

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.

C4Pi Wine Tasting Fundraiser



October 24th at 5:30PM
Ponce Inlet Community Center

Tickets can be purchased online at www.c4pi.org or at the Community Center. See pages 6 & 7.

Inside this issue



Community Center Flea Market

Information about the upcoming annual flea market on Oct. 4th-5th.....Pg 25



Invasive Brazillian Pepper Trees

Learn about the invasive plant species affecting our community and the ongoing efforts to remove them.....Pg 27



Garden Club Arts & Crafts Show

Find out the dates of the upcoming event..... Pg 31



The Town of
PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

“Joy of the Land and Sea”

Table of Contents

Moment with the Mayor.....Pg 4	Ponce Inlet Community Center.....Pg 25
C4Pi Wine Tasting Fundraiser.....Pg 6	Ponce Inlet Corvette Club.....Pg 26
County Corner.....Pg 8	Invasive Brazilian Pepper Trees.....Pg 27
Talk of Tallahassee.....Pg 10	Garden Club of Ponce Inlet.....Pg 29
Town Manager.....Pg 11	Ponce Inlet Lions Club.....Pg 32
Police Chief.....Pg 14	Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial.....Pg 34
Fire Chief.....Pg 15	Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare.....Pg 36
Planning & Development Manager....Pg 17	Ponce Church.....Pg 37
Public Works Manager.....Pg 21	Watering Guidelines.....Pg 38
Cultural Services Manager.....Pg 22	Ponce Inlet Lighthouse.....Pg 39
	Citizens for Ponce Inlet.....Pg 41

A Moment with the Mayor

Promoting Partnerships for Community Success

This summer, I had the honor of representing the Town of Ponce Inlet at the annual conferences of the Florida League of Mayors (FLM) and the Florida League of Cities (FLC) in Hollywood, Florida.

These organizations play a crucial role in uniting municipal leaders across our state, fostering collaboration, and sharing innovative solutions. The networking opportunities provided by attending these conferences are invaluable. They allow us to exchange ideas and best practices that can significantly enhance our community's well-being.



The Town of Ponce Inlet is proud to be an active participant in the Florida League of Cities (FLC), which advocates for local interests at the state level and provides various professional development opportunities. This year's conference featured workshops on a range of topics, including urban planning, financial management, public safety, cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and innovative solutions for Florida's



Lois Paritsky

housing crisis and property insurance. By promoting continuous learning and sharing best practices, the FLC empowers cities to improve operations and better serve residents. By being part of this organization, we benefit from strong legislative advocacy, which represents our municipal interests effectively in the state legislature.

At the FLM conference, I connected with fellow mayors who share similar challenges to those we face in Ponce Inlet. One of our key initiatives is exploring a parking registration program to tackle traffic congestion and overflow parking from the beach into our residential neighborhoods. The insights gained from discussions with other municipalities will be instrumental in shaping our research on effective solutions tailored to our community's needs.



The FLM also hosted seminars focused on three key 2023-2024 initiatives: mental health, mentorship, and support for veterans. These sessions provided valuable resources and insights aimed at improving our communities. I am pleased to share that Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Nancy Miller will lead the FLM as President in the upcoming 2024-2025 term, continuing to prioritize mental health, mentorship, and veteran affairs while encouraging collaboration between municipalities and local businesses.

During the conference, I took part in several committees, including the “Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works” committee, where I was honored to be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2024-2025 term. This committee promotes essential legislation related to coastal management and water quality.

Additionally, as a member of the FLC Advocacy Committee, I engage directly with state officials on key policy issues to ensure our community’s voice is heard.

A highlight of the conference was delivering the invocation for the Florida League’s opening business session, where I reflected on our dedication and responsibilities as locally elected leaders and expressed gratitude for the trust our residents place in us.

In conclusion, our involvement in the Florida League of Mayors (FLM) and the Florida League of Cities (FLC) reinforces Ponce Inlet’s commitment to responsive, effective, and innovative local governance. Together, we can enhance the well-being and prosperity of our community. Thank you for your continued support as we strive for a brighter future for Ponce Inlet.





Citizens For
PONCE INLET

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

October 24th, 2024

5:30PM

Ponce Inlet

Community Center

Tickets \$45 - www.c4pi.org

95 AND VINE

WINE SHOP & BAR



JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL WINE TASTING EVENT!

We're thrilled to invite you to an evening of exquisite wines from 95 and Vine Wine Shop and Bar, expertly paired with delectable hors d'oeuvres prepared by Millie's Restaurant. This event promises to be a wonderful opportunity to savor fine flavors while mingling with friends and neighbors in our beautiful community.

Event Details:

- **Date:** Thursday, October 24, 2024
- **Time:** 5:30 PM
- **Location:** Ponce Inlet Community Center
4670 S Peninsula Dr, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127



To secure your spot for this exciting fundraiser, please register for the event on our website.

Next, you can purchase tickets in one of two ways:

1. **In-Person:** Payment by check or cash will be accepted at the Ponce Inlet Community Center, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 AM to noon.
2. **Online:** For your convenience, you can also pay by credit card on our website.

Don't miss this chance to enjoy a fantastic evening while supporting the Citizens for Ponce Inlet organization! We look forward to seeing you there!

WINE TASTING FUNRAISER

<https://www.c4pi.org/wine-tasting/>

COUNTY CORNER

Hello everyone. Here is your quarterly update from your Volusia County Councilman, Matt Reinhart.

One new thing for discussion this quarter is to advise you all on my attempt to waive the County of Volusia sand dune ordinance. This ordinance simply requires four feet high and twelve feet out of beach-compatible sand up against an existing sea wall for the protection of the sea turtle nesting areas. If the sand is not obtained and placed there, the property owner is required to pay into a dune restoration fund. That payment could be more than \$15,000 to \$20,000. Many condo associations have already completed their new sea wall and have paid into this fund because if they didn't, their permits would not be closed out. This ordinance started because of the HCP (Habitat Conservation Plan) for sea turtles.



Here is a little history and further explanation of what I am attempting to do. Immediately following Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, I asked my colleagues on the council if they would entertain a deferment of this ordinance until December 2024. I hoped that the natural accretion of sand would occur, and it did for a short time frame. Then a Nor'easter happened, and that sand disappeared again. Therefore, I asked if the Council would entertain another discussion on the matter. They agreed.



My new plan is to ask my colleagues on Council if they would allow a waiver of this requirement for those properties affected by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. Furthermore, those that were affected by those hurricanes that had already paid into that fund would be reimbursed. The date of the Council meeting when this will be discussed is October 1st.

More good news is that immediately following Hurricane Nicole, there were only 36 of the 141 walkovers open, 2 of the 17 coastal parks open, and 4 of the 37 vehicle access ramps open. Total damage to these locations was \$30.6 million. As of the first of September, 125 of the 141 walkovers are open, all 17 coastal parks are open, and 35 of the 37 vehicle access ramps are open.

The Boylston Ave. approach is closed for construction, and the ISB (International Speedway) ramp is closed for construction as well. The original intent was to close the Silver Beach ramp instead of the ISB ramp first to reconstruct, but FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) started their "re-do" of ISB from the bridge to A1A, so it made sense to start our construction efforts of the ISB ramp. This way the area is not closed down twice, and the County of Volusia had no control over FDOT's plans.

On August 21st, in cooperation with the Port Orange South Daytona Chamber of Commerce, we conducted the first-ever Inmate Job Fair. We called it “The Second Chance Initiative.” Maybe some of you read about it in the News Journal or the Hometown News. This has been a dream of mine prior to being elected to public office during my career in the Corrections field for over 30 years. One of the most discouraging things I dealt with while working in that environment was the recidivism rate and why the same faces kept appearing at the back door of the jail. I would ask these men and women “why”? Their response was simply because they checked a box on an application for employment that said they had previously been arrested or were convicted. Therefore, they would find themselves in that same cycle and get into trouble again. What my “Second Chance Initiative” did was simply to do just that—give them a second chance.

