

# Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



*Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet*



## Citizen of the Year & Lifetime Achievement Winners



Since 1987, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Organization has proudly recognized outstanding volunteers of Ponce Inlet for their exceptional contributions to our community.

Discover who won the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Turn to page 4 to meet our honorees.

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To view our quarterly newsletter, visit [www.C4Pi.org/newsletter](http://www.C4Pi.org/newsletter)

Become a C4Pi Member, it's FREE to join! [www.C4Pi.org/join](http://www.C4Pi.org/join)

# The Town of PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

*“Joy of the Land and Sea”*



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# Citizens For PONCE INLET

## Celebrating Community Volunteers: C4PI Awards

Since 1987, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet (C4PI) Organization has proudly recognized outstanding residents of Ponce Inlet for their exceptional contributions to our community. Each year, the C4PI Citizen of the Year Award is bestowed upon one individual or couple who exemplifies dedication and service. Additionally, the C4PI Lifetime Achievement Awards honor one or more individuals who have demonstrated remarkable volunteerism spanning 20 years or more. Join us in honoring these exceptional contributors who embody the spirit of service and community pride in Ponce Inlet.

### Citizen of the Year 2025 Terry Revak



Since becoming a full-time resident of Ponce Inlet, Terry Revak has volunteered her time to continue to make Ponce such a special town.

For eight years, she has served on the Ponce Inlet Community Center (PICC) board, taking on the role of treasurer since 2020. Terry actively organizes volunteers to staff the PICC office, scheduling herself for multiple days each month and stepping in to cover unscheduled shifts to ensure the center remains accessible to residents and visitors alike.

Terry spearheads fundraising efforts, orchestrating events like Soup and Salad, Dinner Shows, and Irish Night. She meticulously plans these events, manages ticket sales, creates decorations, and even bakes to ensure their success.

At the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, where she has volunteered since 2017, Terry leads engaging tours, supports events, organizes educational materials, and contributes to the outreach program, enriching the community's connection to its history.

Beyond these roles, Terry quietly supports numerous town clubs by designing flyers, creating Excel spreadsheets, crafting signs, and producing decorations, all with her characteristic humility.

We are delighted to celebrate her remarkable contributions. Please join us in congratulating Terry Revak for her well-deserved recognition!

# Lifetime Achievement Ed Davis



Ed and Barbara relocated to Ponce Inlet in 1989, settling on the same street as Ayres and Kay Davies, Bill and Edwina Knox, and other key figures who helped found the town and remained active in its affairs. These inspiring neighbors introduced Ed and Barbara to the town's unique character and vibrant community, sparking their passion to contribute. While Barbara's numerous contributions are widely recognized, Ed has also dedicated himself to serving Ponce Inlet in meaningful ways over the years.

From 1996 to 2000, Ed served as president of Citizens for Ponce Inlet and currently holds a position on its board.

When Volusia County assumed control of the beach from local municipalities, they created the Beach Trust Commission to ensure coastal communities had a voice. The town council appointed Ed as Ponce Inlet's representative, and he served from 1994 to 1996. During this challenging period, Ed and fellow commission members tirelessly advocated for responsible beach management.

Ed also served on the Parks, Recreation, and Tree Board for over a decade, from 1997 to 2007. He humorously recalls the board's hands-on work, including designing and clearing trails in the newly established Ponce Preserve. Today's hikers enjoy trails that Ed and other dedicated board members created by pulling vines and clearing brush. Ed continues this work as a member of the Ponce Preservers, also known as the "vine pullers" or "Barb's Army," a group that has logged over 1,000 hours in the past 18 months to maintain Ponce Preserve as a cherished community asset.

Ed actively participated in the Sailfish Drive Scenic Roadway Committee, where he counted and measured trees along Sailfish Drive and helped secure its designation as a Scenic Roadway.

As an original member of the Friends of the Marine Science Center, Ed supported the center's early development and raised funds to ensure its success.

For the past nine years, Ed has served on the Advisory Committee and later the Board of Trustees for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, contributing to its preservation and operations.

Over the past 30 years, Ed has intermittently moderated the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Candidates Forum, alongside Don Hampton. While recent forums have been calmer, Ed recalls the lively and sometimes rowdy discussions of the past, which always provided valuable insights.

Behind the scenes, Ed has been a steadfast supporter of Barbara's many town projects, often serving as her reliable "beast of burden." He consistently assists with tasks like planting flowers around town signs, labeling native vegetation with stakes in Ponce Preserve, and leading bicycle and walking tours of historic areas during anniversary celebrations. Ed also played

a key role during the 10 years Barbara directed the Ponce Inlet Arbor Day 5K race. One memorable task was unloading and mixing bags of concrete for Barbara and the garden club to create unique yard stone awards for runners, which he then presented post-race. Though he might have quietly questioned the need for such elaborate awards compared to standard trophies or ribbons, Ed carried on with dedication.

Thank you, Ed, for your ongoing contributions to Ponce Inlet.

## Lifetime Achievement Joe and Judy DiCarlo



Since relocating to Ponce Inlet in 2005, Joe and Judy DiCarlo have passionately served as dedicated volunteers, enriching the community through their tireless efforts. They frequently worked side by side, contributing to a wide array of organizations and events, including the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Historic Museum, Garden Club, Veterans Association, and the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Board. Their commitment extended to bringing joy to children through organizing and supporting Easter egg hunts, Halloween festivities, and Christmas celebrations, where they could often be seen engaging with families and fostering community spirit.

Joe diligently served on the Town's Planning Board for over 10 years, actively shaping the community's development with thoughtful decision-making. Simultaneously, Judy devoted herself to the Code Enforcement Board for the same duration, ensuring the town's standards were upheld with fairness and integrity. Their exceptional contributions earned them high recognition: Judy was celebrated as the Citizens for Ponce Inlet's Citizen of the Year in 2018, and Joe received the same honor in 2019, a testament to their profound impact. For a deeper look into their extensive volunteer work, visit the Citizen of the Year section on the Citizens for Ponce Inlet [website](#).

## Lifetime Achievement Marylou Fillingame



Since moving to Ponce Inlet with her husband in the early 1980s, Marylou has actively shaped our community. She co-founded the Ponce Inlet Surf Club shortly after arriving. When her son started kindergarten, she began volunteering at Longstreet Elementary School, later serving as an administrative assistant for over 20 years. Parents of Longstreet students fondly recall her problem-solving skills and dedication.

Marylou tackled Ponce Inlet's severe feral cat issue by helping establish the Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare organization. She fed cats at the colony and volunteered at the Redinger Spay/Neuter Clinic from 2015 to 2019. For over a decade, she served on the C4PI Executive Board, often as secretary, and has been an active Garden Club member for more than 10 years. Since 2023, she has removed invasive plants at Ponce Preserve. Marylou has also been a dependable volunteer at every Christmas,

Easter, and Halloween children's event for over a decade and remains a key member of the Ponce Inlet pickleball group.

Though she has not sought recognition, those who have worked alongside Marylou can confirm her 40 years of selfless service have greatly enriched Ponce Inlet. Her contributions make her a deserving recipient of this award.



Past and present award winners.

# A Moment with the Mayor

One of my most important responsibilities is ensuring that our municipality's visioning statement, rooted in the aspirations and priorities of our residents, guides every policy and initiative we undertake. This requires close collaboration with residents, Council members, the Town Manager, and staff to uphold our shared values and implement plans that foster a resilient and sustainable future.

Recognizing that challenges like flooding do not respect municipal boundaries, I actively collaborate with elected officials from neighboring jurisdictions to develop unified strategies that protect and enhance our collective quality of life. By building strong partnerships both within and beyond our municipality, we can address major issues such as flooding more effectively and ensure our community remains resilient and true to its vision.



It has been my privilege to serve as Chair of the Roundtable of Volusia County Elected Officials, which brings together representatives from every municipality in Volusia County, as well as the county itself. In response to significant flooding in recent years, often caused by rapid development, aging drainage infrastructure, and increased rainfall, I led the creation of a dedicated



Lois Paritsky

Subcommittee on Stormwater Mitigation and Flooding. This group is now working with municipal and county partners to develop a comprehensive stormwater action plan that integrates regional solutions and leverages both local and federal resources. Because water flows across city lines and watersheds span multiple jurisdictions, only a regional approach can truly address the interconnected nature of these challenges.

In addition, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with officials statewide through the Florida League of Cities, an invaluable resource for municipal leaders. Recently, I was appointed to the League's new Training and Advisory Committee, which develops and delivers educational programs for city officials. Comprehensive training, especially for newly elected officials, is essential. This committee builds municipal capacity by designing curricula on governance, ethics, budgeting, and disaster preparedness and by advising on best practices to ensure our training remains responsive to evolving municipal challenges.

The establishment and support of collaborative forums, whether through subcommittees of elected officials or organizations like the Florida League of Cities, are indispensable to effective modern governance. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, these partnerships foster innovation and operational efficiency in tackling complex problems.



