

Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



Improving the Quality of Life in the Town of Ponce Inlet



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

Local Veteran Receives Quilt of Valor



Edward Vrona at the Memorial Day Ceremony



Edward Vrona was the guest of honor at our town's Memorial Day Ceremony held on May 29th.

Ed was a World War II veteran and had surpassed his 103rd birthday.

[Continued on Page 34](#)

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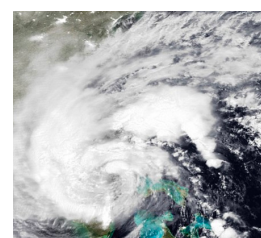
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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, glowing clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the distance, a single sailboat with a dark sail is visible on the water. The water in the foreground is a deep blue with gentle ripples.

The Town of PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

“Joy of the Land and Sea”

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Citizens For PONCE INLET

TOWN OF PONCE INLET

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

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

CITIZENS FOR PONCE INLET (C4Pi)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Donations may be made directly on the C4Pi.org website or by mailing a check made to:

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

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

Volunteers are always needed.

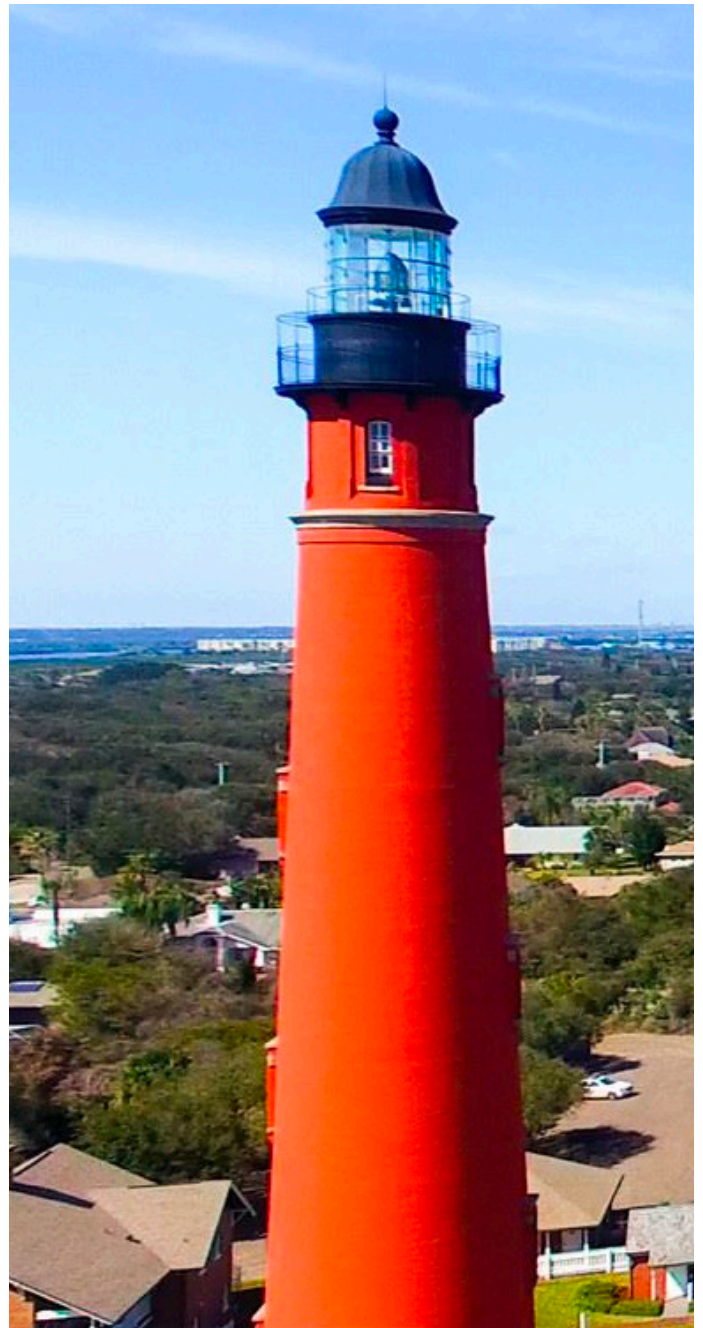
If you can help, please email:

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

Citizens for Ponce Inlet is an all-volunteer Organization.

Board of Directors:

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



40th Anniversary of the Candidate Forum

The annual Citizens for Ponce Inlet (C4Pi) Candidate Forum took place on July 18th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ponce Inlet Community Center.



Ponce Inlet Council Seat 3 Candidates Arun Iyampillai and Henry Skip White

This year we celebrated our 40th year providing this service to our community by keeping Ponce Inlet residents informed.

If you were unable to attend in person, please view the video of the event here:

<https://www.c4pi.org/candidate-forum-july-18th-2023/>

Read the special Election Edition of our newsletter with all of the candidate information and answers to the 2023 candidate questionnaire.

<https://www.c4pi.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Single-2023-Election-Newsletter.pdf>



Ponce Inlet Town Hall Meeting on August 24th

Town Hall Meeting: Thursday, August 24th
6:00pm-8:00pm

Ponce Inlet Residents: Join us for a Town Hall Meeting with your Mayor, Council Members, state legislators, and Volusia County Emergency Management.

There will be presentations from both Senator Wright and Representative Tramont on the Town's approved appropriation within the State budget. Jim Judge, Director of Volusia County Emergency Management, will speak on the County's preparedness of the hurricane season.

Mayor Paritsky will provide a presentation on the tentative millage rate, and Town Department Heads will provide a presentation on the Town's hurricane preparation activities.

There will also be an opportunity for questions and comments.

Doors will open at 5:30pm
Ponce Inlet Community Center
4670 S. Peninsula Dr.



A Moment with the Mayor

The residents of the Town of Ponce Inlet, as stewards of the environment, safeguard our ecosystem through goals and policies that align with our Town's Visioning Statement. We seek to protect and maintain our native habitats, floral and animal species, and the quality of our water and air. Through the efforts and accomplishments of the Town, as expressed through our resolutions, ordinances and enforcement, we turn opportunities for conservation into action.

We designated ourselves a "bird sanctuary" by Ordinance Sec. 10-3, thereby explicitly protecting our birds and their nests from harm that could occur through trapping, hunting or molestation, while encouraging birds to breed.



Lois Paritsky

Our gopher tortoises, identified as a threatened species in the State of Florida, are protected through a state statute enforced by our Police Department, ensuring that any threat or harm to the gopher tortoise, its eggs or nest, if negligent or malicious, is met with appropriate citations and charges to the perpetrator.