Along with the assistance of the Port Orange South Daytona Chamber of Commerce President Barbara Ann Heegan and the Volusia County Division of Corrections Director Joe DeMore, we invited about seven local businesses to come out to the Volusia County Jail and interview about 25 inmates who were due to be released within the next 30 days. This way they possibly had employment the minute they walked out the door of the jail back into society. My goal is to do this every quarter, and so far, this looks extremely promising.

Another project I got off the ground was that of an Inmate Virtual Welding Program. I put our Corrections folks in contact with Daytona State College, and we will start this program hopefully by next month. This will allow inmates to be trained and certified in welding to assist with post-incarceration employment as well.

The last project to get off the ground at the jail was that of GED testing. For years the jail offered GED classes and practice tests, but it was up to the inmate to make testing arrangements once released from custody. Now the jail has been designated as an official testing facility through our School Board.

Elections are just around the corner, and as many of you are aware, I am running for re-election. It has been my honor and absolute pleasure to serve the residents of Ponce Inlet, as well as all of District 2. I pray I can continue to serve you after November. God Bless!

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



THE TALK OF TALLAHASSEE



As Representative Chase Tramont looks back at his first two years of service as Ponce Inlet's voice in the Florida State Capitol, he recognizes that there is a lot to be proud of.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Ponce Inlet Town Council, the Office of Senator Tom Wright, the Office of Representative Chase Tramont, and the office of Governor Ron DeSantis, Ponce Inlet received its first state appropriation in the town's history. The Town of Ponce Inlet's inclusion in the 2022-2023 State Budget reflects Representative Tramont's and Governor DeSantis' commitment to protecting coastal communities from the devastating effects of Hurricane Season.

Representative Tramont passed several pieces of legislation during his first term in office in a coordinated effort designed to protect Florida's children and families. Representative Tramont passed legislation to protect minors from online pornography, give children in out-of-home (foster) care the tools they need to succeed, and remove

regulatory burdens to ensure that qualified parents can take care of their severely disabled children.

Additionally, he added a fifth child to his home team, Chase Tramont, Junior!



The Florida Legislature will face several tough battles next legislation session, such as lowering property insurance rates, the protection of fixed-income condominium owners, and the potential implementation of several highly controversial constitutional amendments. Thankfully, the Town of Ponce Inlet can rest assured that Representative Chase Tramont, pending his re-election to the Florida House of Representatives, will be a voice for the hard-working families who make our community and state the best in the nation!

From the Town Manager, Mike Disher

Congratulations!

Join us in congratulating current Council members Bill Milano and Joe Villanella for winning their elections in August! Please join us at the inauguration ceremony on Thursday, November 21st, at 2:00 p.m. Cake and refreshments will be served during a short break right afterward.



The Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget

On September 19th, the Town Council approved the final budget for fiscal year 24/25, which starts on October 1, 2024. The FY 24/25 budget is designed to meet or exceed the Town's current level of service to our residents, continue necessary maintenance activities and drainage improvements in the wake of the 2022 hurricanes, and ensure adequate operating reserves. This budget is the result of many months of work based on the recommendations of the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB) and Cultural Services Board, direction from the Town Council, and valuable input from the public.

This year's budget process included 12 opportunities for public participation at various board and council meetings, workshops, and hearings over the course of nine months. The new budget includes the top priorities of the Town Council, including excavation of the Town's stormwater retention ponds, purchase of necessary safety equipment for the fire department, funds for the design of the S. Peninsula sidewalk project, reconstruction of Public Works Building "B," repairs and replacement of the Museum boardwalk and fence, repairs

and resurfacing of the Pollard Park tennis court, and Phase 1 of the septic-to-sewer project.

Information about the FY 24/25 fiscal year budget may be found on the Town's web page at: <https://www.ponce-inlet.org/511/FY-2425-Budget>. This page includes the agenda items and minutes from all public meetings; the staff reports and presentations; Q&A from the public; and the proposed and final drafts of the budget document itself.

In a few months, the budget process will begin again for FY 25/26. The first opportunities for the public to participate are meetings of the Essential Services Advisory Board (ESAB) and Cultural Services Board in January, February, and March. At its March meeting, the ESAB will be asked to review and help prioritize budget proposals related to the departments of police, fire, and public works. Balancing the Town's operational needs, service levels, and quality of life are all considerations in the budget process where public input is not only welcome, but vital.

Septic-to-Sewer Project

The Town’s septic-to-sewer project is on track to receive \$10.4 million in construction funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This is estimated to be sufficient to complete all remaining phases of this project, connecting the remaining unserved properties in Ponce Inlet to the sanitary sewer. The funding will come in the form of a 100% principal forgiveness loan through FDEP’s Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Fiona and Ian (SAHFI). No local match is required for this loan, meaning that this project will be completed without impacting the Town’s General Fund or millage rate.

Town staff submitted the loan application to FDEP this past August. In September, we received the loan agreement from FDEP, becoming one of the first municipalities in the state to complete this process. The agreement has now been signed and returned to FDEP for execution. Once approved by FDEP, funding is expected to become available by the end of this year or sooner.

The design plans and permitting documents are expected to be completed and approved by FDEP in January 2025. The Phase 1 formal bid process is proposed to start in February 2025. In an effort to further assist residents, Staff will research grant opportunities to help lower the cost of connection fees and septic tank removal.

The project is the result of years of effort since it was first proposed in the Town’s 2017 Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan update. Once finished, the project will benefit residents and the environment by increasing property values, ensuring long-term sanitary waste disposal for properties subject to future sea level rise and septic tank failure, reducing nutrient load into the Halifax River and Indian River Lagoon, and

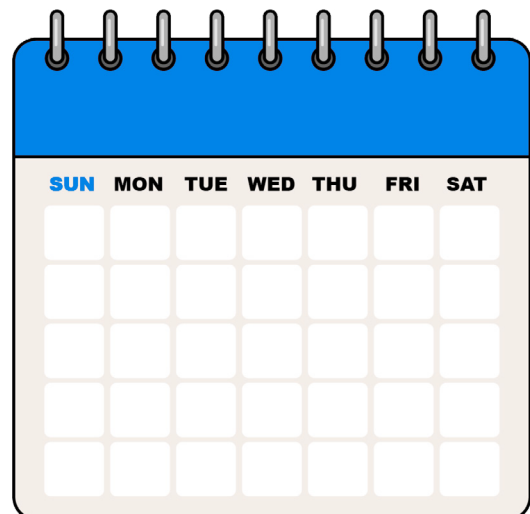
decreasing the risk of harmful algae blooms and fish die-offs. Reducing the number of septic tanks is required by the Town’s Comprehensive Plan.

Appointment of Steven Wargo, Public Works Director

On September 26, 2024, the Town Council ratified the selection of Steven Wargo as the Town’s new Public Works Director. He succeeds Fred Griffith, who retired in June of this year. Mr. Wargo comes to us with many years of experience, most notably with Alachua County and the University of Florida. He specializes in facilities management and holds numerous safety certifications. We are pleased to have him on our team!

Town Holiday Closings

Town offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans Day; Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving; Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday; and Wednesday, January 1st, for New Year’s Day.



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Town offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024, in observance of Veterans Day; Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving; Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday; and Wednesday, January 1st, for New Year's Day.

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.



From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



The Ponce Inlet Police Department operates 24/7 with 13 full-time officers, 3 part-time officers, and 2 civilian administrative staff. There is always a minimum of two (2) officers patrolling the Town at all times. The Police Department currently has two (2) vacancies and is actively looking to fill them. The Police Department only hires officers with previous law enforcement experience.