In closing, the ability to work both within our municipality and beyond its boundaries is not just a strategic advantage; it is a necessity in today's interconnected world. The challenges we face, from flooding to fiscal sustainability, require regional cooperation and a willingness to look beyond our own town limits. By combining local initiatives with broader partnerships,

we unlock new opportunities for progress and resilience. Through continued collaboration at every level, we can ensure that our community, and those around us, thrive in the face of today's challenges and tomorrow's uncertainties. Together, we can achieve far more than any one municipality could accomplish alone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois A. Paritsky".

Lois A. Paritsky  
Mayor, Town of Ponce Inlet  
(386) 310-4320  
[lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:lparitsky@ponce-inlet.org)



# COUNTY CORNER

Hello once again, everyone.

This is your Volusia County Councilman, Matt Reinhart, with your next installment of our quarterly newsletter.



## Beach Renourishment Progress

As many of you have observed, the beach renourishment projects are well underway. Halifax Paving trucks are actively moving beach-compatible sand onto the inlet beach. This sand is now settling, and crews have already started placing it at the Sunglow Pier, progressing southward to avoid disturbing newly placed sand. This approach also aligns with sea turtle nesting season requirements set by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Once the most vulnerable areas are addressed, Halifax Paving will extend north of the Sunglow Pier to other areas of our Volusia County beaches that were most affected by the hurricanes.



To support the next phase of work, the Oceanview Avenue Beach Approach in Ponce Inlet temporarily closed on Thursday, May 29, as Halifax Paving, the contractor hauling sand northward, will use the approach for staging and construction access.

Once hauling operations are complete, Volusia County will begin long-term improvements to the Oceanview Avenue approach. Plans include the construction of a new seawall, enhanced stormwater and parking infrastructure, and a fully ADA-accessible beach ramp. The upgraded approach is expected to reopen by next summer.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) anticipates completing dredging activities by the end of September, barring any major coastal weather events. Their contract is scheduled to conclude in November, with demobilization likely occurring during October and November.

Following the completion of the initial project, the same dredging company will dredge the shoals of the Intracoastal Waterway to collect an additional 1.7 to 2.2 million cubic yards of sand. This separate project is necessary due to permitting requirements.

Please note that sand can only be placed on private property where owners have provided temporary easements to the County. To check your property's easement status and view your neighbors' participation, please visit [www.volusia.org/sandprojects](http://www.volusia.org/sandprojects).

Following sand placement, dune vegetation will be installed. This dune vegetation was obtained through another grant the County of Volusia applied for.

For questions or additional information about the beach restoration project, please contact Jessica Fentress with the County's Coastal Division at [jfentress@volusia.org](mailto:jfentress@volusia.org).



One last thing I would like to discuss, and that is my "Second Chance Initiative." I have talked extensively about the inmate training programs and job fairs as part of the initiative, and that work continues. However, in the past two years, I have talked about the possibility of starting an inmate farm. At the February 8, 2025, County Council meeting, I made a motion to officially start this program. Within the next 90 days, staff will return with options for the Council to vote on that will bring the farm to fruition. The main reason for waiting this long is due to staffing levels at the jail being extremely low. In fact, two years ago, the Volusia County Division of Corrections had approximately 70-80 vacancies. I am happy to report that we are now at 11 vacancies. Therefore, I believe we are in a better position to initiate the Inmate Farm project. We will probably start with egg-laying chickens and more tower gardens that produce more vegetables.

So, as you can see, Volusia County has some exciting things happening. As always, stay involved and stay informed. 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](mailto:mreinhart@volusia.org)



# THE TALK OF TALLAHASSEE



A Message from Representative Chase Tramont

## Celebrating Our Nation This Independence Day

As the Fourth of July approaches, I want to take a moment to thank the people of Ponce Inlet for the trust you've placed in me to serve as your voice in Tallahassee. Over the past several months, I've worked hard during the legislative session to advocate for the needs of our community—securing critical funding and ensuring that Ponce Inlet continues to thrive. It's been a privilege to fight for our shared priorities, and I'm proud of the progress we've made together.

This Independence Day, I encourage all of us to pause and reflect on the courage and vision of our Founding Fathers. On July 4, 1776, brave patriots stood united to declare to the world that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights—among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That timeless truth continues to shape the heart and soul of our nation.

No matter your political affiliation, the color of your skin, or the faith you follow, we are all Americans. The Fourth of July is a time for unity—a time to remember the sacrifices made for our freedom and to celebrate the blessings of living in the greatest nation on earth.

So this July 4th, let's come together as neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens. Let's fly our flags high, honor our heritage, and give thanks for the liberties we enjoy every day.

From my family to yours—have a safe and joyful Independence Day. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,  
Representative Chase Tramont  
Florida House District 30  
(386) 944-1010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rep. Chase Tramont". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "T" at the beginning.



As your State Senator for District 8, I remain committed to championing the priorities that matter most to our community, from supporting veterans and public safety to strengthening our local economy and protecting Florida's future. The 2025 Legislative Session brought both major wins and unique challenges. While we made significant progress on policy, the session formally extended beyond its original timeline due to continued negotiations on the state budget. While it may have gone on longer than expected, the 2025 Legislative Session has come to an end. During the late hours of June 16th, the Florida Legislature passed the 2025–2026 budget for the State of Florida. This state budget continues to reflect Florida's values of fiscal responsibility, strategic investment, and an unwavering commitment to our people and communities. With a balanced budget of \$115.1 billion, we are funding critical services while growing our reserves, paying down debt, and delivering over \$1.3 billion in meaningful tax relief.

I'm especially proud to have secured \$500,000 in state funding to support the design of a new fire station in the Town of Ponce Inlet. This is exactly the kind of meaningful, community-focused project that deserves our support at the state level. It will enhance public safety and ensure the Town can deliver critical emergency services more efficiently when and where they're needed most.

Another major highlight of this budget comes from the tax package. The Florida Legislature decided to permanently eliminate the business rent tax, the only one of its kind in the country,

helping small businesses reinvest in their employees and communities. We've also expanded permanent sales tax holidays on essential items like back-to-school supplies and permanent year-round sales tax exemptions on items like disaster preparedness goods. These broad-based savings keep Florida affordable for families while keeping our economy competitive.

With education being a priority for many, we committed over \$20.9 billion in Pre-K-12 education funding and \$8.9 billion for higher education; we are continuing Florida's leadership in school choice and academic excellence. We've boosted per-student funding and dedicated over \$1.35 billion to teacher pay raises. I'm especially proud of our funding for school safety, career training, and early autism detection.

As always, Florida remains committed to our veteran and law enforcement communities. I'm proud that this budget includes nearly \$240 million for the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, supporting critical services and infrastructure like our Veterans' Nursing Homes. We also approved significant pay raises for state law enforcement officers, including a 10–15% salary boost based on tenure. These brave men and women deserve nothing less.

One more important thing to highlight is the head-on approach we are taking when it comes to Florida's debt. While Washington racks up debt, Florida is doing the opposite. We're paying down \$830 million in state debt this year and establishing a \$250 million annual debt reduction program through SB 1906. Combined with \$12.4 billion in reserves, we are ensuring Florida remains resilient in the face of future challenges.

It is important to note that the budget is still pending Governor DeSantis' review and signature, with the potential for vetoes. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 386-304-7630 or email me at [wright.tom@flsenate.gov](mailto:wright.tom@flsenate.gov).

Until next time—stay safe, stay engaged, and stay informed.

Sincerely,

Senator Tom A. Wright District 08

# WORD FROM WASHINGTON

**U.S. Senator Rick Scott:  
Hurricane Season is HERE!  
Make a plan NOW to keep your  
family safe.**

As your United States Senator, I am committed to working with state and local officials, like Mayor Paritsky, to keep Florida the best state in the nation to live, work, and raise a family! That includes making sure communities like Ponce Inlet are supported by their federal government—especially during hurricane season.

With the 2025 Hurricane Season here, I'm doing everything I can to make sure our federal government is prepared to show up and take care of Florida families when they need it the most. Whether you're living in Ponce Inlet or the Panhandle, we can never let our guards down or underestimate severe weather. Last season, we saw how hurricanes can be deadly not just where they make landfall but all across our state as they bring massive flooding, storm surge, heavy rain, high winds, and tornadoes with them.

We must take any storm and the deadly side effects that come with it seriously. As I always say, **preparedness saves lives**, and making a plan now can make all the difference in keeping you and your loved ones safe. Preparing early gives you peace of mind and the chance to secure vital supplies like food, water, flashlights, batteries, and other necessities, which can



sell out in the days before a storm hits. Early preparations also give you the time to revisit your plan and make sure that it's still the best approach for you and your family.

Don't wait—now is the time to visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to create a personalized emergency plan and stay prepared throughout the hurricane season. There is no reason to put your life or your family's life at risk. Get prepared today!

Thank you again for the honor of fighting for Florida families every day! As always, my team stands ready to help any Floridians who need help with federal agencies through our website, [www.rickscott.senate.gov](http://www.rickscott.senate.gov), or by contacting one of our offices in D.C., Orlando, or all throughout the state.



