

# Citizens for Ponce Inlet NEWSLETTER



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



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

## Citizen of the Year & Lifetime Achievement Award Ceremony



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

Find out who was awarded the Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards on page 4.

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# The Town of PONCE INLET

Est. 1963

*“Joy of the Land and Sea”*



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# Citizens For PONCE INLET

## Celebrating Community Volunteers: C4PI Awards

Since 1987, the Citizens for Ponce Inlet (C4PI) Organization has proudly honored residents who have made exceptional contributions to our community. Each year, the prestigious C4PI Citizen of the Year Award is presented to an outstanding individual or couple. Additionally, the C4PI Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize one or more dedicated volunteers who have devoted over 20 years of service to our community. These awards celebrate the spirit of volunteerism and the remarkable impact of our residents.

### Joe & Kathy Cannon Citizens of the Year



We are delighted to announce that Kathy and Joe Cannon have been honored with the Citizen of the Year Award for their unwavering and outstanding contributions to our community.

Since arriving in Ponce Inlet, Kathy and Joe have embraced our town with open hearts and steadfast dedication.

Joe Cannon has been a vital member of the Town Planning Board for 14 years, beginning in 2010, and has served as Chairperson for the past 12 years. He continues to actively contribute to the board. Kathy Cannon has served on the Town's Code Enforcement Board for 8 years, starting in 2016, and currently holds the position of Vice-Chair.

Together, Kathy and Joe form a dedicated team, volunteering at numerous town events. They have consistently gone above and beyond at the Children's Easter Egg Hunt, the Children's Halloween Party, the Town's Christmas Tree Lighting, the Christmas Parade, the Garden Club's events, the Historic North Turn Legends Beach Parade, and many other town activities.

Additionally, Kathy and Joe have served on the Board of the Citizens for Ponce Inlet for the past 5 years, with Joe as Vice-President and Kathy as Secretary.

Kathy and Joe Cannon exemplify the qualities of outstanding community members and are truly deserving of the Citizen of the Year Award. Their continued contributions and heartfelt love for Ponce Inlet make them a cherished part of our community.

## Nancy Epps Lifetime Achievement



We are proud to announce Nancy Epps as the recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for her exceptional service and dedication to the Ponce Inlet community.

Nancy's commitment to public service began in 1998 with the Volunteer Fire Association, where she served until 2012, holding roles as both Secretary and President. She trained as a first responder for fire and medical emergencies, showcasing her dedication to the safety and well-being of her neighbors.

In 1999, Nancy contributed to the Charter Review Committee, and from 2002 to 2005, she served as a Council Member. Her leadership skills were further recognized when she became Mayor from 2005 to 2008, presiding over the first meeting in the new Town Hall Council Chambers. During her tenure, she served on the Executive Committee of the Volusia Council of Governments and the board of the Water

Authority of Volusia (WAV). Additionally, Nancy has been a citizen member of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (R2CTPO) and currently serves as an alternate on R2CTPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Nancy has been a dedicated member of the Ponce Inlet Lions Club since 2009, serving as President from 2012 to 2014 and from 2018 to the present. She actively participates in community events such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, Ponce Preserves the Planet, and the Christmas Parade. Her roles within the Lions Club extend to District 35-0 Zone Chair, LCIF District 35-0 Coordinator, Guiding Lion for the West Volusia Action Team, Club Branch Liaison to the Daytona Beach-Conklin Davis Lions Club Branch, and diabetes screener.

Since August 2011, Nancy has also been the President of Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare (PAWS), where she assists in the trapping, spaying/neutering, and care of free-roaming colony cats in the area. She organized the Mardi Claws dog-owner parade in 2012, adding another dimension to her community involvement.

Nancy Epps' extensive service record, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Ponce Inlet make her a deserving recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award. We are grateful for her continuous efforts to enhance our community.

## Judy Huggins Lifetime Achievement



We are delighted to announce that Judy Huggins has been honored with our Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding contributions to the Ponce Inlet community.

Ron and Judy moved to Ponce Inlet in 2002, having been familiar with the area since keeping their boat at Inlet Harbor since 1992. Judy quickly became involved in community activities, joining the Garden Club immediately upon arrival. Her first major volunteer role was serving as Garden Club President from 2006 to 2008. Judy remains an active member, having chaired numerous committees, including the Craft Fair (twice), Vendor Chair (three times), Yearbook Chair (for ten years), Cookbook Chair, and Bus Trip Chair.

From 2003 until the town took over in 2019, Judy was a dedicated member of the Children's Activity Committee, serving as President during the last two years. Even

now, Ron and Judy can be found cooking hotdogs for guests at the Halloween events.

Judy's commitment extends to various other community roles. She served as Treasurer for the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Committee from 2008 until around 2019. In 2008, Judy began her service with the Lighthouse, joining the Advisory Committee and later the Lighthouse Executive Board, where she still serves as Treasurer.

Judy's participation has been invaluable to the Christmas Parade Committee, where she contributed for four years. Since 2004, she has also volunteered at the Community Center office, a role she continues to fulfill. Both Ron and Judy are Road Guards for the annual Legends Parade, ensuring the event runs smoothly and safely.

Judy was named Citizen of the Year in 2012, a testament to her dedication and impact on the community. Today, we are proud to recognize her exceptional service and unwavering commitment with a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award. Judy's efforts have greatly enriched the Ponce Inlet community, and we are grateful for her continued involvement and leadership.

## Shirley Okhovatian Lifetime Achievement



We are proud to announce Shirley Okhovatian as the recipient of the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for her dedication and exceptional service to the Ponce Inlet community.

A dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and resident of Ponce Inlet, FL, Shirley's commitment to her community is truly exemplary.

Shirley pursued her education at the University of Central Florida and Stetson University, achieving her CPA designation in September 1991. After moving to Ponce Inlet in December 1999, Shirley's community involvement began when she sought gardening advice at the Ponce Inlet Community Center. There, she met Shirley Hibbert and joined the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet in 2000, actively participating until her professional and family responsibilities took precedence.

Beyond gardening, Shirley made significant contributions to community development, notably serving on the Land Acquisition

Advisory Board during the Ponce Preserve land acquisition. In 2006, she partnered with Chief Steve Thomas to establish the Ponce Inlet Police Athletic League, Inc. (PIPAL), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local youth through various initiatives.

Since 2010, Shirley has been a vital member of the Ponce Inlet Lions Club, holding positions such as board member, Treasurer, and President for four years. She continues to serve as Treasurer today. In 2015, Shirley was instrumental in transforming the Ponce Inlet Women's Club into a nonprofit organization, working with Romona Thomas to amend the club's articles.

In 2016, Jim Hinson sought Shirley's financial expertise for the Ponce Inlet Community Center Inc. She has since voluntarily provided monthly financial and annual tax reporting, contributing eight years of dedicated service. In 2018, she assisted President Liz Finch in establishing the not-for-profit Garden Club of Ponce Inlet Foundation, Inc., facilitating a significant donation.

Shirley's most recent accomplishment in May 2023 involved collaborating with Sue Fillion and Judy DiCarlo to create a not-for-profit amendment for the Citizens of Ponce Inlet, securing their nonprofit status.

