



Citizens for Ponce Inlet

Newsletter

Dedicated to improving the quality of life in Ponce Inlet

VOL. CXIX

January 2013

Town of Ponce Inlet
Mayor's State of the Town Address
January 17, 2013



**Gary L. Smith,
Mayor**

As we start a new year, we can reflect upon the many 2012 accomplishments of the Town's boards and other volunteers, the Town's staff, and the Town Council, even in the midst of a legal proceeding which unfortunately has become the most costly and with more at stake than any that the Town has ever experienced.

First and foremost is the financial health of our Town. Legal defense of Pacetta vs. Ponce Inlet, otherwise known as *The Lawsuit*, which was brought upon the Town in 2008 has taken its toll on our financial resources but we are still fiscally sound. The Town's budget was completed and, though our millage rate increased to cover the expenses of *The Lawsuit*, the Town's residents still have the third lowest total millage rate in Volusia County. The Town Council's standard is to maintain 3 to 9 months of operating expenses in the General Fund Reserve. The unrestricted balance of this fund is currently estimated to be \$1.6 million which is 5 months or forty-two percent of the Town's operating expenses; this is the overall average when comparing small coastal communities.

Next is the status of *The Lawsuit*. I believe it is important to understand the basic components of this lawsuit before you can understand its status so I am going to describe them for you. *The Lawsuit* is actually four separate lawsuits. I'll list these and describe the status of each as I go along.

- Pacetta filed against the Town in Circuit Court regarding the citizen initiated Charter prohibition against dry boat storage facilities and buildings larger than 5,000 square feet in the riverfront overlay district. Judge Graham found in favor of Pacetta in that this prohibition was inappropriate in the Charter when placed on five or fewer parcels and he viewed the unified ownership of these ten parcels to be considered as one. The Town appealed this ruling and it was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals in favor of Pacetta. The State Supreme Court declined a request for further appeal. This ruling however did not affect the application of these rules in the Town as the dry boat storage facilities were already prohibited in the land use and development code for this area and the building size limitation of 5,000 square feet was already present in the comprehensive plan prior even to the purchase by Pacetta of any of this property. The ruling simply prevented the Town from elevating these preexisting rules into the Charter.
- Pacetta filed against the Town to the Volusia Growth Management Commission believing that the Town's comprehensive plan prohibition of dry boat storage was in conflict with the County's man-

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In memory of Citizens for Ponce Inlet Board Member and friend Alan Redinger



His fairness, honesty, sense of humor, and intelligence is missed by all of us.

Citizens For Ponce Inlet Board Members

**Ginger Bayer
Kristi Drumheller
Mary Lou Fillingame
Anthony Girolami
Don Hampton
Jim Hinson
Mary Lou Hinson
Judy Huggins
Mary Ann Redinger**

The Citizens For Ponce Inlet Newsletter is published four times yearly 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.

The Town of Ponce Inlet's arrangement with the Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization is that the Town of Ponce Inlet covers the cost of the printing of the newsletter in exchange for running information from all of the Town's departments. The Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization puts the newsletter together to include articles from all of the various organizations within the Town. The Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization also pays for the mailing and handles other local distribution. Though the printing varies from one issue to the next based upon its size, the Town of Ponce Inlet spent \$5,522 in total for the four issues published last fiscal year.

The newsletter does not accept paid advertisements so please consider becoming a member of the Citizens For Ponce Inlet by completing the form on the last page of this publication. Your membership helps defray the costs of the many activities of this organization including postage for the newsletter, the annual Candidate's Forum, and the Citizens of the Year awards event.

All comments, questions, and articles for submission should be directed to:

Citizens For Ponce Inlet
4670 South Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Or:
ponce.newsletter@gmail.com

**...Mayor's State of the Town
address continued from
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atee protection plan. All seventeen members of the Volusia Growth Management Commission found in favor of the Town in this proceeding. Pacetta appealed this ruling to Circuit Court and Judge Perkins upheld this ruling in favor of the Town.