Our stewardship commitments to our trees have been recognized for the past 29 years through the title of “Tree City,” conferred upon our Town by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. The Town consistently satisfies the four criteria for this designation with its tree board, an ordinance for tree care, a community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

In 2019, the Town of Ponce Inlet earned the designation as a “Monarch Butterfly City” for our plantings of milkweed and nectar plants that help these pollinators along their journey. Monarch butterflies stop on one of our flowers to sip on the nectar, and the flower transfers pollen onto the butterfly. As the monarch moves from flower to flower to consume the nectar, the pollen that was picked up is transferred to the next plant, promoting pollination.



Living with the Marine Science Center in our Town, an environmental learning center, provides hospital care and a home during rehabilitation for injured birds, wildlife, and turtles.



In August, I had the honor of representing our Town at the annual Florida League of Cities (FLC) Conference. As a member of the “Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works” committee, I worked with committee members to help shape policies for future legislation that addressed municipal concerns about coastal management, toxic waste, stormwater and water quality.

As Chair of the FLC Advocacy Committee, I collaborated with our members and League lobbyists to help build support for legislative priorities, advocate for the passage of bills that benefit our municipalities, and support defeating bills that have a negative impact on our communities.

In my capacity as President of the Volusia League of Cities, I had the privilege of moderating a breakfast meeting that focused on advocacy efforts and best practices for effectively communicating with our legislators.

A guide to living with gopher tortoises



David Moynahan



Cliff Leonard

The gopher tortoise in Florida

Where they live: high and dry

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a medium size land turtle with large, stumpy hind legs and flattened, shovel-like front legs it uses to dig burrows in sandy soil. These burrows provide a home and refuge for the tortoise and more than 350 species of wild animals and insects that share the same habitat.

Gopher tortoises occur in parts of all 67 counties in Florida, but prefer high, dry, sandy places such as longleaf pine and oak sandhills. They also live in scrub, dry hammocks, pine flatwoods, dry prairies, coastal grasslands and dunes, mixed hardwood-pine communities and a variety of disturbed habitats, such as pasture lands.

What they eat

Gopher tortoises graze naturally on a wide variety of plant types, including broadleaf grasses, wiregrass, prickly pear cactus, wild grape, blackberry, blueberry, beautyberry and many more. They generally feed within about 160 feet of their burrows, but have been known to travel more than twice that distance to meet their foraging and nutritional needs.



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

A keystone species

Wildlife experts call the gopher tortoise a “keystone species” because it is the backbone of the plant and wildlife community in which it lives. Without the tortoise, the populations of more than 350 wildlife species that seek refuge or live in the burrows would be greatly reduced, if not eliminated. The species that depend upon tortoise burrows are called commensals and include the indigo snake, pine snake, gopher frog, opossum, burrowing owl, Florida mouse, gopher cricket and scarab beetle.

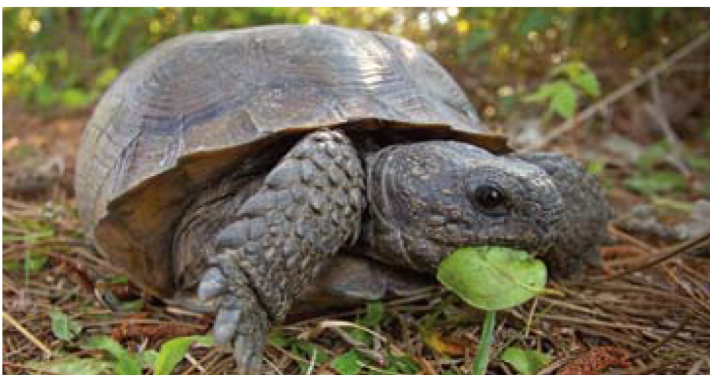
Protecting and managing

Gopher tortoises have lived for millions of years, but biologists who study these ancient reptiles are concerned we may lose them entirely unless we do more to protect and conserve them and their rapidly disappearing habitat.

In 2007, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) listed the gopher tortoise as a threatened species and created a plan to manage and protect these unique reptiles. The plan is a blueprint of conservation objectives and actions which includes guidelines for landowners whose property contains gopher tortoises, habitat acquisition plans and permitting guidelines all designed to ensure the tortoises’ habitat needs are met now and in the future.

Legal protection

It is against the law to damage, destroy, harass or kill gopher tortoises, their burrows or their eggs. Gopher tortoises must be moved out of harm’s way before any land clearing or development takes place. Permits are required from the FWC before handling or moving tortoises.



Robert La Follette



Living in your yard

If a gopher tortoise is living in your yard, embrace the opportunity to learn about a threatened species and help the conservation efforts. Here are a few tips:

- Leave the tortoise alone and keep dogs and small children away from it and its burrow.
- Use tortoise-friendly plants to landscape your yard. In addition to providing excellent food for the tortoise, the plants will require very little watering once established. For a list of suitable plants visit MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise.
- Allow the tortoise to come and go freely from your yard. Fencing it in or restricting its movements in any way is against the law.
- It is acceptable to trim tall grass around the burrow if necessary but leave the burrow and mound alone.
- If possible, avoid mowing, digging, driving over or otherwise disturbing the area right around the burrow, which includes the entrance apron and 25 feet beyond the burrow opening.
- Never block the entrance to the burrow, it could harm the tortoise or prevent its exit.
- A burrow should not compromise the integrity of a foundation or mound septic system, but the gopher tortoise conservation biologist in your region can offer you options.

Crossing the road

- Do not take the tortoise with you.
- If it is in the roadway you can move it across the road in the direction in which it was headed. **Do not put your life in danger to move the tortoise.**
- Do not put the tortoise in the water. Gopher tortoises are terrestrial turtles which means they live on land.

Living in your neighborhood

Gopher tortoises and their burrows are often found on undeveloped lots in neighborhoods that were built in gopher tortoise habitat. The last remaining tortoises in a community sometimes take refuge on these habitat islands scattered among home sites. If your neighborhood has some of these reptilian residents, keep the following in mind:

- Before a lot can be developed, any gopher tortoises present must, by law, be moved out of harm's way before land clearing begins. Property owners must obtain permits from the FWC before moving gopher tortoises.
- If a lot is about to be developed, you can search the online gopher tortoise permitting database at MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise to see if a permit to move the tortoise(s) has been issued. You can also call the gopher tortoise conservation biologist in your region.
- If there is no land clearing or construction activity on the lot, leave the tortoises alone.
- If you suspect a violation has occurred or is about to occur, call the FWC's toll free Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922 or report it online at MyFWC.com/law/Alert.