All Ponce Inlet Police Officers must qualify annually with their handgun, patrol rifle, shotgun, and taser. All officers participate in quarterly training at the Edgewater Police Department's shooting range to stay proficient with their weapons. They also participate in local active shooter exercises with other police agencies in addition to classroom and online training. Our department is the smallest agency in the State of Florida to be fully accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

Year to date, our officers have responded to 1,465 calls for service, with an average response time of 4 minutes and 15 seconds. This is in addition to 1,787 traffic stops.

Earlier this year, the Volusia County Council voted to waive fees for Volusia County residents to drive on the beach and use off-beach County-owned parking lots. We have one off-beach parking lot at Winterhaven Park. The Volusia County Council also voted to increase fees for non-residents by charging \$20 per day to park in these same lots. One could anticipate drivers trying to avoid the \$20 fee by looking for free parking on side streets around town. In addition, waiving fees for Volusia residents could create an increase in vehicular traffic as more Volusia residents visit the beach.

We are currently examining the potential impact this change could have on traffic numbers and parking around town, including the implementation of a parking permit program for residents. Neighborhood parking permit programs are a proactive measure to reduce non-resident parking demands on residential streets and preserve the quality of life for our residents.

“Ponce Partners” is a program designed to be a safety net for those who have severe health problems, live alone, or maybe are in the early stages of cognitive decline. Any resident can become a member by completing a short request form. When you become a Ponce Partner, you simply agree to contact the Police Department by phone each day before noon. If we do not hear from you, we call you to ensure you are okay. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we send an officer out to check on your well-being. This program is set up to ensure our most vulnerable citizens have some form of communication each day. This program has been successful in rescuing several residents who had fallen and were unable to contact us. We have a great relationship with our “Ponce Partners” and look forward to their morning calls. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining this program, please contact the Police Department at 386-236-2160 or download the online application (PDF) from our website: [Here](#)

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



New Promotion

Congratulations to Andrew Inman, who has been newly promoted to Driver Engineer! Andrew's hard work, dedication, and commitment to serving our town have earned him this well-deserved promotion. We're grateful for his continued service and leadership within our department.



Andrew Inman

Paramedic Clearance Achievements

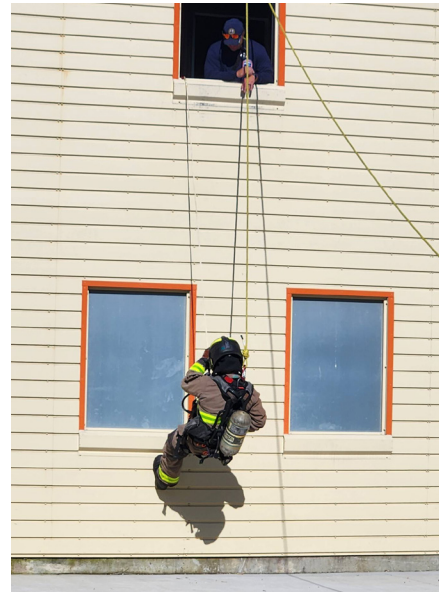
We also celebrate Ryan Burke, Andrew Inman, and Joseph Maleski for recently attaining Paramedic clearance with the Volusia County Medical Director. This significant accomplishment further enhances the level of care we can provide to our residents in emergency situations.

Training Initiatives

Our team has been actively involved in extensive hands-on training to ensure we're always prepared for any situation.

These include:

- **Bail Out Training:** Conducted at the Port Orange fire training facility, this vital exercise enhances our team's ability to safely escape from dangerous situations during emergency responses.

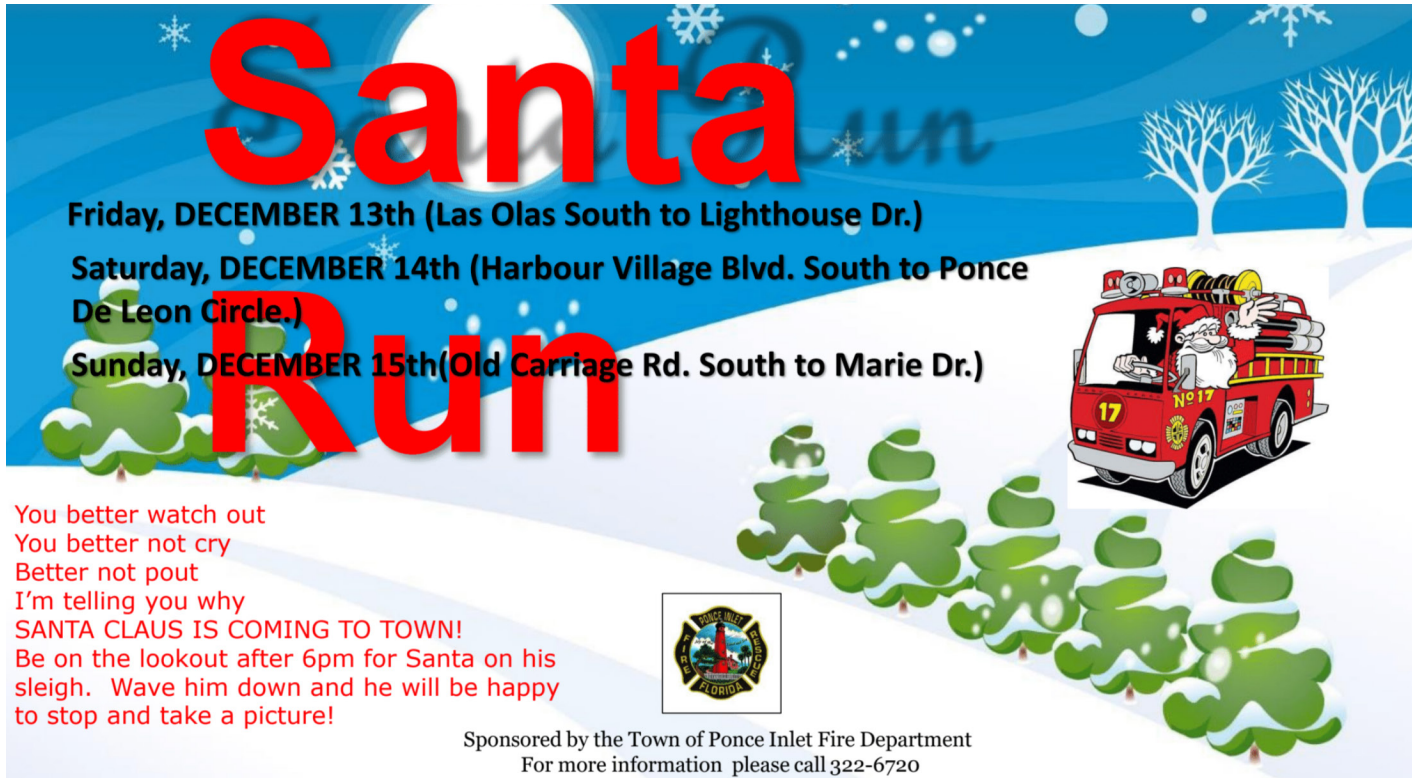


- **Water Rescue Training:** Hosted right here in Ponce Inlet for local agencies, this training ensures our team is well-prepared for any water-related emergencies.



Mark Your Calendars: 2024 Santa Run

We're thrilled to announce the dates for the 2024 Santa Run: Friday, December 13th, Saturday, December 14th, and Sunday, December 15th. Starting at 6 p.m. each evening, Santa will be escorted by our dedicated firefighters, police officers, and other town staff members to a section of town each evening. Residents are encouraged to wave Santa down for a photo, so make sure you're ready to greet him when he comes through your neighborhood!