- Pacetta filed against the Town to the State Department of Community Affairs believing that the process by which the Town adopted its Comprehensive Plan was in conflict with State Law and that the dry boat storage facility restriction was in violation of the State's mandate protection plan. Administrative Judge Canter held a two day hearing on this case and then recommended to the State that they find in favor of the Town on all issues. The State fully accepted this recommendation and Pacetta did not challenge it further; so the State's decision in favor of the Town is now final.
- Pacetta filed against the Town in Circuit Court on two primary claims: the first claim is that the Town has damaged Pacetta by not changing the rules so as to permit their project, which is called a Bert J. Harris claim; the second claim is that the Town has taken a portion of Pacetta's property by not changing the Town's rules so as to permit their project, which is called the takings claim. Judge Parsons has ruled in favor of Pacetta on the Bert J. Harris claim and partially ruled in favor of Pacetta on 4 of the

10 parcels owned by Pacetta in the takings claim. It is important to differentiate between these two primary claims because only the ruling on the Bert J. Harris portion can be appealed at this stage of the process. The ruling on the takings claim and other Pacetta claims cannot be appealed at this time.

With an understanding of this basic breakdown of *The Lawsuit*, it is now easier to explain its status. The Bert J. Harris claim is now under appeal. We are nearing completion of the filings portion of the appeal. We do not know how long it will be before our arguments will be heard and a decision rendered in this appeal.

In conjunction with preparing for our appeal, we are also preparing for a jury trial to determine any damages related to Judge Parsons' ruling. Jury trial preparation is difficult right now because the outcome of the pending appeal could have a significant impact on what the jury trial for possible damages will entail. Due to this uncertainty, Judge Parsons has tentatively scheduled the jury trial for May, while reserving the option for pushing this time period back if an appellate decision is not received in time to allow for appropriate preparation.

Now I will move to the brighter accomplishments of last year. The Town started 2012 with the selection of a new Chief of Police. Police Chief Frank Fabrizio was recommended to the Town Council by the Town Manager after she spent months on her selection. Chief Fabrizio has been

proving himself as the best choice since he first arrived and I know many of you already know that from having met with him for police assistance, or at Town events, or possibly by taking the latest in his contributions to our community – the Women's Self-Defense Class.

The Town also started off 2012 with national attention from NASCAR, as the Daytona Speedway Corporation held a media event here to kick-off Race Week. The prior year Daytona 500 winner was here on the beach with his race car at the historic north turn beach ramp. The following day, the Town and Volusia County held the ribbon cutting for the monuments which commemorate historic racing at both the north and south turn beach ramps. A historic racing parade occurred as part of this event and Richard Petty himself raised the checkered flag at the north turn monument. Volunteers throughout the Town worked to make this event a success and it most certainly was. We look forward to seeing an event like this each year as we remember the Town's roots in racing history.

Along the lines of history, the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum located at 143 Beach Street has been open daily this last year and we received a total of 2,587 visitors in 2012. We currently have ten volunteers assisting with the operation of this facility and we welcome any more who are interested. In October, the Town hosted an ECHO (Ecological, Cultural, Heritage and Outdoors) Rangers program. The ECHO Rangers enjoyed a tour of the Museum before visiting the Ponce Preserve and participating in a scavenger hunt

along trails over grounds which were formerly part of the home of Timucuan Indian tribe. Additional ECHO Ranger programs are scheduled in the coming year. These programs further the promises made in our grant agreements with the Florida Communities Trust and the Volusia County ECHO Grant program.

The Town enjoyed participating in other events throughout the year, most of which were held at the Kay & Ayers Davies Light-house Park. This park has seen gradual improvements the past couple of years, with a new pavilion, easier access with use of the bridge within, restroom improvements now underway, and of course the greatest addition being the Ponce Inlet Veteran's Memorial. The veteran's events, several races, the corvette show, and several children's events are all enjoyed at this park each year, along with its daily availability for public use and recreation.

The Town averaged about two special events per month for your enjoyment and most all of these events are funded by their respective organizations, as it has been the policy of the Town for the last several years to avoid using your tax dollars towards them.

The completion of the land use and development code (LUDC) rewrite, phase II was without a doubt the hardest earned accomplishment for the year. I commend our Planning Board and our staff for their work on this. We can now move towards working on other areas of our Code which I believe most of us agree need our attention as well. I thank the Planning Board and our staff also for the other ordinances they did throughout the year when it was in

the best interest of the Town to do so promptly. These included administrative variance options, TIIF-deeded property rights (TIIF meaning Trustees for the Internal Improvement Trust Fund), water taxi use expansion, existing structure exception to "wedding cake" regulations, dock regulation improvements, and the floodplain regulations update.