# From the Town Manager, Mike Disher

## Ponce Inlet Election Results

The Town of Ponce Inlet proudly congratulates Mayor (Seat #1) Lois Paritsky, Vice-Mayor (Seat #5) Gary Smith, and Councilmember (Seat #3) Skip White on their unopposed re-election to the Town Council. The Town warmly invites all residents to attend their inauguration ceremony on November 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. We hope to see everyone there!

## Beach Restoration Project

Volusia County's beach restoration project in Ponce Inlet is well underway, with work focused along the stretch of shoreline between the North Jetty and Sunglow Pier. Throughout May and June, crews have been hauling and placing sand along the coastline to rebuild dunes, repair storm damage, and improve the shoreline's ability to withstand future storms.

Once the sand placement phase is complete later this summer, Volusia County will begin major upgrades to the Oceanview Avenue access point. Planned improvements include a new seawall, enhanced stormwater and parking infrastructure, and a fully ADA-accessible beach ramp. The revitalized access is expected to reopen in time for the 2026 summer season.



We recognize that some may find the construction activity to be inconvenient or annoying at times. However, we try to focus on the positives: 1) that the County persuaded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



to deposit the sand on the beach instead of dumping it into the ocean, as was originally planned; 2) that the work is being funded entirely through state and federal grants, rather than local tax dollars; and 3) the sand and subsequent beach vegetation plantings will help our shoreline to withstand future storms.

Though the work may be a temporary disruption, it reflects real progress—protecting our coast, improving access, and ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and safety of our beach.

## The Quint – Why Timing is Everything

In the Spring issue of this newsletter, we proudly introduced the Fire Department's new Quint-75 fire apparatus. This multifunctional firefighting vehicle provides a major enhancement to our emergency response capabilities. With its 75-foot aerial reach, this unit enhances our ability to respond to fires in multi-story buildings, conduct elevated rescues, and provide a safer working environment for our firefighters.

We were very fortunate to find this particular unit, a showroom model, already built and ready for purchase and outfitting. Normally, fire engines like these are built from scratch over a 2-3 year period. They are assembled by hand rather than on an assembly line. The process is more akin to building an airplane rather than a car.

Just as important as the timing was the cost. The Town Council approved the purchase and financing of the Quint last October. Taking advantage of a then-recent drop in interest rates, the Council authorized a seven-year financing arrangement at 3.92% interest, with a principal purchase amount of \$1,263,000, an annual payment of \$209,839.49, and a total close-out payment of \$1,468,876.43. The first payment will be due in November 2025.

Although this sounds like a lot of money, it is a bargain compared to what prices are expected to be in the near future.

According to a May 14, 2025 article in the Daytona Beach News-Journal, “Truck prices have doubled in the past decade, with ladder trucks now costing as much as \$2 million each, while fire departments are facing backlogs as long as four years.” This is blamed on industry consolidation, supply chain issues in recent years, skilled labor shortages, and increasing demand nationwide as cities and their service populations grow.



Had the Town Council not acted to purchase the Quint when it did, the Town would likely have faced much higher costs for a unit that would not arrive until 2026 or 2027 at the earliest. Instead, the department was able to take delivery of the Quint in March and finished the final outfitting and training in April. The official “Push-In” dedication

ceremony was held on May 16, 2025. This arrangement has allowed the Town to make use of this impressive vehicle a full six months before the first annual payment is even due!

Thanks to strategic foresight and timely action, the Town has secured a critical public safety asset at a significant savings. This proactive investment ensures our firefighters have the tools they need now—not years from now—to continue protecting lives and property throughout the community.



## Budget Preparation Update

The Town’s budget preparation process for fiscal year 25/26 began in January and will continue through September. There are numerous opportunities for the public to participate in this process. Budget requests from Town staff and the public were presented to the Essential Services Advisory Board and the Cultural Services Board in January and March. The Town Council held its preliminary budget workshop on priorities and levels of service on June 10th. The remaining workshops and hearings with the Town Council for the remainder of the fiscal year are as follows:

- July 15th:** Draft budget workshop
- July 17th:** Proposed Millage Rate Hearing
- September 3rd:** Tentative Millage Rate hearing and 1st reading of Budget Ordinance
- September 18th:** Final Millage Rate hearing and 2nd reading of Budget Ordinance

As always, your input is necessary in order to create a budget that balances the Town's operational needs, level-of-service expectations, and quality of life of the community. We welcome your questions, suggestions, and participation throughout this process. Please be sure to check out the Town's Budget web page at <https://www.ponce-inlet.org/519/Budget> for updates and additional information.

## **Town Holiday Closings**

Town offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2025 in observance of Labor 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, Town Hall meetings, and we provide a substantial amount of information on the Town's website, [www.ponce-inlet.org](http://www.ponce-inlet.org), and social media accounts. You can also contact us directly for specific information you may seek, and we'll be happy to assist.

Please visit our website—[www.ponce-inlet.org](http://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. We also maintain government accounts on Nextdoor and Instagram. 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's 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.

## **Introducing the "Inside Ponce Inlet" Podcast—Your New Source for Town News and Insights**

We're excited to announce the launch of **Inside Ponce Inlet**, the official podcast of the Town of Ponce Inlet, hosted by our Public Information Officer, Becky Hugler.

This new podcast offers a behind-the-scenes look at the people, projects, and priorities shaping our community. Each episode features conversations with town leaders, department heads, and special guests to provide timely updates, helpful resources, and insight into how Ponce Inlet operates—from public safety and storm preparedness to parks, planning, and beyond.

Whether you've lived here for decades or just moved to our beachside town, Inside Ponce Inlet is your place to hear directly from the individuals working to serve and protect our beautiful community.

We want this podcast to reflect the interests and concerns of our residents—so if there's a topic you'd like to hear discussed, we welcome your ideas!

Email your suggestions to Becky Hugler at [rhuugler@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:rhuugler@ponce-inlet.org).

Stay informed, stay connected—and be sure to tune in to Inside Ponce Inlet on your favorite podcast platform or by visiting [here](#).

# From Police Chief Jeff Glazier



As summer picks up and our community enjoys the longer days and warmer weather, your Police Department would like to share some updates regarding traffic enforcement efforts and crime prevention initiatives.



## Traffic Enforcement

Traffic safety is always a top priority. During the summer months and other times with lots of visitors, it becomes especially important to ensure public safety. While radar enforcement remains constant throughout town, additional focus is given to the S. Atlantic and S. Peninsula corridors with the heaviest amounts of traffic. We issue warnings and citations as part of our effort to educate and slow down drivers. Our electronic message board doubles as a radar device and is positioned in different

spots around town where we receive the most complaints.



## Pedestrian Safety

The Police Department continues to participate in the "Best Foot Forward" Program. This program focuses on increasing driver awareness and compliance with yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. Members of the PIPD dress in civilian clothes and cite drivers who fail to follow the law and yield to pedestrians. Drivers who are cited also receive brochures explaining cross walk rules.

## Crime Prevention

Even in our quiet and close-knit community, it's important to stay vigilant and proactive about safety. Here are some simple steps every resident can take to help prevent crime and keep our town secure:

- Always lock your home doors and windows.
- Always lock your vehicle and never leave valuables, especially guns, in an unoccupied vehicle.
- If you are going away for an extended period, fill out a house watch form with the Ponce Inlet Police Department.
- If you see something suspicious, call 911 so a Ponce Inlet Police Officer can respond quickly.



**Best Foot Forward**  
for pedestrian safety

# FACTS: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

## Florida Statutes - Pedestrians; traffic regulations

F.S. 316.130 (7)\*: Florida law requires drivers to stop and remain stopped at any marked crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross a roadway when the pedestrian steps into or is in the crosswalk. \*Summarized. Multiple statutes apply.

**FAILURE TO YIELD** = **\$164** + **3 POINTS**  
minimum fine on your license

### National Data

Federal reports estimate 60,000 pedestrians were injured and more than 7,300 pedestrians were killed in 2021.<sup>(1)</sup>



Pedestrian deaths increased by 12.5% from 2020 to 2021. That's an increase of 823 lives lost, from 6,565 to 7,388.<sup>(1)</sup>



**59%**  
occurred on high traffic, high speed, wide roads

Heavy traffic, high speeds and wide roads make main thoroughfares dangerous for pedestrians. In 2018, 59% of pedestrian fatalities happened on these roads.<sup>(6)</sup>



### Florida Data

Pedestrians make up nearly 22% of all the traffic fatalities.<sup>(1)</sup>

**21.9%**



Florida accounts for more than 11% of all pedestrian deaths in the country.<sup>(1)</sup>

Across the country, there is an epidemic of pedestrian deaths. In 2021, a pedestrian was killed every 71 minutes nationwide.<sup>(1)</sup>

### Central Florida Data (FDOT District 5)

On average, 11 people are struck by vehicles every day, and 4 are killed each week.<sup>(3)</sup>



Central Florida is consistently ranked one of the top ten most dangerous places for pedestrians to walk in the nation.<sup>(2)</sup>



Since 2012, Smart Growth America's Dangerous by Design report has ranked Central Florida as one of the top 10 most dangerous places in the country for pedestrians.

