in January of this year. I come from an over 30-year career in law enforcement and retired as the Warden of the Volusia County Division of Corrections. I oversaw a budget of over \$30 million and approximately 350 civilian and uniformed personnel, 1300-1500 inmates and two institutions. As you can see, I have experience working with big budgets and people.

When I first began my campaign and started visiting communities in my district, I fell in love with the town of Ponce Inlet. In fact, I held one of my two fundraisers at the Ponce Inlet Community Center and held my “Thank You Celebration” at the same location after my election. There is such a sense of community here. I absolutely love Ponce Inlet.

After my election, I wanted to hit the ground running. Especially since it followed two horrific events (Hurricanes Ian and Nicole). County staff quickly became aware of the importance of doing what they could to assist our coastal neighbors. I remember being in a meeting at DeLand where I was speaking with our Growth Management Director. During that conversation, I discovered that there was a county ordinance that required coastal residents to place compatible beach sand on their property line where their sea wall required a four-foot dune and twelve foot extension.

I thought while construction was occurring this sand would just wash away. The question was then asked. Could we not defer this requirement for eighteen months to allow the natural accretion of sand to occur? This would potentially save the homeowner thousands of dollars that could be better spent on the structural repairs



needed at that time. That evening at Council, I asked for a resolution for a deferment until December of 2024 and the motion passed unanimously.

Anyone who lives on the coast quickly discovered that FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) “holds all the cards” when it comes to repairing and replacing sea walls. This agency follows the rules and ordinances set forth by the FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). This is due to the USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service) Endangered Species Act, which aims to protect sea turtles and some shoreline birds. Part of the Endangered Species Act allows for those repairs, but not after sea turtle nesting season opens, which begins May 1. Discussions are ongoing between the County of Volusia and these agencies.

Recently, Volusia County finally received confirmation from the FWC to provide additional guidance on coastal construction activities after May 1 to private property owners who have received a Coastal Construction Control Line permit from the FDEP. It states property owners who have obtained an FDEP permit and have already begun or will begin construction by May 1 can continue as long as all permit conditions are met.

Property owners with an FDEP permit who were unable to begin construction before May 1 must contact the FWC to determine if the proposed site contains sea turtle nests before materials are delivered. Once the FWC certifies that the proposed construction site is clear of turtle nests, materials can be delivered and construction can begin. FWC staff will only inspect project sites that have received an FDEP permit during the turtle nesting season. Property owners can still apply for a permit from the FDEP after May 1st.

The approval should bring some relief to our coastal property owners who are still trying to rebuild after the storms.

Here are some other important facts we want our citizens know:

The trap bags have been purchased and sand for them has been obtained. This was done with the initial \$5 million from FDEP.

Volusia County received \$328,910,000 in Community Development Block Grants for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). This is funded by HUD, funds are used for disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure, housing, economic revitalization and mitigation in the hardest-hit and most needed areas after a presidentially declared disaster. I will tell you that I am asking for a review of the midtown and Beach Street area for this grant. However, public participation is strongly encouraged and implemented in a number of ways, including holding public meetings, soliciting comments and input, and publishing a draft of an action plan for review and feedback.

The initial steps to obtaining funding from HUD are to analyze the needs of the community and develop an action plan. For the process of analysis and community involvement, interested residents, agencies and municipalities can submit their contact information and a brief description of a the potential project based on currently known information. Sign up to receive updates and provide input by visiting volusia.org or using

the form directly at <https://bit.ly/3TA9PVS>.

As everyone probably already knows, \$37.6 million was received from the FDEP for beach renourishment. These state funds are earmarked for sand placement, a feasibility study that makes recommendations for a long-term (50-year) resiliency solution, and the initial project resulting from those recommendations. This will be a long-term project, lasting up to five years.

The Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$3 million grant to fully fund the feasibility study. Usually, the \$3 million for the study is spread over three years, but in this case, the money is being allocated in the first year, which means that engineers can more quickly identify the problems, design solutions and begin real work. The study could begin as early as this spring.

The Army Corps of Engineers also has a permitted an Intracoastal Waterway dredging project. Sand is typically dredged every five years and dumped off shore in 8 to 12 feet of water. We are in conversation with them now to see if they will place it in one location on "Rattlesnake Island". This way, we could possibly have two "bites of the apple" from this location.



I know I have thrown a lot of content your way, but I am a firm believer in keeping everyone aware, updated, and informed.

Matt Reinhart

Volusia County Council

District 2

mreinhardt@volusia.org

From the Town Manager, Mike Disher

I am truly honored to be selected by the Town Council as your new Town Manager. I've had the privilege of working for Ponce Inlet for 10 years now, starting as a Senior Planner in the Planning & Development Department and then later returning as the Assistant Director and then Director of that department. Last summer I was asked to serve as the Interim Town Manager following the resignation of Jeaneen Witt. This role officially started for me after her last day this past October. In March of this year, the Town Council interviewed me for a permanent role; and then made it official at the April Council meeting. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to that all we can accomplish together.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this position has been working closely with each of the Town's department heads – learning about their responsibilities, challenges, expertise, and work ethic, and how each fits into the operation of the Town government as a whole. As a manager, my role will be to ensure that the Town staff maintains the highest levels of quality, integrity, and professionalism that Town Council and our residents expect. This expectation, reflected in the Town's mission statement, is one of the many qualities that set Ponce Inlet apart from other communities. Ponce Inlet has excellent staff members at all levels within the organization. If we can be of any assistance, please always feel free to contact us.

Hurricane Recovery Updates

Hurricanes Ian and Nicole caused damage to many of the Town's facilities, but repairs are underway and in some cases have already been completed. Renovated or replaced facilities include the Fire station



roof, the Community Center roof, the Inlet Point fountain electrical box, and soffit repair of Town buildings. Repairs currently in progress include fencing and exterior lighting around Town properties, and bollard lights at Timucuan Oaks Park. Several other repair projects will begin in the near future, including installing stairs at Ponce Preserve, repairing the boat ramp, and replacing the pergola at Timucuan Oaks. Staff has been working diligently to obtain reimbursement funds from the Town's insurer and FEMA.

In early April, the Town started clearing stormwater pipes in the areas of Coastal Oaks, Riverglen, and Calumet as well as other streets to the south that were most severely affected by last year's flooding.