Any well run business takes regular inventory and sometimes this is best done with external assistance. The Town became aware of concerns raised on a semi-regular basis from residents and contractors regarding our building division. Though several of these had a common theme, upon individual review of each, they did not warrant procedural changes. None the less, as the Town prides itself on providing the highest level of service, this gradually became worthy of further investigation of a broader scope. The Town Council created a committee specifically to do so – the Building Permit Review Committee. These individuals met for several months and put many hours of work into creating a report which would provide the Town Manager with more information for which to implement appropriate change. An immediate response to this report is that this division now offers customer satisfaction surveys to each individual with whom they have service-related contact and other changes were also implemented within the division as determined appropriate. The result has been a very positive response from both our residents and contractors.

The Town's water rates were another area that was examined by the Town Council following a comprehensive rate study completed by the Town's engineering

firm. This topic rose to the top of the Town's priority list in the prior year and the study was budgeted because the existing rate was no longer enough to cover the Town's actual costs. Beyond determining the rate that was necessary to cover costs, Council also examined the water rate structure and we noted that Port Orange charges us the same rate for all water. Therefore, it was determined that this same methodology should be used for our residents. The idea of having a tier structure of any nature has now been eliminated and all our water customers pay the same rate for all of the water that they use.

As part of our ongoing effort to make as much information available to you as possible from the comfort of your homes, every town department's monthly report is now available on the Town's website. These monthly reports provide a lot of information on the Town's operations. The Town's comprehensive plan has also now been codified, making this document and any updates to it readily available to you online. The individual property files, which include information about every permit pulled for an individual property, have also been scanned and this is available online. This was another huge project completed by the Planning and Development department and it serves a dual purpose, providing both easy access for you and permanent retention of these documents.

In 2012, there were several emergency service changes that you may have noticed. This was the first full year of the implementation of Volusia County's consolidated dispatch services. Calls are received and dispatched on a countywide system to all of the

various municipal agencies within the County. There have also been some changes to ambulance transport for residents of Ponce Inlet, as we have worked with the County to allow our Fire/EMS staff to perform this service regularly for non-emergency calls. This has significantly reduced the amount of time it takes for a Ponce patient to get to the hospital and it has greatly improved continuity in patient care. This is being examined currently as part of a pilot program and will be evaluated for permanency by both the Town and the County in the coming year.

As we rounded out 2012, we did so on a very positive note with a theme of **Positively! Ponce**. Proposed by the Historic & Archaeological Preservation and Parks, Recreation and Tree Advisory Boards, Positively! Ponce is planned to be a year-long celebration of both Viva Florida 500 and the Town's 50th anniversary. The Historic Board will be presenting "Our Town" talks in February, March, May, and September and the Parks Board is sponsoring an Art Walk in the Ponce Preserve in April. The theme has been enthusiastically received by the community, and the Town's clubs and businesses will be adding Positively! Ponce to their events throughout the year. Additional details can be found on the Town's website.

Looking forward into 2013, the Town Council anticipates completing the additional priorities they established and sent to the Planning Board. These include a review of regulations for: 1) height, setback, and floor area ratio (FAR), 2) tree preservation, 3) discuss the rental ordinance, 4) height limits particular to water-

front backyards and the oceanfront setback line, 5) signs, 6) parking, 7) courtyards, 8) minor replats, 9) 5,000 square foot limitation for non-residential buildings, and 10) variance criteria. Completion of a right-of-way survey and mapping is also anticipated, as is the completion of a bicycle & pedestrian master plan.

The Town has now awarded the bid to begin construction of the last park that we expect to add to our community – Timucuan Oaks; so you can look forward to use of this park by summer. Timucuan Oaks is about a half mile south of Ponce Preserve on South Peninsula Drive and will expand on this same theme to include an elevated boardwalk over the wetlands, a gazebo, and a kayak/canoe launch. Completion of these facilities within the park is required pursuant to a federal grant the Town received in 2004.