Sick or injured

- Sometimes it's better to just leave a sick or injured gopher tortoise alone and let it return to its burrow to heal.
- You may pick up an injured tortoise to transport it for treatment if necessary.
- Call the nearest FWC regional office to find a wildlife rehabilitator in the area or take it to a veterinarian.
- If you think the injury is the result of a violation and you can provide information, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline.

Help their future

- Become tortoise-wise: Learn about gopher tortoises and their habitat needs online at MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise and share the information with family, friends and neighbors.
- Support "green spaces" in and around developments – there is still time to save gopher tortoise habitat before it's gone.



Cliff Leonard

Before you bulldoze

Before you clear land, learn the law. Visit MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise or call the gopher tortoise conservation biologist in your region. Request a permitting fact sheet and remember gopher tortoises must be relocated before any land clearing or development takes place. Property owners must obtain permits from the FWC before tortoises can be moved. Depending on the type of permit, you may be permitted to move the tortoises yourself or you may need to contact an authorized agent.

Tips for horse owners

Gopher tortoises often dig their burrows in pastures, which can be a challenge to horse farm owners who are concerned their horses may step into the burrows and be injured. For tips on how to avoid potential horse-tortoise conflicts, visit MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise or call the gopher tortoise conservation biologist in your region.

Gopher tortoise fast facts

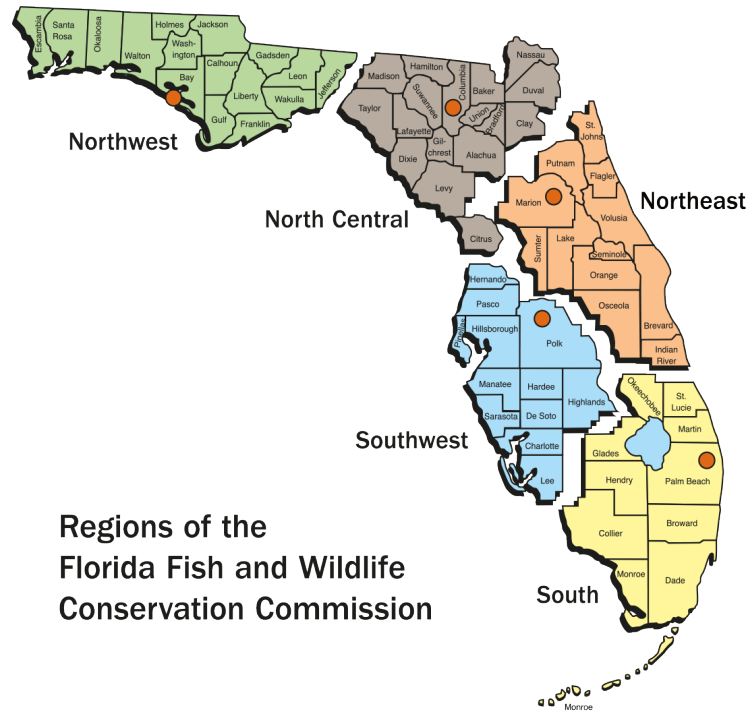
- Gopher tortoise burrows average seven feet deep and 15 feet long but may be more than 40 feet long.
- A tortoise may have multiple burrows within the area it spends most of its time.
- Burrow openings are half-moon shaped with the curve at the top, and its size is a fair representation of the size of the tortoise. Burrows with round openings have generally been taken over by an armadillo.
- Adult tortoises are generally 9-11 inches long and weigh 7-9 pounds.
- Females begin to reproduce when they are 9-21 years old (age depends on local conditions); males begin slightly younger.
- They breed March-October but generally dig nests in May and June. One clutch is laid per year with an average of six eggs. Many eggs never hatch because they are eaten by mammals, birds and snakes.
- The biggest threat to the gopher tortoises' long-term survival is loss of habitat.

Wildlife Alert Reward Program

It is against the law to kill, harass or destroy gopher tortoises, their burrows or eggs. If you suspect illegal activity, you can report it anonymously to FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922, 24 hours a day or online at MyFWC.com/law/Alert. You could be eligible for a reward if your information leads to an arrest.



Robert La Follette



Northwest Region
 3911 Highway 2321
 Panama City, FL 32409-1658
 850-265-3676

North Central Region
 3377 East U.S. Highway 90
 Lake City, FL 32055-8795
 386-758-0525

Northeast Region
 1239 S.W. 10th Street
 Ocala, FL 34471-0323
 352-732-1225

Southwest Region
 3900 Drane Field Road
 Lakeland, FL 33811-1299
 863-648-3200

South Region
 8535 Northlake Boulevard
 West Palm Beach, FL 33412
 561-625-5122

For more on any information in this brochure, or for Gopher Tortoise Management Plan or permitting information, please call the gopher tortoise conservation biologist in your region listed above, or call 850-488-3831, or visit MyFWC.com/GopherTortoise.

printed on recycled paper

COUNTY CORNER

Hello everyone. It is that time again for an update from your County Councilman. I will start by giving you information concerning our beaches. Since the last newsletter, the following has taken place:

- The trap bag deployment has now been implemented and the County of Volusia has already placed over 34,670 linear feet of beach compatible sand in vulnerable areas.
- The County has also already removed over 11,950 cubic yards of debris and has obtained over 340 easement agreements from citizens for the purpose of the sand placement.
- There are only 67 more properties left to install trap bags as of the end of July. Seventeen of those are north of the Inlet and a good portion left in New Smyrna Beach.

I briefly mentioned in the last newsletter that Volusia County Government had been awarded \$328.9 million in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to spearhead a comprehensive and enduring recovery initiative called Transform386.

TRANSFORM386 STRENGTHENING VOLUSIA'S FUTURE

To ensure the effective utilization of these funds in alignment with the community's requirements, the county is hosting several meetings known as the CDBG-DR Community Engagement Series. These meetings are designed to engage residents and gather valuable insights into the unmet needs that persist within the community.



Additionally, the county seeks to obtain feedback on proposed projects or programs the community believes will be most beneficial in supporting ongoing disaster recovery efforts. The funds can be allocated toward a range of areas, including infrastructure restoration (such as roads, bridges and stormwater systems), housing, economic revitalization and mitigation. Priority will be given to assisting low- to moderate-income households.

Volusia County hosted six community engagement meetings in each of the five County Council districts to hear from the community about unmet needs. Building upon the feedback received during the engagement series, the county developed an action plan outlining its intended use of the funds.