A festive poster for the 2024 Santa Run. The background is a blue winter night sky with white snowflakes and a full moon. The word "Santa" is written in large, bold, red letters at the top, and "Run" is written in the same style at the bottom. The event schedule is listed in the center: Friday, DECEMBER 13th (Las Olas South to Lighthouse Dr.), Saturday, DECEMBER 14th (Harbour Village Blvd. South to Ponce De Leon Circle.), and Sunday, DECEMBER 15th (Old Carriage Rd. South to Marie Dr.). To the right, there is a cartoon illustration of Santa Claus driving a red fire truck with the number 17. Below the schedule, there are several green, stylized Christmas trees. At the bottom left, there is a red text block with a warning and information. In the center, there is a small circular logo for the Ponce Inlet Fire Department. At the bottom right, there is a line of text indicating sponsorship and contact information.

Santa
Friday, DECEMBER 13th (Las Olas South to Lighthouse Dr.)
Saturday, DECEMBER 14th (Harbour Village Blvd. South to Ponce De Leon Circle.)
Run
Sunday, DECEMBER 15th (Old Carriage Rd. South to Marie Dr.)

You better watch out
You better not cry
Better not pout
I'm telling you why
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!
Be on the lookout after 6pm for Santa on his sleigh. Wave him down and he will be happy to stop and take a picture!

Sponsored by the Town of Ponce Inlet Fire Department
For more information please call 322-6720



From Planning and Development Director Darren Lear...



New Staff Members

Please welcome the newest Planning and Development employees:

- Bernadette Fisher, Senior Planner
- Bailey Hornbuckle, Code Enforcement Administrative Assistant
- Heather Ricci, Permit Technician

We are excited to have them joining the team!

Marine Science Center Update

Volusia County's Marine Science Center is set to embark on a \$4.2 million renovation project that will introduce new marine exhibits and enhance spaces for public education as well as for staff and volunteers. To facilitate these extensive upgrades, the center will be closed to the public for approximately nine months starting September 2nd.

Planned additions to the Marine Science Center include:

- The John Crisp Artificial Reef Exhibit. It is designed to highlight the advantages of Volusia County's artificial reef program.
- A 1,500-square-foot multipurpose education building.
- A Living Shoreline exhibit.
- A Living Reef exhibit.
- A working coral lab to offer coral research opportunities for high school and college students.
- An aquarium quarantine deck for the new fish to be introduced into the exhibits.

Enhancements will also be made to the parking area and main building to streamline pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow.

South Peninsula Drive Sidewalk Project Update

Starting in August 2024, contractors hired by Volusia County began conducting essential survey work along S. Peninsula Drive, from the northern Town limits to Lighthouse Drive. This survey marks the beginning of the design phase for the sidewalk widening project on S. Peninsula Drive and is expected to take about five months.

This survey effort is just the initial step in the design process. Once it is completed, the County will hire an engineer to finalize the design. The County and Town will organize meetings with residents during this process to address questions and gather feedback. Notifications of these meetings will be sent once they are scheduled.

New Historic and Landmark Tree Designation

In April, the Town Council designated another Historic and Landmark tree. The 41” DBH Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is located at 4401 S. Peninsula Drive, in Ponce Preserve Park, at the northwest edge of the Green Mound on the east side of S. Peninsula Drive. The tree is in good health and has a height of 65 feet, with a canopy area estimated at 2,600 square feet.



Town Hall Landscaping

The Town Hall landscaping project aims to replant areas previously cleared of aggressive muscadine grape vines by the Public Works Department and volunteers earlier this year along the east side of the property closest to S. Atlantic Avenue.

Muscadine grape vines can heavily infest and suffocate small trees, blocking sunlight and adding significant weight. This year, Public Works staff used heavy equipment to clear overgrown areas for the first time in almost two decades. This effort revealed and restored the stormwater retention area on the east side of Town Hall and filled approximately six dumpsters' worth of discarded vegetation.

With the grape vines removed, native plants and trees are beginning to thrive again. Hercules Club trees have bloomed more vibrantly this spring than in previous years, and butterflies and other pollinators are returning to enjoy the flowering native plants.



Replanting the cleared areas is set to begin in October. Volunteers will remove any reemerging vines and invasive plants. The final week of October will see the installation of native plants, guided by a planting plan created by Katie Tripp of Natural Beauty Florida. The project will include the installation of 272 individual native plant specimens, such as Beach Creeper, Beach Verbena, Fakahatchee Grass, Muhly Grass, Spotted Bee Balm, Tropical Sage, and Wild Petunia. Once established, these native plants will help reduce soil erosion and water runoff, conserve water, lower maintenance needs, and enhance wildlife habitats.

Beware of Unlicensed Contractors

Unlicensed contracting has always been a problem in Florida. Handyman services may portray themselves as being licensed and insured when, in fact, they are not. They may be a legitimate business registered in Florida, but they may not have the required state licenses from the Florida Department of Business & Professional Services to perform the type of work. They also may not carry liability insurance or workers' compensation. If the unlicensed contractor does not carry insurance and someone gets hurt on the job, it is the property owner that will be held liable. Before signing a contract or giving a deposit for proposed work, check with the Ponce Inlet Building Division to verify that the person you've hired is properly licensed and insured. License verification can also be found at: www.myfloridalicense.com.



The Town of Ponce Inlet requires a permit for most construction-related activities, such as a new fence, roof, windows, electrical work, plumbing, driveway, A/C replacement, etc. Part of the Town's role is to ensure that once the permit has been applied for, the contractor is licensed for that type of work and is properly insured. The permit review process ensures that the work has been designed per applicable codes. Once the permit has been issued, Town staff inspect the work to ensure it is being done correctly per the approved plans and manufacturer's specifications.

Beware — at times the contractor is not who or what they say they are. When this happens, it ends up costing you more money to correct the issue than what you may have saved by hiring an unlicensed contractor. Here are a few recommendations to protect yourself.

Please keep an eye out for these **RED FLAGS**. A licensed contractor should **NEVER** ask you to:

1. Apply for the permit yourself to “save you money.” This is a sign that the individual doing the work may not be licensed and/or insured for the work being performed. If the worker gets injured, the homeowner is liable. The homeowner can also face violations and fines from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Workers' Compensation Division. Licensed contractors typically handle the permitting and paperwork on your behalf.

2. Pay half up front and half when the job is done. A reputable company will not ask for any money up front beyond the cost of purchasing materials. Every year there are articles in the paper and on the news that a person gave money up front for a certain project, and the company either never

started the job or never finished the job. This is more common during the holiday season and especially after a natural disaster.

3. Make final payment before passing the final inspection. A reputable company will not ask for final payment until after their final inspection has been conducted and passed by the Town. The homeowner can contact the Town of Ponce Inlet Building Division to confirm the final inspection has passed before making the final payment. Proof of passing the final inspection will also be placed in writing on the building permit card, which should be retained by the homeowner.

How to best protect yourself:

1. Have the contractor secure the permit; the Town will make sure they are licensed and insured.
2. Make sure a permit is posted on your property; the Town changes the color of the inspection card each year. This allows us to monitor the project as well as determine how long the work has been ongoing.
3. Wait to make your final payment until after the final inspection has been signed off on your permit. Although some types of work require multiple inspections and signatures, the most important signature is for the “final” inspection. Once approved, this lets you know that the work has been completed according to the approved plan and meets all adopted regulations.
4. If unsure, please call the Town of Ponce Inlet, and we will assist you.

Please be careful when you decide to start a project on your property. Ask questions of your contractor. Check with the Better Business Bureau and the Department of Business and Professional Regulations to see if any complaints have been filed. Be wary of contractors who demand a permit or half or all of the money upfront. Lastly, if you’re not sure, please call the Building Division and ask whether a permit is needed for your type of project or if a certain contractor has done prior work in the Town.