Shirley Okhovatian stands as a pillar of community service, consistently leveraging her skills and experience to enhance the well-being of Ponce Inlet and its residents. We are proud to honor her exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication to our community.

## Ellen Pagliarulo Lifetime Achievement



We are honored to announce that Ellen Pagliarulo has been awarded the Citizens for Ponce Inlet 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award for her extraordinary dedication to our community.

Ellen and her husband Rocky moved to Ponce Inlet in 1985, and she soon began her extensive volunteer service. By the time Ellen received the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award, she had already dedicated 15 years to the town's Code Enforcement Board, serving as Chair for 10 of those years, and had been a member of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Association's Advisory Board for a decade. Ellen played a key role in fundraising for the Lighthouse's 125th Anniversary Celebration.

Ellen's volunteer efforts have spanned over 35 years, during which she not only contributed her own time but also inspired others to volunteer. Today, she celebrates over 20 years on the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Board and over 10 years on the Citizens for Ponce Inlet Board, stepping down this year due to health reasons.

When presenting Ellen with the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award, Tami Lewis remarked, "Ellen's passion is infectious and she can bring people together for just about any cause." This sentiment rings true, as Ellen has motivated countless volunteers in our community over the years.

Ellen's presence was a fixture at community events. She was known for her participation on Election Day, standing outside the Community Center with a political sign in hand, and for her support at almost all town activities.

Ellen Pagliarulo has truly given her all to Ponce Inlet, and we are thrilled to honor her with the Citizens for Ponce Inlet 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award. Her unwavering commitment and passion have left a lasting impact on our community.



# A Moment with the Mayor



## The Value of Regional Collaboration

The Town of Ponce Inlet greatly benefits from the educational and networking opportunities provided to our local elected officials throughout Volusia County. One such opportunity is through the Volusia League of Cities, whose mission is to “encourage communication and promote common needs among Volusia cities within our state and federal government.” <https://www.volusialeagueofcities.com/>

As the League’s president since 2022, my objective has been to empower our elected officials. My goal is to have our advocacy efforts and programs regarded as a model for what local leaders can accomplish for our residents when we collaborate with state legislators.

## Facilitating Dialogue and Advocacy

The League hosts regular roundtables with state representatives, allowing our local needs and concerns to be heard. To involve newly elected officials in advocacy, we created a mentoring program where experienced officials guide newcomers on best practices.

We also formed a countywide advocacy committee to protect home rule, provide grassroots involvement through our Civics 101 class, and expand legislative alerts to citizens. The League hosts a “Mayor’s Call”



Lois Paritsky

at least bi-monthly, enabling Volusia County Mayors to discuss issues, share concerns, and encourage attendance at county council meetings or outreach to state legislators as needed.

## Collaboration through the Roundtable of Elected Officials

Apart from the League, the Roundtable of Elected Officials serves as another venue for collaboration among all Volusia elected officials. Convening bimonthly, it deliberates on matters of county concern. As Vice-Chair, I assist in setting the agenda, which covers updates on property insurance, state legislation, county projects like transportation and resilience, state law, healthcare, and local programs. <https://www.volusia.org/government/round-table.stml>

## Representation in Key Organizations

Our council members represent Ponce Inlet in various organizations, ensuring our community stays informed and involved.

- Councilman Skip White provides updates from the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, where officials collaborate on transportation security, priorities, and improvements.

<https://www.r2ctpo.org/about/who-we-are/>

- Councilman Bill Milano, as our representative to the First Step Shelter Board, advances the shelter’s goal of helping those without shelter find safety, medical services, counseling, and permanent housing.

<https://firststepshelter.org/>

- Vice-Mayor Smith and Councilman Joe Villanella attend state and county events where topics such as insurance and coastal resilience are discussed.

Through these collaborative efforts and invested time, Ponce Inlet’s Town Council ensures our community receives the best information for current and future planning and decision-making.

### **AFC Hosts Successful Summit on Flooding and Sea Level Rise**



The American Flood Coalition (AFC) recently convened 43 mayors, county commissioners, and other local leaders from six states to address flooding challenges, foster relationships, and promote action. Participants represented both inland and coastal municipalities from Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

The three-day summit featured sessions on cutting-edge flood solutions and the complexities of federal funding. Attendees left equipped with actionable ideas, resources, and valuable connections to enhance flood resilience in their communities.

AFC also invited senior officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to provide guidance on accessing federal funding programs.

On the final day, AFC facilitated meetings between local leaders and their Congressional delegations on Capitol Hill. Discussions centered on critical priorities, including the need for comprehensive federal flood data, streamlined access to federal programs, and sustained investments in flood-resilient infrastructure.

View the conference update video from Mayor Paritsky below.

[Click here to Watch the Update](#)



# COUNTY CORNER

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



I will start out by talking about our beach renourishment plan. Our first project that was mentioned in the past was the dredging of the entire Intracoastal Waterway by the USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers). This project is expected to produce approximately 770,000 cubic yards of beach-compatible sand and will be stockpiled in the southern part of Ponce Inlet. If you remember, this is why the 50 beachside residents signed an easement. I have been asked if this means the USACE will just place the sand in a big pile there. The answer is no. As the sand is being pumped to this location, we will be moving it to the most vulnerable areas of the beach. Those most vulnerable areas will start with Ponce Inlet, Wilbur by the Sea, and the Daytona Beach Shores area. That project will most likely start in November of this year.

The second sand project will start around the same time and will be the dredging of the Rattlesnake Island area near Ponce Inlet. The piping for this project is already in place from a previous storm and is one we will start once we identify a contractor for it. We plan to utilize the same contractor the USACE is using for the Intracoastal dredging project, so we don't have to wait for another sand dredging barge. The beauty of this project is that it does not involve the USACE and will produce approximately 550,000 cubic yards of beach-compatible sand for the New Smyrna Beach area.

Now for the exciting news that we just learned. When the County of Volusia received the \$77.7 million grant from the

FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection), we knew we would be using it to go towards a feasibility study for a long-term dune enhancement plan. The County of Volusia's Coastal Engineering Consultant for this study is a company by the name of Taylor Engineering. This study will have to be done for the USACE to produce any kind of beach or dunes enhancement plan. The purpose of this assessment is to identify and address vulnerable coastline areas, proposing long-term solutions to storm impacts and erosion. To gather community input, multiple public meetings and a virtual survey will be organized this summer. The assessment by Taylor Engineering will analyze historic shoreline trends, erosion rates, and community-specific sand characteristics, considering various management measures such as groins, breakwaters, seawalls, and ecological solutions. The results will form a comprehensive plan presented by the consultant, guiding further funding and financial partnerships for the implementation of strategies to ensure the resilience of the county's beaches.

Community participation is emphasized as crucial for the success of the feasibility study, aiming to create a balanced and resilient coastal strategy that addresses environmental concerns and community needs. They will make recommendations on

long-term (50-year) resilience solutions. This will be a long-term project, lasting up to 5 years. When this is done, I would encourage the public to please visit the [www.volusia.org/sandprojects](http://www.volusia.org/sandprojects) website, where you can sign up for the complimentary beach recovery newsletter focused on keeping our community up to date on the various sand placement projects as well as the feasibility study.