Comments regarding the action plan will be accepted until Tuesday, Sept. 5, and may be [submitted online](#) or mailed to:

Volusia County Government
Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center
ATTN: Office of Recovery and Resiliency
123 W. Indiana Ave. Room 300
DeLand, FL 32720

Draft Action Plan

Community Development Block Grant -
Disaster Recovery

<https://www.transform386.org/core/fileparse.php/7734/urlt/VC-Draft-Action-Plan-ADA.pdf>

Volusia County will host a public hearing for residents to provide feedback on the Transform386 CDBG-DR [draft action plan](#):

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24, in the County Council Chambers at the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand.

The public hearing will also be live-streamed, allowing viewers to submit their comments by email to transform386@volusia.org during the event. The link to access the meeting will be published before the hearing.

The plan will be presented to the Volusia County Council for review and approval before being submitted to HUD for the final green light. In early 2024, the county will release a notice of funding availability detailing eligibility criteria, allowable usage of funds, reporting requirements and other pertinent information based on the approved action plan.

If you would like to learn more about the Transform386 initiative or arrange a presentation for your community or organization, visit <https://www.transform386.org>, email transform386@volusia.org or call 386-943-7029.

One project I am currently working on is to make our parks safer for our citizens. I have asked staff to obtain information on the 9-1-1 call boxes to be placed at our county-operated parks. These are the ones you see at most of our universities that have the blue light affixed to the top that flashes when the 9-1-1 phone is used to contact public safety personnel during an emergency. I have also asked staff to get more information on camera installation in these parks as well. I feel that while we are rebuilding and updating our parks because of the storm damage, it is a perfect opportunity to put this safety equipment in place.

Another project I have been working on is to identify county-owned land that could possibly be used for affordable/work force housing. During one of our recent council meetings, I was successful in securing 20+ acres for this very use. More to come on this at a later date.

Lastly, I am working on an inmate work program to assist with job placement for our released inmate population. As I explained in the last newsletter, I retired from the County of Volusia Division of Corrections in 2017 after serving over 30 years. I retired as the Warden and oversaw a \$30+ million budget. Much of that budget was contributed to food costs for the inmate population. That same budget now exceeds over \$60 million. The inmate work program I want to initiate would address both saving taxpayer dollars regarding that food cost and teach the inmates a trade to possibly be used upon their release from incarceration. The work program would encompass both an inmate farm and would include, but not limited to, a welding program, engine repair, sewing and embroidery, electrical, plumbing and maybe even some fiberglass work. A bonus to this initiative would also be to reduce the inmate recidivism rate as well.

I do make a concerted effort to attend as many Ponce Inlet Town Hall meetings as possible. But if I don't see you there, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Thank you so much and God bless!

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

Planning & Development Department

Tree Trimming & Removal

If you plan on trimming your trees before the peak of hurricane season, now is the time to do it. Property owners, take note:

- Removing a tree entirely requires a permit from the Town. No permit fee is charged if the trees are already dead or if they have caused damage or are likely to cause damage to existing buildings and structures.
- Trimming tree branches does not require a permit, if the trimming is not excessive to the point that it causes the tree to die.
- If done by a contractor, the contractor must remove the limbs from the property.
- If placed by the roadside for pickup, the trimmings cannot be greater than three feet in length and weigh no more than 40 pounds. Trimmings and debris piles cannot block the sidewalk or street.
- When a large debris pile is created, the property owner must contact Waste Pro at (386) 788-8890 to arrange for a special pickup.
- Please do NOT pile up debris on top of storm inlets and in the curb. Doing so can block the drains and create flooding problems on the street and nearby properties. If Public Works is required to clean it up, the property owner will be billed for this work.
- Finally, please keep in mind that yard debris left outside during a storm can be turned into damaging projectiles by the wind! If you are not able to properly dispose of yard debris before the storm arrives, it is best to wait.



Solicitors

If you are approached by a tree removal business at your home, please know that ALL door-to-door solicitors are required to have a solicitation permit and undergo background checks before they can make unannounced house calls. Solicitors are required to carry the original permit on their person at all times while soliciting. Hours are limited to between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday; no soliciting is allowed on Sunday. Any person found engaging in these activities without a permit or soliciting in an aggressive manner may be subject to fines or penalties or having their permit revoked. If you have any concerns about solicitors in your neighborhood, please contact the Police Department nonemergency line at (386) 236-2160.

Arborist documentation required for tree removal permit exemption

Some tree removal companies may tell you that you do not need a tree removal permit from the Town if you get a letter from an arborist. Understand that this is true only in limited circumstances! Per [Florida Statutes Ch. 163.045](#), property owners are only exempt from local tree removal permits and tree replacement requirements if the following conditions are met:

1. The property in question is a detached single-family residential lot.
2. The tree is assessed by an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or by a Florida-licensed landscape architect.
3. The arborist or landscape architect conducts the assessment of the tree **onsite**. According to the ISA, this is called a **Level 2 Basic Tree Risk Assessment**, and involves, "...looking at the tree's roots, trunk and crown to detect structural defects. It is a 360-degree, ground-based visual observation of the tree. Arborists walk completely around a tree and look for defects in all visible areas of a tree, including the surrounding area." It is not enough for the arborist to simply drive by the tree, look at photographs of the tree, or view it remotely with a mobile device.
4. The assessment must be performed according to the *Best Management Practices - Tree Risk Assessment*, Second Edition (2017).
5. The tree must pose an **unacceptable** risk to persons or property, such that removal of the tree is the only option available. If simply trimming the tree removes the risk, then that option must be taken.
6. The assessment letter must be **signed** by the Arborist.



Unless all of these conditions are met, a tree removal permit is required from the Town, and the tree(s) may have to be replaced. Trees removed without a permit must be replaced within 90 days. The number and size of replacement trees required must equal 100 percent of the total diameter of the tree(s) removed. For example, a 10-inch diameter tree unlawfully removed would need to be replaced with four 2.5-inch diameter trees.

Note that the Town already waives permit application fees for trees that are dead or pose a risk to property. All that is needed for the permit application is a survey of the property with the location of the tree drawn on it, along with photos or other documentation demonstrating the risk posed by the tree.

It is always a good idea to check with the Town's Planning & Development Department staff before doing any work on your home or property, to verify whether a permit is needed. Department staff are ready and available to answer your questions about code requirements, application forms, and inspection procedures.

Flood Zone Construction

If your property is in a special flood hazard area and you are planning substantial improvements to your home, defined as work equal to or greater than 50% of your home's market value, then you must meet current Florida Building Code standards and comply with your local floodplain ordinance.

Make sure you get a permit before you do any work, and work with a licensed contractor who knows the codes. An Elevation Certificate will be required, which may already be on file at your local government office.



