

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.

Citizen of the Year & Lifetime Achievement Award Nominations



Who will be Ponce Inlet's next Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement winner? Information and nomination forms can be found starting on page 6.

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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, Inc. has achieved 501(c)(3) status, marking a significant milestone in its more than 40-year history as an entirely volunteer-driven organization dedicated to serving the residents of Ponce Inlet. The organization's roots trace back over four decades, when it first embarked on a mission to conduct research, investigate various issues, and propose initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of life in Ponce Inlet. Its primary objective was to collaborate with the Town Council in shaping a community that would be a source of pride for all. Today, this dedicated organization not only persists in pursuing these objectives but also annually recognizes and celebrates exceptional citizen volunteers through its Annual Awards Banquet. Among the accolades bestowed are the Citizen of the Year Award as well as various Lifetime Achievement Awards, reserved for residents who have generously volunteered for more than two decades.

Furthermore, CFPI, Inc./C4Pi hosts an annual Election Forum, providing residents with a valuable platform to engage with town council candidates. In a recent development, the organization introduced an Election Edition Newsletter, distributed via email to its C4Pi membership. This newsletter serves as a medium for candidates to address crucial community

concerns and questions. In an effort to conserve funds, offer more information, and adapt to the digital age, CFPI established the C4Pi.org website in 2019. This platform grants members the opportunity to access a digital quarterly newsletter, along with an extensive archive spanning over 40 years of past newsletters.

In addition to the services mentioned earlier, the C4Pi.org website also provides users to access live streaming of town council meetings and other special town council meetings or conveniently view stored videos at their leisure.

For those seeking even more information and ways to get involved, the website offers an extensive assortment of resources and details. Please visit www.C4Pi.org

Citizens for Ponce Inlet is constantly on the lookout for dedicated volunteers who possess website and computer skills, expertise in newsletter publication, and strong writing talent. If you are interested in contributing your skills and making a positive impact, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact Judy DiCarlo, President, at judy.dicarlo@c4pi.org to express your interest and learn more about how you can be a valuable part of this community-driven organization.

We are also grateful for any tax-deductible donations you may make to help us continue these valuable community services. Thank you.

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 over 40 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.

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.

2024 Annual C4Pi General Membership Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

1:30PM – 2:30PM

PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER

4670 S. PENINSULA DRIVE



The below items will be voted on and/or discussed at the Annual General Membership Meeting:

Membership Vote on Board of Directors whose terms expire in 2024

Membership Vote on 501c3 Status and By-Laws Updates

Financial Status Update

Citizen of the Year & Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Application, forms and deadlines, judging process and dinner information

Potential October Wine Tasting Fundraising Event



Citizens For PONCE INLET

2024 Citizen of the Year and 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award

Since 1987 the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Organization has selected, honored, and acknowledged a resident of Ponce Inlet or a Ponce Inlet employee for both the Citizen of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement Awards. The award is to acknowledge those individuals involved in volunteer work who have made an outstanding contribution to our community.

In 2022, the CFPI Board voted again to honor husbands and wives in the same year if their volunteer work is deserving of joint honors. This year, it will be possible to nominate couples or individuals for the 2024 award. Past winners cannot be nominated.

The CFPI Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed on a former Citizen of the Year. However, it doesn't have to be a past COTY winner. Anyone who has volunteered in our community for over 20 years is eligible for nomination for this prestigious award.

Nomination forms for both awards can be found in this 2024 CFPI Winter Newsletter, online at www.c4pi.org, picked up at the Community Center Office, or requested by emailing: admin@c4pi.org.

All completed Nomination Forms must be received by April 3rd, at noon to be considered and can be returned by email, send to admin@c4pi.org, or hand-delivered to the Ponce Inlet Community Center CFPI auxiliary mailbox in a sealed envelope.

All nomination forms will be held until the selection meeting on Saturday, April 6th, 2024, at which time they will be reviewed by former winners of the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards and CFPI Board Members. We look forward to your recommendations for individuals worthy of receiving these awards.

The Annual Awards Ceremony Dinner is scheduled to take place on May 8th, 2024, at the Community Center from 5 pm – 9:00 pm.





2024 Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

Qualifications for the Award are as follows:

- A resident of Ponce Inlet or a Ponce Inlet employee who has made outstanding contributions and volunteered in our community for over twenty years.
- Previous winners of this award are not eligible to be nominated. For a list of prior recipients, please visit the C4Pi website awards page.
- Nominations are limited to two pages citing the nominee's accomplishments and contributions in Ponce Inlet. This honor may be and often is awarded to a former Citizen of the Year recipient. More than one person may receive this award.

Nominations must be received no later than April 3, 2024 at noon.

Name of Nominee:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Explain briefly your reason for nominating this individual. Please list past and present community-service involvement.

(Attach a second sheet if necessary and indicate the nominee's name.)

We look forward to receiving your recommendations for individuals worthy of the 2024 Ponce Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nominated By:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Date:

Please complete the Nomination Form and return via:

- Email to **admin@c4pi.org**
- Hand delivered, in a sealed envelope, to the CFPi Auxiliary Mailbox at the Ponce Inlet Community Center office at 4670 S. Peninsula Drive.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet on May 8th 2024 at the Ponce Inlet Community Center from 5:00PM - 9:00PM. Tickets for the event will be on sale in the Community Center Office beginning April 8th, 2024.



2024 Citizen of the Year Award Nomination Form

Who will be Ponce Inlet's next Citizen of the Year?

Qualifications for the Award are as follows:

- A Ponce Inlet resident, a married couple, or a Ponce Inlet employee involved in volunteer work who has made an outstanding contribution to our community.
- Previous winners of this award are not eligible to be nominated. For a list of prior recipients, please visit the C4Pi website awards page.
- Nominations are limited to two pages citing the nominee's accomplishments and contributions in Ponce Inlet. Only one person, or a married couple will receive this award.

Nominations must be received no later than April 3, 2024 at noon.

Name of Nominee:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Explain briefly your reason for nominating this individual. Please list past and present community-service involvement.

(Attach a second sheet if necessary and indicate the nominee’s name.)

We look forward to receiving your recommendations for individuals worthy of the 2024 Ponce Citizen of the Year Award.

Nominated By:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Date:

Please complete the Nomination Form and return via:

- Email to **admin@c4pi.org**
- Hand delivered, in a sealed envelope, to the CFPi Auxiliary Mailbox at the Ponce Inlet Community Center office at 4670 S. Peninsula Drive.

Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet on May 8th 2024 at the Ponce Inlet Community Center from 5:00PM - 9:00PM. Tickets for the event will be on sale in the Community Center Office beginning April 8th, 2024.

State of the Town Address

Mayor Lois Paritsky

Ponce Inlet Town Hall - February 29th 2024

Good Evening Everyone: Residents, Neighbors, Friends, Department Heads and Staff Members. Welcome to the State of the Town Address, held once again at our Community Center. It's always so nice to see everyone here at this annual event. 2023 marks another year of achievement and accomplishment on the part of our staff, our dedicated Town Council Members and our citizen volunteers who contribute so much in so many ways. It is with a great sense of pride that I stand before you this evening to recap some of what this community was able to accomplish together this past year.

I would like to begin with a recognition of the dedication and hard work put forth by our Ponce Inlet staff. Our residents place a very high value on the services this government provides and once again, our staff met the challenges and worked to achieve a long list of accomplishments for our shared community.

During my presentation, I will mention many, but far from all the goals and accomplishments your Town Government has achieved for the year. Printed copies of the complete list are available on the side table, and I would encourage you to take one home with you this evening.

Starting at the very top, in 2023 Mike Disher succeeded Jeaneen Witt as our Town Manager. Mike had previously worked for 11 years in our Planning and Development Department, as Senior Planner, Assistant Director and then Director. Mike was selected from a group of over 50 applicants for the position. At the time Ponce Inlet was struck with back-to-back hurricanes in late 2022, Mike was acting as Interim Town Manager. He saw us through one of the

most difficult and challenging chapters in our history. Battle tested and intimately familiar with the unique makeup of our Town, we are in very capable and skilled hands with Mike at the helm.

In November of last year, we swore in Ponce Inlet's 70th Councilmember, Skip White. Skip previously served as the Vice Chair of our Planning Board and has participated at our Council meetings long before joining us on the dais.

I believe I can speak for the entire Council in welcoming Skip in his new position. Like all of you, our Council is made up of residents with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Each one of us understands the responsibilities and goals that come with serving on Council. We are always pulling in the same direction, which is to preserve and protect everything that is unique and special about Ponce Inlet.



I would also like to welcome Deputy Fire Chief Joe Landreville, who joined us after Deputy Chief Taylor left the department to accept a position in the private sector. Deputy Fire Chief Landreville brings 40 years of experience to our Fire Department, having served as a firefighter, paramedic, chief fire officer, educator at our local community college and a supervisor at the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. We are honored to have him.

Darren Lear joins us as our new Planning and Development Director, filling the vacancy created when Mike Disher was appointed as Town Manager. Darren comes to us with 24 years of local government experience in the planning field. Prior to this role, Darren served as the Development Services Director for the City of Edgewater for 18 years.



Joe Landreville

Darren Lear

Ponce Inlet's patient transport program continues to provide lifesaving services to our residents. Led by Public Safety Director and Fire Chief Dan Scales, just over 500 patient transports were performed during 2023 or just under two per day. Whenever our ambulance is performing a transport, staffing levels allow us to continue to provide advance life support capabilities should the need arise.

The Fire Department continues on its path toward accreditation, with completion of the department's Strategic Plan this past summer. Work on the Self-Assessment Manual started in December, with an anticipated completion date during the second quarter of 2024.

In January of 2023, we ratified a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 4140, the Ponce Inlet Fire Union, the first in 20 years. For those residents that may still have concerns about our maintaining our own Fire Department, rest assured that our hometown heroes are not going anywhere.