In 2012, the Town formulated its first mission statement – *The Town of Ponce Inlet staff shall be professional, caring, and fair in delivering community excellence while ensuring Ponce Inlet citizens obtain the greatest value for their tax dollar*. It is certainly my goal that our staff members implement this within their areas of responsibility to the very best of their ability – being ever mindful of the use of your tax dollars while we continue to provide you with the highest level of service. Furthermore, all of our staff members should continue to do what they can individually to improve our communications with you so that you have the opportunity to be informed on any matters related to your Town.

Hopefully you have noticed that throughout this address our volunteers have consistently been

mentioned. Volunteers are the pulse of our community. Our members volunteer at an amazing rate! I am going to acknowledge as many of the organizations that I am aware of which are directly related to the Town: Citizens Watch, Volunteers Firefighters, Volunteer Police Officers, Museum, Volusia Growth Management Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory to Transportation Planning Agency, Code Enforcement Board, Historic & Archaeological Preservation Advisory Board, Parks, Recreation & Tree Advisory Board, Planning Board, Accession Committee, Building Permit Review Committee, PICCI Board (Ponce Inlet Community Center, Inc), and the Lighthouse Preservation Association. In addition, we have the volunteer groups which are not directly related to the Town, but they provide services that benefit the Town either directly or indirectly: Ponce Inlet Garden Club, Women's Club, Lion's Club, Children's Activity Committee, Citizens for Ponce Inlet, Parade Committee, Mardi Claws Committee, Ponce Animal Welfare, the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club, and the Ponce Inlet Veteran's Association. Forgive me if I have missed naming any of these fine organizations. There are almost too many to list which is especially commendable for a community with a population of about 3,000! These many volunteers make our Town this special place we enjoy. On behalf of Council and staff, I want to give our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers. With that, I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Respectively submitted,
Gary L. Smith, Mayor

Town Manager



**From the
Town Man-
ager,
Jeaneen
Clauss,...**

Now beginning my fourth year as your Town manager, I continue to appreciate this opportunity to serve all of you and I am really enjoying everything that we are accomplishing together. So as to avoid being repetitive in this article, I'll refer to the Mayor's State of the Town Address for a summary of this very productive year and also for the marching orders Council has given us for the year ahead.

I want to extend special thanks to all of you on behalf of the Town's employees who work hard to coordinate our *Hearts of Ponce Inlet* food and toy drive and also those items needed by our military troops and our local humane society. Many of you have other means of doing this as part of an on-going basis and the Town tries to assist in this spirit once each year for your convenience. In addition to this event, the Town staff participated in the County initiated employee-only food drive. Ponce Inlet to its core is a caring community and the success of our charitable initiatives each year gives proof to that.

Some of you may be interested in how much the Town spends each year on this newsletter. The Town's arrangement with *Citizens for Ponce Inlet* is that we cover the cost of the printing in exchange for running informative from all of the Town's departments and that *Citizens for Ponce Inlet* puts the news-



letter together to include articles from all of the various Town organizations. *Citizens for Ponce Inlet* also pays for the mailing and handles other local distribution. Though the printing varies from one issue to the next based upon its size, the Town spent \$5,522 in total for the printing of the four issues published last fiscal year.

Council Member Tami Lewis President of the Volusia League of Cities, Inc.

Councilmember Tami Lewis has now officially taken her seat as the President of the Volusia League of Cities, Inc. This is quite an honor for the Town to see one of our community officials appointed to an executive leadership role in this countywide organization. Pictured above from the meeting at which this occurred are (from left to right) Town Manager Jeaneen Clauss, Finance Manager Emily Kroeger, Police Chief Frank Fabrizio, Councilmember Tami Lewis, Fire Chief Dan Scales, and Planning & Development Director Aref Joulani. The Volusia League of Cities is an organization consisting of all 94 Volusia municipal and county elected officials. The purpose of the League is to create an environment for these many elected officials to build cooperative relationships, to educate them on issues concerning public service, includ-

ing those issues which collectively they wish to pursue with the State Legislature. Councilmember Lewis has actively participated with the Volusia League of Cities for several years, serving on the Executive Board since 2011 and as secretary/treasurer in 2012. Congratulations Councilmember Lewis!