Turn Around, Don't Drown

The number-one weather-related killer in the United States is flash flooding. Eighty percent of flood-related deaths occur as a result of people driving through low-water crossings, walking along the banks of flooded areas, or playing in floodwaters, driving or walking into harm's way. Protecting life and property is the #1 priority. For more information, please check out [these resources from the National Weather Service](#).

From Fire Chief Dan Scales...



Hurricane Preparedness

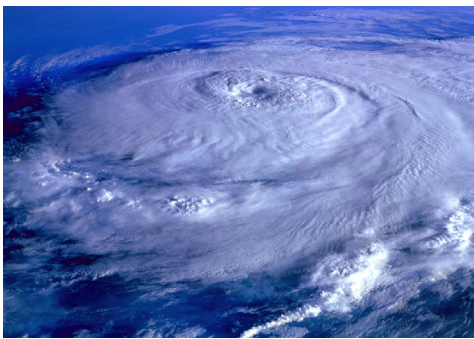
Each year, hurricane season begins on June 1st and lasts five months, with storms typically peaking in August and September. As with every hurricane season, regardless of the forecast, knowing the essentials of how to prepare could truly be a life saver.

It's important to create a kit of supplies that can be used if you evacuate or even if you are able to stay home. A common trend when storms are approaching is widespread anxiety or panic. People rush to the stores to get the supplies they need, only to find long checkout lines or a shortage of items. If you already have your kit prepared, you can alleviate a lot of this stress. Please see this supply checklist provided by the Florida Department of Emergency Management:

To secure your home in the event of damaging winds, storm surge and flooding:

- Cover all of your windows, either with hurricane shutters or wood.
- Although tape can prevent glass from shattering everywhere, be warned that tape does not prevent the window from breaking.

- If possible, secure straps or clips to securely fasten your roof to the structure of your home.
- Make sure all trees and shrubs are trimmed and clear rain gutters.
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, garbage cans, decorations, and anything else that is not tied down.
- If winds become strong, stay away from windows and doors and close, secure and brace internal doors.



FPL (Florida Power & Light) Information

When it comes to trimming vegetation on your property, trimming from pole to pole is FPL's responsibility. Trimming from the power pole to a customer's house (service drop) is the customer's responsibility. For more good tips from FPL about vegetation and tree trimming before and after a storm, see: <https://www.fpl.com/reliability/trees.html>.

FPL suggests that customers utilize the "self-service" portion of their online resources. Below are useful links that can be accessed via your home computer, or smartphone.

To report an outage:

<https://www.fpl.com/my-account/web-outage.html#wors/mainTab/phoneTab>

To view outages in your area:

<https://www.fplmaps.com/index.html>

Sandbag Information

Ponce Inlet residents are allowed 10 sandbags per resident (with proof of residency). Sandbag distribution typically occurs at the Ponce Inlet Community Center, 4670 South Peninsula Drive. Remember to bring a shovel. Assistance to fill and move sandbags is limited and dependent on staffing availability. Please also note:

- Sandbags only need to be filled to 2/3 full. Do not tie the top of the bag.
- First, place a layer of plastic sheeting on the ground to act as the waterproofing membrane.
- Then, lay sandbags like brickwork on top of the plastic sheeting.
- Start at one end and work to the other end.



Emergency Notifications

Sign up for emergency notifications thru our Code Red Emergency notification system:

<https://www.ponce-inlet.org/191/CodeRed>.

Keep informed before, during and after the storm by visiting our website: www.ponce-inlet.org. Emergency alerts are at the top of the page. Follow us on our Facebook page "[Town of Ponce Inlet](#)."



DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights
Do not use candles
- NOAA Weather Radio
Battery operated or hand cranked
- Cash
Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:
County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family

Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

Food and Water

- Food
Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days
- Water
1 gallon per person per day
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

Important Documents

- Insurance cards
 - Medical records
 - Banking information
 - Credit card numbers
 - Copies of social security cards
 - Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
 - Other personal documents
 - Set of car, house, and office keys
 - Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
 - Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
 - Copy of Will
- *Items should be kept in a water proof container*

Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at FloridaDisaster.org

From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



Accreditation

The Ponce Inlet Police Department (PIPD) is fully accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. The CFA strives to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to deliver professional public safety services. The CFA oversees the accreditation program, establishes standards, and awards accreditation to compliant Florida law enforcement agencies. The Ponce Inlet Police Department received its initial CFA accreditation in October of 2005, and is currently preparing for its 6th consecutive reaccreditation assessment, which occurs every 3 years. The Ponce Inlet Police Department and its accreditation manager, Ms. Gina Manchester, are dedicated to evaluating, monitoring, and assessing the department's policies and procedures to ensure compliance with CFA standards and to provide modern, professional law enforcement services to its residents.

Police Activity in 2022

The 2022 activity for the PIPD included:

- 2,480 calls for service
- 3 min 21sec. average priority response time
- 1360 traffic stops
- 892 warnings or citations
- 111 parking citations
- 182 suspicious incidents
- 50 residential alarms
- 52 animal calls
- 81 criminal citations
- 275 License Plate Reader citations

Wildlife Workshop

On August 30th at 6:30 pm, the Ponce Inlet Police Department will be hosting a presentation at the Community Center by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). FWC biologists will discuss the bears, coyotes, and bobcats that have been spotted in Ponce Inlet. The Police Department has received many questions about these animals and the potential risks they pose to residents and pets. We thought we would bring in the experts to answer all of your questions.



From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie French...



Events and Programs

Since January, the Department has hosted 27 programs with 300 attendees and 3 special events at a total of over 300 attendees. This past April, the Department hosted a successful Children’s Easter event with volunteers who were almost as excited as the children attending! Additionally, we hosted a new art class teaching an art technique called “resin pour painting.” This includes combining and layering acrylic paints and coating them in a clear epoxy resin for a 3D effect, either onto canvas or wooden charcuterie boards. Both classes so far have filled up in record time, and the staff are excited to introduce more in the coming months.

Summer in Florida provides a hot challenge for the Town’s outdoor programs. The Cultural Services Department provides two morning programs every month during the summer to keep the community engaged, and staff utilizes this time to ramp up Fall events and programs. Fall programs and special events are on the horizon, so keep an eye out on our Facebook page and Town notifications as more details will be provided as events approach.

Special Events

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

Town Hall Meeting

Residents, join us for a Town Hall Meeting with your Mayor, Council members, state legislators, and the Volusia County Emergency Management Director. There will be presentations from both Senator Wright and Representative Tramont on the Town’s approved appropriation, along with information about the previous and upcoming legislative sessions. Jim Judge, Director of Volusia County Emergency Management, will speak about the county’s preparedness for the hurricane season. Mayor Paritsky will provide a presentation on the tentative millage rate, and Town Department Heads will discuss hurricane preparation activities. There will also be opportunities for questions and comments.