Ponce Inlet is, and always will be, a community that supports our police officers. Led by Chief Jeff Glazier, our Police Department received Accreditation status for the 15th year in a row, an achievement known as the Excelsior Award. Remarkably, we are the smallest agency in the State of Florida to receive this recognition, which demonstrates our commitment to providing the highest service standards to our residents. The men and women of this department are also Ponce Inlet's hometown heroes.

And we are extremely proud of our own Chief Glazier who has been selected by his peers to serve as the President of the Volusia/Flagler Police Chiefs Association.

In the Planning and Development Department, Code Compliance Manager David Hooker acquired his Provisional Mechanical Inspector's License, broadening the Division's expertise and adding valuable depth to the department for this function.

Rental Housing Inspector Travis Mincey obtained his Rental Housing Inspector certification from the International Code Council or (ICC).



Dave Hooker

Travis Mincey

Recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole continued throughout 2023. The Town sustained approximately eight hundred thousand dollars of storm-related damage and

cleanup expenses.

Although the reimbursement process is an arduous and difficult tangle of red tape, our persistent and dedicated Finance Department staff have persevered.



To date, five hundred and eleven thousand dollars have been received from FEMA and insurance, with another two hundred and seven thousand dollars expected to be received. Every dollar that we receive in reimbursement is a dollar saved for our taxpayers.

To prepare for future storms and in keeping with our vision of a resilient Ponce Inlet, our Public Works Department under the direction of Public Works Director Fred Griffith has been working to clear and refurbish drainage inlets and outfalls in neighborhoods which experienced flooding.

New pumps were purchased and existing pumps have been overhauled, significantly adding to our capacity to drain water after major events. The Town brought in specialists to assess, map, and clean out the storm drain system in the south half of Town, where the worst flooding occurred. This work will continue in the north half of Town in 2024.

Sediment levels in our town owned stormwater ponds are also being assessed

in advance of the excavation we have planned for 2024.



And finally, to improve communications in general, and specifically during severe weather events, we now have a dedicated Public Information Officer as well as a resident- led “check on your neighbor program” in place.

Community outreach was expanded during 2023 and included two Town Hall meetings held at the Community Center. At the August 24th meeting, Senator Tom Wright presented the Town with a check for twenty thousand dollars to be used for a backup generator for our Community Center. This event marked the first time in our history that we received an appropriation directly from Tallahassee.



In keeping with their commitment to the safety and well- being of our community, our Police and Fire Departments held several community outreach and educational events. “Coffee With A Cop” was held at Racing’s North Turn and gave our residents an opportunity to interact with our Police Officers in a casual and informal setting.



When concerns about wildlife sightings were being voiced by our residents, our Police Department hosted an event in cooperation with Florida Fish & Wildlife to educate us on how to keep our pets and family members safe.

As part of their effort to protect the health, safety and well- being of our residents, our Ponce Inlet Fire Department held CPR training classes here at the Community Center. CPR equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to save lives and can double or triple a person’s chance of survival if administered immediately after cardiac arrest.



Beyond our physical safety, too many of us become victims of online, cybersecurity and identity theft crimes. To help protect our digital lives, our I.T. Department held a class designed to teach us some of the basics of how to secure our personal systems and devices.

To highlight a few of the infrastructure accomplishments for the year, we repaired and protected our dune walkover and new beach stairs at Ponce Preserve. In partnership with the county, Trap Bags were placed along the beach in front of the structure to help keep it safe until the County’s sand replenishment project gets underway.



We completed the rip-rap revetment project at Elbers Sunset Park to stabilize the shoreline and protect it from further erosion. If you have not had a chance to take in one of the fabulous sunsets at this Park, I would encourage you to do so soon. It’s a wonderful way to end a day in Ponce Inlet.



Our pickleball courts remain one of the most popular town amenities. At the request of our residents, the Town installed 4 new shade structures along the east side of the courts at Pollard Park.



We entered into a Joint Project Agreement with Volusia County to begin the design and construction of the South Peninsula sidewalk mobility project.

We repurposed a covered picnic pavilion and dedicated a new conference room at Town Hall. This project was part of a revitalization and reorganization of the Town's office suites, relieving overcrowding and providing much needed workspace to enhance productivity. We owe it to our hard-working staff members to provide a comfortable, modern and well equipped work environment so that they can perform all the tasks associated with serving our community each day.



We replaced the deteriorating retaining walls at the intersection of South Peninsula Drive and Tina Maria Circle with concrete walls with stone veneer. The end result is a much stronger, durable, and attractive wall than the original wood timbers that had started to lean over.



And at long last, the Ponce de Leon Circle septic-to-sewer project has been completed. It included the construction of a gravity sewer, force main, manholes, a lift station and the abandonment of almost 24 septic tanks, significantly reducing nitrogen levels and increasing the water quality of the Halifax River.



On February 16th, we dedicated a new "pocket park" to Kathy Griscom, located on the corner of Inlet Harbor and South Peninsula Drive in recognition of a long-time resident who contributed so much and is no longer with us today.



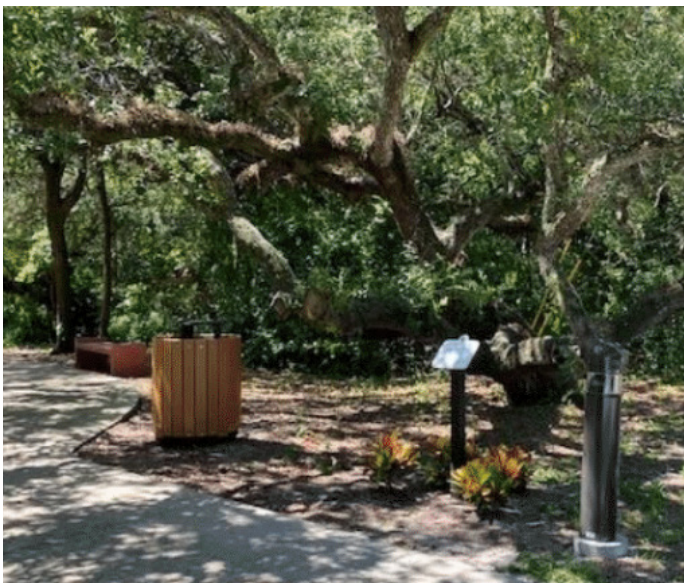
Our children’s Halloween party, always a big hit and always well attended, had another successful event in 2023 in addition to our annual Ponce Preserves the Planet event.

With more and more young people living in and visiting our Town, programs like this become so much more meaningful.

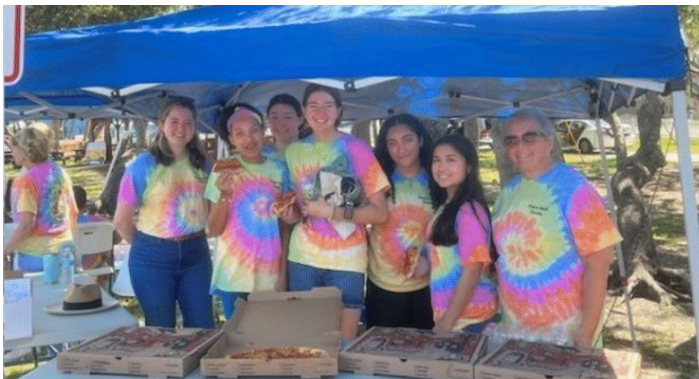


The Easter Bunny came to visit us at the Lighthouse during the annual Easter Party which featured the usual egg hunt, another popular tradition for us.

And once again, our Ponce Inlet Fire Department coordinated with their counterparts in the North Pole to arrange another visit from Santa. One of our most popular Ponce Inlet traditions, our Firefighters escorted Santa and his helper as they rode in Santa’s sled through every single street in town to visit all the children, both young and old, ringing in the holiday joy and community spirit.



Our community celebrated a birthday in 2023 as Ponce Inlet turned 60 years old. Our Cultural Services Team led by Jackie Alex put on a terrific event which featured our very own Police Chief, Town Manager, and two Council members taking a turn in the dunk tank. Thank you all for being such good sports.



Volunteerism, which many of us still consider to be the heart and soul of our community, is alive and well. Our staff, along with our dedicated volunteers hosted 39 educational programs at our Historical Museums and Town Parks such as “Painting at the Museum” and “Ghosts of Ponce Past”.



Another impressive volunteer event was the removal of invasive and non-native plants at Ponce Preserve. With assistance from the Cultural Services and Public Works Departments, Barbara Davis and a team of 18 volunteers have been gathering at the park every Tuesday morning since late September to help restore the park’s ecological health. This dedicated citizen-led group logged over 260 total hours and removed eight different problematic species in 2023.



And finally, 2023 was another great year for some very well-deserved special recognitions. To all of you who dedicated your time and energy to improving our community, let me say thank you on behalf of all of us. Your dedication and community spirit are part of what makes this Town so special, our shared paradise by the sea, Ponce Inlet Florida.

Thank you.

Lois A. Pardo



Watch the Town Hall meeting [video](#).

Please see the [handout](#) of the 2023 Town accomplishments provided by Town Manager Mike Disher during the February 29, 2024, Town Hall meeting.

COUNTY CORNER

Hi everyone. It is time once again for an update from your Volusia County Councilman, Matt Reinhart.

We are continuing our efforts to repair, renourish, and replenish our beaches. In the past several months, I have spoken about our two major beach restoration projects. The first was with the Army Corps of Engineers dredging project of the entire intracoastal waterway and then the placement of that beach-compatible sand (approximately 770,000 cubic yards) on the south end of Ponce Inlet. From that location, the County of Volusia will truck the sand north to the most vulnerable areas of the beach (Ponce Inlet, Daytona Beach Shores, and Daytona Beach). However, to accomplish this, approximately 50 easements would have to be signed for those private property owners that abut this location. Of the 50, 43 are signed, returned, and processed. Of the remaining 7, all but one are being processed by the owner's attorneys. The last one we have been told about is forthcoming. We have been advised by the Army Corps of Engineers that in the event the last one is not received by the cutoff date of February 29th, they will grant an extension. The Army Corps of Engineers has informed us that this project will begin next winter.