### What are some contributing factors?

**1 Speeding**, which impacts crash outcomes:



1 out of 10 pedestrians survive



9 out of 10 pedestrians survive

**2 Aggressive driving**, exacerbated by streets that were designed for moving cars quickly rather than for the safety of all road users.

**3 Distracted driving**, as more than half of all traffic crashes involve driver error.

From 2012 to 2021, **58,755** pedestrians were hit and killed by drivers in the United States.<sup>(1)</sup>



For more information, visit

**BestFootCFL.org**

Contact: [info@bikewalkcf.org](mailto:info@bikewalkcf.org)

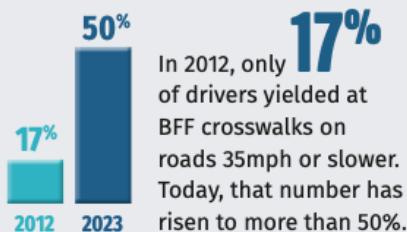
**407-542-6074**



## Best Foot Forward for pedestrian safety

### Fast Facts About BFF

Proven progress – More drivers are complying with the law and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks today than they were 10 years ago.



On roads 40 mph or higher, the driver yield rate has risen from 2% to 45% over the last 10 years.



45% yield rate

Best Foot Forward's educational initiatives include community outreach efforts where pedestrian safety messages are presented to communities where locals live and play. The program's message has been presented to more than 120,000 Central Florida residents since 2012.

### In The Numbers

23% of pedestrian fatalities nationwide involved hit-and-run drivers.<sup>(1)</sup>



14% of pedestrian fatalities in Florida occur in marked crosswalks.<sup>(4)</sup>

Between 2021 and 2022, pedestrian crashes throughout Florida increased by 10%.<sup>(3)</sup>



#### It's not the tourists' fault:

93% of pedestrians killed in Florida live here.

96% of drivers who hit pedestrians in Florida live here.<sup>(5)</sup>

# STEPPING UP FOR SAFETY

Central Florida has an established problem with crashes that injure and kill pedestrians. The **Best Foot Forward Coalition** believes the status quo is unacceptable. There is no silver bullet to end pedestrian crashes, but previous successes combined with continued persistence can make a proven difference. Pedestrians' deaths and injuries are not accidents, but crashes that can be prevented.

In 2012, the Best Foot Forward coalition formed with MetroPlan Orlando, the City of Orlando, and Orange County as founding partners. The program has expanded to include Osceola, Seminole, Brevard, Volusia, and Marion Counties and the cities of Apopka, Casselberry, Kissimmee, Longwood, Oakland, St. Cloud, and Winter Park. We are proud to work with more than 35 partners to make Central Florida safer for all road users.

The mission of the Best Foot Forward program is to increase the number of drivers stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks, as Florida law requires, through community **education**, low-cost **engineering**, high-visibility **enforcement**, and data-driven **evaluation**. Our target is zero fatalities and serious injuries, because when it comes to human lives, no other number is acceptable.

### Best Foot Forward Coalition



### Progress from 2012 to date

#### Throughout Central Florida



12,488  
TOTAL CITATIONS  
AND WARNINGS



680  
ENFORCEMENT  
DETAILS



326  
MARKED CROSSWALKS  
MONITORED



841  
PRESENTATIONS  
AND EVENTS

Best Foot Forward depends on every resident and organization working toward one common purpose – people before cars. BFF seeks to make walking a "normal" activity by identifying problematic areas and creating real solutions within local communities.

<sup>(1)</sup>Data as of 6/1/2023

1. NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts (June 2023)
2. Smart Growth America, Dangerous by Design 2022
3. Signal Four Analytics, 2023

4. Center for Urban Transportation, University of South Florida
5. MetroPlan Orlando, 2017
6. Governors Highway Safety Assn. Report, May 2021



Best Foot Forward is administered by Bike/Walk Central Florida, 501(c)(3).

## Ponce Partners:

The Ponce Inlet Police Department is always looking for more “Ponce Partners.” This program is designed to be a safety net for those who have severe health problems, live alone, or may be 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 will call you to ensure you are ok. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we send an officer out to check on your well-being. This program is set up to ensure 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 anyone for help. 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.

# NOW HIRING

## Now Hiring!

The Police Department currently has one (1) vacancy to fill. The Police Department only hires officers with previous law enforcement experience and exceptional records. For more information, go to: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ponce-inlet/>.



# From Public Safety Director and Fire Chief Dan Scales



As summer arrives, so does the season of heightened weather risks—including hurricanes, afternoon thunderstorms, and increased fire hazards. The Ponce Inlet Fire Department encourages all residents to take time now to prepare and stay informed.

## Hurricane Preparedness

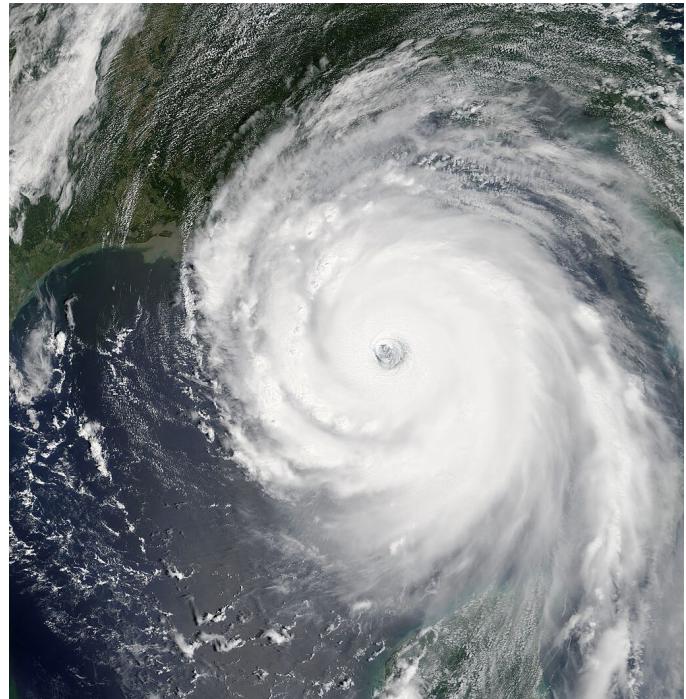
Hurricane season runs from **June 1 to November 30**, and preparation is key to protecting your family and property.

**Have a Plan:** Know your evacuation route and have a family communication plan in place.

**Build a Kit:** Stock up on essentials like water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications, pet supplies, and important documents.

**Secure Your Property:** Trim trees, secure outdoor items, and make sure your shutters or window protections are in good working order.

**Stay Informed:** Sign up for Town Notification on our website ([ponce-inlet.org](http://ponce-inlet.org)) and emergency alerts at [ponce-inlet.org/191/CodeRed](http://ponce-inlet.org/191/CodeRed), and follow Ponce Inlet Weatherstem on Facebook or at [ponce-inlet.org](http://ponce-inlet.org) for real-time local weather conditions.



## Storm & Fire Safety

Florida's summer thunderstorms bring lightning, high winds, and the risk of power outages and fires. These simple tips can help you and your family stay safe.

**Lightning Awareness:** If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck—seek shelter indoors immediately.

**Generator Safety:** Only use generators outdoors and away from windows to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Grill & Bonfire Safety:** Never leave a grill or outdoor fire unattended, and always dispose of coals and ashes properly.

**Smoke Detectors:** Test them monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.

**Hydrate & Beat the Heat:** During hot summer days, stay cool, drink water, and check on elderly neighbors.

Our team is always here for you—before, during, and after the storm. If you have any questions about hurricane or fire safety, feel free to stop by the station or call us at (386) 322-6720.

# From Planning and Development Director

## Darren Lear



### Code Enforcement Workshop

In June, the Code Enforcement team hosted a well-attended and highly engaging workshop designed to address concerns raised by community members about the Town's Code Enforcement program. The event served as a valuable forum to discuss a variety of important topics, including common types of code violations, how the enforcement process works, what to do if you receive a notice, neighborhood-specific concerns, and potential updates to existing regulations.

We were pleased to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, many of whom expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about local codes and how to work collaboratively toward maintaining a safe and attractive community. Due to the strong interest, we plan to hold similar workshops in the future. If you would like to be notified about upcoming events or are interested in participating, please let us know.

### Maintenance of Vacant Lots

In recent weeks, we've also seen an increase in inquiries regarding the upkeep of vacant

lots, specifically in relation to overgrown vegetation. It's important to note that maintenance standards apply equally to all properties, whether developed or vacant. Staff routinely monitors these areas for issues such as illegal dumping, unauthorized fill placement, and other code-related concerns. When a violation is observed, the property owner is notified and required to bring the property into compliance within a reasonable timeframe.