An important thing to know is that when the USACE is involved and they produce this dune enhancement plan, it is like an insurance policy. Once measures are taken by the USACE and a future storm negatively affects our beaches, the USACE comes in and fixes the affected area at no additional cost to the community.

It is considered a 50-year resiliency solution and can last up to 5 years to complete. The “not so good news” about this project is that USACE only starts six projects per year, so they won’t begin the study until probably 2025. For a short time, we thought we would start earlier, but we believe the recent event involving the barge running into the bridge in Maryland probably interrupted our plans.

We anticipate some funds to be left over from the \$77.7 million grant. We plan on using it to help with yet another dredging project at the inlet. This may produce an additional 3 to 4 million cubic yards of beautiful beach-compatible sand to assist with our renourishment efforts.

In the last update, I mentioned the possibility of convincing the USFWS (United States Fish & Wildlife Service) to allow work to continue on our beaches once the sea turtle nesting season began on May 1st. The good news is that the USFWS agreed.

I truly believe that the County of Volusia has a great relationship with all sixteen municipalities in the county. However, I will say that we have an excellent one with the Town of Ponce Inlet. I enjoy working with the citizens of Ponce Inlet as well as with Mayor Paritsky and the Town Council. The citizens of Ponce Inlet have excellent representation in their local government.

Matt Reinhart  
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District 2  
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# THE TALK OF TALLAHASSEE

It is my pleasure to serve you in the Florida House of Representatives. We had many great accomplishments during the 2024 legislative session. As your State Representative, I advocated for the most vulnerable in society. This is reflected in the bills protecting minors from harmful online content, protecting child abuse reporters from public record, strengthening antisemitism laws, and providing comprehensive tax relief, to name a few. I also supported bills reducing government regulations and strengthening property rights, and I will continue to seek further solutions to our homeowner's insurance issues. It wasn't an issue that began overnight; therefore, it won't be solved overnight. But you have a Legislature that is committed to solving the problem.

Below is a brief summary of some of the bills I sponsored and cosponsored.

## **HB 3: Online Protections for Minors**

Online Protection for Minors: Aims to protect children under the age of 14 by prohibiting access to addictive social media platforms and by using age verification to prevent minors from accessing sexually explicit websites.

## **HB 1350: Salvage**

This Bill added language to the current statute regarding salvage titles to include boats, vessels, and electric vehicles. This issue became more apparent after the recent hurricanes our state experienced, which destroyed thousands of vessels and EVs.



## **HB 7001: Reporter of Child Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect**

The bill protects a person from public records who reports child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

## **HB 135: Voter Registration Applications**

This bill requires a driver's license and written consent to change party affiliation on a voter registration. It also requires the driver's license office to provide a printed receipt of the change in party affiliation.

## **HB 165: Sampling of Beach Waters and Public Bathing Spaces**

This bill requires the Department of Health to adopt certain rules, issue advisories, and close public areas when necessary for public health.

## **HB 187: Antisemitism**

This bill defines antisemitism as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and may not be construed to infringe upon the First Amendment.

## **HB 621 Property Right**

This bill allows a property owner to file a complaint with the sheriff to remove a person from unlawfully occupying their property and allows the sheriff to serve notice to vacate. It also strengthens the criminal penalties for trespassing, fraudulent documents, and sales. This addressed the so-called “squatters” issue we’re seeing around the country. We will not have that problem here in Florida.

## **HB 1291: Educator Preparation Program**

This bill prohibits teacher preparation programs from distorting historical events, identity politics, violating the Florida Equity Act, and theories based on systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privileges, as well as teaching the institutions of the USA, which were created to maintain inequities. We will protect American history here in the state of Florida.

## **HB 7073: Taxation**

This bill provides a comprehensive tax package. It includes several sales tax holidays and provides tax reductions and modifications in property tax, affordable housing, corporate tax, filing extensions, employment assistance, childcare, and strong families.

It has been my utmost pleasure to serve you in the great state of Florida!

Humbly,  
Representative Chase Tramont

Please contact our office at 386-944-1010 with any questions or concerns. The District Aide, Julie Watts (a Ponce Inlet resident), would be happy to assist you.



# From the Town Manager, Mike Disher

This season of growth and new beginnings is the perfect time to reflect on our community's progress and to share updates on the many initiatives underway to enhance our Town's livability and charm. From the launch of new public safety programs to updates on infrastructure improvements and community events, there is much to look forward to in the coming months. Our dedicated Town staff has been working tirelessly to ensure that these projects meet the highest standards and serve the many needs of our residents.

Spring is a time for rejuvenation and active participation. I encourage you to explore the many programs and services available to you. Your participation and feedback are crucial to our collective success, and we value your input as we endeavor to make Ponce Inlet a place where everyone can thrive. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I wish you a very happy spring and summer.

## Audit, Reserves, and Budget Preparation

Our comprehensive audit of fiscal year 22/23 has been completed. For the eighth year in a row, we are again pleased to announce that there were no reportable findings for corrective action. This is a remarkable achievement due to the continued hard work of our Finance Department and audit team.

The Town ended FY 22/23 with a monetary increase of \$142,079 to the General Fund, which remains over \$4.1 million. We have a 53% reserve, which represents a little over 6 months of operating expenses. At a time of



economic flux and continued inflation, this reserve provides internal resiliency to meet the needs of our residents, regardless of these external factors.

The Town's budget preparation process for fiscal year 24/25 began in January and will continue through September. There are numerous opportunities for the public to participate in this process. Already to date, budget proposals from Town staff and the public have been presented at two meetings of the Essential Services Advisory Board (January and March) and at three meetings of the Cultural Services Board (February, April, and May). Board budgetary recommendations will conclude at the Cultural Services Board meeting on June 3rd, after which the Town Council will begin its review. The tentative meeting dates for the remainder of the fiscal year are as follows:

June 26th	1st Budget Workshop
July 16th	2nd Budget Workshop
July 18th	Proposed Millage Rate Hearing
September 4th	Tentative Millage Rate Hearing and 1st Reading of Budget Ordinance
September 19th	Final Millage Rate Hearing and 2nd Reading of Budget Ordinance

Please note that these dates are subject to change, so be sure to check for updates periodically. 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 for the community. We welcome your questions, suggestions, and participation throughout this process.

## Septic-to-Sewer Project

In February, Town staff learned that our septic-to-sewer project is on track to receive \$10.4 million in construction funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This amount of funding is estimated to be sufficient to complete all remaining phases of this project, connecting the last remaining properties in Ponce Inlet to a sanitary sewer.