From Acting Public Works Director Steve Dunlap...



We're excited to share some key updates from your Public Works Department as we continue our mission to keep our town functioning smoothly and safely. Here's a snapshot of the latest developments and initiatives:

Stormwater System Cleaning

In May, we completed the thorough flushing and cleaning of the remaining 50% of the Town's storm pipe systems, from Calumet Avenue to the north town limits. Additionally, we performed maintenance on the swales throughout Town. These essential tasks help prevent blockages that could cause flooding during heavy rains. By keeping the storm pipes and swales free of debris and sediment, we're boosting drainage efficiency and protecting our community from potential water damage.

Dock Inspections at Ponce Preserve, Timucuan Oaks, and the Boat Ramp

Regular inspections are crucial for maintaining the safety and enjoyment of our public recreational areas. We recently carried out detailed inspections of the

docks at Ponce Preserve, Timucuan Oaks, and the boat ramp to evaluate their condition and pinpoint any needed repairs. The inspections revealed the need to repair and replace many of the boardwalks and dock pilings at these locations. Repairs at Ponce Preserve are already in progress, with the repairs for Timucuan Oaks and the boat ramp to follow.

New Directional Signs and Historic Markers Enhance Ponce Preserve Park

We're excited to announce the complete replacement of all directional signs in Ponce Preserve Park. This update includes new historic tree signs and trail markers to enhance the park experience. The addition of these signs aims to protect our cherished trees by guiding visitors away from sensitive areas and ensuring they stay on designated trails. This initiative will help preserve the park's natural beauty and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors.



Welcome Our New Team Members

We're excited to share that we've recently filled five positions within our department. Please join us in welcoming Joe Ladone, Juan Floyd, Larry Hunt, Phillip Wright, and Stanley Barnhart to the team. Each of them brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their new roles. Their addition will enhance our ability to manage our expanding responsibilities and improve the services we offer. If you see them around, be sure to say hello!

From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie Alex...



Welcome Julie Cotton, Cultural Services Coordinator!

Julie has lived in Florida for more than 20 years. She grew up near the Manatee River in Parrish, Florida, but would often visit her grandparents in New Smyrna Beach. From a young age, she was very interested in history.

In 2017, she began attending Florida State University and fell in love with archaeology. She eventually switched her major to Anthropology and decided to minor in Museum Studies. She spent her time as a student volunteering in a bioarchaeology laboratory, where she participated in research on [dentition](#). She also assisted with Stage One archaeological surveys in the areas surrounding Tallahassee.

After graduating in 2021, Julie began working at the Museum of Florida History. After leaving the state capital, she traveled to Greece and completed a bioarchaeological field school on the island of Astypalaia. When she moved to Volusia

County, she started volunteering at the New Smyrna Museum of History. In July of this year, she was excited for the opportunity to begin working for the Town of Ponce Inlet.

In the role of Cultural Services Coordinator, Julie will be developing programs for the community, welcoming people to the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum, and learning all she can about the town's history. She is excited to share the Town's rich history and culture with its residents and public.

Special Events Permits

Ponce Inlet is the site of numerous special events throughout the year. To determine if your event requires a special event permit, please review the [Special Event regulations](#) in the Town's Code of Ordinances. Please feel free to contact Jackie Alex with any questions at jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

Summer Programs

This summer, between June and September, the Cultural Services Department offered six total programs that attracted 50 attendees looking for fun in the sun! We helped build connections with grandparents and their grandchildren through crafts and searching for natural treasures in the park! We also taught locals about the importance of shells and the many benefits of native plants.

Upcoming Fall Events and Programs

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

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. For all events, please contact Jackie with any questions at Jalex@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 322-6703.

Events for October:

What's the Buzz? Bee Encounter

Come meet bee expert Marlin Athearn and his talented honey-making bees! Get in depth and dive into the thick amber sweetness. Create-n-paint a set of handmade paper cards while being informed and inspired by Marlin's Bees. Honey and beeswax candles for purchase at the event.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr., under the gazebo by the playground.

Free. Space is limited to 18 people. RSVP by 10/9 required. Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

Ghosts of Ponce Past

Hear spooky tales about Ponce Inlet and take a walking ghost tour of the Pacetti Cemetery.

Saturday, October 19, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, meet outside on the lawn.

Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

RSVP not required but greatly appreciated.

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

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

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Timucuan Oaks Garden

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

Free; RSVP by 10/16 required.

Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

Children's Halloween Party

Come in costume and have "spooktacular" fun with children's games, haunted hayrides, and more!

Friday, October 25, 2024, @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park

4931 S. Peninsula Dr.

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

Events for November:

Veterans Day Ceremony in Ponce Inlet

The Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association will be hosting their Veterans Day Ceremony, and all are welcome to attend!

Monday, November 11, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park

4931 S. Peninsula Dr.

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

Scavenger Hunt @the Park

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

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Timucuan Oaks Garden

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

Free; RSVP by 11/6 required.

Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

Archaeological Walk

Explore the history of the Green Mound shell midden and ponder pieces of the past. Learn all about artifacts and enjoy a hike through Ponce Preserve with a guide from the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

Saturday, November 23, 2024, @ 9:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr., meet under the gazebo by the playground.

Free; RSVP by 11/16 required.

Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

Events for December:

Town Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

Join us as we welcome the holiday season by lighting the Town tree and a visit from Santa. There will also be a kid's craft table and light refreshments.

Friday, December 6, 2024, @ 6:00 p.m.

Pollard Park

4680 S. Peninsula Dr.

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

Christmas Parade & Breakfast with Santa

Hosted by the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association.

Saturday, December 7, 2024

Breakfast with Santa @ 9:00 AM

Ponce Inlet Community Center

4670 S. Peninsula Dr.

The Christmas Parade starts @ 2:00 PM.

*Route proceeds NORTH along S. Peninsula Dr. from Davies Park to Harbour Village Blvd.*For more information, contact:

Mark Oebbecke: piveterans@yahoo.com

Cherise Wintz: cherises39@yahoo.com

Merry Old Fashioned Christmas!

Celebrate with live holiday music, old-fashioned games, memorable crafts, and a tour of the Museum!

Saturday, December 14, 2024, @ 10:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

Free; RSVP by 12/7 required

Julie: jcotton@ponce-inlet.org or (386) 761-2408

Volunteer Opportunities

The Cultural Services Department is currently seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to volunteer during special events, programs, and volunteer workdays throughout the year! Volunteering is a wonderful way to contribute your skills, knowledge, and time to help shape the future of our community. If you would like to join us as a volunteer for Halloween or any other opportunity, please contact our Cultural Services Coordinator at (386) 761-2408 or email jcotton@ponce-inlet.org.

Invasive Plant Removal

Do you want to help protect our Town's native ecosystem? Join volunteers to learn about invasive plants. They will teach you proper removal techniques to then apply within Ponce Preserve. Volunteers should bring sunscreen, bug repellent, garden gloves, a hat, and closed-toe shoes.

Age: 18+

Volunteer Application is required

Tuesdays starting 9/3/24

8:00-10:00am

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr.

Ponce Inlet Community Center

THE PICCI GETS A FACE LIFT

We have been very busy this summer beautifying the PICCI! Come see our newly painted interior and outdoor gazebo! A beautiful setting for all of your planned family events!

More information about renting the PICCI can be found on our website at <https://piccommunitycenter.com/> under Rentals. We pride ourselves on offering a cost effective venue for your family to utilize. We can comfortably accommodate 100+ people. Check it out today!