To date, approximately one mile of pipes have been cleared. Removing the build-up of silt and muck from these pipes will help them function more efficiently. In addition, Public Works crews have now uncovered and constructed six storm drain outfall structures that allow stormwater runoff to flow freely. In many cases, the ends of the pipes were completely buried and blocked. To determine how much organic silt has accumulated at the bottom of our retention ponds, Public Works will also conduct soil tests in these areas. The ponds that

generate the most waste must be excavated to fully restore their capacity and function. Thanks to the expertise and hard work of the crews, we were able to significantly improve the condition of our drainage system. More details and photos about these events can be found in the Public Works section of this newsletter.

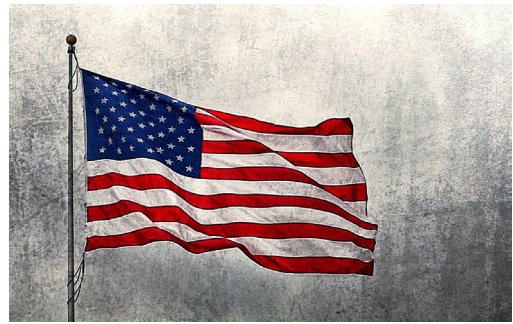
Town-wide Improvements

In addition to hurricane-related repairs, several additional projects have already been completed or will be soon, such as the Tina Maria Circle entrance walls, Elbers Park rip-rap revetment, Community Center sidewalk restoration, and construction of new offices and a conference room at Town Hall.

The Town will benefit from the South Peninsula Drive sidewalk repair project in terms of safety, recreation, and aesthetics. Town staff was recently informed that FDOT has advanced funding for the project's design and work could begin later this year. Your feedback is an integral part of the process as the design phase begins and community meetings are organized accordingly. In a few years, most likely in 2025 or 2026, construction is anticipated to begin.

Finally, the Town's engineering consultants have almost finished designing the remaining portions of the Sewer Master Plan, enabling us to apply for construction grants for all of our septic-to-sewer projects, including the one for Ponce de Leon Circle.

There is currently no funding or timeline for construction, but it cannot happen without community support. Our barrier island community prioritizes sustainability and resilience, and replacing in-ground septic systems with sanitary sewer lines is an important part of making Ponce Inlet more resilient. Construction is not yet scheduled or funded, but without community support, it cannot take place.



Town Regular Election August 22, 2023

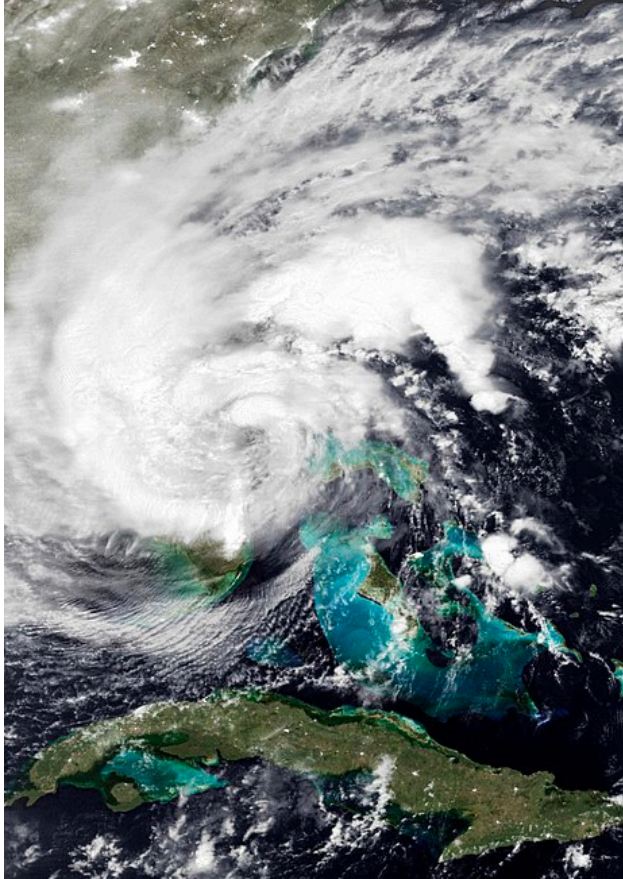
Ponce Inlet's upcoming election is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd. There are three seats up for election on the Town Council this year. Mayor/Seat #1, Seat #3, and Seat 5 will be open for two-year terms. Qualified candidates must be a resident of the Town for at least 12 months and have been a Volusia County registered voter for 12 months prior to the qualifying period. The qualifying period begins on Monday, June 5th at 9:00 a.m. and ends on Friday, June 16th, at noon. If you are interested in serving your Town in this manner, please contact Town Clerk Kim Cherbano at 386-236-2150, kcherbano@ponce-inlet.org or stop by Town Hall for more information.

Florida's Tropical Hurricane Season

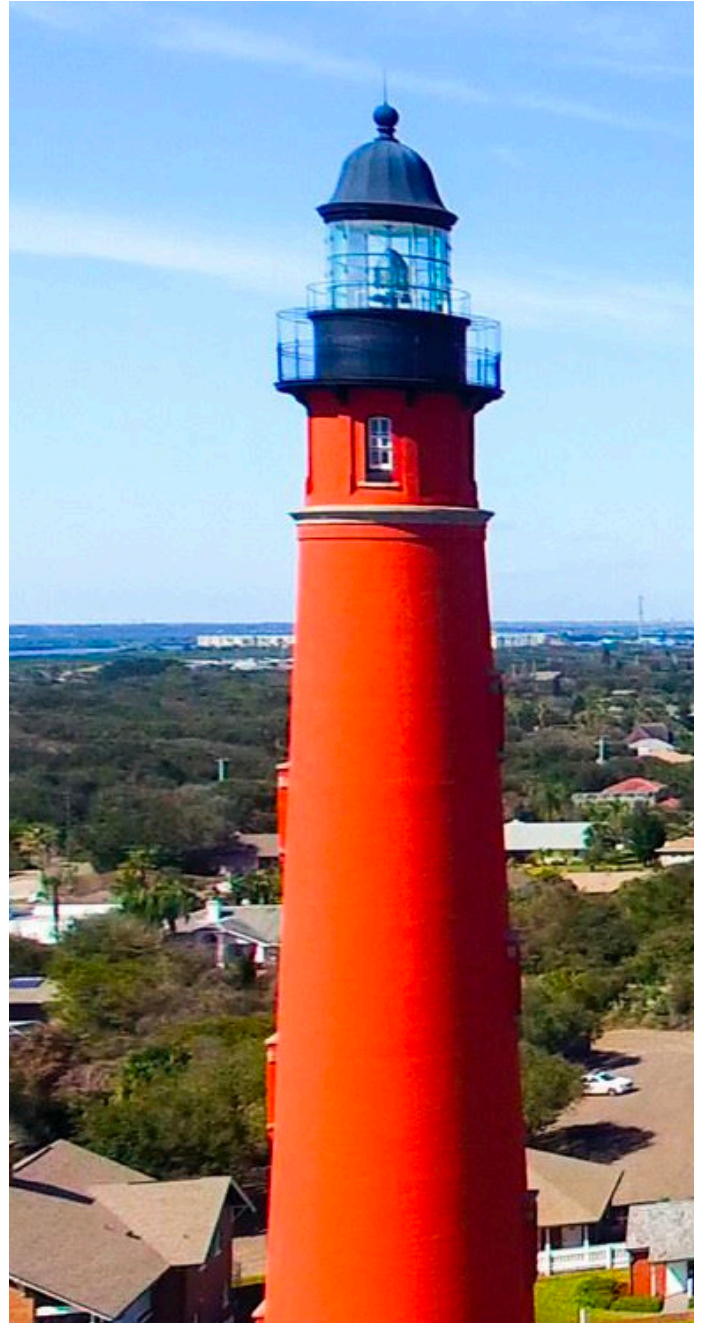
Florida's tropical climate creates the potential for hurricanes six months each year. Although it seems like last year's hurricane just ended, the 2023 season begins on June 1st and runs through November 30th.