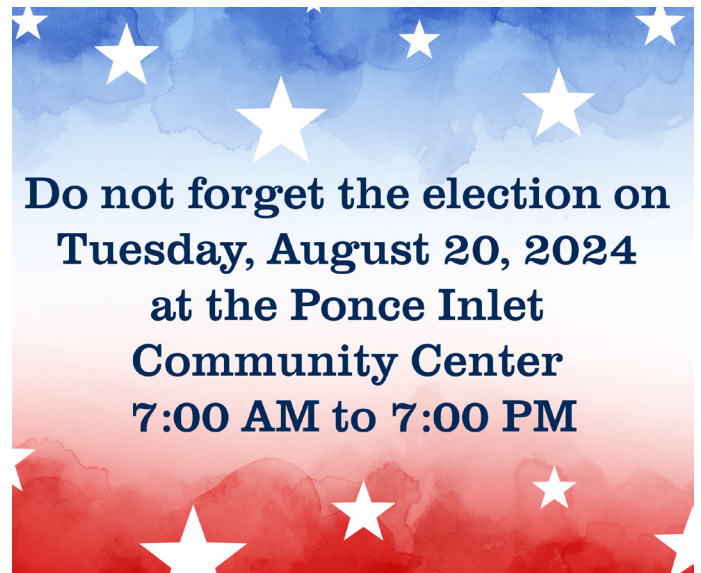
The funding will come in the form of a 100% principal forgiveness loan through FDEP's Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Fiona and Ian (SAHFI). The loan will become available this November once the Town submits the necessary grant application documents to FDEP. The loan application requires an interlocal agreement between the Town and the City of Port Orange, which owns and operates the sewer system serving Ponce Inlet. The Town Council approved this agreement in April, while the Port Orange City Council approved it in May. The agreement governs the scope of work and cost-sharing arrangements between the two jurisdictions for the duration of the project. In an effort to further assist residents, Staff will research grant opportunities to help with connection costs and septic tank removal.

The project is the result of years of effort since it was first proposed in the Town's 2017 Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan update. Once finished, the project will benefit residents and the environment by increasing property values, ensuring long-

term sanitary waste disposal for properties subject to future sea level rise and septic tank failure, reducing nutrient load into the Halifax River and Indian River Lagoon, and decreasing the risk of harmful algae blooms and fish die-offs. Reducing the number of septic tanks is also required by the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

## Town Regular Election August 20, 2024

Ponce Inlet's upcoming election is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 20th. Seat #4 on the town council will be up for election for a two-year term.



## Town Holiday Closings

Town offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.





## Keep up with what's happening in your Town

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

Please visit our website, [www.ponce-inlet.org](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. Last year, we also added a government account on Nextdoor. Please also be sure to read the back of your utility bills for special announcements and important information.

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



## From Police Chief Jeff Glazier...



### Golf Cars and Low-Speed Vehicles

The Ponce Inlet Police Department receives many questions about golf carts on our roadways. Please note that there is a legal distinction between golf carts and low-speed vehicles (those fitted with safety equipment and licensed as vehicles by the state). Golf carts are not required to have extensive safety equipment and are therefore not allowed to operate on roads other than those specifically designated for that purpose by the local government. In Ponce Inlet, golf carts are allowed only on Harbour Village Boulevard, per Code of Ordinances Ch. 74, Art. III.

On the other hand, **LOW SPEED VEHICLES (LSV)** are allowed to travel on all roadways with a speed limit of 35 MPH or less. These vehicles resemble golf carts but are equipped with headlights, brake lights, front and rear blinkers, seatbelts, windshield wipers, and side- and rear-view mirrors. They must be able to travel between 20 - 25 mph so as not to unreasonably hinder other vehicles on the roadway. Because they are road-worthy vehicles, they must be registered, titled, and insured, just like a car. Finally, any person operating an LSV must possess a valid driver's license.

### Crosswalk Safety

On May 3, 2024, the Ponce Inlet Police

Department conducted a crosswalk detail at the Winterhaven Park crossing on S. Atlantic Avenue. This was part of a county-wide public safety education and enforcement program known as "Best Foot Forward," in partnership with the local non-profit Bike/Walk Central Florida (BWCF). The program is designed to improve pedestrian and road safety through education, high-visibility crosswalk enforcement, and low-cost engineering at marked crosswalks. During the crosswalk operation, plainclothes officers crossed the street at marked crosswalks, giving drivers enough time to yield. Failing to yield to the pedestrian resulted in a warning or a citation. That morning, ten citations and warnings were written to drivers who did not yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk. Two of the drivers cited were Ponce Inlet residents. All drivers were given educational materials explaining Florida law. The PIPD will be conducting these details at different crosswalks throughout the summer.

A road user's right-of-way must be exercised with "due care." Traffic laws state who must yield the right of way to whom, but they **do not assign an absolute right of way.** Similarly, signals, crosswalk markings, lane markings, and other traffic control devices do not confer an absolute right of way for any user. Right-of-way must be exercised in a reasonable manner with "due care" for the safety of oneself and of other road users. No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

For more information on the Best Foot Forward program, please visit [www.iyield4peds.org](http://www.iyield4peds.org).



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

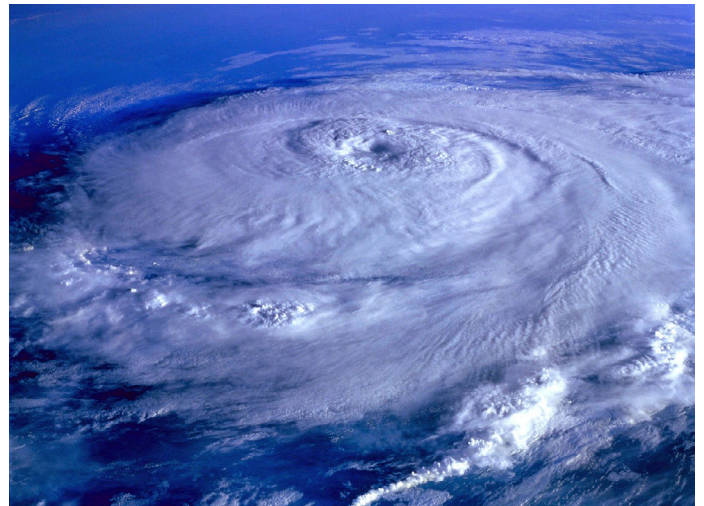


### Hurricane Season

The tropical climate in Florida creates the opportunity for hurricanes for a full six months each year. Although it seems like we just got through last year's hurricane season, the new season for 2024 begins on June 1st and runs through November 30th. While weather service predictions have improved over the years, the fact remains that hurricanes shift in direction and velocity very quickly, so advance preparations are important. Some years produce more frequent and/or more damaging hurricanes, and the 2024 season is expected to be much more active than normal. We encourage you to check out the recommended supplies and other considerations on the Volusia County Emergency Management website at <https://www.volusia.org/services/emergency-services/emergency-management/get-prepared/>

Town staff has begun its annual preparations for the upcoming season, with each department reviewing procedures, roles, and supplies. In April, staff also participated in an extensive training exercise at the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center with other local governments and agencies. The training instruction was provided by emergency

management instructors from FEMA, and covered such topics as ICS (Incident Command System), emergency planning, cascading impacts, critical decision-making, the role of public information and social media, and situational awareness. Participants took part in a table-top exercise simulating a real-world disaster, requiring a coordinated response from multiple jurisdictions and agencies.