6:00pm-8:00pm

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Ponce Inlet Community Center

4670 S. Peninsula Dr.

A promotional poster for a Town Hall Meeting. It features a light teal background. At the top left and right are circular logos for Ponce Inlet, Florida, showing a lighthouse. The text is centered and reads: **TOWN HALL MEETING**, **Ponce Inlet Community Center**, **Thursday August 24**, and **6:00pm-8:00pm**.

Town of Ponce Inlet's 60th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, September 16th, the Town will host the 60th Anniversary Celebration in observation of the Town's incorporation in 1963. The event will celebrate our community and bring together local businesses, clubs, organizations, and restaurants. There will be music, a dunk tank, food, a scavenger hunt/ history tour, and more. Come celebrate "60 Groovy Years of Ponce"!

11:00am-3:00pm

Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Kay & Ayres Davies Lighthouse Park
4931 S. Peninsula Dr.**

13th Annual Christmas Parade

Hosted by the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

2:00pm

Saturday, December 2, 2023

The route proceeds north along S. Peninsula Dr. from Davies Lighthouse Park to Harbour Village

In December of 2022, after 12 years, the Town's Christmas Parade founder, Jim Hinson, announced his retirement as the event organizer. Town residents Mark Oebbecke and Cherise Wintz have offered their services to organize the event this year.

On Saturday, December 2nd, the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association will host the 13th annual Christmas parade. This year, the parade route will be reversed,

beginning at Davies Lighthouse Park and traveling north to Harbour Village along S. Peninsula Drive. In addition to the Christmas Parade, the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association is bringing back the Breakfast with Santa event, held on the morning of the parade.

For more information:

Mark Oebbecke: moebbecke@yahoo.com

Cherise Wintz: cherises39@yahoo.com

Breakfast with Santa

Hosted by the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

9:00am

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Ponce Inlet Community Center
4670 S. Peninsula Dr.





Ponce Inlet
Anniversary
Celebration

60 Groovy
Years

Saturday, 9.16.23

games *dunk tank* *delicious food*

historic tours *inflatables*

music *crafts*

Davies Lighthouse Park

11AM - 3PM

PONCE INLET VETERANS MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



**BREAKFAST WITH
SANTA &
CHRISTMAS
PARADE**

**DEC
2ND**

**KICK OFF THE
HOLIDAY SEASON
IN PONCE INLET**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA @ PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER 9A-12P
PARADE ROUTE ALONG S. PENINSULA DR. PROCEEDING NORTH FROM
DAVIES LIGHTHOUSE TO HARBOUR VILLAGE STARTING AT 2P

more info Mark Oebbecke: moebbecke@yahoo.com
CONTACT: Cherise Wintz: cherises39@yahoo.com

PONCE PRESERVE & Live Oaks

In the Town of Ponce Inlet, history and nature intertwine in a remarkable way. As residents and visitors know, Ponce Inlet is renowned for its pristine beaches, picturesque landscapes, and a treasure trove of historical trees.

One such tree is the colossal Green Mound Southern Live Oak located in Ponce Preserve Park, whose expansive branches provide a shaded respite on warm summer days. Estimated to be over 350 years old, this venerable oak has stood strong through every hurricane, tropical storm, and tropical depression mother nature has thrown our way. This tree serves as an excellent reminder of Ponce Inlet's enduring spirit and the significance of safeguarding our natural heritage for generations to come.



The historical trees of Ponce Inlet not only provide a glimpse into the town's past but also serve as vital contributors to our environment. Trees offer numerous benefits, including improved air quality, habitat for wildlife, and temperature regulation. They also enhance the overall aesthetics of our communities, enriching our lives and creating a sense of connection with nature.

It is crucial for us, as responsible citizens, to understand the significance of trees and exercise diligence before considering their removal. Trees, especially those with historical or cultural importance, should be approached with the utmost care and respect. Before taking any action,

it is essential to consult an arborist who can provide guidance on proper tree management. The removal of a tree should never be taken lightly, as it can have far-reaching consequences for our environment and community. By conducting due diligence, we can identify alternatives to removal, such as pruning, transplanting, or implementing measures to mitigate potential risks. By taking the time to explore all possibilities, we can strike a balance between preservation and safety.

As a Tree City USA, removal of a tree in Ponce Inlet means obtaining a permit from the Town before the tree is removed. Permit applications and guidance can be found with the Planning and Development Department, located at Town Hall. Most tree removal permits are able to be approved by Town Staff. However, when tree trunks reach diameters of 18" or more, their removal must first be approved by the Town's Cultural Services Board. Removal of designated landmark trees and historic trees (trunk diameter 36"+) requires prior approval of the Town Council. The Town's codes require most trees that are removed to be replaced. Acceptable replacement trees include those on the official Town plant list along with those from the Florida Friendly Landscaping Guide, provided they are suited to our climate (USDA Zones 9A-9B).

In Ponce Inlet, citizens have embraced their role as custodians of history and nature. Through educational initiatives and community involvement, they have fostered a deep appreciation for the value of trees and their preservation. It is a shining example of how a collective effort can safeguard our natural heritage for future generations. Let's celebrate the beauty of our natural surroundings, protect the historical treasures that grace our landscapes, and ensure that each decision we make regarding trees reflects our commitment to preservation and diligent stewardship. We hope you will continue to explore, appreciate, and safeguard the remarkable tapestry of nature that surrounds us.

Happy trails!

Watering Guidelines

Watering Restrictions

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

Rules & Regulations

During Daylight Savings Time the following rules apply:

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

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

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

During Standard Time watering is allowed only once a week.

Helpful Resources

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

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

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

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

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



Save our State Tree

Stop the Sabal Palm Massacre

Harmful, unnecessary and wasteful landscape practices have become widespread in the last 25-30 years; trimming Sabal Palms. Sabal Palm leaves do not require pruning unless the leaves interfere with traffic, power lines, or building maintenance. The leaves fall off when finished and the brown leaves are environmentally valuable. The practice has spread throughout the state, damaging palm trees. Save money, protect your palms and say no to palm pruning.

Green fronds are the palm's source of nutrients. Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Harsh pruning takes away food and shelter from native and migratory songbirds, woodpeckers, butterflies, honey bees, tree frogs, bats, anoles, squirrels, and other wildlife. Over-pruned palms may develop weakened trunks, which can eventually cause them to break off and die. Work boots with climbing spikes incur wounds in the trunk, leaving the palm prone to disease.