While weather service forecasts have improved over the years, the fact is that direction and speed of hurricanes change very quickly, so advance preparation is important. Some years produce more frequent and/or more damaging hurricanes, and we don't know what 2023 will bring. We encourage you to check out the recommended supplies and other

considerations on the Volusia County Emergency Management website at <https://www.volusia.org/services/public-protection/emergency-management/>.



announcements and important information. If you haven't already, please sign up for our e-mail list through the website. If you have a Facebook account, please be sure to "like" our page to receive regular information from the Facebook news feed.



Town Holiday Closings

Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th 2023 in observance of Memorial Day and on Tuesday, July 4th 2023 in observance of Independence Day.

Keep up with what's happening in your Town

Stay up to date with what's happening in your Town. Please visit our website at www.ponce-inlet.org for all public meeting notices and minutes, general information, and the status of current or upcoming projects. Furthermore, be sure to read the back of your utility bills for special

Planning & Development Department

Coastal Resiliency Planning

In 2020, the Town embarked on its planning efforts to improve its resiliency to future changes in sea level rise and storm events and to comply with the 2015 Peril of Flood (POF) Act. The Town hired staff from the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) to prepare a Vulnerability Assessment of critical infrastructure, conduct an online public survey, and provide policy recommendations for the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The proposed amendments to the Coastal Management Element and Future Land Use Element of the Plan were intended to comply with the six criteria of the POF and incorporate the results of the 2022 Vulnerability Assessment.

These proposed amendments to the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies were presented to the Planning Board in March and December 2022 for feedback from the Board and the public. In February of this year, the Planning Board recommended that the Town Council approve the proposed amendment ordinance. At its March 16, 2023 meeting, the Town Council approved the ordinance on first reading and directed staff to transmit the amendments to state and local reviewing agencies. If no objections are received, this ordinance will return to the Town Council for second reading and will take effect after the expiration of the mandatory 30-day appeal period.

Adopting these policies is a concrete first step in utilizing the data gathered from the Vulnerability Assessment to improve the Town's resilience to sea level rise and storms. These policies will be used to guide future development decisions, update development requirements, and infrastructure projects, and adapt to projected sea level rise.

Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)

Florida Statutes require all local governments to review their comprehensive plans every seven years and evaluate if modifications are necessary during that period to comply with changes in state law. Town Staff reviewed the legislative changes from 2016 to 2022 and determined that there are a few updates that needed to be completed. A list of the applicable changes was compiled in the EAR notification letter presented to the Planning Board in August and accepted by the Town Council in September 2022.

Now that the EAR notification letter has been submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the Town has one year to adopt the plan updates that were identified in the EAR letter. Staff are currently engaged in this process, which includes updates to the plan's Transportation, Public Facilities, and Capital Improvements Elements. The Town's transportation consultant recently completed a traffic study of the entire Town that will be used to support proposed changes to the Transportation Element. The Public Facilities Element will be updated to match the Level-of-Service Standards of the City of Port Orange, which supplies sanitary sewer service and potable water to the Town. Finally, the Capital Improvements Element will be updated to show proposed Town projects anticipated to be completed within the next five years.

While EAR updates are a minimum requirement to comply with state law, Town Staff will also work to update other areas of the Comprehensive plan after the EAR is completed. These additional updates are intended to modernize and reformat the document to make it easier to read, navigate, and apply the goals, objectives, and policies.

From Fire Chief Dan Scales...

Temporary Garage Sale Signs

It is spring cleaning time again! After cleaning and de-cluttering your home and garage, you may be planning a garage sale. Please remember to apply for a garage sale sign permit before setting out items for your event. Garage sales are allowed from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a maximum of three consecutive days. Up to three events may be held each calendar year. Garage sale signs must be no larger than two square feet. Permit applications can be obtained from the front counter at the main entrance of Town Hall. For more information about garage sales or other local regulations, please contact the Planning and Development Department at (386) 236-2181.



In January of 2023, the Fire Department responded to a significant structure fire in Ponce Inlet and was assisted by the cities of Port Orange, South Daytona, and Daytona Beach Shores.



The fire department also received the latest self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in January. The new units are state-of-the-art in design, with advanced communication capabilities and built-in infrared fire detection devices. The new SCBA equipment significantly improves the

safety and efficiency of firefighters.



The Fire Department's accreditation team completed the Standard of Cover/Community Risk Assessment document and submitted it for editing. We hope to publish the document within the next few months. This accomplishment represents a significant milestone in Fire Department accreditation. The document also provides information to the public about the operations of the Fire Department and the community we serve.

In February and March, the department applied for two federal grants, one for \$60,000 for new equipment and another for the addition of three more firefighters in the amount of \$955,010. We are optimistic that we will be successful in obtaining one or both grants. These grant projects are highly competitive with fire departments across the country competing for these funds.

Fire Department response data and turnout times can be reviewed on the Town's website under the fire department page. There are also links to informative maps that illustrate the concentration of calls.

Remember that the Fire Department also offers community outreach such as station tours, birthday parties, and community CPR classes. Please feel free to contact the department at 386-322-6720 with any requests.