The PICCI kitchen has a brand new stove installed. Thanks to all who have attended our events or rented the PICCI, this helps us to continue to make improvements on the center.

New dishes have been purchased for events as well. Thank you to the Garden Club and the Women's Clubs for their donations towards the new dishware.

Save the dates on upcoming events!

- Flea Market: October 4-5
- Soup & Salad: January 22, 2025
- Dinner Dance: February 22, 2025
- Irish Night: March 14, 2025

Lastly, follow us on Facebook...Ponce Inlet Community Center to stay up to date on events and more!

The Ponce Inlet Community Centers Annual

FLEA MARKET

OCT. 4-5

Your Ultimate Yard Sale Destination for Amazing Deals

household items, clothing, home decor and more

8:30 - 2:30 PM

All proceeds go to the PICCI

Ponce Inlet Corvette Club

by Kevin Kirsch



First things first, if anyone is new to Corvette's, as I have seen several of you driving around lately looking mighty sharp, we have a Corvette Club that would love to meet you and your Vette!

Home Page: Ponce Inlet Corvette Club
(picorvetteclub.com)

Welcome to Ponce Inlet Corvette Club.

General Meeting Every Third Thursday of the Month

The next meeting is on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.

HIDDEN LAKES CLUBHOUSE

35 FAIRGREEN AVE

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL

Social @ 5:00 PM, Dinner @ 5:30 p.m.
Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

Off the menu ordering is also available.

We are a group of Corvette enthusiasts that own all Generations of Corvettes from C1 (1953) through C8 (today). We do cruises; caravan to car shows, including producing our own annual Vettes at One Daytona Show; summer and Christmas parties; and many other fun events, not so much car-related.

Have you ever heard of "Save the Wave"? If you are a Corvette owner, this is a fun tradition we all have when we pass each other on the road—that is, we wave to each other! Something so simple, yet so magical that complete strangers will wave when passing another Vette and leave you with a smile! No other car club of any make or model does this. Wouldn't it be nice if we all did it more often regardless of make or model? Either way, it is a special tradition Corvette owners hold dear; as such, we "save the wave"!

If you join the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club sooner rather than later, you'll be in time to join in on the Annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade on Dec. 7th, start time 2 p.m. Need up to 10 Christmas-decorated Corvettes!



Invasive Brazilian Pepper Trees

by Barbara Davis

The Brazilian Pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) is a highly invasive plant that disrupts natural habitats by pushing out native plants and the animals that rely on them. Brazilian Pepper trees are on the State of Florida's prohibited plant list. They are illegal to transport, sell, or cultivate anywhere in the State. Significant amounts of tax dollars are spent to remove this exotic invader from sensitive wetlands, fish-spawning waterfronts and nature preserves every year. That is why it is vital to diligently pursue its removal from public as well as private land.



Brazilian Pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Brazilian Pepper trees grow just about anywhere. In Ponce Inlet, you can find this plant invading neighborhoods, roadways, vacant lots, along the river, in mangroves, and even along the beach. Brazilian Peppers can grow up to 10 feet per year and re-sprout if cut down. The roots are difficult to dig up and the prolific seeds are widely distributed by birds and animals. The plants are resistant to natural events; can grow in wet or dry soil; and are very salt-tolerant. Florida has no natural predators to keep them under control.

Effects of Brazilian Peppers

- They kill other vegetation by forming dense thickets and by chemically suppressing the growth of understory plants.
- They impact wildlife by destroying their usual food and shelter.
- They hurt shorelines by disturbing natural fish-breeding habitats.
- They crowd out valuable mangroves and their shallow root systems allow erosion.
- They are members of the same family as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac, and part of the plant can cause skin irritation.

How to Identify Brazilian Peppers

- They are large multi-trunk plants that can grow up to 40 feet tall.
- They are evergreens with glossy, bright green leaves, smooth in texture.
- When crushed, the leaves smell like turpentine.
- The leaves are “compound,” meaning there are several leaflets arranged opposite each other on one stem.
- Female Brazilian Pepper trees produce sprays of small yellowish-white flowers in spring, followed by clusters of small red berries in late fall.

Permit Required to Remove Brazilian Pepper

The Town of Ponce Inlet requires a permit to remove trees on private property, but for Brazilian pepper trees, all permit fees and tree replacement requirements are waived. The permit application is submitted with a survey of the property and identifies the number and location of Brazilian pepper

plants to be removed, the location of nearby non-invasive trees that will remain on the site, and the method of removal to be used. It may be necessary to install a tree protection barricade around any nearby protected trees to prevent accidental damage or removal. If significant areas of the soil will be exposed after the tree removal, a plan to re-vegetate, seed, or sod the area to prevent wind and water erosion of the soil will also be needed. Once the permit has been issued and prior to starting any work, the property must be inspected by the Town to document the size and location of the plants and to verify that the tree protection barricades have been properly installed. The Town also conducts an inspection after the tree removal is completed.

Brazilian Pepper Removal Methods

The most effective means of controlling Brazilian Pepper is to remove the plant and its roots when the plant is not fruiting. Flowering occurs predominantly from September through November in Florida. Fruits are mature by December, which is when pepper trees should not be removed because the berries will scatter. Therefore, the optimum time to remove a pepper would be Summer/early Fall. If removal by the roots is not available, small Brazilian Pepper can be hand-pulled, which does not require the use of chemicals. Larger peppers can be cut-stumped; i.e., cut as close to the ground as possible and a water-soluble herbicide immediately applied with a paintbrush or spray bottle to the surface of the stump. Additional cutting and herbicide applications are required if re-sprouts occur. If the plants are too large to be safely removed by the property owner, professional assistance may be required.

The Town's Public Works Department successfully removed 8 large Brazilian peppers from Ponce Preserve in the months of September – October 2023 before the

berries could ripen in December and fall or be spread by birds. This removal complied with the Management Plan for Ponce Preserve. Public Works removed the peppers by the roots as recommended by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



The County of Volusia began removing Brazilian peppers from Lighthouse Point Park in September. This is perfect timing, as the berries will not be able to ripen and spread to neighboring properties. Public Works has a continuing program to remove Brazilian peppers from Town properties.

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Patricia Morris



Happy Fall to all, and welcome to the 43rd year of the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet!

We are very excited to be back and celebrating the beginning of our 43rd year as a club in Ponce Inlet. As we have in past years, our Club will work diligently to ensure that we accomplish all of the goals set forth for the upcoming year, while continuing to promote the beauty of our town. To that end, our first membership meeting of the year was held on September 25th. We look forward to welcoming back all of our members and prospective members.

Just to give you all a taste of what we have planned for the upcoming year, we will be hosting some wonderful and informative speakers at our October 2024, November 2024, January 2025, and February 2025 meetings.

In October, Chris Robinson of Revival Gardening will be joining us to teach us all how unhealthy soil can be returned to health. In November, Ms. Ashlee Roberson of Simply Roses in Ormond Beach will be giving us a floral design demonstration, which will come in handy for all of us right before the holiday season. In January, Ms. Donna Athearn, of Marlins Bee's will talk to us about honeybees and their relationship to Medicine—Who's curing Who?—is the theme of her discussion. And finally, at our February meeting, Ms. Katie Tripp, owner of

Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes, will talk to us about Preserving Native Plants and Water Management. If you know our town, you will understand what a valuable and timely topic this is for Ponce Inlet.

In December, our Club holds its Annual Holiday Luncheon and in March, we have our annual 'Looking to the New Year' organizational meeting. April is always a special meeting for us since we hold our Annual Arbor Day Celebration. At this meeting, we will be celebrating the 31st Anniversary of Ponce Inlet being declared a Tree City. For those of you who may not be familiar with our Arbor Day Celebration, we welcome our Mayor and Town Managers to join us in paying tribute to the Town of Ponce Inlet for its continued efforts to maintain our status as a Tree City. Ponce Inlet is one of only 166 Tree Cities in the United States.