### Vegetation Trimming

Beyond general property upkeep, we would like to remind all property owners of their responsibility to manage vegetation in a way that preserves public safety. While many of us take pride in well-maintained yards and beautiful landscaping, overgrown trees, shrubs, and vines can pose hazards when they obstruct sidewalks, roadways, or reduce visibility, especially at intersections. Vegetation that encroaches into the public right-of-way can block traffic signs and signals, create visual barriers for drivers, and force pedestrians to walk into the street, all of which compromise community safety.

With storm season upon us, it's also critical to address potential hazards on your property before severe weather arrives. One commonly overlooked risk is untrimmed or unstable trees. Property owners intending to trim their trees should ensure all yard waste and debris is properly collected and disposed of, particularly if using a contractor. **Contractors doing such work are required to haul away the debris themselves.** Debris left curbside or unattended can quickly become a danger during high winds, potentially turning into airborne projectiles. Timely maintenance can go a long way in reducing risks to both your property and your neighbors.

## Weekend Hours and Contact Information

As always, our Code Enforcement team is available to assist with community concerns six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Should you have any questions, need assistance, or wish to report a concern, we encourage you to reach out. Travis Mincey, one of our dedicated team members, is also available on Saturdays until 4:30 p.m. Travis can be reached by phone at 386-267-6676 (office) or 386-846-5926 (cell). If you see a violation occurring after hours or on Sundays, please report it to the Ponce Inlet Police Department by calling the non-emergency dispatch line at 386-248-1777 (press option #3 for assistance).

Thank you for your continued engagement and for helping to keep our community safe, clean, and welcoming. For more information, please visit the Town's Code Enforcement web page at: <https://www.ponce-inlet.org/165/Code-Enforcement>.

## From Public Works Director Steven Wargo



The Public Works Department has made significant progress in stormwater management and continues to move forward with key improvements. Recent swale enhancement projects were successfully completed along Beach Street and at Beacon Point on South Peninsula Drive. The next phase of maintenance will begin on the east side of South Peninsula Drive, starting at Marie Drive and continuing north. This work is scheduled to begin on July 14th and is expected to be completed by July 31st.

In addition to infrastructure upgrades, Public Works has been active in local parks, partnering with dedicated volunteers to remove invasive plant species. Their ongoing efforts are vital to preserving the town's natural beauty. The team also recently installed educational signage in Ponce Preserve highlighting native plants, helping residents and visitors alike discover and appreciate the unique environmental features of Ponce Inlet.

Efforts to improve pedestrian safety are also underway. Public Works has begun evaluating town crosswalks and applying thermoplastic striping and stop bars to enhance visibility and make crossing streets safer for everyone.

As always, we appreciate the community's continued cooperation and support. Together, we can keep Ponce Inlet beautiful, safe, and welcoming for all.



## Know your watering days

	Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses	Homes with even-numbered or no addresses	Nonresidential properties
<b>Daylight Saving Time</b>	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday and Friday
<b>Eastern Standard Time</b>	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  $\frac{3}{4}$  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.



### SPRINKLER HEADS

Sprinkler heads should be aimed to avoid spraying streets, storm drains, or neighboring properties. Misaimed sprinklers spray pavement instead of plants, wasting water and sending it straight to storm drains—useless for your lawn and against conservation goals.

Excess runoff into drains can carry fertilizers or debris, polluting Florida's coastal waterways and feeding algae blooms.



# WATERING RESTRICTIONS - KNOW YOUR DAYS

The St. John's River Water Management District enforces year-round watering restrictions across its entire 18-county region to promote efficient water use for lawn and landscape irrigation.

## During Daylight Savings Time the following rules apply:

- Daylight Saving Time begins the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November.
- Watering is allowed ONLY TWICE a week

## During Standard Time the following rules apply:

- Standard time is from November to March
- Watering is allowed ONLY ONCE a week

## OVERWATERING

Overwatering your beachside landscape comes with these specific drawbacks:

- **Shallow Root Systems:** Excess water keeps roots near the surface, making plants less resilient to drought or storms, which Florida gets plenty of.
- **Fungal Growth:** High humidity plus overwatering breeds fungi like root rot or leaf spot, thriving in Florida's warm, wet conditions.
- **Nutrient Leaching:** Sandy coastal soils already drain fast—too much water washes away nutrients before plants can use them.
- **Saltwater Intrusion Risk:** Overwatering near the coast can pull salty groundwater up, stressing plants not built for salinity.

- **Mosquito Breeding:** Standing water from over-irrigation creates perfect spots for mosquitoes, a big deal in Florida.

- **Wasted Water:** Florida's frequent rain often makes extra watering unnecessary, especially with water restrictions in some areas.

- **Soil Erosion:** Sandy beachside soils erode easily with excess runoff, destabilizing your landscape.

- **Weed Explosion:** Wet conditions favor aggressive weeds like crabgrass or dollarweed, common in Florida.

- **Plant Stress:** Native or salt-tolerant species (like sea oats) hate soggy roots and can drown, ruining your coastal vibe.

Beachside Florida's heat, sand, and humidity amplify these issues—less is often more for a healthy landscape.



# Light Trespass and Glare

Light trespass happens when unwanted light spills onto neighboring properties, while glare creates excessive brightness that leads to visual discomfort.

**Shielding:** Direct lights downward or use shields to keep beams focused on the intended area. Opt for fully shielded fixtures—ones where you can't see the bulb from the side or above.

**Aiming:** Position fixtures carefully to prevent light from crossing property lines. For example, a floodlight shining into a neighbor's window or onto the street breaks this rule.

## Improved Visibility

- Reducing glare and light trespass enhances visibility for pedestrians and drivers, especially after dark.

## Enhanced Aesthetics

- Thoughtfully designed lighting highlights a landscape's beauty without contributing to light pollution.



## Dark Sky-Friendly Lighting

- Select lighting products that minimize light pollution by directing light downward, where it's most useful.

## Choose Warmer Light Colors

- Opt for warmer tones (with less blue light) to lessen light pollution's effects on human health and wildlife.

## Minimize Blue-Toned Light

- Blue light can interfere with sleep and other biological processes, so switch to warmer colors whenever possible.

([Ord. No. 2021-05, § 2, 2-18-2021](#))

[https://library.municode.com/fl/ponce\\_inlet/ordinances/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=1069261](https://library.municode.com/fl/ponce_inlet/ordinances/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=1069261)

# Garbage & Yard Waste Guidelines for Ponce Inlet Residents

## Pickup Schedule:

- **Garbage:** Collected twice a week on Monday and Thursday.
- **Recycling:** Collected once a week on Tuesday.
- **Yard Waste:** Collected once a week on Wednesday.

## Garbage Container Rules

- **Place All Garbage in Containers:** Put both moist and dry garbage into garbage cans or containers for pickup. Please no loose bags at the curbside.
- **Clean Up Spills:** Pick up and place any spilled garbage—caused by dogs, cats, raccoons, wind, or people—back into cans or containers.
- **Position Containers for Easy Access:** Set garbage cans and containers where collection crews can easily reach them.



## Yard Waste Disposal Tips

- **Pile Yard Waste Neatly:** Stack grass, leaves, small twigs, branches, and yard trimmings on the pavement or next to the street line for easy handling.
- **Keep Streets and Gutters Clear:** Avoid piling yard waste in the street or gutter to prevent it from washing away.

- **Protect Stormwater Drains:** Do not block stormwater drains with yard waste.

- **Cut Large Branches:** Trim large branches into pieces no longer than 4 feet and weighing no more than 40 pounds.

## Yard Waste does NOT include:

- Treated Lumber
- Rocks
- Soil
- Waste generated by tree surgeons or arborist services

**Yard debris co-mingled with non-organic material will not be collected.**

**Contractor Responsibility:** If a contractor is hired for vegetation trimming or removal, they are responsible for removing and disposing of the waste, not the town's waste service.

**Waste Pro** handles all garbage, yard waste, and recycling removal for single-family residences in Ponce Inlet.

- **Customer Service:** Residents can contact Waste Pro for inquiries, comments, or to report issues with trash services at 386-788-8890 or visit the website at <https://www.wasteprousa.com/office/daytona-beach/>

## Special Note for Condo/Multi-Family Residents

Residents in condos or multi-family units need to contact their condo association for specific pickup details, as Waste Pro's services outlined here apply only to single-family homes.

**Town Ordinance:** [Click Here](#)

# From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie Alex



## Ponce Preserves the Planet Recap

April brought a record-breaking turnout of vendors for our annual “Ponce Preserves the Planet” Earth Day event. Trails in Ponce Preserve were lined with educational exhibits and eco-friendly giveaways, creating an incredible atmosphere for residents and visitors to learn about sustainability and our local environment. Vendors from across the county participated, offering native plants for sale, recycling education magnets, cross-sectional “tree cookies,” updates from the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, and more. Also featured was Jim Sawgrass, who shared the history and cultural contributions of Native American tribes who once lived on this land. He brought an array of textiles and tangible artifacts to give an interactive demonstration and help attendees learn how these communities sustained themselves and respected the natural world around them. The blend of environmental education, cultural storytelling, and local action made this Earth Day one of our most enriching and well-rounded yet!