From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



About the Department

The Ponce Inlet Police Department operates 24/7 with 13 full-time officers, three part-time officers, and two civilian administrative staff. Our department is fully accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and expertise. Each police officer is assigned a patrol car and works a 12-hour shift. We have one investigator who follows up on all reported crimes, handles property and evidence collection, audits training records, performs the required background checks on all town employees, and functions as a liaison between the State Attorney's Office and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

Beware of Fraud!

The most common crime in Ponce Inlet is fraud. Elderly victims are often targeted because they own their homes, have savings, are trustworthy and kind, and will often answer the phone and speak to solicitors. Last year, the Ponce Inlet Police Department developed a fraud class

and presented it to 30 residents at the Community Center; the Department offered a class on Wednesday, May 3rd. Remember, if it's too good to be true, it's probably a scam!

Bike Patrol

In an effort to reach more residents and engage with our citizens, the Ponce Inlet Police Department purchased two new police patrol bicycles and partnered with the Daytona Beach Police Department to certify four of our officers to patrol on bicycles. Patrol bikes allow us to better monitor the parks and pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout the town. The police department also purchased a battery-powered mobile radar gun to use on the sidewalks. The PIPD is also seeking a grant to purchase a golf cart so officers can patrol neighborhoods and work at parades, road races, and other special events.



Citizens Watch

The Ponce Inlet Citizens Watch Program is an important and valuable asset to the Ponce Inlet Police Department. Volunteer members are dedicated citizens who generously donate their time to assist the Police Department as additional “eyes and ears” in our community. The 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 equipped with amber warning lights, police radios, flashlights, traffic vests, 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 around Town 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 for an application. A background check is required before starting.

Ponce Partners

The Ponce Partners Program is designed as a safety net for people who have health problems, are elderly, or people living alone. Any resident can become a member by completing a short request form. By becoming 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 will call and ask if everything is OK. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we will send an Officer to check on your well-being. This program was created to ensure that our elderly citizens have some form of communication each day. We have great relationships with all of our Ponce Partners and look forward to their morning calls. If you or someone you know is interested, you can contact the Police Department at 386-236-2160 or download the online application (PDF) from our website.

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 Public Works Manager, Fred Griffith...

The Public Works crew has been very busy performing their everyday normal functions such as mowing grass , trimming vegetation, keeping all of our Town facilities clean and sanitary, and making necessary repairs to everything you could imagine. Public Works ensures that our drinking water is safe through proper system monitoring, flushing fire hydrants, and taking water samples for testing. In addition to all of that, the Department has also been removing



blockages from the ends of many storm pipe outfalls at the south end of town to allow the storm pipes themselves to be cleaned. Below, please see a few examples of their exploits. So far we have identified at least six outfalls needing significant attention to allow them to flow freely.

The Town has approximately 1,600 linear feet of exfiltration stormpipe systems that generally have no outfall. They are designed to collect and then percolate water back into the ground through small holes in the pipes. Such systems are a low-cost effective method of drainage when the groundwater table is low. However, with no outfalls, what goes into these pipes will stay in these pipes. This means that the pipes must be cleaned out from time to time, which can be expensive. It is therefore incumbent on all of us to NOT pile leaves , branches, garbage , or litter on or near these structures or on the curbing where it will be washed into these structures. We need to all work together to ensure that only rain water enters the storm drain pipes in the future!



This was the before and after picture just after a small tree was removed growing out of the end of this pipe at Michael Lane.

See below near the Oceanside Village area. This is a stormwater mitered end section uncovered by town crews under a fence, 2.0' of earth, and three tv cables at Michael Lane. This easement must be opened up to be able to properly maintain the large retention area behind the 6' fence. Storm pipes are scheduled to be properly flushed and cleaned to allow for free flow into this retention pond.



This pipe cleaning truck uses a high-pressure hose and vacuum system. This picture illustrates what we have been able to successfully flush and clean from several stormwater pipes. Several catfish were safely rescued and returned to the Beach Street ponds from whence they came. Our storm pipes are now quite clean and able to flow much more freely.



The northern boat dock near Davies Lighthouse Park was recently damaged during the hurricanes. We are currently in the process of hiring a structural engineer to evaluate and design plans for the dock repairs.



Demolition work was recently completed at the Ponce Preserve Dune Walkover to remove the remaining section of boardwalk beyond the gazebo, as now seen below. The Town will be constructing a staircase in the near future to reestablish access to the beach. Construction bids were reviewed by the Town Council at its April meeting. We are attempting to have it begun immediately and completed for the summer season. Design work is continuing on reconstruction of the handicap ramp, which will connect to the stairs but be built separately. We anticipate this ramp undergoing construction later in this calendar year.



From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie French...



In March, the town held its annual Earth Day celebration known as “Ponce Preserves the Planet,” with vendors and environmental exhibits posted throughout the trails. Attendees earned stickers at every station along with an eco-friendly, “Keep Plastic Out of Ponce” tote bag. Everyone was able to take home a free native tree sapling. One of our educators for the event was Cody, a member of the Mvskoke Creek tribe (pronounced “mus-co-gee”). At the event, he performed a Hoop Dance, which allows dancers to weave stories through hoops that show how life is connected. We were honored to have this wonderful educational experience back for this event!

Events and Programs

The Cultural Services Department enjoys the hustle that Winter and Spring bring with events and programs in the Town! In the span of 11 weeks, the Department will have helped coordinate 11 special events in town, five of which were organized by town staff.

On February 16th, the Town held a dedication ceremony for Kathy Griscom Park. This was a beautiful dedication to a woman who made a wonderful impact on her community, and it is an honor to memorialize her for generations to come! Value in a community is not only in its pretty views and amenities, but in the people that make it home.



In addition to special events, as of April 1st, the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum hosted 10 programs with about total 250 attendees. These programs included lecture series on topics such as NASCAR, birds of Florida, the heritage of Florida, and native plants, as well as activities such as painting projects and park scavenger hunts.

Town of Ponce Inlet's 60th Anniversary Celebration

The Town of Ponce Inlet was incorporated on August 20th, 1963. On that date, the first Town Council was sworn-in at the Lighthouse office. To observe this milestone, the Town will be organizing a 60th anniversary celebration. The event will occur in September at the Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park and feature music, entertainment, local businesses, and much more! The Town is excited to get the community together and celebrate our town! Keep an eye out on our Facebook page and Town notifications for more details as the event approaches

Special Event Permits

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

Events for May:

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

Come look for natural treasure and make a memory with your little one on a tiny tot park adventure craft project! Parents and children 2 and up.