## From Planning and Development Director Darren Lear...



### Watershed Master Plan

Collective Water Resources, LLC, is in the final stages of completing a Watershed Master Plan (WMP) for the Town of Ponce Inlet. The WMP report will be considered for approval at a Special Joint Meeting of the Planning Board and Town Council on Tuesday, June 4th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. The WMP evaluates the Town's stormwater drainage system for existing and expected development under various storm events and projected sea level rise conditions. The report includes specific recommendations to improve stormwater drainage throughout the Town, including additional storage ponds, inlets, and outfalls; flap gates to prevent back-flow from the Halifax River on low-lying streets; the use of Low Impact Development techniques such as stormwater planters, bio-swales, rain gardens, and permeable pavement; and modifications to the Town's stormwater management regulations. The WMP is a continuation of the resilience goals and efforts undertaken by the Town Council since 2020.

The WMP will also allow the Town to improve its flood insurance rating through the national Community Rating System. With a Class 5 rating already, the Town's floodplain management program has been able to achieve significant insurance savings for its residents. The WMP is a prerequisite to improving this rating and, once completed, will allow the Town to make use of the points it has already achieved in its comprehensive floodplain management program. This effort will translate into direct insurance premium savings for properties in a flood zone.

### South Peninsula Drive Sidewalk Project

This safety and mobility project has long been proposed to provide safety, recreation, and aesthetic improvements to the Town. The project entails replacing the existing sidewalk on S. Peninsula Drive with a new 8-foot-wide sidewalk along its entire length. The project was first proposed in the Town's 2017 Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan. Following the completion of a feasibility study in 2018, the Town applied to the River-to-Sea TPO for design and construction funding in 2019. Funding for the design was finally awarded in late 2023. Now, in partnership with Volusia County, FDOT, and the TPO, the survey and design of this project are ready to get underway.

The survey of the entire corridor is expected to begin in June and finish in November. The Town will send out notice to residents abutting the sidewalk before this work starts. The design is anticipated to begin in January 2025 and last through September 2025. Once the design process begins, community meetings will be scheduled, and public participation will be a critical component of the process. The design will ultimately be approved by the Town Council. Construction is expected to start no earlier than 2026.

## Sidewalk Vegetation Trimming

As property owners, we often focus on the aesthetics and maintenance of our landscapes. However, amidst the lush greenery and blooming flowers, it's crucial to remember our responsibility towards ensuring public safety. One aspect that is often overlooked but holds significant importance is the management of vegetation to prevent obstruction of roadways and sidewalks.

It is every property owner's responsibility to ensure that vegetation does not encroach upon or obstruct the adjacent roadways and sidewalks. This responsibility extends beyond mere aesthetics; it directly impacts the safety and accessibility of our community. Clear and unobstructed roadways and sidewalks are essential for the safe passage of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, especially at intersections where visibility is critical.

Overgrown bushes, tree branches, and unruly vines can obscure traffic signs and signals and even impede the line of sight for drivers and pedestrians. In addition to posing a visual obstruction, overgrown vegetation can create physical barriers, forcing pedestrians to step onto the roadways, putting them at risk of accidents.

## Pre-Hurricane Tree Trimming

Since we are on the topic of vegetation, as storm season approaches once more, it's crucial to fortify our homes against potential hazards. While we may be seasoned veterans when it comes to weathering storms, proper preparation can mitigate risks for ourselves and our neighbors. One often overlooked aspect is tree maintenance. If you're planning to trim your trees, remember that contractors must responsibly dispose of trees and branches to prevent them from becoming dangerous

projectiles during storms. Don't wait until the last minute to address this; take proactive steps to secure your property and community safety.

## Vacation Rentals

Renting out a portion of your property, regardless of duration, entails certain responsibilities that contribute to the well-being of our community. Foremost among these is to obtain a rental permit from the Town, irrespective of the length of the rental agreement.

With approximately 450 rental dwellings in our Town, it's essential to understand the categorization and regulations governing these rentals. Rental properties are classified into two distinct categories: long-term and short-term. Long-term rentals encompass any agreements spanning 28 consecutive days or longer, while short-term rentals are defined as stays of less than 28 days. However, it's crucial to note that short-term rentals are only permissible in specific locations, including Southpoint Condo, Towers (buildings 1-6), Lighthouse Shores Condo, Antigua, and Martinique. Properties not falling within the specified short-term rental locations are automatically considered long-term rentals. This includes single-family homes, townhomes, and the remaining condominiums.

Even within these designated areas, there may be covenants and restrictions within certain associations that prohibit rentals. As property owners, it's important to verify the permissibility of rentals within your respective communities to avoid any potential violations.

While our aim is to foster voluntary compliance among property owners, instances of non-compliance may necessitate intervention from the Town's

Code Enforcement Board. Rental violations rank as the Town's third-most common violation, trailing behind RV/boat/trailer parking and work conducted without permits. Our dedicated staff collaborates closely with various stakeholders, including homeowners' associations (HOAs), property managers, real estate companies, management firms, and online rental platforms such as Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, Expedia, and TripAdvisor. This collaborative effort ensures meticulous verification of code violations and facilitates timely resolution. Should you have any inquiries regarding rental regulations or if your HOA seeks clarification on these matters, please do not hesitate to reach out. Open communication and proactive engagement are instrumental in upholding the integrity of our community and ensuring compliance with rental regulations.

## **From Public Works Manager, Fred Griffith...**



In addition to its daily maintenance and cleaning of Town facilities and parks, the Public Works crew has undertaken a diverse array of repairs, guaranteeing the smooth operation and upkeep of our community spaces. Ensuring the safety of our drinking

water remains a top priority. Through vigilant monitoring, regular hydrant flushing, and thorough water testing, we uphold the highest standards of water quality. We have initiated additional water sampling and testing to comply with state regulations. Fire hydrant maintenance and necessary replacements have been performed, along with systemic water valve assessments and maintenance. In tandem with these ongoing efforts, the Department has been busy compiling our annual stormwater report and preparing for an in-person audit by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.



Scheduled cleaning of the stormwater pipes at the north end of town is underway. This project involves cleaning and flushing over 7,000 feet of pipe and is anticipated to be finished at the end of May. These pipes include approximately 1,600 linear feet of exfiltration storm pipe systems, which serve a critical function in managing excess water. Exfiltration pipes are closed systems, in that they do not flow anywhere. Instead, they are designed to collect and then percolate water back into the ground through small holes in the pipes. Such systems offer a cost-effective method of drainage when the groundwater table is low. However, their effectiveness hinges on proper maintenance. It is imperative that residents and contractors refrain from depositing leaves, branches, or any debris near these structures to prevent blockages and costly clean-ups. Collaboration is key to ensuring that only rainwater enters the storm drain pipes, preserving their functionality for the future!

## From Cultural Services Manager, Jackie Alex...



The Cultural Services Department enjoys the fresh air that Spring always brings! Since January, the department has helped coordinate 18 special events and programs in town, nine of which were organized by town staff.

In March, the Town participated in a guided hike in Ponce Preserve provided by our local PawPaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Nearly 30 participants walked away from this program with a plethora of knowledge. The hike also highlighted the work that 18 volunteers have performed throughout the park protecting native plants, and they are now able to educate others about their importance. It was a full-circle moment for many participants to express their appreciation to the volunteer group.