## Volunteer Workdays

In May, the department once again partnered with Young Bear Environmental (YBE Consulting, Inc.) to host another successful volunteer workday, this time at Timucuan Oaks Garden, where volunteers focused on removing the invasive arrowhead vine. Much like last year’s air potato removal, this effort was essential to protecting native plants and the tree canopy that define our local ecosystems. Thanks to a passionate volunteer crew, the “Ponce Preservers,” a significant portion of the vine was successfully removed from the park’s understory. We could not be more grateful for the hard work of this group and our continued partnership with environmental experts. If you are interested in joining future volunteer efforts, please contact staff at the Cultural Services Department (see contact details below). Together, we are growing a greener, stronger community!



## Park Maintenance

While the rising temperatures signal a seasonal shift, they also coincide with increased demands for playground repairs and maintenance. We want to extend a sincere thank you to our residents for their patience as staff addresses damage to the playground at Pollard Park. Staff acted promptly to mitigate the deterioration and has been working closely with the manufacturer to receive the necessary replacement parts. While delivery is still anticipated over the next few months, our goal is to safely reopen the playground

before August. For the next fiscal year, staff is requesting funds to resurface the tennis court, repair the dog park fence, and do other needed maintenance. In the meantime, we continue working to explore future improvements and deliver what visitors value most in our park spaces.

## Special Event Permits

Numerous special events are held in Ponce Inlet throughout the year. To determine if your event requires a Special Event permit, please review the Special Event regulations in Chapter 51 of the Town's Code of Ordinances. All questions can be directed to Jackie Alex, at [jalex@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jalex@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 322-6703.

## Upcoming Events

Summer is heating up, and so is the Cultural Services Department! As we head into the warmer months, our team is embracing the sunshine with continued efforts to host engaging programs and connect with our community. Please continue to visit the Town of Ponce Inlet website and Facebook page for additional details. For all events, please contact Julie Cotton with any questions at [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386)761-2408.

## Events for July:

### Shark Exploration Day

Participate in a fun shark craft and a game that reflects the local history and environment that surrounds us!

**Friday, July 18, 2025 @ 10:00 AM**

Town Hall Council Chambers

4300 S. Atlantic Ave.

**Free;** RSVP by 7/11 required: Julie: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408



## Events for August:

### Grandparents Day Celebration

ECHO Ranger Event: Celebrate your family's history and create a keepsake with your grandchild.

**Saturday, August 2, 2025 @ 9:30 AM**

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Drive

**Free;** space is limited to 18 people. RSVP by 7/25 required: Julie: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408



## Events for September:

### Lecture Series—The Florida Wildlife Corridor

Join us for a presentation with Suzanne Scheiber from Dream Green Volusia and learn about the Florida Wildlife Corridor, the value of land conservation, and Volusia County's importance in our state's ecosystems.

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:30 am**

Town Council Chambers

4300 S. Atlantic Avenue

**Free;** RSVP by 9/6 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408



TUESDAY 09/09 @ 10:30 AM

### THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

A LECTURE SERIES WITH DREAM GREEN VOLUSIA PRESENTED BY SUZANNE SCHEIBER

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
4300 S. ATLANTIC AVENUE  
PONCE INLET, FL 32127

FREE; RSVP BY 09/06 REQUIRED



### Guided Hike—Native Plants & Trees

Enjoy a guided hike through Ponce Preserve and learn how to identify native plants and trees with Colin Bogert, a Senior Forester from the Florida Forest Service.

**Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM**

Ponce Preserve

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

**Free;** RSVP by 9/6 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408



09/13 @ 9:00 AM  
RSVP BY 09/06 REQUIRED

## NATIVE PLANTS & TREES GUIDED HIKE WITH THE FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

PONCE PRESERVE  
4401 S. PENINSULA DR.

### Flutter by the Park

Learn all about host and nectar plants for butterflies, then join us for a craft and bring home native wildflower seeds to start your very own butterfly garden.

Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 10:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

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

**\$5 per participant;** space is limited to 12 participants. Prepayment at Town Hall by 9/12 is required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408



09/20 AT 10:00 AM

## Flutter by the Park

PONCE PRESERVE  
4401 S. PENINSULA DR.,  
UNDER THE GAZEBO BY  
THE PLAYGROUND

\$5 PER PARTICIPANT; PAYMENT TO  
TOWN HALL REQUIRED BY 9/12. SPACE  
IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS.  
CONTACT (386)761-2408 OR  
[JCOTTON@PONCE-INLET.ORG](mailto:JCOTTON@PONCE-INLET.ORG)

### Scavenger Hunt at the Park

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

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

**Free;** RSVP by 9/17 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408

### Scavenger Hunt at the Park

Wednesday, September 24  
@ 9:00 AM



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

Parents and children age 2 and up  
RSVP by 9/17 required  
Contact (386) 761-2408 or email  
[JCOTTON@PONCE-INLET.ORG](mailto:JCOTTON@PONCE-INLET.ORG)



### Events for October:

#### What's the Buzz? Bee Encounter

Come meet bee expert Marlin Athearn and his talented honeybees! Honey and beeswax candles will be available for purchase at the event.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM

Ponce Preserve

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

**Free;** space is limited to 18 people. RSVP by 9/24 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

## WHAT'S THE BUZZ? Bee Encounter



10:00 am @ Ponce Preserve  
4401 S. Peninsula Dr., under  
the gazebo by the playground

Space limited to 18 people. RSVP by 9/24 required.  
Contact (386)-761-2408 or jcotton@ponce-inlet.org.

## Guided Hike—Birds of Florida

Join us for a guided hike through Ponce Preserve with Joan Tague, President of the Halifax River Audubon Society, as we learn about birds in Florida and their migration patterns.

**Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM**

Ponce Preserve

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

**Free;** RSVP by 9/27 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408

**10/04 @ 9:00 AM**  
**RSVP BY 09/27 REQUIRED**

## BIRDS OF FLORIDA

GUIDED HIKE WITH THE HALIFAX  
RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY

**PONCE PRESERVE**  
**4401 S. PENINSULA DR.**

## Ghosts of Ponce Past

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

**Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, meet outside on the lawn.

**Free;** RSVP not required, but greatly appreciated. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 AT 6 P.M.

## GHOSTS OF PONCE PAST

MEET OUTSIDE ON THE LAWN AT THE  
PONCE INLET HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
(143 BEACH STREET)

RSVP NOT REQUIRED, BUT GREATLY APPRECIATED.  
CONTACT (386) 761-2408 OR JCOTTON@PONCE-INLET.ORG.

## Children's Halloween Party

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

**Friday, October 24, 2025, at 5:30-7:30 PM**

Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park

4931 S. Peninsula Dr.

**Free;** RSVP not required.

For more information, contact Jackie at [jalex@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jalex@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 322-6703.



## Scavenger Hunt at 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 Halloween-themed craft project! Recommended for children age 2 and up.

**Friday, October 31, 2025, at 9:00 AM**

Timucuan Oaks Garden

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

**Free;** RSVP by 10/24 required. Contact Julie at: [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 761-2408

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Cultural Services Department is currently seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to volunteer during programs and special events 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 any of the programs above, please contact our Cultural Services Coordinator at (386) 761-2408 or email [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org).

\*Volunteer Application is required.\*

## 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.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer, please contact our Cultural Services Coordinator at (386) 761-2408 or email [jcotton@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:jcotton@ponce-inlet.org).

Age: 18+ Volunteer Application is required.

Tuesdays

8:00-10:00 am

Ponce Preserve

4401 S. Peninsula Dr.





Citizens For  
PONCE INLET

# Wine Tasting Fundraiser

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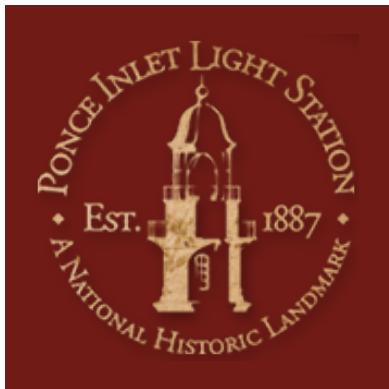
November 7th, 2025

Ponce Inlet  
Community Center  
5:30PM

Save the Date!  
Event Registration  
and Ticket Sales  
coming soon.

# Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

by Zach Hopple



The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum's Education Program and its Volunteer Corps haven't taken a summer vacation in at least twenty years, and this year is no different. The stretch of late May through early August sees our volunteers and our programs as busy as they are during the other three seasons, sometimes even busier! Now this summer are specific activities aimed at our younger audiences. Open to all visitors, special presentations at the station and our engaging outreach programs at various historic libraries and civic sites around the county bring the station and its rich history to our communities.

Volunteer training is a never-ending feature at the PILH, and since our tours and programs are geared towards making history fun and interesting, our training efforts mirror that. Five Flags Flew Over Florida was a fun and informative special presentation in June around the national celebration of "Flag Day" by Lead Docent John Mann, who also discussed the basics of vexillology, which is the formal study of flags and banners as symbols of identity or nationality.