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr., outside under the pavilion.

Free; RSVP by 5/03 required:

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

Lecture Series: Fishing in Ponce and Geologic History of FL

Join Chad MacFie, Manager at the Marine Science Center, who will present how fishing evolved over the years and the relation and contribution to Ponce Inlet.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 @ 10:30 AM

Town Council Chambers at Ponce Inlet Town Hall 4300 S. Atlantic Ave.

Free; RSVP by 5/10 required:

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

Painting at the Museum: Pour Art Charcuterie Board

Acrylic canvas class for ages 12 and up.

No experience necessary, instructor will guide you step by step.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 @ 9:30 AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

\$15 per person, all supplies included.

Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment required at Town Hall by 5/12.

Program in the Park: Soils of Ponce Preserve Park

Join David Griffis and take a walk along the trails of Ponce Preserve Park to examine the different types of soils found in the park. We will also discuss the relationship between soil and plants. Be prepared to get your hands dirty.

Thursday, May 25, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr., meet in parking lot.

Free; RSVP by 5/19 required:

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

Mermaids and Manatees in May

Come find your inner mermaid self, learn about the historic connection between mermaids and manatees, play a game and create a craft!

Saturday, May 27, 2023 @ 10:00AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 5/22 required:

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

Events for June:

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

Come look for natural treasure and make a memory with your little one on a tiny tot park adventure craft project! Parents and children 2 and up.

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr., outside under the pavilion.

Free; RSVP by 6/07 required:

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

Shell-A-Bration

Summer is here! Come “shell-a-brate” at the Museum, create a frame accented with shells, and learn the names of some of the more common seashells found in our area. All supplies included.

Saturday, June 17, 2023 @ 9:30 AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 6/12 required:

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

Events for July:

Postal Worker Day (ECHO Ranger Event)

Come tour the museum, create a one-of-a-kind decoupage box, learn about stamps and how you can start your own collection! Geared for kids 6 and up.

Saturday, July 1, 2023 @ 9:30 AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

\$5 per person, all supplies included.

Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment required at Town Hall by 6/26.

Summer Stretch

Join us for an early morning stretch-based exercise. Bring a yoga mat or a towel and we will sit on the grass and move our bodies to some upbeat music. Then relax with a little meditation. All Ages.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 @ 8:00 AM-8:45 AM

Timucuan Oaks Park

4550 S. Peninsula Dr., outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 7/12 required:

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

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

Come look for natural treasure and make a memory with your little one on a tiny tot park adventure craft project! Parents and children 2 and up.

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Timucuan Oaks Park

4550 S. Peninsula Dr., outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 7/12 required:

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

Shark Exploration Day

Come tour the museum and participate in a fun shark craft and game that reflects the local history and environment that surrounds us!

Saturday, July 22, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on lawn.

Free; RSVP by 7/14 required:

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

Events for August:

Watermelon Day

Join us to paint a watermelon-themed pot and plant watermelon seeds; play watermelon bowling and enjoy nice cool watermelon on a hot summer day!

Thursday, August 3, 2023 @ 9:30 AM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

\$5 per person, all supplies included.

Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment required at Town Hall by 7/27.

Summer Stretch

Join us for an early morning stretch-based exercise. Bring a yoga mat or a towel and we will sit on the grass and move our bodies to some upbeat music. Then relax with a little meditation. All Ages.

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 8:00 AM-8:45 AM

Timucuan Oaks Park

4550 S. Peninsula Dr., outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 8/9 required:

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

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

Come look for natural treasure and make a memory with your little one on a tiny tot park adventure craft project! Parents and children 2 and up.

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Timucuan Oaks Park

4550 S. Peninsula Dr., outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 8/9 required:

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



Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Patricia Morris



Club Flower: Gaillardia

Happy Spring to all!

After a wonderful holiday season spent with family and friends, the Garden Club resumed its monthly membership meetings on Wednesday, January 25. Ms. Jenna Workman from Fairy Tale Gardens joined us at this meeting and served as our guest speaker. Our members heard a presentation from Jenna on Growing and Caring for Succulents. For each of our members who were there, Jenna also brought gifts in the form of little succulents. Jenna was a delight to have as a speaker and will surely be invited back in the future. In fact, just last month, at the request of one of our members, Jenna revisited our Community Center and held a class for some of our members, teaching us how to create an Herb Pollinator Container Garden. Fun was had by all!

In February our club welcomed Ms. Jenni Pell, from Lindley's Nursery who spoke to us about Live Oaks in Florida. Jenni's presentation was quite informative and was certainly enjoyed by our members. In February, our Beautification Committee was also pleased to award our February Beautification Award to **Ginger Pinholster of 50 Loggerhead Court**. If you have a chance, please take a drive by to enjoy the beautiful landscaping on Loggerhead Court.

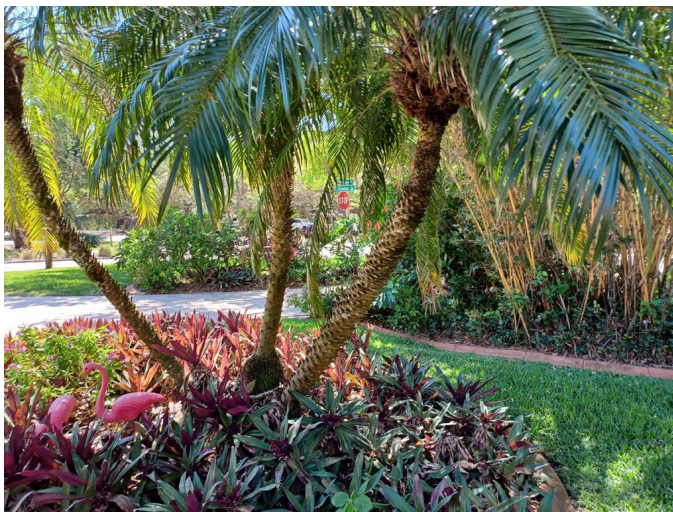


In February, we also had the pleasure of inducting 4 new members to our Garden Club Membership. Inducted were Soraya and Susan Vanderbeek, Ann Marie Waters and Jennifer Mascola. Welcome to all of our newest members!



In March our Club had the privilege of participating in the town's Ponce Preserves the Planet event which took place on March 18. The Garden Club was one of 13 local organizations who participated in this annual event. Many thanks go to our members Portia Mallack, who organized our participation, and Barbara Stewart who led our team at the event.