In April, the town held its annual Earth Day celebration known as “Ponce Preserves the Planet,” with vendors and environmental exhibits posted throughout the trails. Approximately 110 attendees earned stickers at every station, along with an eco-friendly “Keep Plastic Out of Ponce” tote bag and a plant to take home. We were

honored to have this wonderful educational experience again in our community!



A significant highlight for the department was our volunteer workday in May. A total of 16 volunteers showed up to complete one of the toughest eradications in the world of invasive plant species—the air potato vine. With education and proper guidance from the experts at Young Bear Environmental, the group dug through dirt to remove buried air potato tubers. These tubers look like hairy potatoes that grow a new vine annually, outcompeting native plants for vital resources and tree canopy space within the park. The group pulled an amazing 121 pounds of air potato tubers and vines out of Ponce Preserve! With such a huge success and plenty of potatoes to claim, the department looks forward to the next volunteer workday, hopefully in the fall or cooler weather!



## Special Events Permits

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

## Events and Programs

To the right is a list of the Town's upcoming events. Please continue to visit the Town of Ponce Inlet website and Facebook page for additional details. For all events, please contact Jackie with any questions at [Jalex@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:Jalex@ponce-inlet.org) or (386) 322-6703.

### Postal Worker Day

Come tour the museum, create a craft, learn about stamps, and visit Ponce Inlet's first and last Post Office! Geared for kids 6 and up.

**Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

**\$5.00** per person, all supplies included. Space is limited to 12 people. Pre-payment is required at Town Hall by 7/3.

### Shark Exploration Day

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

**Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**

Ponce Inlet Historical Museum

143 Beach Street, outside on the lawn.

**Free.** RSVP by 7/18 required.

Postal Worker Day  
at the museum

July 10, 2024 9:30am  
143 Beach Street

\$5- per person by 7/3



# Ponce Inlet Corvette Club

by Kevin Kirsch

Did you ever know the origins of the PICC? Here is a cool story you'll enjoy:

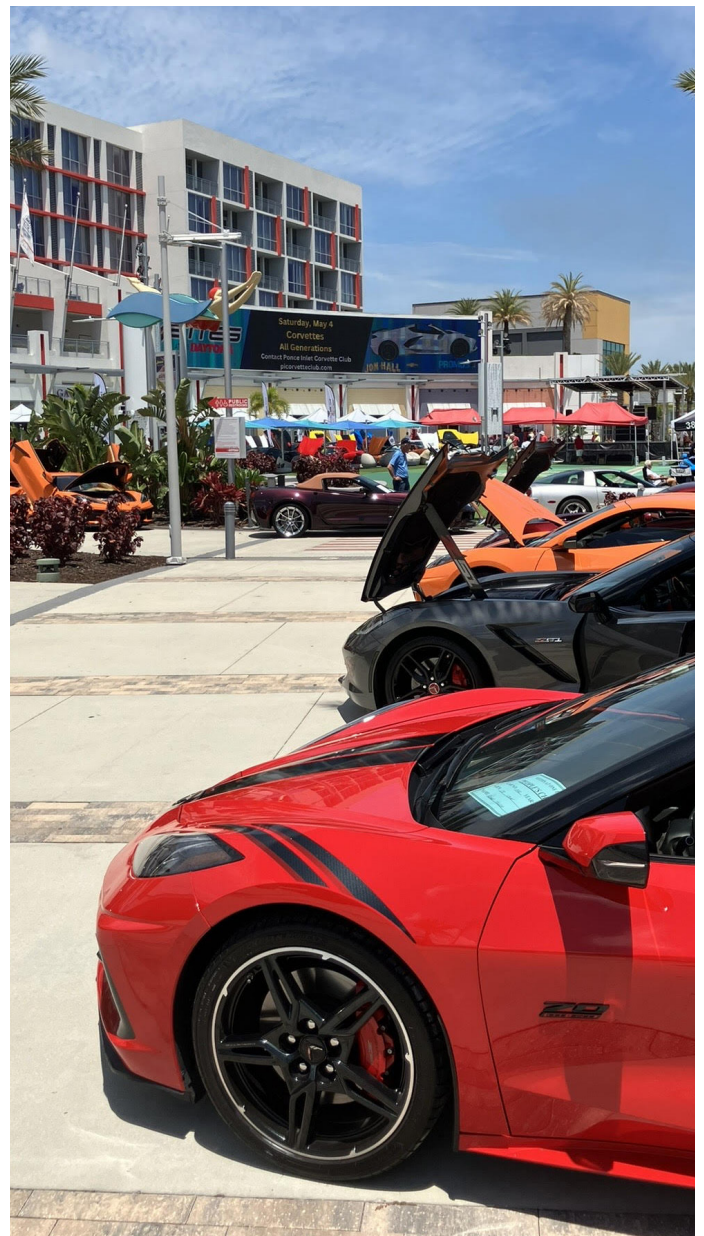
The Ponce Inlet Corvette Club originated in March of 2005. The Club has grown into a respected, active and acknowledged Corvette Club that meets in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. In January of 2005, local Ponce Inlet residents Gary and Dianne Swanhart purchased a new C6 red coupe from local Chevrolet Dealer Jon Hall.

The twist in the story took place shortly after they got the car home. Jon Hall was contacted by representatives of Wrangler Jeans and Dale Earhardt Jr. to see if the Dealership could provide them with a red Corvette to film a Wrangler Jeans commercial at the Daytona International Speedway. At the time they did not have another red C6 in stock but they remembered just having delivered a red C6 coupe to Gary and Dianne. The Swanhart's were contacted and asked if they would be willing to support the filming with their new Corvette. They agreed and Gary and Dianne took the new C6 to the track. During the filming they both got to meet Dale Jr. and had him sign the dash of their new Corvette.

Shortly after that event the Club was organized and Jon Hall Chevrolet became the Club's first Sponsor. The initial meeting was held on February 22, 2005. Sixteen prospective members from Ponce Inlet, Daytona Beach Shores, Ormond Beach and Port Orange were in attendance. A general design for a "Club Logo" that depicted the

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse with a C5 emblem across the background of the lighthouse was adopted.

Since that initial meeting, the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club has become well known for attending local car shows, cruise-ins and is a Charitable and Social Club. Members are owners of Corvettes from 1958 to 2024. Proceeds from our annual Vettes At One Daytona show and fundraisers are donated to charity. Our annual car show has become a focal point of Corvette Clubs and Corvette enthusiasts throughout the state of Florida.



PICC had our 16th Annual Vettes at One Daytona Car Show with over 160 beautiful vintage and late model Corvette's on display. Moneys taken in with be donated to several deserving charities in the area: one being Vettes for Vets which is an organization that provides major home repairs for veterans. The group will be selecting a veteran in our local community for a new roof. More news to come on the recipient selected. Another donation will be going to a local high school student for a trades related scholarship. More to come next newsletter on the specifics of that award. So lots of amazing work being done by your community Corvette Car Club!

Kudos to the great One Daytona Group for hosting our event attendees came from over 5 states to this magnificent venue with the much sought after Ponce Inlet Best of Show trophy.



Fins up y'all!  
-Kevin

# Garden Club of Ponce Inlet

by Patricia Morris



Happy Spring/Summer to all!