The second major beach renourishment project is one that the County of Volusia is overseeing, which is a sand dredging project on Rattlesnake Island and pumping that beach-compatible sand (approximately 550,000 cubic yards) to an area of New Smyrna Beach to assist in the renourishment of that location. That particular project will begin this summer.

Another important thing to mention is that last year we were successful in convincing

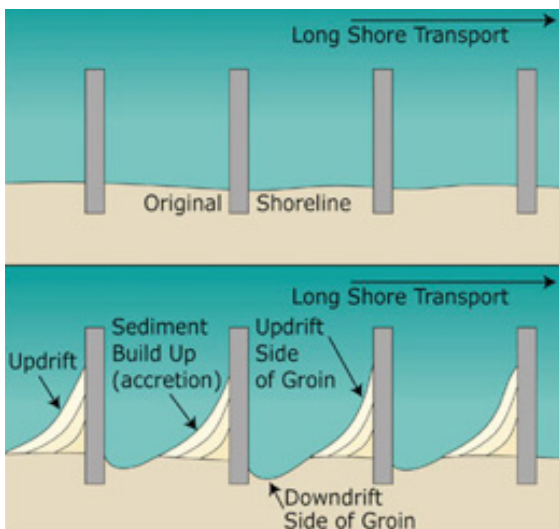


USFWS (United States Fish & Wildlife Service) to allow our citizens to continue work on their beachside homes past the sea turtle nesting start date of May 1st. Due to the fact much of that work continues today, and probably will be so for the next year, we have started that same conversation with USFWS.

Yet another exciting project to look forward to is the \$462,622.00 grant Volusia County received for a beach feasibility study. This particular grant is from the beach renourishment grant of \$82 million we recently received. This study will address the county's most vulnerable coastline areas and propose long-term solutions to storm impacts and coastal erosion.

This summer, Taylor Engineering and the County will arrange multiple public meetings and a virtual survey for residents, community members, and visitors to contribute their perspectives on future beach management activities. The County will announce the dates for the meetings and the availability of the survey as soon as they are finalized. Residents are encouraged to regularly check the County's social media platforms for the latest updates regarding these items. You can also go to www.volusia.org/services/public-works/coastal-division/sand-placement-project/beach-management-feasibility-study.stml

Taylor Engineering will analyze historic shoreline trends, erosion and accretion rates, and community-specific sand characteristics. A risk assessment will focus on the proximity of seawalls, buildings, and other structures to the changing shoreline. This evaluation aims to identify coastal areas requiring immediate and prioritized attention. The scope of the assessment will encompass an examination of a range of management measures, including but not limited to structures like groins, breakwaters, and seawalls, as well as ecological solutions such as submerged artificial reefs, beach nourishment, and dune enhancements. The results of this assessment, which the consultant will present, will provide a recommended comprehensive plan for managing each segment of the coastline. This plan will be instrumental in seeking further funding and forming financial partnerships necessary for the design and execution of the recommended strategies to ensure the resiliency of Volusia County beaches for generations to come.



In the last newsletter, I also spoke about inmate work programs. I came up with these ideas for many reasons. First of all, if we can identify the use of inmate labor to offset the costs of tax dollars being used for county initiatives, then I am all for it. In addition, and probably most importantly, teaching inmates a new trade will better

prepare them for life post-incarceration. If we can slow the recidivism rate by even one, that is a great thing. Many of the inmate work programs I previously mentioned have been stalled due to the county's staff levels. I believe we are on the right track to correct that very issue. We recently came to an agreement with the Corrections Officer's Union on their pay. Our hope is that this will continue to attract more individuals to this line of work in our correctional setting as opposed to our neighboring counties, which were paying more.

While we continue to work on the benefits for our correctional officers, I have been in communication with DSC (Daytona State College) to initiate a virtual inmate welding program. To start with, this will be primarily for those inmates who are veterans. What makes this program unique is that it is mobile and can be taken to the county jail. Therefore, there is no need to transport inmates to their location. It is, in fact, all virtual on a computer, so no real material is being used and it is completely safe. When we had this conversation with DSC, it opened the door for other conversations about more training programs such as irrigation, barbering services, and cosmetology. Exciting things are on the horizon.

As I always say, stay involved in your local government and attend those meetings as much as possible. Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Thank you, and God bless!

Matt Reinhart
 Volusia County Council
 District 2
mreinhart@volusia.org

THE TALK OF TALLAHASSEE

I am honored to represent the Town of Ponce Inlet in the Florida House of Representatives. The work and collaboration with Mayor Paritsky, the Town Council, and the Town Manager are second to none. Your town leaders are tremendous advocates for each and every one of you.

During my time in the Legislature, my primary focus has been and will continue to be on protecting Florida's children and families. This session, my priority Bill was HB-3 Age Verification. This was a crucial bill aimed at safeguarding minors and protecting them from harmful online content, such as pornography. This has been destroying the minds of young people for decades, and I'm proud that we've taken this challenge head-on. HB-3 passed unanimously off the House Floor.

This week we are also scheduled to pass off the House Floor and send it to the Governor to sign HB-631 After-Care Services. This Bill catches Florida's Foster Youth who have been falling through the cracks by not receiving the after-care services that they are entitled to. This is a vital need for our foster youth that will ensure that these children will have every opportunity to succeed and become productive members of society.

We are also aware of the continued challenge of the cost of living, housing insurance, rising inflation, and a host of other day-to-day concerns of everyday residents. We are beginning to see some of the fruit of last session's legislative efforts to correct the insurance market. The Tort reform we accomplished has proven to be a major step in the right direction. We've seen almost a dozen new carriers return to the Florida market. Just as this did not become a crisis overnight, it will not be



resolved overnight. The market required a correction, and that is precisely what we are seeing today.

New carriers are entering, which means more options and more competition to drive down costs. A little luck and good fortune in escaping another year with no major hurricanes wouldn't hurt either. We passed the largest tax relief package in the history of the state last session, and we will have more to come by the end of this session as well to bring some more assistance in keeping more of your money in your own accounts. I am proud to also co-sponsor HB-1195 which will require a 2/3 majority of council votes in order to raise mileage rates for local municipalities. These are just a few of the many initiatives we are taking in Tallahassee to try to bring a direct positive impact on your community and others.

If you need assistance navigating our state government, have concerns about pending legislation, or require help with various constituent services, please don't hesitate to contact my district office at (386) 944-1010.

My team and I are here to serve you, and we will work hard to address any issues related to state government you may have.

Humbled to Serve,
Rep. Chase Tramont

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

I am honored to serve Florida's Seventh Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives during the 118th Congress. It has been a little over a year since I began this journey, and I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish. So far this Congress, my team and I have returned over \$21 million in back benefits that were being held up by government agencies. This included Veterans Affairs, the IRS, FEMA, and more agencies that were holding up money that was rightfully owed to Central Florida residents. If you require any assistance with federal agencies, please don't hesitate to reach out to my Lake Mary or Port Orange offices.

On the legislative front, I am proud to have introduced legislation to hold our adversaries accountable, honor our Veterans in Florida's Seventh, and protect our children from sexually explicit material in schools. I fought hard to ensure the House passed legislation to reduce energy costs for American families, secure our border, and ensure parents have a seat at the table when it comes to their child's education.

As a foreign policy expert and as one of nearly 100 distinguished Veterans on Capitol Hill, I currently serve on the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees. Last year, we held several hearings on issues such as addressing our military's record recruitment shortages and conducting oversight into the botched Afghanistan withdrawal. During the Armed Services Committee mark-up of the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), I was proud to have over twenty-four of my initiatives included in the House-passed bill to support our service members.



I'd like to show my appreciation to our law enforcement and first responders for keeping our community safe here in Central Florida. Earlier last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with the brave first responders in Ponce Inlet. These individuals work tirelessly to protect our families. Thank you for your hard work!

My team and I are here to assist you with anything from scheduling a U.S. Capitol tour to helping with federal agencies. To ensure you are up to date with everything I am doing in Florida's Seventh and D.C., subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter at mills.house.gov.

It's an honor to serve.
Rep. Cory Mills (FL-07)



C O N G R E S S M A N
CORY MILLS
HONORED TO SERVE FLORIDA'S 7TH DISTRICT

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Phone: (407) 638-7900

Port Orange District Office

1000 City Center Circle
Port Orange, FL 32129
Phone: (386) 238-9711



From Left to Right: Lieutenant Reneker, Mayor Paritsky, Congressman Cory Mills, Firefighter Godawa, Driver Engineer Kojadinovic, Firefighter Garcia

From the Town Manager, Mike Disher

The start of the New Year is when we take time to reflect on the hard work and accomplishments of the prior year and look forward to the next. Last year, at this time, the Town was beginning its recovery efforts from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Since then, much has been accomplished, including repairs to the fire station and community center roofs; construction of beach stairs at Ponce Preserve; cleaning out the stormwater pipes in the south half of Town; purchasing new pumps; obtaining a state appropriation for a new generator at the community center; and securing reimbursement of eligible expenses from our insurance provider and FEMA.

The Town Council's adopted budget for this fiscal year continues these efforts, with funds for cleaning the storm drainage pipes in the north half of town; creating an Adaptation Action Plan, which is the next step in the town's resiliency planning efforts; excavating the Town retention ponds to remove muck deposits; and installing one-way backflow valves in storm drains on certain low-lying streets. Additionally, the Town has requested state matching funds to replace aging generators at the fire station and public works. Updates to these projects will be provided periodically throughout the year.

Town Staff accomplished many other important tasks last year, such as hosting the Town 60th anniversary party; installing shade structures at the pickleball courts; achieving a perfect financial audit for the 7th straight year; constructing a new conference room and clerk's office at Town Hall; modernizing the Town cybersecurity system; digitizing and posting the Town zoning and future land use maps on its



website; maintaining accreditation for the Police Department; and replacing the two retaining walls at Tina Maria Drive.