At this same meaning, we also recognize and award our charitable donations to organizations, as recommended and voted on by our members, who provide meaningful and much-needed services in our area. And finally, in May we say goodbye for the season to our members and celebrate our accomplishments from the year, but not before we host our Annual Ice Cream Social on May 4, a treat for all of our residents, families, and friends, with Ice Cream generously donated by Lighthouse Ice Cream.

As a club, you will also find us participating in the Ponce Inlet Holiday Christmas Parade, the Marine Science Center's Christmas Tree Festival and Ponce Preserves the Planet event. As you can see, we have a very, very busy year ahead of us, so come out and join our Club in all of the fun events we have in store for the year!

In the meantime, our Club is very excited to be able to hold its Annual Arts, Crafts and Plant Show on October 11th and 12th. This is an annual event that our Club has been hosting for over 30 years. Highlights of our show include 40+ indoor and outdoor vendors, our Garden Club Crafters and JJ's Jewelry joining in the fun displaying and selling some of their lovely crafts and handmade jewelry. And of course, we have our Annual Garden Club Plant sale showcasing some popular and unique plants, many of which are donated by our members. Be sure to visit this booth if looking for some Fall Foliage for your home. Not to be undone we also feature our Annual Bake Sale and Potter's Café. All of our items for the Bake Sale are made and donated by our members and if you get a chance to partake trust me, they are all delicious. Our Potter's Café offers our ever-popular Walking Tacos and Hot Dogs. All food is cooked and prepared by our members and from all accounts everyone enjoys our food offerings. Finally, our raffle items are always a huge hit, with everyone's favorite being our Lottery Tree. So, stop by and visit our Show, you never know if it is your time to become a big winner by taking a chance to win our Scratch Off Lottery Tree!



Our Monthly Beautification Awards, which go to residents of Ponce Inlet, who have eye-catching landscapes, will resume in October and continue throughout the year, with the exception of January, February and April.

In December, our Beautification Committee, will also be choosing the winners of the Holiday Lights Award. Recipients of these awards are always proud to be recognized by our club and delighted to be able to display our beautiful new Beautification sign, painted by one of our own talented members, to display on their lawns.

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. One of the ways that we proudly give back to our Community is by awarding scholarships, in the form of class trips to the Marine Science Center for all children and grade levels from RJ Longstreet Elementary School.

Even though the Marine Science Center will be closed for renovations this year, they have generously offered to bring their show on the road to visit the kids from Longstreet at the school.

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

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

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet
Arts, Crafts & Plants Sale



Friday and Saturday
Oct. 11th and 12th, 2024
10am-4pm

Artists, Crafters, Gardeners
Bake Sale
Raffles & Refreshments

Location: Ponce Inlet Community Center 4670 S. Peninsula Drive

Ponce Inlet Lions Club

By Nancy Epps, President



One of Lions Club International's major projects is protecting the environment. To help with that goal, we placed a recycling box at the Community Center this spring in which citizens could recycle numerous items of clothing, shoes, purses, etc. Items are either sold or, if not sellable, they are properly recycled instead of going into the landfill. To date, we have collected 1,408 pounds of items that did not go to the landfill!

Here is the complete list of items we collected:

- Clothing Apparel & Shoes: Handbags, Clutches, Tote Bags, Shoulder Bags, Laptop bags, Hats, Gloves, Ties, Scarves, Belts, and Wallets.

We continue to collect and recycle eyeglasses and hearing aids in our collection box on the south side of the Ponce Inlet Community Center parking area, near the firehouse. It is the box that resembles a mailbox. Please do not place clothing or anything other than eyeglasses and hearing aids in that box. We collect eyeglasses from several opticians in the area, too. Project Right to Sight (PRTS) is a major Florida Lions project that recycles thousands of eyeglasses every year. The ones that are still usable are washed, sorted

by type (prescription, sunglasses, child, etc.), and tested for their prescriptions. They are stored in our warehouse in Ocoee according to type and prescription. Once a month, volunteer optometrists conduct an eyeglass clinic for those who otherwise would go without. We do not waste any eyeglasses – if they are too damaged or out of style, we pop the lenses out to reduce the weight and send the frames to a company that recycles them. The recycler pays PRTS which helps support their vital services. FYI: we cannot use contact lenses or individual lenses that are not in frames.

The Ponce Inlet Lions Club has a busy Hearing and Vision Committee that assesses requests from economically disadvantaged East Volusia County residents who need eye exams or eye surgery such as cataracts. My thanks to Committee Chair Mahyar Okhovatian who is diligent in serving those who need us. When you support one of our Ponce Inlet Lions fundraisers, this is an example of how we expend our funds. We have provided eye exams and eyeglasses for numerous residents of the town supported First Step Shelter, the healthcare clinic in New Smyrna Beach, and numerous other citizens in need of our assistance. The Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind also provides retina and cataract surgery for those who qualify by income.

Jim Martin works with Mahyar on the committee, and his special areas of interest are retina and vision screening. Richard Johnson, a member of Daytona Halifax Lions Club, has led the retina screening effort in the area, and the three of them recently participated in an event at the Ocean Center where they offered retina screening. Our Florida Lions Diabetic Retinopathy Foundation employs ophthalmologists who read the scans and recommend follow-up as indicated.

Please support your local Lions Club so we can support our foundations and major projects.

On October 2, I will be sharing what I learned about the security of your vote in Volusia County. I was a poll worker for the first time for the August 20 primary, and the training and actual experience taught me a lot of information I would like to share with the voters.

On November 6, the Volusia Recovery Alliance will speak to us about addiction and the use of Narcan. There is a lot more to know than you might think, so please consider coming to learn about this important and relevant topic.

If you would like to know more about either or both topics, please join us at 6 PM at PICC. Please let me know if you plan on coming so that we have plenty of chairs set up.

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, or call me at (386) 795-2310. We meet at the Ponce Inlet Community Center at 6 PM on the first Wednesday of most months, October through November, then January through June. We usually have an interesting and informative speaker, and all meetings are open to the public if you would like to check us out. Lionism is a great way to serve your community, share a common goal, and meet new people in your community.



Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association



Veterans Day Ceremony

Our plans are moving forward for the Veterans Day Ceremony. This year we are holding it on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM with a ceremony at the Memorial at Davies Lighthouse Park. This November 11 ceremony pays tribute to those who serve or have served in the armed forces of the United States during any war and also during peacetime. A special focus will be on those veterans suffering from PTSD and other issues that adversely affect their day-to-day lives.

It is anticipated that the ceremony will be as moving as it has been in previous years. There will be speakers, an Embry Riddle University ROTC color guard, a POW/Missing Man ceremony, a flyover, and a dedication and wreath laying. We hope that everyone in the area will be able to attend. A special part of the ceremony will be to acknowledge the nine founding members of our association and their efforts to make

the Veterans Memorial a reality with the unveiling of a “Founders Plaque” placed along the path in front of the memorial.

Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Parade

The planning for the Pancake Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Parade is coming together well. Both are on December 7th, with the Pancake Breakfast going from 9:00 AM to noon at the Ponce Inlet Community Center. This breakfast will feature some special treats for the ‘kids’ and, as usual, everyone will be surrounded by some great Christmas music and maybe a chance to sit and chat with Santa. A minimum fee is charged for each breakfast.