In March, our Beautification Committee, was also pleased to award our March Beautification Award to Heather Pettit-Johnson, one of our own members, of 94 Buschman Drive. Once again all are invited to drive or walk by to see Heather's beautifully landscaped property. In the meantime, enjoy the lovely pictures below.



At our March membership meeting we had a very special birthday, celebrating Edwina Knox's 95th Birthday. Edwina was the Garden Club's Founder and First President back in 1982. Happy Birthday Edwina!



And finally, to close out the month we had our annual Field Trip. Over 50 members joined in on the fun aboard the Lady Dolphin of Daytona for their Dine and Cruise adventure. All members enjoyed a wonderful meal and we even got to see a Rocket Launch while aboard.

Congrats to member Judy DiCarlo who even won one of the door prizes. The fun never stopped while we were cruising, and there was even some dancing, by the one and only Judy Whittaker! Sincere thanks goes to Diane Bell for all of the hard work she did organizing every detail of this trip!





Looking ahead, our Garden Club will be very busy with a few special events beginning with our Arbor Day Celebration on April 26. Arbor Day has been a special event celebrated for many years by our members since Ponce Inlet was declared a tree city 29 years ago. Joining our Garden Club celebration will be our Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council Members and other representatives of our town. Also, in attendance will be representatives from the Miracle League of Volusia County and Southeastern Guide Dogs. The Garden Club is honored

to be making a donation to both of these worthwhile organizations as provided by the Diane Smith Foundation. Gary Smith, our Vice Mayor, will be making these presentations to both of these organizations.

Shortly after celebrating Arbor Day, the Garden Club will be hosting our annual Ice Cream Social. This special event will be held on May 7, from 1PM-4PM, at the Ponce Inlet Community Center. Admission is \$3. In addition, we will have raffle items, a kid's zone and cupcakes.

As always, anyone interested in joining our club are welcome to pick up an application at the Community Center. Our membership meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Community Center at 10:30 AM. In the past year we have seen our membership bloom from 88 members at the start of our year to 106 members today and growing. Come join us!!

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.



Ponce Inlet Lions Club

By Nancy Epps, President



Ponce Inlet Lions Club History

The Ponce Inlet Lions Club was chartered on May 28, 1992. The effort to form a Lions Club was spearheaded by several civic-minded citizens who had belonged to Lions Clubs in their former hometowns. According to Tales of Ponce Inlet, written by our first mayor, Ayres Davies, the Ponce Inlet Lions Club was one of the first organizations to start meeting in the new Community Center that opened in 1987.

Lions Clubs International was founded in Chicago on June 7, 1917, by Melvin Jones, a businessman and philanthropist who envisioned a service-centered organization of businessmen. Lions Clubs International's mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. Our motto is simply "We Serve", and serve we do! We are currently the largest service organization in the world, with 47,000 clubs in over 160 countries across the planet.

Since our founding, the Ponce Inlet Lions Club has raised and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity. Past projects have included fundraising for a childhood cancer patient, eye surgeries, eye exams, eyeglasses for numerous individuals, hearing aids, and more as detailed below. Our largest annual fundraiser since 2017 has been the golf tournament. Mark Oebbeke and his wife, Pat Morris, have spearheaded the tournament for the past few years, and

we just held our 2023 tournament on March 25. With the support of many, we have been able to raise around \$10,000 to support our charities again this year.

The Ponce Inlet Lions Club currently supports several charities, including: Southeastern Guide Dogs veterans' assistance dogs program, RJ Longstreet Elementary School, Halifax Urban Ministries and the Hope Place Family Shelter, the Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired, the equine therapy program at Whispering Meadows Ranch, diabetes testing, vision and hearing services, and other worthy causes. We also participate in town events such as Ponce Preserves the Planet, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, and the Christmas parade. You can count on us for hotdogs at some of these events!

Some notable accomplishments in our past 31 years include:

- Sponsoring over a dozen veterans' assistance dog Team Scholarships amounting to a total of over \$170,000
- Tens of thousands of dollars in food support for area families during the historic COVID-19 pandemic, and is ongoing to date at RJ Longstreet Elementary
- Free diabetes screening of hundreds of people
- Support of Lions Clubs International Foundation, which has granted over \$100,000 to Floridians suffering from the devastation of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole.

If you have a giving heart and want to work with other caring people, please consider joining the Ponce Inlet Lions Club. Our May meeting will take place on May 3rd, and our guest speaker will be the new District Manager for Waste Pro, Steve Cameron. He will be focusing on recycling, but the meeting is open to the public for any questions you want to ask. We will start at 6 PM on May 3 at the Ponce Inlet Community Center. Please RSVP to me so we can have the room set up appropriately. nancyepps@cfl.rr.com

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

by Bill Wester



Memorial Day Ceremony

We would like to offer a warm invitation to everyone to attend a Memorial Day celebration at the Memorial in Davies Lighthouse Park on Monday, May 29, 2023, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Please take note of the earlier start time so that participants and attendees can enjoy the cooler weather.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed in 1868 when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Our Ponce Inlet ceremony will include guest speaker Major Brian Vickaryous, a US Army surgeon from 1996 to 2008, the Spruce Creek Gaggle fly-over, a dedication and wreath laying, a firing squad, and taps. And finally, and most importantly, help us to observe a moment of remembrance and respect for those who gave all for our country.

Veterans Information

The new Board of Directors take office for the 2023-2024 year. The officers are: President, Mark Oebbecke; Vice President, Andy Koch; Treasurer, Tracy Bell; Acting Secretary, Mark Oebbecke; Immediate Past President Jim Hinson. Other board members are Directors: Tom Whalen, Deke DiCostanzo, Julius Esposito, Tony Raia, and Ed Roloson.

We were again raising funds for Paws for Patriots. Some of our members worked tirelessly manning a stand at the Daytona Beach Flea Market. We are also planning to be part of the 150 Mile Garage Sale this Fall.

We would like all local veterans and those who are still serving on active duty to join us. The Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association is a non-profit 501c(19) organization and our mission is to maintain our Memorial and promote veteran's activities in our community. Dues are \$20 per year and meetings are held at the Ponce Inlet Community Center at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday, each month, except during the summer. Contact Mark Oebbecke at 610-716-0041 for additional information or to obtain a membership form.



PONCE INLET ANIMAL WELFARE BY NANCY EPPS, PRESIDENT



This summer, Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare (PAW) will celebrate the 14th anniversary of its founding. PAW has supported the town-sanctioned trap–neuter–return/release (TNR) colony since 2009. Co-founders Alan Redinger and Jo Ellen Basile filed articles of incorporation with the state on June 26th. At the time, the town had been struggling with a feral cat problem since the early ‘90s. At one point, volunteers Barbara Davis and Beth Liebert trapped almost 300 cats! However, by 2009, the cat population was rebounding and was concentrated near the dumpster next to Jerry’s restaurant where some well-meaning people were feeding them.