The Town Council has set ambitious goals for our staff for 2024, some of which include: achieving Fire Department accreditation; increasing efficiency of public records management; completing the Watershed Master Plan; expanding the use of security cameras on town-owned property to deter theft; implementing an online permitting and payment system; completing state-mandated updates to the comprehensive plan; and purchasing a public safety vessel.

It is our pleasure to do our part to make Ponce Inlet the special place that you call home. On behalf of all your employees with the Town of Ponce Inlet, we wish you a safe, happy, and productive 2024!

New Planning and Development Director

I am very pleased to introduce our new Planning and Development Director, Darren Lear, AICP. Darren comes to us with 24 years of local government experience in the

planning field. Prior to this role, Darren served as the Development Services Director for the City of Edgewater for 18 years.

As Planning and Development Director, Darren supervises the Building and Permitting, Code Enforcement, and Planning and Zoning divisions. Darren is excited in his new role to provide the professional and courteous service this beautiful Town is known for. In his short time here since last December, Darren has already begun drafting needed updates to the Town comprehensive plan and codes, creating a resiliency project list based on the Town Vulnerability Assessment; and making improvements to the Planning & Development Department web page.

Among Darren's goals is to uphold and maintain the Town mission statement: "The Town of Ponce Inlet staff shall be professional, caring, and fair in delivering community excellence while ensuring Ponce Inlet citizens obtain the greatest value for their tax dollar." Please be sure to read additional information from his department in this newsletter.

Ponce Inlet Employee of the Year: Kim Bressett, Accountant

Congratulations to Kim Bressett for being selected as Ponce Inlet's Employee of the Year! Kim was nominated and selected by her peers for this award. Kim Bressett, or Kim B., as her peers call her, started working for the Ponce Inlet Finance Department as a Payroll Specialist/Utility Billing Assistant in February 2021. She soon took on the extra responsibility of overseeing the Town Utility Billing system and the training of the new Utility Billing/Accounting Specialist accounting specialist, who had no prior experience. She stepped up to the plate and embraced the challenge quickly, learned system operations, and handled all issues in a professional and courteous manner. Her attention to detail and degree of accuracy were the driving forces behind her being able to assess and assist with other

complex tasks.

Kim is always seeking more responsibility and is constantly finding ways to improve not only herself but the entire department. Her commitment and determination to assist our department have helped tremendously in accomplishing one of our Council goals: to meet or exceed audit reporting requirements. She reviewed numerous audit schedules from the prior year and reconciled or completed many of the most complicated ones. Kim performed them accurately and without instruction. Kim's initiative to assist the department with audit tasks resulted in another comment-free audit this year, which may not have occurred without her assistance. Kim worked many additional hours to get the job done accurately.

In addition to Kim's regular duties, she assisted with the FEMA reimbursement grant work from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, as well as other FEMA-related reconciliations and schedules. She further assisted the Planning and Development Department with the EnerGov upgrade and implementation through testing and reconciliation of the software system. She performs account reconciliations daily and works extensively to resolve any issues that may arise. Kim is patient with everyone, has a strong work ethic, and is a tremendous asset to the Town.



A Memorial Tribute to Public Works Employee Jeff Miller

The Town was greatly saddened by the sudden death this past January of our longest-serving employee, Jeff Miller. Mr. Miller first started with the Town in 1992 in the Public Works Department and, for a time, served as its Director. He was a highly valued member of our team and was known for how much he cared about the town and people of Ponce Inlet. At the January and February Town Council meetings, Council members and the public discussed different ways to honor his memory. The Council ultimately decided that a tree should be planted in his honor, as desired by Jeff's family, along with a memorial plaque and a bench. The details of this idea will be discussed further at the March Town Council meeting. Jeff's obituary, written by his family, can be found on page 26.

Town Budget

Even before we reach the midpoint of the 2023–2024 Fiscal Year, we have already begun planning for next year's budget. This work begins with input from all eight departments, Town advisory boards, and the public. The Town holds numerous public meetings and hearings throughout the year to gather input on budget items and the priorities of the community. This process began at the January 11th meeting of the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB), where proposals were presented from the police, fire, and public works departments. At its February 5th meeting, the Cultural Services Board offered budget suggestions related to parks and recreation. On March 7th, the ESAB will be asked to provide a prioritized recommendation to the Town Council on the budget proposals it reviewed in January. All of the proposals and recommendations received will then be presented to the Town Council at a Preliminary Budget Workshop in May or June. In July, the Town Council will hold a second workshop to review the initial FY 24–25 draft budget document, followed by a hearing to set the proposed millage rate.

Finally, the Council will hold two public hearings in September to adopt the final millage rate and new budget ordinance. Information from these meetings will be posted on the Town website, as was done with the FY 23–24 budget.

Public input is necessary in order to create a budget that balances the Town's operational needs, level-of-service expectations, and quality of life for the community. We welcome your questions, suggestions, and participation throughout this process.

Keep up with what's happening in your Town

The Town seeks to inform and engage residents on many subjects and in a number of ways. We host meet and greets and Town Hall meetings, and we provide a substantial amount of information on the Town website, www.ponce-inlet.org, and social media accounts. You can also contact us directly for any specific information you may seek, and we'll be happy to assist.

Please visit our website, www.ponce-inlet.org, for all public meeting notices and minutes, general information, and the status of current or upcoming projects. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our "Notify Me" e-mail list through the website. If you have a Facebook account, please be sure to "like" The Town of Ponce Inlet government Facebook page so you'll receive information regularly on the Facebook newsfeed. Last year, we also added a government account on Nextdoor. Please also be sure to read the back of your utility bills for special announcements and important information.

Finally, please sign up for the Town Code Red emergency phone call alert system by texting "PonceAlerts" to 99411 or by calling the fire department at 386-322-6720. We use this phone alert system very sparingly, as it is meant to be only for emergency notifications and will not burden you with unwanted calls.

In Loving Memory of Jeffrey Allen Miller (1960-2024)



Jeffrey Allen Miller, aged 63, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Port Orange, Florida, on January 9, 2024. Born on July 29, 1960, in Front Royal, Virginia. Jeff's journey through life was marked by his profound kindness, creativity, and a deep commitment to his loved ones and community.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories for his parents, Loyal Allen and Maria Lane Miller; his sister, Lori Miller Clark, (and her partner Steven Friedlander); his adoring sons, Kevin Allan Miller (and wife Janelle Miller) and Juston (Jeff) Thompson; and his beloved granddaughter, Penelope Olive Miller. Each of them treasured Jeff as a phenomenal

son, brother, father, grandfather and friend whose presence brought light and warmth into their lives.

Jeff was a cornerstone in the town of Ponce Inlet, dedicating years of service to the Public Works Department, eventually rising to the role of Director. His commitment to public service was unparalleled, and he left an indelible mark on the community he served with such passion.

More than his professional achievements, Jeff will be remembered for his vibrant spirit and artistic soul. An avid music lover, his skill in playing the guitar brought joy to many. As an artist, his creativity knew no bounds, and he found beauty in the simplest of things. Jeff's quick-witted humor was a source of constant joy, effortlessly turning any challenging day into one filled with laughter and smiles.

Most importantly, Jeff was a beacon of love and support. He had an extraordinary ability to make everyone around him feel valued and cared for. His compassionate nature extended beyond his immediate circle, touching the lives of many in the community.

To honor Jeff's memory, the family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers, consider planting a tree in his honor or making a donation to a charity of your choice. This gesture will ensure his love for nature and helping others continues to thrive in our hearts and in the world.

From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



The Police Department is proud to serve the residents and visitors of Ponce Inlet and the Town's long-standing reputation as one of the safest places in America. We strive to lead our profession with honor, integrity, and professionalism. For those unfamiliar with our department and programs, please see below.

Staffing

The Ponce Inlet Police Department operates 24/7 with 13 full-time officers, 3 part-time officers, and 2 civilian administrative staff. We are currently in the process of hiring two additional full-time police officers. Each police officer is assigned a patrol car and works a 12-hour shift. There is always a minimum of two officers patrolling the Town at all times. We have one investigator who follows up on all reported crimes, handles property and evidence collection, audits training records, performs required background checks on all new town employees, and functions as the liaison between the State Attorney's Office and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office.

Accreditation

Our department has been fully accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation for 15 straight years. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence, certifying that an agency has met specific requirements, best practices, and prescribed standards. Maintaining accreditation for this long demonstrates the long-term commitment of the department and town to the highest standards of professional excellence. It is our goal to be recognized as a model agency in the law-enforcement community.

Training

All Ponce Inlet Police Officers must qualify annually with their handgun, patrol rifle, shotgun, and taser. Officers participate in quarterly training at the Edgewater Police Department Shooting Range to stay proficient with their weapons.

License Plate Readers

We receive a lot of questions about our License Plate Readers. The police department uses this technology to identify those vehicles entering Ponce Inlet that may be associated with criminal activity (stolen vehicle, wanted person) or have been sanctioned by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (no registration, no insurance, expired license). Officers are alerted through their vehicle computer that a violator has entered the Town, and then they search for that vehicle and perform a traffic stop. This technology can also be used to count the number of vehicles entering our town for special events and holidays, which helps us plan for these events in the future. In 2023, more than 1 million vehicles passed by our readers.

Ponce Partners

The Ponce Partners Program is 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 will call to see if you are okay. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we will send an Officer out to check on your well-being. This program is designed to ensure our elderly citizens have some form of communication each day. We have a great relationship with all our Ponce Partners and look forward to their morning calls. This program has proven successful in rescuing several residents who had fallen and were unable to contact us. If you or anyone you know is interested, simply contact the Police Department at 386-236-2160 or download the application (PDF) from our [website](#).

Beware of Fraud

The most common crime in Ponce Inlet is fraud. Older victims are often targeted because they own their home, have savings, are trusting and kind, and will often answer the phone and speak to solicitors. The Ponce Inlet Police Department developed a fraud class. If you would like to have this 1-hour class presented to your condo association or club, you can email Chief J. Glazier at jglazier@ponce-inlet.org to schedule it. Remember, if it's too good to be true, it's a fraud!