The parade will kick off at 2:00 PM from Davies Lighthouse Park, going up South Peninsula Drive to Harbour Village Boulevard. Last year’s parade was the largest this town has had, and this year we plan to have even more participants. The theme this year, “Favorite Christmas Movie,” will attract some interesting participants. That does not include the Grand and Special Parade Marshals, the Veterans contingent, the Town Council float, the Public Works float, Fire/EMS, and the Police. Santa and his sleigh will also be present to kick off the holiday season. We are fast becoming known for being ‘The best small-town parade in Florida.’ If you are interested in registering for a parade slot, stop by the Community Center to fill out a registration form or write to: piveterans@yahoo.com. The registration fee for participants is \$100. So, mark December 7th on your calendar and join us for breakfast, and afterward have a seat along Peninsula Drive and join us to welcome in the holiday season.

Veterans Memorial Expansion

As many know, we have no more available pavers for people to acknowledge those friends or family members who have served. As mentioned in the last C4PI Newsletter, we are making progress in planning for the two 'Walls of Remembrance.' We are looking at their facing being black granite, which will make the stainless-steel plaques truly stand out. Pavers will run from the existing Memorial to this new area surrounding the two walls. Our target is to dedicate this expansion next Memorial Day. Should you want to be on the list to get updates on our progress and preorder either a paver or plaque, please drop us a note at piveterans@yahoo.com

Veterans Association Information

We would like to extend an invitation to all local veterans and those who are still serving on active duty to join us. Nonveterans may also join us as 'associate members'. The 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 or write to us at piveterans@yahoo.com for additional information or to obtain a membership form.



PONCE INLET ANIMAL WELFARE "PAW" BY NANCY EPPS, PRESIDENT



I wrote in February about the mama cat and her babies who were adopted by Tara and Rob Lamb. About a month ago, Betty, the Siamese baby cat, accidentally got out. Tara and Rob were frantic and they elicited the help of neighbors to help find her. After several tearful days, Betty was seen in the vicinity of the house. With the help of a trap, Betty was returned to her safe and happy home where she has followed Tara from room to room ever since!



Please get your pets microchipped to help the police or a veterinarian identify you as the owner. The procedure is very reasonable at most clinics now, and it gives you peace of mind. In the middle of a disaster like a hurricane, having lost a pet just adds to the stress.

If you would like to be alerted when someone in our area loses a pet or if you find a stray animal, you can sign up for free notices from Paw Boost lost and found at www.pawboost.com They will also post to their Facebook page. I see a lot of pets being returned to their homes via Paw Boost.

The colony continues to hum along with our volunteers feeding and giving water and affection to them on a daily basis. Many thanks to all of them. Terri recently added some straw to the ground to reduce the tendency to muddiness. The cats have numerous places to get shelter from the elements, so they appear to be quite happy. As I have mentioned, Ruthie is one of the original colony cats, and it is only due to our care that she has survived for 15 years!



This month marks the sad anniversary of our co-founder, Jo Ellen Basile on 9/11, a tragic day for the country at large.

If you would like to know more about what PAW does or how you can help, please call me, Nancy Epps, at 386-795-2310.

PONCE CHURCH



by Pastor Nina Tidwell

Ponce Church meets Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at the PI Community Center, 4670 S. Peninsula, next to the fire station. Everyone is welcome at Ponce Church.

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 teach others what it means to live by faith and love for neighbor by caring for the orphan, providing food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, providing clothing, healing the sick, visiting those in prison, and providing shelter for the homeless. As Jesus said, “...If you have done it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me...” Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 10:8

Visit PonceChurch.com for more information. Thank you.

ANNUAL LEGACY HOUSING GALA FOR AGE OUT FOSTER YOUTH:

Join us Thursday, December 5, 2024, for our 8th Annual Legacy Housing Gala, from 6 pm – 9 pm, located at 129 N Halifax Ave, Daytona Beach, FL. 32118. Everyone is welcome.

Our Annual Fundraiser is a very important way that generous donors join us in providing homes for aged-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. To learn more visit LegacyHousingProject.org, thank you.



LEGACY
H O U S I N G

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

4670 S. Peninsula Drive in Ponce Inlet
Everyone Welcome!

(386) 308-1533

Thank you.

Watering Guidelines

Watering Restrictions

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

Rules & Regulations

During Daylight Savings Time the following rules apply:

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

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

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

During Standard Time watering is allowed only once a week.

Helpful Resources

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

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

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

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

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



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

by Zach Hopple



After over a century of being closed to public visitors, the Pacetti Hotel will once again open its doors to anyone wishing to experience Ponce Inlet's longest-surviving structure. Constructed between 1881 and 1886, the Constance D. Hunter Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum, as it is now called, officially opened to the public on August 22nd.

This opening is the result of multiple years of hard work by the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Staff and various other entities involved in the restoration and rehabilitation of this historic building since its purchase in late 2019. Readers are encouraged to stop by for a visit and enjoy the history and nature of this new addition to the rich history of Ponce Inlet. All residents are admitted free with valid identification, and the cost to all other museum-goers is only \$5.00 for adults 12 and older and \$1.00 for children 11 years and younger.

Once again, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to anyone who contributed to this project in some way. To the Hunter Foundation for providing

immense financial support. To our volunteers who assisted with the cataloging and restoration of artifacts. To the many members and readers who donated their artifacts, money, or time to this project. Our collective effort has led to the creation of a museum 140+ years in the making.

Along with the opening of the Pacetti Hotel Museum, there is plenty to experience at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse this fall and winter season. Along with climbing the tallest lighthouse in Florida and visiting the world-class Ayres Davies Lens Museum, a plethora of onsite events are available to get you into the holiday spirit.



November 23rd: Indigenous Peoples Heritage Day 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Travel back in time and discover the fascinating history of the indigenous people who once lived along the Volusia County inland waterways and throughout the local Florida region. Learn about the Timucua and Seminole as you explore the historic light station and participate in interactive workshops, living history demonstrations, and other activities presented by lighthouse staff, volunteers, and representatives from museums and cultural sites located throughout Central Florida. All activities are included with general admission. Please contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple by phone at (386) 761-1821, ext. 18, or via email at education@ponceinlet.org for more details.

November 29th: Thanksgiving Gifts at the Lighthouse 10:30a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Escape the hustle and bustle of Black Friday shopping by visiting the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on Friday, November 29th, for a fun-filled day of activities including information booths, living history reenactments, and kids' craft workshops. Climb 175 feet to the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse with family and friends and explore one of the largest and best-preserved historic light stations in the country. All activities are provided free of charge with your regular paid admission.

December 7th: Tunes at the Tower — Daytona Beach Concert Band 11:00 a.m.

Enjoy the sounds of the season as the Daytona Beach Concert Band performs classic holiday tunes and modern favorites. Following the festivities, ring in the holiday season by taking in the sights from the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse and visiting the Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum. All activities are included in the general admission price.

This will be a special day for everyone visiting or residing in Ponce Inlet, as following the concert, the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade will take place at 2:00 p.m., rounding out a wonderful day throughout the town.

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is always looking for passionate volunteers to serve at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Historic Pacetti Hotel. No prior volunteer experience is necessary, and training will be provided for all volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple at education@ponceinlet.org, via telephone at (386)761-1821, or stop by the giftshop for more details.





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 December, March, June, and September. Deadlines for submitting content are as follows:

December 15th	Winter Edition
March 15th	Spring Edition
June 15th	Summer Edition
September 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](http://C4Pi.org) or by mailing a check made to:

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

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

Volunteers are always needed.

If you can help, please email:

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



Board of Directors:

- Lynn Albinson, President
- Elviria LaBarre, Vice-President
- Sue Fillion, Treasurer
- Kathy Cannon, Secretary
- Lauren Albinson, Newsletter Editor
- Joe Cannon
- Ed Davis
- Judy DiCarlo
- Don Hampton
- Pat Morris
- Mark Oebbecke
- Jane White



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 Lynn Albinson, President, at lynn.albinson@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.

"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.