## What's Happening from August through September

August 9th is National Lighthouse Day and will be observed by a presentation at 1 pm honoring The Twelve National Historic Landmark Lighthouses. Ponce Inlet Lighthouse achieved this major honor in 1998 and was selected as one of the twelve most significant and notable lighthouses built in the country. All told, about 1500 lighthouses were built, with never more than 850 in operation at the same time.

August 16th is Spirit of '45 Day at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and will be culminated with a 1pm presentation of Spirit of the Greatest Generation by Lead Docent John Mann. This presentation is a whirlwind view of many of the innovations seen by the Greatest Generation, from war to technological advancements to the Space Race. This presentation is open to the public, included with your general admission price.

Make sure to visit the Constance D. Hunter Historic Pacetti Hotel this summer. As the temperature rises, take time to see Ponce Inlet's newest museum offering. The 5000-square-foot museum is home to wonderful history documenting the earliest settlers of Ponce Inlet.



Curator Felipe De Paula presents at the Historic Pacetti Hotel Museum

Special presentations and guided tours take place regularly. For dates and times, visit [www.ponceinlet.org/events](http://www.ponceinlet.org/events) for updated listings.

Summer hours of operation for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, as well as the Constance D. Hunter Historic Pacetti Museum, are 10:00am until 9:00pm. Last admission to either location will be 8:00pm. Summer hours run from Memorial Day until Labor Day.

## Climb to the Moon

Tickets for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse's premier event, Climb to the Moon, are now available for purchase online at [www.lighthouselocker.org](http://www.lighthouselocker.org). Please check online for dates and availability.

Monday, January 13th 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM
Wednesday, February 12th 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 13th 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 12th 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Monday, May 12th 7:30 PM- 9:00 PM
Tuesday, June 10th 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Thursday, July 10th 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM
Friday, August 8th 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Sunday, September 7th 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Monday, October 6th 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM
Wednesday, November 5th 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM
Thursday, December 4th 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

## Become a Member

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

For more information about membership, please visit [www.ponceinlet.org](http://www.ponceinlet.org) or call 386-761-1821.

Have fun, don't stop reading and learning, and be safe out there!



This spring has been one for the record books. There was so much activity that it's hard to list it all. Here is just a recap of our activities and what's coming up in the next few months.

**Landscaping**—If you've driven by the Community Center, you probably noticed a very different look for us. Thanks to Brian Kopec, our landscape architect and project manager, we have created a world-class look for the property. Of course, it was done in April when we had NO rain, but thanks to a completely reengineered irrigation system, all the plants survived and are now thriving. We also created a very different look for the rear of the property, and it is fast becoming a spot for weddings to be held. With the sun setting behind the bride and groom as they stand beneath one of the wedding arches, it makes for a wonderful, romantic setting. We still have more to do to finish the rear area and make it a place to have parties.

**Farmers Market**—After a few months of operation, the market is going strong. The selection of food and some crafts is diverse and of the highest quality. From a food perspective, we have vendors providing a wide selection of culinary delights, including crab cakes, Italian entrees, Colombian dishes, jams and jellies, local honey, a myriad of cheeses, farm-fresh vegetables and fruits, lobster, French pastries and breads, and biscotti. Craft-wise, we have vendors providing concrete plant pots, outside decor, and wonderful accessories. We will be closing from July through August

and will be reopening the first Sunday in September. So, come out and enjoy some fantastic offerings.

**Rentals**—We are being booked just about every week for either weddings and receptions, birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers, or celebrations of life. People have found that we are probably the best value in Volusia County. When someone rents the Center, they basically get everything at the Center at their disposal. And remember, Ponce Inlet residents and first responders get a discount! So, come and check us out for your event!

**Emergency Generator**—Thanks to the Town getting a partial grant, an emergency generator was installed in May. In case of a hurricane or other emergency, it will allow the Center to be a staging and respite place for first responders and utility crews. It will also be available to residents to come in, charge their electronic devices, or just have a safe place to take a break.

**Ponce Church**—The Ponce Church, which has been a steady part of our Center for over twenty years, held their last service on June 8th. We will miss Pastor Rick, Nina, and their congregation. **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Salty Church, based in Ormond Beach, will be establishing a weekly service at the Center every Sunday. This 'satellite' church will draw worshipers from our Town, the Shores, and beyond. It's anticipated that services will start as early as September and in earnest in October.

**Summer Activities**—We are planning to paint or repaint all of our walkways, finish the landscaping, and continue to make investments to make renting the Center even more attractive. So, as you drive or stop by, continue to watch us as we continue to make improvements.



# Ponce Inlet Corvette Club



by Kevin Kirsch

Hello, Ponce Inlet. Welcome to Summer 2025, 47 summers after what classic movie of all time? No, it's not Jaws; that was 50 summers ago. I'm speaking to that zany adventure comedy of Annie Potts and actor of Star Wars fame, Mark Hamill, in Corvette Summer! It wasn't nearly the classic of Jaws but still grossed \$36 million on a low budget of \$1.7 million. I enjoyed what that shop class did with that '73 Stingray! That big block 454 cubic inch engine had 275 horsepower. Compare that to the 2026 C8 Corvette ZR1X, topping out at a whopping 1200 horsepower and able to get to 60 mph in under 2 seconds! What a remarkable advancement in technology in just over half a century.



Did you know our club's newsletter is named The Beacon?

## **THE BEACON**

Ponce Inlet Corvette Club

The Ponce Inlet Corvette Club Annual Spring Car Show was a smashing success on Saturday, May 3rd, at One Daytona. That single show helps us fund many charities our club supports throughout the remainder of the year.



If you have an interest in checking out our club for both fun group events and the rewarding experience of participating in volunteer activities that fund important charities, give us a visit at the Hidden Lakes Country Club.

We'd love to see you there! Fins Up Ponce Inlet!

# Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Deb Smith-Ehmann



Hot town, summer in the city (town), Back of my neck gettin' dirty and gritty (from gardening) ♫ ♫ ♫

Happy Summer, Ponce Inlet! Our “Garden Club of Ponce Inlet” is on summer break until our next meeting on September 24th, 2025. If you are interested, the meeting begins at 10:30, and generally all meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of every month. If you are new to the area, please join our great, friendly group of nature-loving gardeners. Please stop by the Community Center to pick up our application for more information, and be our guest for your first meeting.

In the meantime, we have been busy in the past three months and have plans into the fall of this year. As usual, we continue to collect food for the RJ Longstreet Food Pantry. Our monthly meetings include informative speakers! The January presenter was Donna Athearn. With Marlin's Bees, anything and everything you want to know about bees, Donna knows! For February, Katie Tripp, PhD and owner of Natural Beauty Native Florida Landscapes, LLC, spoke on preserving native plants and water management. Excellent information. In addition, our club plans fundraisers for our annual charitable donations and offers a lot of camaraderie. We also honor special residents for their home landscaping and maintain the grounds around town hall.

For our Arbor Day, April 23rd (hosted by Kim Longo and Ann Marie Waters), we invited honored guest speakers. Our mayor, Lois Paritsky, spoke to our club and delivered the annual “Arbor Day Proclamation,” declaring Ponce Inlet a Tree City. Jessica Fentress, Coastal Division Director for Volusia County, also spoke and discussed the Ponce Inlet beach restoration project, a subject of great importance to our town.



Shell Webster, with the “Marine Science Center,” and our Barbara Stewart organized the Marine Science Center educational events this year, reaching every grade level at RJ Longstreet Elementary to share what they know about our local marine life. In support of this brilliant opportunity for students and to extend a huge thank you, Brittany Shone, Teacher of the Year at RJ Longstreet, was on hand to support the generous contributions.

Gardeners of the year for 2025 are Judy Whittaker and Linda Hall. Honorary Gardeners of the Year are Dave and Sunny Duecker. Thank you for your lovely contributions.



Our annual charitable donations were selected by our membership, and recipients were announced. “Dogs Inc.” (guide dogs for veterans, extraordinary dogs, transforming lives—at no cost to the recipients), “Carson’s Crew” (a 501(c)(3) founded in 2019 with a mission to improve physical and mental health outcomes by fostering innovation in pediatric hospitals, ensuring that patients’ experiences are represented, and by advocating to remove barriers to accessing healthcare), and “In This Corner, Inc.” (a 501(c)(3) Neurological Boxing Gym and Wellness Center)—all with local appreciation!

In addition to our April agenda, we reported on a successful field trip to Winter Park and the “Charles Hosmer Morse Museum.” Most of the club joined in, and many thanks to Ginger Van Rensselaer, Jo Curcio, and Kathy Cannon for making all the arrangements.

The “Ponce Preserves the Planet” event was held on Saturday, April 26, from 10 AM to 1 PM. A family fun day with food, crafts, and art vendors celebrating Earth Day. The free event and parking were at Ponce Preserve. Rich and Ginger Van Rensselaer volunteered their help as well as Cheryl Neve and Barb Lavelle.