Gopher Tortoises

Finally, as the weather begins to warm up, we will see more of our gopher tortoises crossing our roadways. New signs have been placed around town to alert drivers to slow down and “Protect the Locals.”



Robert La Follette



For additional information about the Ponce Inlet Police Department, please visit our web page at: <https://www.ponce-inlet.org/222/Police-Department>.

From Public Safety Director and Fire Chief Dan Scales...



Emergency Response

Led by Fire Chief Scales and Deputy Chief Joe Landreville, our Fire Department responded to 1,186 calls in 2023, with 422 fire incidents and 764 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls. Included in the EMS numbers were 567 patient transports. Ponce Inlet provides patient transport for our residents as mandated by our agreement with Volusia County. In 2023, the fire department responded to an average of 3.2 total incidents per day, with 1.6 incidents per day being patient transports. Whenever our ambulance is performing patient transport, our remaining staffing levels allow us to continue to provide advanced life support and firefighting capabilities should the need arise.

New Deputy Fire Chief

This past June, Deputy Chief Noble Taylor left for a position in the private sector, and in October, a new Deputy Fire Chief was hired. Joe Landreville was selected from 12 applicants as part of an extremely competitive field of candidates. Mr. Landreville is a long-term resident of Volusia County. He graduated from New Smyrna Beach High School and has lived in the same area ever since. His work experiences for the past 40 years include being a firefighter paramedic, Chief Fire

Officer, educator at the local community college, and supervisor for the Florida Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. He holds a BA degree in Organizational Management and is a graduate of the four-year Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. Chief Landreville started his tenure with the department by performing a comprehensive assessment of fire department apparatus, equipment, and operational policies. Based on Chief Landreville's assessment and extensive experience in the fire service, improvements to fire department operations have already been implemented, with the focus primarily on firefighter safety and response times.

Accreditation

2023 also saw significant progress towards fire department accreditation. The Community Risk Assessment/Standard of Cover and Strategic Plan documents were completed. Both documents comprise two of the three required components of the accreditation assessment process. The final piece of documentation, the fire department's Self-Assessment Manual (SAM), began preparation in January, with a projected completion later in 2024.

Trap Bags

Even though the hurricane season for 2023 was relatively quiet for Ponce Inlet, there were a few storms that had the potential to impact the town. In cooperation with Volusia County and the State of Florida Emergency Management Department, "trap bags" were installed to protect the dune face at Ponce Preserve as well as other private properties along the ocean shore. These large bags are filled with beach-quality sand and help prevent dune erosion from wave action. The trap bags will remain in place until the County has completed its dune restoration project, after which the bags will be dismantled and the sand in them will remain on the beach.

From Planning and Development Director Darren Lear...



Sand Placement Project

Hurricanes Ian and Nicole of 2022 severely eroded Volusia County's beaches by removing over 6.5 million cubic yards of sand, resulting in massive property damage and devastation along the coastline. Using the grant funding made available by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and in partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), approximately 700,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand are to be dredged from the Intracoastal Waterway and Ponce de Leon Inlet for placement onto the beaches north of the inlet in Volusia County.

The sand will first be pumped through a pipe over the North Jetty, then underneath the Beach Street approach, to a point beginning just north of Beach Street. It will then be spread out eastward and northward to create a storage area on which to place the rest of the sand. From there, the County will then transport the sand via truck to

eligible properties that have provided the County with sand placement easements north of the inlet. This work is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2024–2025.

We are grateful to those beachfront property owners who have granted the temporary easements necessary to allow this restoration of our coastline to occur. For additional information regarding this project, please see the County's [North Sand Placement Project web page](#). Feel free to also contact Olivia Thomas, Coastal Project Coordinator, at 386-248-7082 or othomas@volusia.org. For questions regarding easements, please contact Shannon Minchew, County Right-of-Way Manager, at sminchew@volusia.org or 386-736-5967 x12236.



Friendly Reminder: Beach Addresses

On December 18, 2023, the Town Council passed Ordinance 2023-06, stipulating that properties abutting the Atlantic Ocean must display their address number on the rear face of the building, seawall, fence, or any other permanent vertical structure approved by the Chief Building Official. In addition, all beachfront multifamily buildings and commercial buildings must also display the street name. The address numbers and letters must be a minimum of 12 inches in height and a contrasting color from the background so that they will be clearly visible from the beach.

The purpose of the requirement is to improve emergency response for emergencies occurring on the beach. It stems from concerns that beachgoers, including tourists and visitors, might encounter difficulties identifying the closest address for emergency responders when calling 911 from the beach. Having address numbers visible from the beach is intended to help the public provide their location swiftly and accurately to emergency services if necessary. This measure is also being considered by other beachfront communities in Volusia County. In Ponce Inlet, the new requirement will take effect on April 16, 2024. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact Hank Baker, Chief Building Official, at hbaker@ponce-inlet.org.

The 2023 Florida Building Code (8th Edition) is Now in Effect

The new 2023 Florida Building Code (8th Edition) took effect on December 31, 2023. The statewide Florida Building Code is updated every three years by the Florida Building Commission and is adopted locally by city and county governments in the state. The code establishes minimum requirements for permitting, plan review, and inspections. The Town of Ponce Inlet has adopted a modified Chapter 1 of the Florida Building Code for administrative purposes. The Town has also adopted the 2021 Property Maintenance Code, effective December 31, 2023.

The Florida Building Code is based on national model building codes and consensus standards, in addition to Florida-specific provisions. The code incorporates all building construction-related regulations for public and private buildings in the State of Florida other than those specifically exempted by Section 553.73, Florida Statutes. It has been harmonized with

the Florida Fire Prevention Code, which is developed and maintained by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, to establish unified and consistent standards.

All permit applications and related documentation submitted on or after December 31, 2023, must reflect this new code.

Before doing any construction in your home or on your property, please contact the Planning and Development department to see if a permit is required. Permits are needed for almost all construction, remodeling, tree removal, fencing, decking, walkways, driveways, patios, etc. The permitting system exists to make sure the work is done correctly and safely. Getting a permit in advance is required by law and will minimize any unexpected expenses or delays.

Please feel free to contact the Town of Ponce Inlet Building Department at 386-236-2182 if you have any questions. The 2023 Florida Building Code (8th Edition) is available online at <https://codes.iccsafe.org/codes/florida>.

From Public Works Manager, Fred Griffith...



Removal of Invasive Plants and Vines at Ponce Preserve and Town Hall

Public Works collaborated with Barbara Davis and her team of dedicated volunteers to successfully remove numerous invasive Brazilian Pepper tree non-native plants from Ponce Preserve and Town Hall. Approximately 20 volunteers have met each Tuesday at Ponce Preserve to remove these plants by hand and to assist Public Works with identifying larger trees that could only be removed with heavy machinery. At Town Hall, Public Works hired temporary help to complete the removal of muscadine grape vines that were choking the native oaks and saw palmetto. This collective effort has spanned several months and has greatly improved the condition of Ponce Preserve and Town Hall. The Department is now preparing for the final stage of grading, reseeding grass, and potentially planting additional trees in late March, further enhancing the areas affected by this commendable undertaking.



Construction of the Kelly Bea Retention Pond

The Public Works Department recently teamed up with Kay Cotton, a resident of Kelly Bea Court, to improve the stormwater drainage capacity of this street. As originally designed in the early 1980s, the Sea Dunes subdivision was not developed with its own retention ponds, instead relying on platted drainage easements located on two private properties at the end of the cul-de-sac. These drainage easements were simply low-lying depressions and had never been designed or excavated as stormwater retention areas.



The property owner removed a significant amount of dirt for the project, which Public Works hauled away. After the owners completed the final grading and landscaping, Public Works altered the curbing to allow stormwater runoff to reach the storage area within the drainage easement. The end result of this public-private partnership is a delightful property upgrade and an outstanding enhancement to the local stormwater treatment system. The owner has been recognized with a well-deserved certificate of appreciation from the Town.

Construction of a New Assistant Manager's Office

Public Works Assistant Manager Steve Dunlap is responsible for managing the daily activities of the department's field crews and private contractors to ensure the regular maintenance and operation of the Town's infrastructure and property. Until recently, Steve did not have a dedicated workspace within the Public Works building other than a seat at the break-room table. Despite budget and space constraints, a creative solution was found by creating a dedicated office space from an expanded closet. Steve now enjoys the privacy of his own workspace with a door that can be closed. We are pleased to have successfully provided Steve with a designated office space to help him stay organized and free of distractions so he can focus on serving the Town, and potentially planting additional trees in late March, further enhancing the areas affected by this commendable undertaking.

From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie Alex...



2023 Accomplishments

As we begin the new year, I would like to first highlight a few of the accomplishments of the Cultural Services Department in 2023.

The department was able to achieve several goals set by the Town Council with respect to parks and special events. Last March, the Department assisted and facilitated the construction and repair of the existing rip-rap revetment at Elber's Sunset Park. This project will prevent future erosion of the park's shoreline, which has been a significant concern of the Cultural Services Board and local residents. And last August, four new shade structures were installed at the pickleball courts in Pollard Park.



In the months of August and September, at the direction of the Town Council, the Department proposed amendments to the criteria and a review of special event co-sponsorship. The Council's approval of this ordinance led to the revision of the town's special event permit application as well as a new co-sponsorship request form for a more efficient application process.

Also in September, the department helped celebrate the 60th anniversary of the town's incorporation! Over 300 people attended this event, which included an educational scavenger hunt about the town's history, a 1960s-themed costume contest, participation from local businesses and clubs, games, a food drive for our local elementary school, and even the opportunity to soak Council members and staff in a dunk tank! The department was beyond honored and grateful for all the community support to ensure this momentous occasion took place with such great spirit, connection, and fun!



Wrapping up events and programs for 2023, the Department, with the invaluable participation of community volunteers, hosted a total of 53 programs and events with over 1,600 total attendees! These included a wide range of topics for diverse age groups and interests, such as programs in town parks, Volusia County's ECHO Ranger program, art classes, and holiday commemorations.