Alan and JoEllen decided it was time to step in to help. Working with Pat Mihalic and Concerned Citizens for Animal Welfare, they developed appropriate guidelines, and two Ormond Beach animal control officers assisted by sharing the forms and procedures they had developed. The property owner’s consent was obtained, and the colony was officially established when the town council approved a TNR ordinance on August 20, 2009. A one-year pilot program was authorized, and following the pilot program period, all cats had been sterilized, and the original 22 cats had been reduced to five. The same five cats were

there for several more years, although all except Ruthie have passed away in the past few years.

Volunteers have cared for the cats daily since 2009, visiting once per day to feed them, put out fresh water, clean up the area as needed, and take any sick or injured cats for veterinary care.

Thank you to those generous residents who have donated food and money.

We are now down to only two full-time residents, Ruthie Grace, an original colony resident, and the mama cat, Tiki, who has only been there a couple of years. Sadly, Ruthie is showing signs of illness and we don’t expect to have her with us much longer. Tiki had her kittens near the colony in May 2020, and the staff at Jerry’s trapped the kittens. We have got them all adopted following spay and neuter, but we have not been able to trap Tiki. She is a sweet and very pretty girl, and she needs a forever home. She has been spayed and had her first shots in December 2021. If you would like to adopt her, please let me know: nancyepps@cfl.rr.com or (386) 795-2310.



Fall will bring the sad anniversaries of the passing of our founders, Alan Redinger and Jo Ellen Basile. Alan died on October 16, 2012, and Jo Ellen passed away from us on September 11, 2016. Shortly before his death, Alan was able to see the opening of the Redinger Spay/Neuter Clinic. The clinic offers low-cost sterilization services for both cats and dogs, as well as shots and microchipping. <https://www.halifaxhumanesociety.org/spay-neuter-clinic/index> To prevent stories like Tiki's, please get your pets spayed or neutered!

PAW can share options with you if you have financial or other challenges. Cats reproduce several times a year and the population can explode in a short period of time if both males and females are not made infertile.

We can always use more volunteers to augment our feeders' schedule. Please contact me if you would like to learn more about PAW, donate time or food, or need our help.



PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER

PICCI Happenings

by Laura Brown-Yadlosky

PICCI Board Member

The Ponce Inlet Community Center, better known as the PICCI, is not only a place for you to attend social events but you can reserve the center for special occasions, weddings, graduation parties and more! We offer very reasonable rental rates and a newly refreshed facility check out our website <http://piccommunitycenter.com>.

For more information on rentals you can call Mark at 610-716-0041 or email us at contact@piccommunitycenter.com or Picrentals@yahoo.com

Our website also has a Calendar of Events for all of the clubs, stay in the know! Don't miss out on ticket sales, our Irish Night sold out in less than two weeks.



Facebook is also a great place to be sure you know the latest happenings at the PICCI, follow us there and you'll be sure to know what's going on!

Looking for a place to meet some great people! The clubs hosted at PICCI are a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in your community. We host the following clubs on a regular basis:

- Garden Club of Ponce Inlet
- Ponce Inlet Veteran Memorial Association
- Ponce Inlet Lions Club
- The Art Guild of Ponce Inlet

Contact information for all the clubs can be found on our website <http://piccommunitycenter.com>.

Hope to see you there!



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

by Zach Hopple



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Springs Into Action

A new year always brings new excitement to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

The first months of each year are always the busiest at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. School tours, adult programming, onsite educational opportunities, as well as outreach across Volusia County are prominent as the cold begins to shake off of Florida and people start enjoying the beautiful Florida sunshine again.

As Spring arrives in Ponce Inlet, people continue to flock to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. Visitors from all around the world enjoy climbing the 175-foot tower, taking home souvenirs from the unparalleled gift shop, and enjoying the meticulously preserved National Historic Landmark.

Tours

Tours of the 1887 light station are always one of the most popular aspects of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.

Throughout the months, requests for tours continue to pour in. Adults, teenagers, and children all love hearing the knowledgeable docents and staff explain the social and nautical history of Florida's tallest lighthouse.

Thousands of public, private and homeschool students have already learned about the history and majesty of the lighthouse so far in 2023. If scheduled in advance, the mission of the education department allows for all public and private schools to visit the lighthouse for FREE, with a nominal fee for homeschool students. The support of our membership and donation allows the students of Volusia County to engage with the museum in such a special way.

Museum at Night

As a collaborative engagement with the Museum of Arts and Sciences, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse hosted Museum at Night on February 22nd, 2023. As a teacher appreciation night, this program gave free admission to all Volusia County teachers and students to experience the lighthouse after dark.

This unique experience was highlighted by Museum of Arts and Sciences Curator of Science Seth Mayo and the Cassegrain telescopes all across the grounds. The ability for visitors to see the evening sky in such a tranquil setting was truly an incomparable experience for people of all ages.





Florida Heritage Day

Continuing the spirit of collaboration, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse hosted cultural sites from across the state on its grounds for Florida Heritage Day on March 24th, 2023.

Joining in on the day of history and fun, exhibitors included; New Smyrna Museum of History, Seminole County History Museum, Volusia Botanical Gardens at Dunlawton Sugar Mill, Port Orange Historic Trust, Port Orange Historic Railway, West Volusia Historical Society, Barberville Pioneer Arts Settlement, the Halifax Historical Society, as well as the Volusia County Library System.

Visitors were treated to engaging presentations, information and collectibles, and information all included with their regular admission price.

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and museum, as part of its mission, brings social history to the people of Volusia County. Keep up to date with the museum's Events page to see more programming such as this.

Tunes at the Tower

The next major offering provided by the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse will be Tunes at the Tower on Saturday May 20th at 11:00am. This program, included with general admission, will feature the Daytona Beach Concert Band as they chronicle the history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse with contemporary music of the day.

Volunteer Opportunities

The success of all of the programs provided by the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse rely on the dedication and hard work of our amazing volunteer corps. They are the backbone of the programs department and we appreciate everything that they do for the us. The Preservation Association is always looking for individuals interested in becoming volunteers. Monthly meetings and trainings will be provided for all volunteers, as well as the opportunity to preserve and interpret the history of a National Historic Landmark. Any individuals interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple by email at education@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386)761-1821 ext. 18.