Palm fronds, berries, and boots: Brown fronds provide unique habitat for tree frogs and bats (chemical-free mosquito control). In nature, there is no waste. Recycle fallen palm fronds as mulch or a brush pile for wildlife. Palm berries are critical sources of highly nutritious food for many birds and other wildlife. Plant palms where berries and sprouts won't be a problem. Palm "boots" (the leaf bases) are important habitat for other plants, including many beautiful rare and endangered ferns. Perhaps a better understanding of the palm's use by other creatures will enable us to see black fruits, brown fronds, and boots on the trunks as things of great value, if not beauty.

This is the way our Sabal Palm should look, with a nice rounded crown, all of its fronds including green and brown, and flower stalks in tact. The particular palm lacks boots, but if your palm has boots, rejoice and plant vines in them. Boots are good and need not be removed. They may drop off naturally as the palm ages. Trimming our palms is an trend that needs to end.



PlantRealFlorida.org

About Sabal Palms

THE STATE TREE OF FLORIDA

DO NOT DO THIS!

BAD!

This trim is harmful to the tree, birds, bees, butterflies.



Do not allow your Sabal palm to be trimmed like this.

Summary information from the University of Florida Extension Service; *Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms* by Alan Meerow; *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning* by Delmar Publishers; *The Sabal Palm: A Native Monarch* by Barbara Oehlbeck.
DOWNLOAD: PlantRealFlorida.org

Green fronds are the palm's source of nutrients! Cutting green fronds stunts growth, invites disease, and reduces the palm's natural resilience to high winds. Removing branches with flowers and berries takes important food away from birds and pollinators.



GOOD!

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Patricia Morris

Summer Greetings!

On Wednesday, April 26th, the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet held its Annual Arbor Day Celebration. This year marked the 51st Anniversary of the National celebration of Arbor Day and the 29th Anniversary of Ponce Inlet being declared a Tree City. Arbor Day is traditionally marked by the planting of trees and emphasizing care for trees as a way to sustainably protect our planet's natural resources. Our guests for the day included several town officials, including Mayor Lois Paritsky, Vice Mayor Gary Smith, Chief of Police Jeff Glazier, Fire Chief Dan Scales, and Matt Reinhart, Volusia County Council District 2, along with several other town representatives. It was our honor to have Mayor Paritsky read a Proclamation of the Town of Ponce Inlet proclaiming April 28th as Arbor Day. After Mayor Paritsky read her proclamation, she introduced Matt Reinhart who addressed our members on ongoing issues related to beach restoration and other matters near and dear to the residents of our town.



Following Councilman Reinhart's remarks, we had a very informative and educational presentation about how mangroves are an important component of Florida's coastal ecosystem. Carolyn Kovacs, a Florida Sea Grant Agent, and Brittany Council-Morton, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator, both from the University of Florida made a compelling presentation on the importance for all of us understanding the ecology of the Mangroves and how to interact with them.

The Garden Club was then pleased to announce that they would be awarding the Garden Club Scholarships to deserving 3rd and 4th graders from RJ Longstreet School to attend the Marine Science Center Field Trips this fall. Students will be attending the Marine Science Center Exhibit, Tour plus Eco Walk and the Estuary Exploration Program, including Seine Netting. These two field trips will be both fun and educational for the children who attend.

Vice Mayor Gary Smith made two special presentations afterwards. From the Diane Smith Memorial, Vice Mayor Smith gave two very exceptional and substantial donations to two very worthy charitable organizations. Diane had a special affection for the two charities that the Garden Club had chosen. The first donation was once again given to the Miracle League of Volusia County. Ms. Doreen Shore was present to accept the gift for the Miracle League. The recipient of the second significant gift was Southeastern Guide Dogs. The Southeastern Guide Dogs program Paws for Patriots provides visually impaired veterans with highly trained guide dogs as part of its guide dog services.

They also provide Veteran Assistance Guide Dogs benefitting veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. On hand to accept the generous donation for Southeastern Guide Dogs was Sean Brown and his guide dog Nick. Sean gave a very

compelling and emotional speech to our members and guests relating to how his service dog brought hope and vigor back into his life after going through a very dark time.



Finally, our Club gave our Honorary Gardener and Gardener of the Year their awards. The Honorary Gardener of the Year is an individual who has made a substantial contribution to our club over the past year who is not a member of the Garden Club. This year our Honorary Gardener of the Year was Suzanne Barrow. We thank Suzanne for her support throughout the year.

The Gardener of the Year is a member of our club who has made a significant contribution during the past year and is selected by the President. This year that honor went to Elizabeth Finch. Liz, thank

you for all you continue to do for our Club.



The Garden Club thanks all of our guests for joining us for our Annual Arbor Day Celebration and to Mrs. Suzi Hahn, our Arbor Day Chair, and Joann Doyle and Mallory Hilvitz, who assisted Suzi with putting together such a wonderful program.



On Sunday, May 7, the Garden Club hosted its annual Ice Cream Social. This year's theme was "Racetrack: Ready, Set, Go!". Our Kid's Zone with crafts and gifts, as well as our lovely Raffle prizes, which included our perennial favorite Lottery Wheel reward, were also included this year. Capping this all off, Lighthouse Ice Cream generously contributed lots of ice cream and toppings. We can't thank Lighthouse Ice Cream enough for their generous donation.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended. The event this year drew such a large crowd that we had to replenish our supplies. Many thanks to our Garden Club members—there are too many to mention here—who made it all possible and helped us have such a successful event.



Finally, at our May Membership meeting, we closed out our year with a wrap-up of our activities and installed our new Board Officers elected to serve for the next two years.

Our Club Officers are President Pat Morris, 1st Vice President Deb Smith, 2nd Vice President Joann Doyle, Treasurer Lorene Mattei, and Corresponding Secretary Kathy Cannon. I would also like to extend thanks to Diane Whitney, who will continue secretarial duties until we can find a replacement. Our Board will work diligently to ensure that we accomplish all of the goals set forth for our Club this upcoming year.

And, last but not least, we selected our Gardener of the Month. This month's recipient was Ms. Lorene Mattei of 4783 Michael Lane. If you get a chance, please take the opportunity and go see Lorene's beautifully landscaped property. Many thanks go to Rose Volz and Heather Pettit-Johnson, who were responsible for the selections and awards to all of our Gardeners of the Month and our Holiday Lights winner.



As you can see from this and previous Newsletters our Club works hard all year long to give back to our community and, with the support of all of our members, we can continue to do so. We thank all of our members for their continued support and beautification of the town we all 'home'.