The department also coordinated 11 co-sponsored events within the Town. The Department is proud to provide connections to the town's beautiful natural resources and rich history, and is excited to work with our passionate group of community volunteers!

Events and Programs

Below is a list of the Town's upcoming events. Please continue to visit the Town of Ponce Inlet website and Facebook page for additional details.

Events for March:

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 soils and plants. Be prepared to get your hands dirty.

9:00 AM

Friday, March 1, 2024

Ponce Preserve

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

Free. Contact Jackie at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

RSVP by 2/27 is required.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt Party

After hunting eggs, get your picture with the Easter Bunny and check out the petting zoo. Be sure to bring your basket!

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Saturday, March 30, 2024

Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park

4931 S. Peninsula Drive

Free. Contact Jackie at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

Events for April:

Prehistoric Halifax-Mosquito Lagoon

Join Founder and Executive Director of SARI (Smyrna Archaeological Research Institution) Rebecca Harris on a journey through time as she shares the story of the the Mosquitos. Learn about the various shell mounds and villages that once lined the interior waterways and what we have learned about the thousands of prehistoric peoples that called this home.

10:00 AM

Friday, April 12, 2024

Town Council Chambers at Ponce Inlet Town Hall

4300 South Atlantic Avenue

Free. Contact Jackie at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

RSVP by 4/9 is required.

Reptile Revelry

ECHO Ranger event. Come tour the museum, meet an ambassador animal visiting from the Lyonia Environmental Center, and participate in a fun reptile craft!

10:00 AM

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street., meet outside on the lawn.

Free. Contact Jackie at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

RSVP by 4/4 is required.

Ponce Preserves the Planet

Family fun, food, crafts, and art vendors at the Town's annual celebration of Earth Day.

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Ponce Preserve, 4401 S. Peninsula

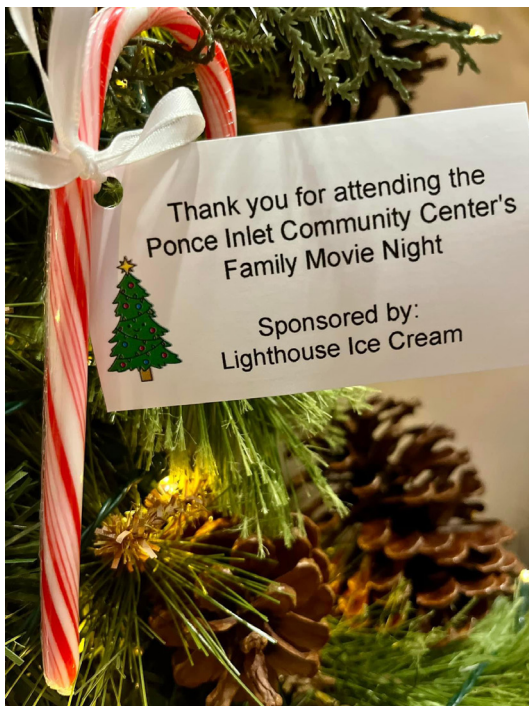
Free. Contact Jackie at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.



Ponce Inlet Community Center Happenings

Lot's happening here at the Community Center!

We recently hosted our first Family Movie Night as part of our Christmas holiday events. The room was filled with families enjoying the movie Elf, freshly popped popcorn, and candy canes. This wonderful event was sponsored by Light House Ice Cream. Thank you to the owners for providing a great event for our community.



We also hosted our annual Soup and Salad Night, with over 20 soups donated. It was a fun night for all! Thank you to everyone who donated soup to this event, making it a great success!



Upcoming Events

March 4 will be our spring Food Truck Night from 4 p.m.–7 p.m. Enjoy a delicious meal from local food truck vendors.

The Ponce Inlet Women's Club will also be hosting the Spring Fling and Fashion Show on March 13. 50/50 raffle, baskets, shopping, and much more! Tickets are \$35.

Irish Night dinner and dance on March 16th, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Check out Ponce Inlet Community Center on Facebook so you are in the know!

The calendar of events can be found on our website at picommunitycenter.com

Ponce Inlet Corvette Club

by Kevin Kirsch

It was an honor for the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club to participate in the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade. Four drivers from the club transported a veteran from each branch of the armed forces. Serving those who served us was a true honor.

At year's end, the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club membership briefly reached 100 members, but the number of renewals for the new year fell below 100. If you own a Corvette, we invite you to join us for lots of enjoyable cruises, meals, shows, and most importantly, friendship! Contact Kevin at Phnsup60@gmail.com for more information.

The Ponce Inlet Corvette Club is currently working hard to get ready for our One Daytona car show in May 2024. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come enjoy what's fast turning into one of the area's most anticipated shows in the region. The show is limited to 180 Corvettes, and registration is filling up fast. Many of the people who register come from nearby states. To learn more about registering, get in touch with Kevin.

Phins up and "No Place I'd Rather Be, Ponce Inlet, FL!"



Marine Corps veteran Bill Wiggins driving Corvette Club member Elviria LaBarre's 1958 Corvette



Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Patricia Morris



First of all, the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet would like to wish a very happy, healthy, and safe New Year to all.

On Wednesday, November 15th, the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet held its monthly membership meeting and welcomed guest speaker Robert Bowden. Robert was the Executive Director, now retired, for Leu Gardens in Orlando. Robert spoke to our club about making new plants from old ones. Robert gave a wonderful and informative presentation to our members, demonstrating various techniques and dos and don'ts for making old plants into new ones.

In November our Club also had the pleasure of awarding its Beautification Award to Patti and Chip Brown, 50 Pompano Drive. Patti Brown was on hand to receive our award. Enjoy the photos of Patti and Chip's landscaping in the photos below.



December was a very fun and festive month for our club. The month began with the Garden Club participating in the 2nd Annual Marine Science Center Christmas Tree Festival, which was held on December 1 and 2. A special thanks goes to our chairs, Mallory Hilvitz and Ann Marie Waters, for their set-up and vision for decorating and displaying our tree. Thanks also go to our members Portia Mallack, Diane Whitney, Judy Whitaker, Lea Hicks, Heather Johnson, Lyn Hibbert, and Kim Longo for their assistance in setting up and crafting all of the decorations on our tree. Because of their hard work, the Garden Club proudly placed first in this festival. From the photos below, you can see just how beautiful our tree was. Even Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by to admire our beautiful tree.



Our club also participated in the 13th Annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade on December 2. Our club's theme was "Frosty the Snowman and his Merry Band of Snowflakes." Several of our members participated in this holiday event. We had our Garden Club Prancers singing and dancing their way along the parade route. We also had our walkers, who walked the parade route, distributing candy and dog treats to all who came out to see the

parade. And last, but not least, we had “Frosty,” who was cycled down Peninsula Drive by our own Lorene Mattei.

There are many members to thank, but they are too numerous to name them all. Special thanks go to Portia Mallack for organizing and guiding our team leaders, Mallory Hilvitz and AnnMarie Waters. While our club did not place in this year’s Christmas parade, our members clearly had a lot of fun representing our club. I hope you all got out to view the parade and thoroughly enjoyed our Garden Club members strutting their stuff, and if not, please enjoy these photos of the Garden Club’s “Merry Band of Snowflakes.”



Finally, on December 13, we had our annual holiday party. Club members brought their favorite appetizers, sandwiches, and desserts for all to share. Everyone enjoyed this meeting, where we were able to really sit back, enjoy, socialize, and just have some fun. Members participated in some mild competition, playing several games with prizes awarded to the winners.

We also had the pleasure of selecting and awarding the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet’s Holiday Lighting Contest winners. This award is presented annually to a Ponce Inlet residential home. Judging took place on December 8th and 9th by our Beautification Committee, Rosemary Volz and Heather Pettit-Johnson. This year, the Residential Award went to Yvette Pandelos, 4686 S. Atlantic Ave., and the Business/Condo Award went to Towers 7, 4851 S. Atlantic Ave. We hope you all had a chance to drive by and see the beautiful displays by the Pandelos’ and Towers, but if you did not, please take pleasure in the photos below. Yvette Pandelos was on hand to accept the award for her beautiful holiday lights. Many thanks to Rosemary Volz and Heather Johnson for all of their efforts in selecting our Beautification and Holiday Lighting contest winners.



One other special thanks from our December meeting goes to Linda Spicher, who led our food drive once again this year. Thanks to all of our members, RJ Longstreet Elementary School was the recipient of all of the food collected by our club. RJ Longstreet continues to be grateful for our food donations, which helped make the holidays just a little better for families in need.

Following all of the events of the past few months, we resumed our regular membership meetings in January with a special guest speaker, Chris Marquis, Buyer for Big Value Garden Center of Daytona. Chris spoke to our members about landscape planning in Volusia County and Ponce Inlet. Coming up in February, our guest speaker will be none other than our own Garden Club member, Joann Doyle. Joann will be demonstrating to our club how to create a gorgeous tablescape, featuring ideas for setting a St. Patrick's Day table.

Our club's field trip this year will be on March 10. Our trip will be to the New Smyrna Theater to see the play "9 to 5." Our members are certainly looking forward to that. April will feature our annual Arbor Day celebration, followed in May by our Ice Cream Social.

Finally, our club, through our scholarship fund, was able to send 156 children from RJ Longstreet School to the Marine Science Center to attend three of their educational field trips. First graders were able to attend the Turtle Rescuers Guided Tour; 3rd graders participated in the Eco-Walk Tour; and 4th graders participated in the Estuary Exploration Program. The children had a wonderful time on all of their tours. Many thanks to Barbara Stewart, who coordinated these field trips between the Marine Science Center and RJ Longstreet School. Below, you will find a photo of some of the children enjoying their time at the Marine Science Center.

As always, anyone interested in joining our club is welcome to pick up an application at the Community Center. Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Community Center at 10:30 a.m. Throughout the year, our club has continued to grow, with 99 members and counting. All are welcome!!