Our 2025 annual “Ice Cream Social” fundraiser was held on May 4th, and as always, a great time was had by all. Ponce Inlet residents, friends, and family enjoyed 4 tubs amounting to 12 gallons. Lots! The ice cream was generously donated and scooped by “Lighthouse Ice Cream & Snacks” (open 11-10 daily, 4958 S. Peninsula Drive.) In addition, over 200+ homemade cupcakes were provided by our members and coordinated by Linda Hall. Heather Johnson and Lyn Hibbert entertained the children with games at our “Kid’s Zone.” Jewelry sales proceeds were donated by Judy Whittaker. Plus, many gorgeous baskets were contributed by members to be raffled off. It’s always a fun event.



Memorial Day, May 26th, was a lovely occasion. Veterans were honored (Ponce Inlet's Lt. Colonel William (Bill) Wester was awarded with the Quilt of Valor.) Wreaths were offered by all our local organizations and displayed in the Veterans Memorial Garden. The garden club's wreath was presented by Pat Morris and Ginger Van Rensselaer. The wreath was created and donated by Deb Smith-Ehmann.





For our May 28th member meeting, the "Gardener of the Month" was selected by our Beautification Committee and presented by Ann Marie Waters. We are pleased to present this award to one of our own, Shirley and Mark Pope of 4780 Michael Lane. Please feel free to drive by to enjoy their beautiful landscaping, all of which was done by Shirley and Mark themselves.



For our last meeting of the season, all members brought their favorite dish today for all of us to enjoy. Quite a feast!

**Save the date** for our annual ARTS, CRAFTS, AND PLANT SHOW, October 10th and 11th, 2025. As of today, we have one or two inside vendor spots available and additional outdoor spaces available... meaning you'll see a lot of exciting items for your home or for gift-giving.

But at night, it's a different world. Go out and find a guy or a girl. Come on, come on, and dance all night. Despite the heat, it'll be alright ♪ ♪ ♪....especially at the beach!

## Garden Club of Ponce Inlet Arts, Crafts & Plants Sale



Friday and Saturday  
October 10th and 11th, 2025  
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



The Ponce Inlet Lions Club celebrated its 32nd anniversary since its May 28, 1992, chartering by hosting the top three winners of the annual Lion Jay Thompson Peace Poster contest. The club invited the children, their families, and the community to a dinner at the community center. We were honored to have Mayor Lois Paritsky join us as well as two citizen guests. Art teacher Jane Failer also celebrated her tenth year of collaborating with the Ponce Inlet Lions Club on the contest.

Lion Jay Thompson, who is no longer with us, believed that the competition was a great opportunity to get kids involved in painting and that its goal—typically some form of world peace—was admirable. This year's theme was "Together As One".

As I said in the last edition of this newsletter, Lions in Florida are getting excited about the International Lions Convention coming to Orlando in July! Lions from all over the globe will be coming to central Florida, and several Ponce Inlet Lions will be participating. Watch for my stories and pictures in the fall edition.

To assist with your late spring cleaning, the clothing and fabrics recycling collection box is still at the community center.

### Items accepted by PHILL THE BOX:

**Clothing, Apparel & Shoes:** Items should be clean and placed in plastic bags—we accept gently used women's, children's, baby's, and men's clothing.

**Accessories:** Purses, Backpacks, Handbags, Clutches, Tote Bags, Shoulder Bags, Laptop Bags, Hats, Gloves, Ties, Scarves, Belts, and Wallets.



The goal is to recycle these items back into the community rather than having them go to the landfill.

Please **do not** place clothing items in the smaller box bearing the Lions logo that is closer to South Peninsula and resembles a mailbox. That box is for your old eyeglasses and hearing aids, and we recycle them through a different pathway.

We are working out our plans for bingo, so please watch for an announcement on Next Door and our webpage, [www.pilions.org](http://www.pilions.org), and we plan to reprise Barktoberfest on October 18. This was one of the best-attended dinner dances every year until the pandemic. Barktoberfest is primarily dedicated to raising funds for a veteran's service dog. Start gathering your best western wear for the best-dressed cowboy and cowgirl contest! We have some great new trophies this year that were donated by Ann Jacobs.

We will also be dining at Mulligan's Restaurant every third Wednesday from 5 to 7 PM. Join us and help us raise funds for our charities.

Thank you for supporting the Ponce Inlet Lions Club's fundraisers! Your contributions ensure we can continue providing essential services, including eye exams, eyeglasses,

eye surgeries, vision testing, retina screening, diabetes screening, and support for the Florida Lions Eye Bank and the Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired.



Riley Lindsey, Lion Sandra Stephenson, Mayor Lois Paritsky, Giny Om, Lions Mahyar Okhovatian, Nancy Epps, Shirley Okhovatian, Meredith Cartaya-Duenas, art teacher Jane Failer

# Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association



This quarter has been filled with the traditional and the new. Our original mission still stands: 'Maintain a special place for veterans to be honored.'

## Memorial Day Ceremony

We had a very moving and special Memorial Day ceremony. This is the one day each year we set aside to acknowledge those service members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We were privileged to have several local, state, and national officeholders join us for the ceremony. They included US Congressman Cory Mills, State Senator Tom Wright, State Representative Chase Tramont, County Councilmember Matt Reinhart, Sheriff Mike Chitwood, and our guest speaker, County At-Large Councilmember Jake Johansson, who spoke of his decades of military service. Lastly, our Mayor spoke eloquently about the sacrifices made in defense of our freedoms. We had a perfectly timed flyover by the Spruce Creek Gaggle, the Pledge of Allegiance given by the Volusia Young Marines, and a beautifully sung National Anthem and God Bless the USA by Emily McComb.

We were especially pleased to have one of our own founding members, Bill Wester, presented with a Quilt of Valor. It was a total surprise for Bill, and it was extra special as most of his family was able to be in attendance. The quilt he received was magnificent, as the picture shows. (Anyone that would like to submit the name of a veteran deserving of such recognition should just send us a note through the website.)

## Memorial Expansion

We are moving forward with the construction of the Walls of Remembrance. The block was laid, and we are now in the process of planning the laying of blank pavers and covering the walls in black granite. This expansion will provide the ability to have up to 600 stainless-steel plaques on the walls and about 900 pavers surrounding the walls. People can purchase a plaque or paver by going to our new website: [www.ponceinletveterans.org](http://www.ponceinletveterans.org). People can also go on the website and make a direct donation to the construction of the walls or even join our association. Anyone who donates \$500 or more will have their name inscribed on a large plaque on one of the walls.

Given the generosity of a couple of residents, we are also establishing a special category of donors—Patrons of the Walls. This designation will be given to individuals or businesses that donate \$10,000 or more to the construction of the walls. Once we have completed the walls, we will create a very special means of acknowledging those donors.

As we move forward with the expansion of the Memorial we are also in the process of replacing faded pavers on the walkway leading to the Memorial with new pavers that should be more resilient to the sun and weather. Our first phase is to replace about 30 of the faded pavers and then continue to replace pavers as necessary.



# **ponce inlet animal welfare “PAW” BY NANCY EPPS, PRESIDENT**



Although she was not part of our colony, Coco, the calico cat who had lived in Lighthouse Point Park her entire life, was special to those of us who care for the free-roaming cats in Ponce Inlet. She was part of an old colony that had lived in the rocks at the jetty over the years. Ponce Inlet native Julie Davis had adopted one of Coco's babies over 16 years ago, and in recent years, she had started regularly visiting Coco. Coco had many other fans and friends who would visit her in the park. She had become very friendly and loved attention.

Last summer, Coco was relocated to Julie's house to live out her life in comfort and safety. Her time here in this realm came to an end on June 9. Although it is sad for those who knew her, she had lived a long life, and her last months were surrounded by love.

Fortunately, both of our girls at the town-approved colony are doing well. Our wonderful volunteers make sure they are well fed, get fresh water, and are checked for medical needs. Volunteer Terri regularly treats them for fleas and keeps them brushed, and she and her husband replace the straw on the ground periodically to keep it from being muddy, etc. I am so grateful for the support of all the volunteers!

We still occasionally get a visit from a big, black, male cat. If you are ever missing your black cat in the area around Las Olas, you might look on the path to the beach!

Have a great summer!





# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:admin@c4pi.org) with your contact information and questions.

Donations may be made directly on the [C4Pi.org website](http://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](http://www.c4pi.org) for more information about our Organization.

Volunteers are always needed.

If you can help, please email:

[info@c4pi.org](mailto:info@c4pi.org) or contact C4Pi on the bottom of our Home Page.



## Board of Directors:

- Lynn Albinson, President
- Elviria LaBarre, Vice-President
- Joe Cannon, Treasurer
- Kathy Cannon, Secretary

## Advisory Committee:

- Lauren Albinson, Newsletter Editor
- Ed Davis
- Judy DiCarlo
- Sue Fillion
- Don Hampton
- David Miller
- Pat Morris
- Mark Oebbecke
- Pamela Schafer
- 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](http://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](mailto: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.





Citizens For  
PONCE INLET

Join  
Today!

## *"Our Mission is to Educate and Preserve"*

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

- 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**