These past few months have been very busy for our club, starting with our February Membership Meeting, held on February 28. This was a very special meeting for our club since our guest speaker was one of our own members, Ms. Joann Doyle. Joann spoke to our club about 'Tablescape Designs' for all seasons. Since St. Patty's Day was right around the corner, Joann delighted our club with her St. Patty's Day Tablescape, with a special holiday menu included (as shown below). This was followed up with a beautiful slide show featuring many of Joann's tablescape designs, including Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mahjong, Memorial Day, July 4, and many, many more. Many thanks to Joann for sharing her new passion project with our club.



In early March, our club had its annual field trip. This year, around 45 of our members enjoyed a special field trip to the New Smyrna Theater to see the play "9 to 5." It was a wonderful show, enjoyed by all.

In March, we also selected our Beautification Award recipient. This month, the award went to Marsha and Carsen Fuller at 37 Calumet Ave. If you get a chance, please take the opportunity to go and see Marsha and Carsen's beautifully landscaped property, and if you can't, please enjoy the pictures below.



On Wednesday, April 24, the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet held its annual Arbor Day celebration. This year marked the 52nd anniversary of the national celebration of Arbor Day and the 30th anniversary of Ponce Inlet being declared a Tree City. 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, Councilmen Villanella and Milano, 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 26th as Arbor Day.

Following Mayor Paritsky's remarks, we had a very informative and educational presentation by our guest speaker, Ms. Barbara Davis, one of our own Garden Club members. Barbara's theme was 'Planting the Seeds of Service'. Barbara shared with us the history of Ponce Preserves, in particular the Green Mound, which can be found at the preserves. The Ponce Preserve is our town's largest park, with approximately 41 acres stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Halifax River. Located at the heart of the preserves is the Green Mound State Archaeological Site, an ancient Indian mound. Barbara gave a very compelling presentation, including many photos showing the past and present images of the preserves and the Green Mound, including the 350-year-old Live Oak located at the base of the Green Mound.

the school for our generosity on behalf of the children and families from Longstreet.



Up next were three very special charitable donation presentations by members of our club who nominated the honored recipients for this award. This category of charitable donations was incorporated into our budget just this year and gave our members the ability to nominate charities near and dear to their hearts. Our first recipient was the American Kidney Fund, nominated by Garden Club Member AnnMarie Waters. On hand to accept this award on behalf of the American Kidney Fund was Patricia Waters. The second recipient of our donation was the Halifax Hospice, nominated by Garden Club Member Ginger Van Rensselaar. Accepting on behalf of the Halifax Hospice were Ms. Emily Smith and Janet Miller from Halifax Health Hospice. Our final presentation, nominated by Garden Club Member Virginia Fenley, was to the Outreach Community Care Network of Daytona Beach. On hand to accept this donation was Dr. James Fenley. All recipients graciously accepted our generous awards and thanked us for our consideration of their charitable organizations.

The Garden Club was then pleased to introduce two teachers from RJ Longstreet School, Ms. Shana Palmore and Ms. Jennifer Johnston, who spoke to the club about the scholarships our club awarded throughout the year to the students from Longstreet. Through our scholarship fund, we were able to send 156 students to the Marine Science Center to attend their educational tours and field trips. Ms. Palmore and Johnston expressed their sincere thanks on behalf of



And finally, our club made its presentation to our honorary gardener(s) and Gardener of the Year. The Honorary Gardener of the Year is someone, not a Garden Club member, who, over the past year, has made a significant contribution to our club. This year, our Honorary Gardener(s) of the Year were two individuals who made significant contributions to our club, Mr. Perry Hilvitz and Mr. Kerry Waters. Perry and Kerry helped our club during the holiday season by assisting with the Garden Club's Christmas Tree Festival presentation and with our entry in the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade, as well as other assistance with our other fundraisers. On hand to accept their award were Kerry Waters and Mallory Hilvitz (on behalf of Perry Hilvitz). We thank Kerry and Perry for their 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 Mallory Hilvitz, who, in her short time as a member of our club, has stepped up to volunteer for all of our fundraisers and was instrumental in leading our club to a 1st Place award in the Marine Science Center Christmas Tree Festival as well as coordinating our efforts in the Ponce Inlet Christmas Tree Parade. Mallory, we can't thank you enough for all you did for our club this year.



The Garden Club thanks all of our guests for joining us for our Annual Arbor Day Celebration and to Ms. Mallory Hilvitz and Ann Marie Waters, our Arbor Day Co-Chairs, with assistance from Ms. Suzi Hahn, Joann Doyle, and Liz Finch, who assisted Mallory and AnnMarie in putting together such a wonderful program. On Sunday, May 5, the Garden Club hosted its annual Ice Cream Social. This year's theme was 'Cinco de Mayo'. Once again, we had wonderful attendance from residents of our Ponce Inlet and our Garden Club members. Our Kid's Zone with crafts and gifts, as well as our lovely raffle prizes, which included our perennial favorite lottery wheel, were also featured this year. And we can't thank Lighthouse Ice Cream enough for once again generously donating the ice cream for all to enjoy! Many thanks to our Garden Club members (too many to name here) who helped us have such a successful event.



As always, anyone interested in joining our club can pick up an application at the Community Center. Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Community Center at 10:30 a.m. Our first meeting next year will be on Wednesday, September 26th. In addition, our annual Arts, Crafts, and Plant Show will be held on Oct. 11 and 12 at the Community Center.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



The Lions of Ponce Inlet continue to serve our community in various ways as we enjoy the warming weather.

One of the lessons we learned after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole was that we needed to be more prepared to respond to disasters rapidly, and we now have a central Florida team that is actively working with other organizations and agencies to be ready to get “boots on the ground” when the next need arises, as we all know it will. I will tell you more as plans proceed.

Lions Mahyar Okhovatian and Jim Martin participated in the Health and Human Services Summit on March 13 at the Ocean Center. It was co-sponsored by Flagler Cares and One Voice for Volusia. Along with South Daytona Lion Richard Johnson, they vision-screened about two dozen community participants. Lions Mahyar and Jim are the Florida Lions’ MD 35-O Vision and Hearing Board representatives from the Ponce Inlet Lions Club. Thank you, Mahyar and Jim!

Lions Charlie Burge, Jim Martin, Dan Snyder, and I provided hot dogs, chips, and drinks again at Ponce Preserves the Planet on April 20 in Ponce Preserve. This fun event celebrates Earth Day annually with fun and educational displays placed throughout the Preserve. The Lions educated participants on photosynthesis. Do you know the chemical formulas that depict the processes that take CO<sub>2</sub>, water, and sunlight and result in glucose and oxygen? Contact me if you want to know!

A highlight of any club meeting is the induction of a new member, and we were very pleased to induct Sue Vanderbeek as

our newest member at our meeting on April 3rd. Sue’s daughter, Soraya, joined her to make the evening more special. Sue is an active diabetes screener, working with other club members from our area. Welcome, Sue!