Become a Member

Purchasing an Annual Membership is one of the most popular and affordable ways to support the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association in its mission to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Benefits of membership include free admission to the museum and lighthouse during normal hours of operation, 10% discount on all regular-priced merchandise in the gift shop, annual subscription to the Association's quarterly journal Illuminations, as well as invitations to special events.

For more information about membership, please visit www.ponceinlet.org or via phone at 386-761-1821.

PONCE CHURCH



Ponce Church meets Sundays 10:30AM at the PI Community Center 4670 S. Peninsula Drive next to the fire station.

Everyone is Welcome at Ponce Church.

The Lord brought our family to the beautiful town of Ponce Inlet twenty-one years ago. When Pastor Rick was out for a walk on the beach one day, 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, 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.

Visit PonceChurch.com for more information. Thank you.



LEGACY
HOUSING

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 also provides 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 Sundays 10:30AM at Ponce Church
4670 S. Peninsula in Ponce Inlet
386-308-1533. Thank you.

Watering Guidelines

Watering Restrictions

To ensure the efficient use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation, the St. John's River Water Management District has adopted watering restrictions. These restrictions are in effect year-round and apply throughout the District's entire 18-county area.

Rules & Regulations

During Daylight Savings Time the following rules apply:

Daylight Saving Time begins the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November. Residential irrigation is allowed at odd-numbered addresses from 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays and even-number addresses Thursdays and Sundays.

Business may irrigate from 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

Restrictions apply to all water sources, including private wells and pumps, ground or surface water, and water from public and private utilities. New plantings may be watered any time for 30 days, then every other day for another 30 days. Keep the store receipt for proof of purchase. Hand watering with a spray nozzle that shuts-off when released is allowed anytime.

During Standard Time watering is allowed only once a week.

Helpful Resources

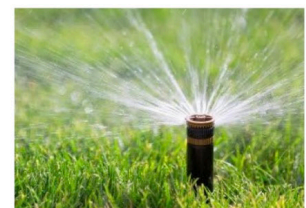
For more information regarding watering restrictions, you may contact the St. John's River Water Management District or 800-451-7106, or you may contact the Code Enforcement office at the Town of Ponce Inlet at 386-236-2187.

<https://www.ponce-inlet.org/286/Watering-Restrictions>

 <h2>Know your watering days</h2>			
	Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses	Homes with even-numbered or no addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight Saving Time	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday and Friday
Eastern Standard Time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

These guidelines apply to all areas in Volusia County, including cities:

- Water only when needed, and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Water for no more than one hour per zone, and no more than ¾ inch per zone.
- Restrictions apply to all water sources, including private wells and pumps, ground and surface water, and water from public and private utilities.



Sea Turtle Nesting Season & Light Trespass

Sea turtle nesting season begins May 1 and runs through October 31.

Whenever human light shines into nature, it affects some aspect of animal life - migration, reproduction, hunting and feeding. The best studied incidence was observed in sea turtles. Sea turtle hatchlings instinctively know to head for the brightest light source, because hundreds of years before mankind mastered the dark, the starlight reflected from the ocean was the brightest on the coasts. But when coastal cities flood the night with their bright lights, the hatchlings, heading for the cities and not the sea, get confused and lost, falling victim to dehydration and predators and never reaching the ocean. In Florida alone, hatchling losses are in the hundreds of thousands each year.



Volusia County Beachfront Lighting Information

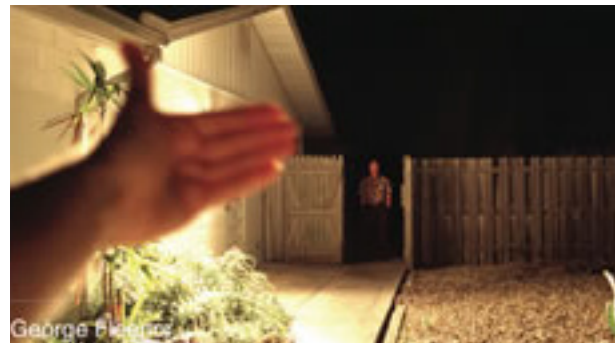
<https://www.volusia.org/services/growth-and-resource-management/environmental-management/natural-resources/sea-turtles/Beachfront-lighting-information.stml>

Light trespass: A light emitted by an outdoor light source that shines beyond the property on which the fixture is installed, and causes annoyance, discomfort, distraction or a reduction in visibility.

Does more light make you safe?

Look around to see what lights are used at night. Is there good visibility around you, or does the unprotected light cause so much glare that visibility is poor? It is usually the latter.

Glaring lights cause hazards in the dark due to poor visibility. But there are also simple solutions: shielding lights to reduce glare, dimming lights to get the right amount of light, and turning off lights when not needed. Look at the images below. See the intruder standing in the first picture? In the second image, the photographer is covering the light with his hand, as a properly protected light would do. Now do you see the intruder standing in the pathway? More light does not make us safer! Smarter use of light does!



Light trespass ordinance

Ponce Inlet ORD 2021-05

Sec. 34-99. - Nuisance lighting.

https://library.municode.com/fl/ponce_inlet/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH34EN_ARTIVNONULIRE_S34-99NULI

If you see a sick, injured, or dead sea turtle or other animal that needs help, DO NOT attempt to put it in the water or capture it. Please contact the nearest Beach Safety officer or lifeguard or call 1-888-404-FWCC.

To report stranded sea turtles or any other stranding call Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) at 1-888-404-3922.

Information provided by:

volusiaseaturtles.org

Visit this page for more links to learn about sea turtles, habitat conservation, beachfront lighting, and wildlife educational materials.



SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON MAY 1 – OCTOBER 31

It is unlawful to disturb sea turtles or their nests.

16 U.S.C § 1538 FLA. STAT. ch. 370.12

It is unlawful to disturb dunes or vegetation.

FLA. STAT ch. 161.053

Lighting restrictions are effective

May 1 – October 31 yearly.

Lights shall not directly or indirectly illuminate

The beach or be visible from the beach

During the sea turtle nesting season.

VC LAND Dev. CODE art. XII, §§ 1201-1209



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 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:

- Judy DiCarlo, President
- Joe Cannon, Vice-President
- Sue Fillion, Treasurer
- Kathy Cannon, Secretary
- Lauren Albinson, Newsletter Editor
- Lynn Albinson, IT
- Elviria LaBarre
- Pat Morris
- Mark Oebbecke
- 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.



"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.