As always, anyone interested in joining our club is welcome to pick up an application at the Community Center. Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at

the Community Center at 10:30 AM. Our 1st meeting of the year is on Wednesday, September 27th. In addition, our annual Arts, Crafts, and Plant Show will be held on Oct. 6th and 7th at the

Community Center.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! See you in September.

PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER

PICCI Happenings

by Laura Brown-Yadlosky

PICCI Board Member

Although the summer generally means a letdown in activities, we have taken the time to catch up on some things that have been needed!

Our maintenance efforts continue and have included replacing both the faces of our marquee, painting our boardroom, replacing the room's original fans and painting our stage front.

We also purchased a defibrillator (AED) which will be mounted for easy access and our Board, volunteers and others will be trained in the near future by our EMS personnel.

Lastly, we hosted many events, including the Ponce Inlet Candidate Forum, Fire Department Accreditation sessions and numerous private events, including a birthday party for a 90-year-old man and a family reunion that had over 120 attendees.



To improve the attractiveness of using the center for weddings and receptions, we purchased a wedding arch which can be decorated with varying colors of drapes. We also purchased Bluetooth-enabled speakers so parties can play their personal play lists from their phones or other devices and 'blow the doors off' during their event. As a result of those efforts and frankly, word of mouth, our rental efforts continue to have positive results.



If you are interested in reserving the community center, please go to our website www.picommunitycenter.com then Contact Us.

We will be resuming Food Truck nights in September, more to come on the exact dates.

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

by Bill Wester

Memorial Day Ceremony

Our Memorial Day ceremony was, again, something special. Even with the heat, we had one of our largest crowds attending the ceremony. We were honored to have Edward Vrona as our guest of honor. Ed was a World War II veteran and had surpassed his 103rd birthday. He was provided a Quilt of Valor which reflected how honored we were to have him with us and to acknowledge his service to our country. In July, members of our Association celebrated his 104th birthday with him, including a flyover in his honor. A few weeks afterward, Ed passed away and joined his beloved wife Georgie, who had passed away nine years earlier. It was an honor to have known Ed.



Our Association, in collaboration with Operation Changing Lives, will host the annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade on December 2nd. This year we are inviting businesses in neighboring communities to join the parade and are planning to have three marching bands to truly liven up the parade and make it more fun than ever. It will be preceded by a 'Breakfast with Santa' which is run by our Association members. Breakfast will be served from 9:00-12:00 in the morning at the Ponce Inlet Community Center and the parade will kick off at 2:00 PM at the Davies Lighthouse Park and proceed north to Harbour Village Boulevard. So, plan to join us for both!



We were pleased to learn that our own Jim Hinson was one of the finalists for induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. To qualify for consideration, a veteran must have demonstrated not only honorable service in one of the service branches, but also have significantly contributed to furthering veteran awareness and making contributions to their community. Congratulations Jim!

Many people have approached us about getting a paver at our Memorial. Unfortunately, we have run out of space for any new pavers. However, we are in the early stages of looking at options to expand the Memorial to allow for more pavers. So, stay tuned!

We would like to extend an invitation to all local veterans and those who are still serving on active duty to join us. The Association is a non-profit 501c(19) organization and our mission is to maintain our Memorial and promote veteran's

activities in our community. Dues are \$20 per year and meetings are held at the Ponce Inlet Community Center at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month, except during the summer.

Contact Mark Oebbecke at 610-716-0041 for additional information or to obtain a membership form.

Lastly, please make plans to join us for our Annual Veteran's Day ceremony on Saturday, November 11. It will be a special time that will honor all those who have served.



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 from late May through early August sees our volunteers, and our programs as busy as they are during the other three seasons, sometimes even busier! New 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 historical 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 5th 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.

On August 3 at Port Orange Library at 2pm, and August 12 at 1 PM at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Education Building, special presentations called The Greatest Generation: The Spirit of '45 will honor the can-do attitude of an entire generation affected by the trials and hardships of World War II. Both presentations are done by Docent John Mann.



History CON PILH Volunteers Left to Right Janice Lowry, Don McGuire (sitting), PILH Lead Docent John Mann (standing) and Bill Henry

On August 22 at 11:00am, PILH Director of Operations Mike Bennett will present The City of Vera Cruz, a heart-breaking true story of the local and very deadly 1880 shipwreck of the steamer Vera Cruz 12 miles off Cape Canaveral which ran into a hurricane 12 miles off Cape Canaveral and left a debris field and 70 dead passengers and crew along the beach from Mosquito Inlet to Mantanzas. All of these presentations are open to all visitors, as well as our volunteers.

On September 7th at 11:00am, there will be a truly special offering at the lighthouse. A special viewing of the Florida Historical Societies documentary Florida Frontiers will give guests a great history of the Ponce Inlet Light Station. Accompanying the video, a museum staff member will answer any further questions that guests may have. This presentation is included with General Admission, but seating is limited. Please contact the Programs Manager at 386-761-1821 for more details.

Let's Play!

Summer is also a time for play. PILH docents have been at five public libraries this summer to teach our present-day kids the games that lighthouse keeper's children played at the end of the 19th century. These hands-on-days will emphasize that games teach physical and mental skills. A great example is the handmade device of our Indigenous People's children. It was nothing more than a simple foot-long slender stick with a circle attached to it by a string. Flipping the circle on to the stick made it a toy that reinforced eye-hand coordination, invaluable for success in their natural environment. Check our Events Page for more information on where local libraries will be hosting PILH docents playing 19th Century games for children aged 6 to 12 years.

Summer camps from all over Volusia County visited the station on almost a daily

basis. Nearly 1000 children were able to experience the joys of climbing Florida's tallest lighthouse during the hottest summer on record.

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 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, annual subscription to the Association's quarterly journal Illuminations, as well as invitations to special events.

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

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

PONCE CHURCH



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

Everyone is Welcome at Ponce Church.

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

At Ponce Church, we teach the importance of Obeying the Words of Jesus.

Visit PonceChurch.com for more information. Thank you.



LEGACY
HOUSING

LEGACY HOUSING FOR AGE OUT FOSTER YOUTH:

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

LEGACY HOUSING RANCH:

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

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

Coffee, Cake and Conversation with Sheriff Chitwood

Saturday September 23rd
10:00 am until 12:00 pm

Doors open at 9:30

Ponce Inlet
Community Center
4670 S Peninsula Drive





"Our Mission is to Educate and Preserve"

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

*Join
Today!*

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

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

Membership is free. Get informed. Join today.

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

info@C4Pi.org

www.C4Pi.org

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

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

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

Detach and mail to:

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