On the same evening, Jane Failer, the art teacher at RJ Longstreet Elementary School, brought to us the top ten Peace Posters that were drawn by her fifth-grade students so we could choose first, second, and third place artists. The theme for this year’s contest was “Peace Without Limits.” As usual, we were impressed with the sophistication and thought displayed by the fifth-grade contestants. We will be hosting Ms. Failer and the first, second, and third place winners and their families for dinner and to claim their cash awards at our June 5 meeting. It should be noted that the Peace Poster Contest became the darling project of our late Lion Jay Thompson, and we honor his memory by continuing to sponsor the contest every year. We thank Jane Failer for her continued commitment to the contest since we started participating.

The Conklin Davis Center for the Visually Impaired is one of the major charities we support, and it is right here in Daytona Beach. It was founded as a Florida Lions project in 1979, and it was a major project of the Florida Lions until 2020. On May 4th, the Florida Lions voted to support us as one of their eight endorsed entities again! Additionally, they formed a Lions Club as a branch of our Ponce Inlet Club in January, so the Lions connection with the Center has been totally restored!

If you would like to give back to your fellow citizens and don’t know how, you can contact me by email at [nancyepps@cfl.rr.com](mailto:nancyepps@cfl.rr.com) or call me at (386) 795-2310, and I will tell you about all the things Lions do in Ponce Inlet, Florida, and the world! We are **the largest** service organization in the world, with 1.4 million members in over 200 countries and territories!

# Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association

by Bill Wester

The Memorial Day ceremony was, like those before it, memorable. It focused on the impact of the 223 Volusia County service members who lost their lives in defense of this country. Those family members, friends, and comrades impacted by each of their sacrifices would fill the park. After the National Anthem, a special and visual part of the ceremony is always the ‘flyover’ by the Spruce Creek Gaggle, a group of pilots who have participated with their planes for years. A meaningful and emotional segment of the ‘flyover’ was the ‘missing man’ ceremony, which visually brings that sense of loss of someone so very clear. Special speakers included our Mayor Lois Paritsky, State Senator Tom Wright, and State Representative Chase Tramont. Also in attendance was County Councilman Matt Reinhart.

It was followed by the laying of wreaths from multiple organizations, including the Ponce Inlet Town Council, the Ponce Inlet Fire & Rescue, the Ponce Inlet Police Department, the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet, the Women’s Club of Ponce Inlet, the Ponce Inlet Lions Club, the Port Orange Elks, and the Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial Association. The guest speaker was Kevin Karella, who is a multiple Gold Star father, a prior combat helicopter pilot, and now a pilot and an increasingly popular author. His speech has always been one that makes an impact on all those in attendance. A special part of the ceremony was providing Ed Roloson, a member of the PI Veterans Memorial Association, with a Quilt of Valor for his continued support of our efforts to maintain the memorial and his willingness to always go ‘above and beyond’ in helping anyone in need. The ceremony ended with the 21-gun salute and the playing of taps.



The association continues to make headway in two initiatives to enhance the memorial. A “Founders Plaque” giving homage to those Association members who made the Memorial a reality is planned for the Veterans Day Ceremony, 13 years after the Memorial’s dedication. We are also moving forward with plans to expand the memorial with two “Walls of Remembrance”, which will allow more people to honor those who served with either a paver or a stainless-steel plaque.

And of course, we are already working on this year’s Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Parade, which were such a success last year. This year, we hope for even more people to join us for breakfast and more participants in the parade. This year’s parade theme is “Favorite Christmas Movie” which should create some very interesting, decorated floats, vehicles, and walking participants.

If you are interested in joining the PI Veterans Memorial Association, just drop us a note at [piveterans@yahoo.com](mailto:piveterans@yahoo.com) or stop by our monthly meeting, which is held at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month (September–May) at the Ponce Inlet Community Center.

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



Life is flourishing in our little colony as spring is winding down and summer is fast approaching. Our dedicated team of volunteers cares for our two resident cats, Tiki and Ruthie, every day with food, water, and love. We have an occasional visit from a black cat, but he must belong to someone and is just stopping by for a snack. Tiki and Ruthie have lots of places where they can get out of the rain, and they stay close to home.



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

Please get your pets microchipped to aid in their recovery if they manage to get away from their home. Even unexpected events like tornadoes can suddenly result in free-roaming pets that have been displaced from their homes. In the middle of a disaster, having lost a pet just adds even more stress. Microchipping has become more affordable in recent years, making it doable for most pet owners.

I recently had to have one of my personal cats euthanized, and I used a service that came to my house and did it in the comfortable surroundings of his own home. I highly recommend it if you don't need emergency healthcare to try to save your pet. It was much easier than traumatizing the poor boy by hauling him to the vet first, then being in a cold exam room for the final event.



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



# PONCE CHURCH



by Pastor Nina Tidwell

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

## ESTABLISHED 2003

Twenty-one years ago, the Lord led our family to the beautiful town of Ponce Inlet. One day, while Pastor Rick was walking on the beach, the Lord spoke to him and said, “There is no church in this town; I want you to start one.” In January 2003, the Tidwell family launched the first church in the history of Ponce Inlet. Ponce Church is a Christian, non-denominational church that is active in obeying the Words of Jesus to teach others what it means to live by faith and love for neighbor by caring for the orphan, providing food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, providing clothing, healing the sick, visiting those in prison, and providing shelter for the homeless. As Jesus said, “...If you have done it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me...” Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 10:8

Visit [PonceChurch.com](http://PonceChurch.com) for more information. Thank you.

## FREE SUMMER SURF EVENT:

Join us Sunday, June 30, 2024, for **FREE SURF LESSONS**, provided by Dahlia Surf and Wellness! There will also be a **FREE BEACH COOKOUT** immediately following our Ponce Church Sunday service, beginning at 10:30 a.m., located at the Ponce Inlet Community Center. From there, we will head to the beach! Everyone is welcome! Make sure you bring the kids, along with your friends, family, and neighbors.



## LEGACY HOUSING FOR AGE-OUT FOSTER YOUTH:

At Legacy House, we prevent youth homelessness and trafficking by providing safe housing for girls and boys aging out of the foster care system. The Legacy Housing Project provides a safe support system that allows our youth to graduate high school, enroll in a local college, and obtain employment. To learn more, visit [LegacyHousingProject.org](http://LegacyHousingProject.org).



**LEGACY**  
HOUSING

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

4670 S. Peninsula Drive in Ponce Inlet  
386-308-1533. Thank you.



# 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 February, May, August, and November. Deadlines for submitting content are as follows:

<b>February 15th</b>	<b>Winter Edition</b>
<b>May 15th</b>	<b>Spring Edition</b>
<b>August 15th</b>	<b>Summer Edition</b>
<b>November 15th</b>	<b>Fall Edition</b>

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 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
- Kathy Cannon, Secretary
- Sue Fillion, Treasurer
- Lauren Albinson, Newsletter Editor
- Joe Cannon
- Pat Morris
- Mark Oebbecke
- Jane White

### Non-Voting Executive Advisory Board

- Don Hampton
- Judy DiCarlo

# Wine Tasting Fundraiser

When:  
Thursday October 24th, 2024

Where:  
Ponce Inlet Community Center



Citizens For  
**PONCE INLET**

*Limited Availability, Save the Date!*



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



*Join  
Today!*

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

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

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

**Membership is free. Get informed. Join today.**

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

**info@C4Pi.org**

**www.C4Pi.org**

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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](http://www.c4pi.org) Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you.