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



The Lions once again participated in the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade that took place on December 2, 2023. This year, the costumed lion (Nancy Epps) rode in the back of Lion Shirley Okhovatian's Miata convertible, which had been festooned with stuffed lions, garlands, ribbons, and holiday-themed car magnets. As always, it was great fun to see the community turn out in numbers to enjoy our special town day!



We also had a Christmas tree entry in the Marine Science Center's Festival of Trees in the Community Center. Our white-flocked tree was adorned with donated eyeglasses, ornaments representing some of our charities, such as Southeastern Guide Dogs and Halifax Urban Ministries, and lots of Lions memorabilia. Of course, the lights were purple to reflect our traditional Lions color theme.





We held our annual member's Christmas celebration on December 7th at Down the Hatch. It was a nice time to share the peace and love of the season with each other.

We will be having some interesting speakers at our next several meetings, and all will be open to the public with a simple RSVP to me (see below for contact information). On March 6, a speaker from Halifax Health will share ways to use aromatherapy to improve our lives. Our April 3 guest will be Principal Lynn Bruner from R. J. Longstreet, who will share news from the school and answer residents' questions. If you are the parent or grandparent of a Longstreet student, please join us. On May 1, we will be joined by representatives from Arrow Clinical Trials who will talk to us about the current clinical trials they are engaged in that might help our quality of life. We will also be doing preliminary judging of the Peace Posters that have been developed by the fifth-grade students at Longstreet Elementary. The poster theme this year is Peace Without

Limits. In June, we will select the best poster and award the top cash prize to the most talented student. The quality of the art these youngsters produce never ceases to amaze and delight us.

One of Lions Club International's major projects is protecting the environment. To help with that goal, we will be placing a recycling box at the Community Center this spring in which you can recycle numerous items of clothing, shoes, purses, etc. Items will either be sold or, if not sellable, will be properly recycled instead of going into the landfill. Here is the complete list:

Clothing, Apparel, and Shoes: Items should be clean and placed in plastic bags. We accept gently used Women's, Children's, Baby's, and Men's clothing, Purses, Backpacks, Handbags, Clutches, Tote Bags, Shoulder Bags, Laptop bags, Hats, Gloves, Ties, Scarves, Belts, and Wallets.

Watch for details of our new fundraising project: bingo at the PICC!! We are planning on the third Wednesday of the month—details to follow!

Information about becoming a Lion can be found on our website, www.pilions.org, or you can contact me by email at nancyepps@cfl.rr.com, call me at (386) 795-2310, or speak to any Lion you know. We meet at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of most months, September through June, at the Ponce Inlet Community Center.

Lionism is a great way to serve your community and share a common goal with like-minded people.

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

by Bill Wester



This was an exceptionally busy time for the Veterans Association. Our Veterans Day ceremony was as moving as it has been in previous years. Our speaker brought a real-life experience to his speech and spoke about what enlisted men face while serving. He also spoke of how important it was to have his emotional support dog with him and his family. Without that loving animal, he could not function and felt he literally could have slid into the abyss of depression, where the outcome would not be enjoying life today. Our charity is Paws for Patriots because we believe that we can help save veterans' lives, one dog at a time.

In November, our association participated in the 150-mile Mile Garage Sale, which allowed individuals and groups to sell their 'stuff'. We were fortunate to have had many wonderful items donated to us to sell. At the end of the day, we had a wonderful time meeting people and were able to sell many great items. All proceeds will go directly to benefit the numerous charities our association supports.

On December 2nd, we hosted Breakfast with Santa, which we have missed having for a few years thanks to COVID. A wonderful ambiance was created in the Community Center thanks to the Christmas Tree Festival. It was being held at the same time and benefiting the Marine Science Center. Our cooks were kept busy cooking up pancakes and sausage as well as providing coffee and other beverages for our guests. The kids that attended got a special lighted Christmas necklace and were able to get a mountain of whipped cream on their pancakes as an extra special treat. Our servers and welcoming staff kept hopping by serving the over a hundred and seventy-five guests we served. Of course, the best treat was having Santa and Mrs. Claus there to welcome the kids of all ages. It gave all guests a chance to share their Christmas lists with Santa. At the end of the morning, all those in attendance said that this seemed to be a great morning, and everyone left with a full stomach. Special and enthusiastic thanks are extended to the Ladlosky family, who, through their foundation and their Winola Farm Beef store located in Port Orange, donated all of the sausages for the breakfast.



Our breakfast was followed in the afternoon by the annual Christmas parade. This year, it was organized jointly by the Veterans Association and Operation Changing Lives (www.operationchanginglives.com). The turnout was fabulous, with over 40 business and club entrants, the Special and Grand Parade Marshals, the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award winners, and was definitely enhanced by three marching bands, which created a lively environment for all to enjoy. Each military branch was represented by one of our member veterans riding in the Corvette motorcade. It was evident from the turnout of residents to watch the parade that this year's parade was a hit. The net proceeds from the parade went to benefit both the Veterans Association and Operation Changing Lives.



Many thanks go to the participants in the parade and, as always, the Town of Ponce Inlet's Police, Fire, Public Works, and Cultural Services departments for assisting in making the parade such a success.

We had a presentation of veteran benefits by a representative from the Veterans Administration on January 11th. Veterans and their spouses from across the area attended. Many walked away with a new knowledge of the benefits they've earned by serving their country. Because the eligibility for benefits constantly changes, we plan to have periodic presentations like this to ensure our veterans are taking advantage of

all the benefits they have earned. If you're a veteran or a spouse of a veteran and want to learn more, you can call the Daytona Beach office of Veterans Services of Volusia County at 386-254-4646.

Memorial Day Ceremony

We want to extend an invitation for all to join us on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. when we celebrate Memorial Day with a ceremony at the Memorial at Davies Lighthouse Park. Please note the earlier start time, so it will be cooler for the attendees and participants. 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 a guest speaker, a fly-over, a dedication and wreath-laying, a firing squad, and taps. Finally, and most importantly, help us to observe a moment of remembrance and respect for those who gave all for our country.

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 501(c)(19) organization, and our mission is to maintain our memorial and promote veterans' 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 of 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 "PAW"

BY NANCY EPPS, PRESIDENT



Success stories!

In early spring 2023, someone abandoned a pregnant orange female cat in the Sailfish area. Shortly afterward, she gave birth to three kittens under a dumpster on a construction site at the north end of Sailfish. Poor Mama Kitty was starving while she was nursing her kittens, and she was frantically looking for food, ripping into garbage bags, and even crossing over Peninsula Drive in search of food. At the beginning of May, Tara Lamb learned of the situation, and she started putting food out in the mornings and evenings on her porch on Bounty Lane, hoping to entice the Mama Kitty and her kittens. She also put up a Ring camera to see who was coming to eat and when. Soon, Mama Kitty began showing up, and after a few weeks, she brought her kittens. Sadly, only two of the kittens survived.

The family was living in the woods next to Tara's house, under palm fronds that resembled a sort of tiki hut. In July, Tara put a pet trap on the porch and tied it open

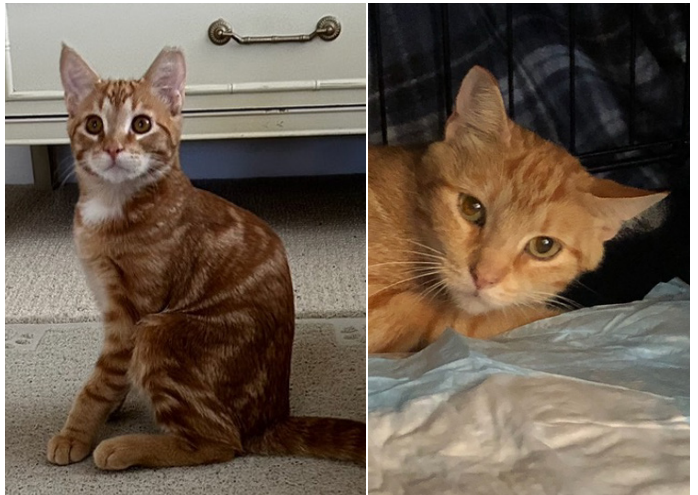
so the cats could go in and out of it and get used to it. They gradually relocated to the porch, where Tara delighted in watching them frolic and play. After several weeks, it was time to trap them and get them all sterilized, as Mama was already engaging in action with a local Tom cat. First caught in the trap at the same time were Bailey, the orange male kitten, and Ava, the orange mama cat. What a stroke of luck! Then, two days later, Betty White, the female Siamese mix, was trapped. They all were spayed, neutered, and had their shots at Volusia County Animal Services. After months of caring for them outside, Tara and her husband, Rob, decided to adopt all three of them. They couldn't bear the thought of them being separated. They brought them into the house, and Tara spent many loving hours, days, and weeks socializing with them. They are now tame and loving kitties who are living the life of Riley as total inside cats. Thank you, Tara and Rob!

Later that year, two sisters, Mary and Laura Hatcher, were living on South Atlantic, and they started seeing cats that appeared to be living in a small section of Ponce Preserve. With assistance from PAW and the Ponce Inlet Police Department, they were provided with traps. The wild Tom cat managed to escape the trap in their garage, and trapper Ruby Candace came to the rescue with a drop trap. After much diligence, the sisters managed to trap all five of the cats, and they have all been sterilized and had their shots. The gorgeous Siamese found a home out of state, and the rest have either returned to field or found homes. Thank you for your incredible efforts, ladies!!

Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare (PAW) was founded in 2009 to help manage the large feral cat population in town at the time. After volunteers trapped and sterilized literally hundreds of cats, the colony was established, where they could live a peaceful, cared-for life. Originally, there

about 20 cats, but that rapidly decreased to 9 or 10. After years of natural attrition, there is only one original cat, Ruthie Grace, and Tiki, the mama cat of my two babies (who are now 2 ½ years old!). That is the goal of the Trap-Neuter-Release-to-Field (TNR) program: to let the population gradually die out naturally.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers who care for them every day with food, water, and love. If you would like to know more or help out, please call me, Nancy Epps, at 386-795-2310.



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

by Zach Hopple



The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Presents the Historic Pacetti Hotel

As the calendar has turned to 2024, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum has many exciting experiences ready to share with the public.

Pacetti Hotel Update

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to report that the construction phase of its multi-year effort to restore, preserve, rehabilitate, and transform the historic Pacetti Hotel into a public museum is nearing completion. This exhaustive four-year project began with the initial purchase of the property in 2019 and will conclude when the next and final phase of the Pacetti Hotel Project, which addresses overall museum development and the installation of exhibits and period-appropriate furnishings, is complete. The Association has tentatively scheduled the grand opening of the Constance D. Hunter Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum for the late-spring or early-summer of this year.

There are many ways that you can help support the Association's current efforts to develop the Pacetti Hotel into a public

museum that will interpret the unique history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Pacetti Hotel, and Ponce Inlet area in greater detail. These support options include:

- **Monetary Donation:** Direct financial support in the form of a private donation always helps. You can donate to the Association's Museum Development Fund in person inside the museum giftshop, online at www.lighthouselocker.org, or by mailing a check to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at 4931 South Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL.

- **Artifact Donations:** Although the Association's staff have made considerable progress in their quest for appropriate artifacts for the planned Pacetti Hotel Museum, will still need you help finding specific vintage or antique items to finish out the collection. These unique items include antique rugs, bedroom furniture from the 1890s-1920s, a 1950s or 60s-era sofa bed, vintage China cabinets, clothing from the 1880s-1950s that are in good condition, and more. Please contact Museum Curator Ellen Henry at ellen@ponceinlet.org for more information about artifact donation options.

- **Become a Volunteer:** The Association is currently recruiting new volunteers to serve as Pacetti Hotel Museum greeters, monitors, tour guides, educational workshop facilitators, and more. Please contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple at 386-761-1821 ext. 18 or via email at education@ponceinlet.org for more information.



Spring Event Schedule

Spring brings some of the most popular events at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. The biggest event of the spring calendar is Florida Heritage Day on Saturday March 23, 2024. From the hours of 10:00am to 3:00pm, come and interact with museums and cultural centers from across the state of Florida as everyone gathers to celebrate the rich history of the State of Florida. Keep up to date with the offerings of the day by following the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum Events Page, as well as our social media pages.

Climb to the Moon

Climb to the Moon at Florida's tallest lighthouse! Treat your significant other, family, friends, coworkers, or simply yourself to breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, the World's Most Famous Beach, Ponce Inlet, and surrounding inland waterways under the golden glow of the setting sun. View the full moon as it rises above the Atlantic Ocean and enjoy panoramic vistas of the Florida coast by moonlight. Join the old lighthouse keeper as he leads you on your journey into the past and discover the unique history of this National Historic Landmark.

Open to young and old alike, Climb to the Moon is offered only once a lunar month when the moon is at its fullest. Participation is limited to only 25 guests per event. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are sold on a first come first serve basis. Event dates and times differ depending on the time of the year. Please refer to the Climb to the Moon schedule below for specific event dates and times.

Climb to the Moon admission prices are \$35 for non-members and \$30 for Preservation Association Members. Memberships may be purchased online by selecting the membership link below. Climb to the Moon tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting the museum's administrative assistant Amanda Pratt via email at admin@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10.



CLIMB TO THE MOON



JOIN US ON THE EVENING OF THE FULL MOON FOR A PRIVATE TOUR OF THE LIGHT STATION! ENJOY SPARKLING DRINKS AND TASTY TREATS BEFORE CLIMBING TO THE TOP OF FLORIDA'S TALLEST LIGHTHOUSE TO MARVEL AT THE BREATHTAKING VIEWS OF THE SUNSET AND MOONRISE. GUESTS WILL EXPERIENCE A VISIT TO THE TOWER'S LANTERN ROOM, WHICH HOUSES IT'S STUNNING 3RD ORDER ROTATING FRESNEL LENS.

\$30 MEMBERS / \$35 NON-MEMBERS

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL 386-761-1821 TO BOOK.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH 5:45 PM - 7:15 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 25TH 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 23RD 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM

SATURDAY, JULY 20TH 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

MONDAY, AUGUST 19TH 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM



PONCE CHURCH



PONCE
— CHURCH —

by Pastor Nina Tidwell

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

Our 7th Annual Legacy Housing Dinner Gala, hosted in December 2023, was a huge success! Thank you to all who attended and supported this worthy cause. James 1:27 says, “Pure religion and undefiled in the sight of God is to care for the orphans and widows in their distress.”

Ponce Church is planning to reach the community of Ponce Inlet and surrounding cities with concerts, and other special events with free surfboard and electric scooter giveaways.

Follow Ponce Church on Facebook for updates.

Visit PonceChurch.com for more information.

LEGACY HOUSING FOR AGE-OUT FOSTER YOUTH

At Legacy House, we prevent youth homelessness and trafficking by providing

safe housing for girls and boys aging out of the foster care system. The Legacy Housing Project provides a safe support system that allows our youth to graduate high school, enroll in a local college, and obtain employment.

Please visit LegacyHousingProject.org for more information.



LEGACY
HOUSING

ESTABLISHED 2003

Twenty-one 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 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 to live by faith, care for the orphans and widows, provide food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, provide clothing, heal the sick, visit those in prison, and provide 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, Matthew 10:8.

Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at Ponce Church.

4670 S. Peninsula Drive

386-308-1533. Thank you.

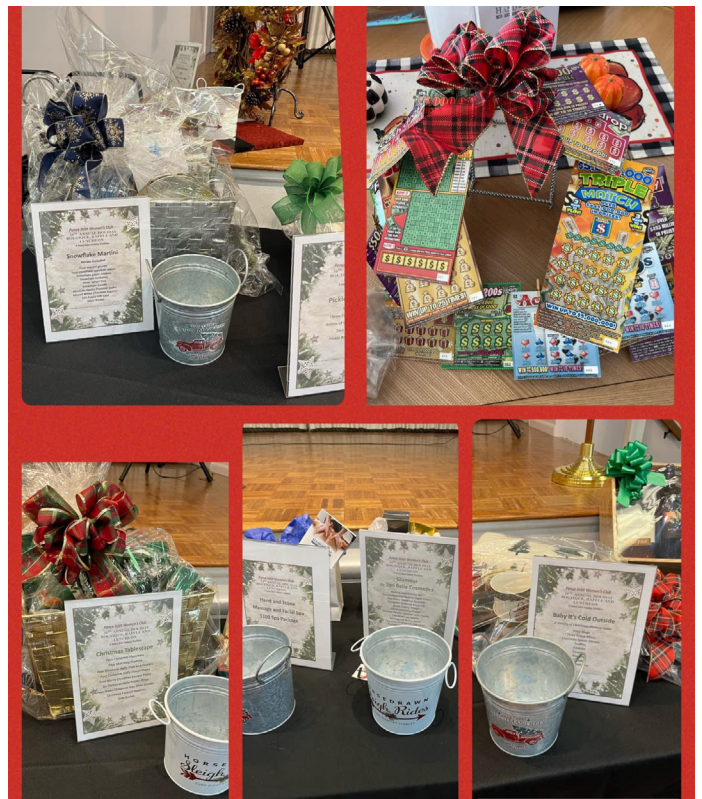


Ponce Inlet Women's Club

It is with great pleasure that I announce that The Ponce Inlet Women’s Club is back in business, bridging friendships and fun with the needs of our local communities in 2023–24.

To recap past meetings and events, let’s start with the SOLD OUT 2023 Spring Fashion Show presented by Clara Schneider of Em’z on Fifth. What an excellent opportunity this was for fundraising and fellowship at the PICCI! Our welcome meeting in October 2023 featured the club’s president, Cynthia Pinion, who spoke about “Happiness For No Reason.” A message that everyone could incorporate into their lives! Next up, Joanne Doyle took to the stage to share her talent and love of tablescaping. It was pretty impressive, and we all took away a new skill.

The Clubs 34th annual Holiday Boutique and Raffle took place at the Ponce Inlet Community Center on November 8th, 2023, and was a wonderful success with approximately 75 women in attendance. Thank you to those who donated and attended!



Hopefully you were able to snag some candy and/or pet treats from the Women’s Club at this year’s Christmas Parade. The ladies would have been hard to miss in Jennifer Matacale’s decorated Jeep, “Bumble Bee! Everyone was in the Christmas spirit and wearing their festive attire at the Olive Garden for a fabulous holiday luncheon. A special thanks to Cathy Barber and Urszula Zumwalt for organizing this opportunity for everyone to get together to share a delicious meal.



We started 2024 with a special guest speaker, Mayor Lois Paritsky! Thank you for such an informative meeting on estate planning and identity theft protection. The Ponce Inlet Women's Club has a lot in store for the upcoming months. New officers will be elected at this February meeting. Stay tuned!!



Tickets have already SOLD OUT for the 2024 Spring Fashion Show and fundraiser, which will be held again at the Ponce Inlet Community Center on March 13th, 2024. However, it's not too late to join us for Bunco and a special destination event (to be announced) in April. Joann Doyle will be welcoming us into summer with her

tablescape talent in May, and a summer gathering (to be determined) will take place in July.

The club currently has upwards of 55 members, and we are growing. Please support our Facebook page to stay up-to-date on our list of events throughout the year.

If you are interested in our club, new friendships, opportunities to serve the community, and FUN, the Ponce Inlet Women's Club would love for you to join! Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at PICCI. Residents of Ponce Inlet and surrounding areas are welcome.

I hope you enjoy these photos from past events!



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>

 Know your watering days			
	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.





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.

Newsletter Content and Publication Requirements

The Quarterly CFPI Newsletters are finalized around the end of February, May, August, and November. Deadlines for submitting content are as follows:

February 15th	Winter Edition
May 15th	Spring Edition
August 15th	Summer Edition
November 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.

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.



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

"Our Mission is to Educate and Preserve"



*Join
Today!*

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:

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

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.