Employee of the Year – John Brooks



John Brooks started with the Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 2006, putting in more hours per month on average than any of the active volunteers at the time. He was then hired full-time in 2008 when a position opened. Even though his level of experience at the time was limited, he

demonstrated a drive and commitment to better him and the department in many ways that will be demonstrated below:

In 2012, John completed his driver/engineer training and became a State certified Apparatus Operator and shortly thereafter was promoted to Driver/Engineer. Competition for the position was very fierce, but John's commitment and positive attitude, along with his knowledge base, won him the position. Ever since his promotion, John has taken on additional duties and tasks such as overseeing vehicle maintenance (the department has 4 front line complex emergency vehicles and 3 staff vehicles). He has worked with his fellow Engineers to find ways to improve efficiency of our response vehicles. One good example is how he setup our Attack Pumper for a dual role response vehicle. During wildfire season John developed an equipment and hose setup that would make the vehicle more efficient in fighting wildfires, but during the summer months, the vehicle is reconfigured to respond to water based emergencies. Effectively we get 2 vehicles for the price of one. Through his history with boats and boating, John has been instrumental in developing our marine unit by securing equipment and maintenance services for the boat at lower than normal prices.

John also serves as the Operational Volunteer Coordinator. With budgets tight, John is constantly motivat-

ing our operations volunteers to participate on shift, maximizing our response abilities while keeping our overtime in check. He makes sure all of the volunteers are meeting their monthly hour requirement, makes sure they all train as much as possible, and he makes sure that each volunteer completes the orientation packet within a timely manner. His past experience as a volunteer makes him especially suited to help acclimate new volunteers and new-hires to the department. He regularly mentors our volunteers.

John is the coordinator for Target Safety, a continuing education program for fire personnel, within the Fire Department. By utilizing Target Safety, the fire department has saved money by having a centralized online training resource and allows the crew to work on education/ training while on shift (reduces overtime costs). This program also has a tracking system so that the Fire Chief can view what training has been or needs to be completed.

John also participates as the PIFR representative for the Southeast Regional Wildfire Workgroup (which is a multi-agency group that was formed in 2012). This agency has an operations trailer which John was instrumental in developing, as well as, making necessary improvements and assuring the trailer was stocked with essential equipment, all of which is shared by the southeast Volusia cities. He attends monthly meetings and brings back that infor-

mation to the fire crews in Ponce Inlet. John's participation in this group assures that timely, important operational and training information is conveyed to the fire department staff. Staff becomes better prepared to fight brush fires so that the citizens of Ponce Inlet are protected, but also to ensure the safety of the firefighters.

Most importantly, John continually seeks out and takes on whatever opportunities he can in order to improve his quality of work and the quality of service that the fire department provides. He is always looking for ways to improve the service delivery of the department and level of service Town government provides as a whole. He was instrumental in reviewing and helping edit the most recent Town Policy and Procedures Manual, bringing a few policy changes to light that helped all employees, not just the fire department.

The fire department sends out a comment card after each call and John routinely receives numerous accolades for the caring and friendly service he provides.

John's inspiring commitment, reliability and capability are a great asset to the Town, making him a highly valued employee.



Spotlight on ... John Pierce, Maintenance Tech II



Our employee spot light is shining on John Pierce, Maintenance Tech II in Public Works. John and his wife

Christine moved to Ponce Inlet from Wisconsin, where John owned his own business. John has worked for Ponce Inlet Public Works Department for over six years now. Most mornings, you will find John at Davies Lighthouse Park preparing the park for our many visitors. In addition to caring for this park, John works with County and State agencies to insure our stormwater system and fuel tanks are in compliance with the many rules and regulations set for them. John's certifications allow him to repair water breaks, conduct backflow testing and maintain the stormwater system. John recently finished a project, part of the Town's emergency operations plan, where he used a GPS device to plug the location into our computer system of all the water valves and street signs throughout the Town. If you talk about football with John, you better be talking about his beloved Green Bay Packers! We thank John for his dedication and hard work which contributes to making Ponce Inlet a beautiful place to live, work, and play.

CodeRED® Emergency Notification System

For those of you who may not be aware, several years back Ponce Inlet instituted a rapid emergency notification service called CodeRED®. The system will distribute emergency messages via telephone to targeted areas or the entire Town at a rate of 1,000 calls per minute. CodeRED® employs a one-of-a-kind Internet mapping capability for geographic targeting of calls, coupled with a high speed telephone calling system capable of delivering customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to homes and businesses, live individuals and answering machines.

Ponce Inlet residents and businesses are welcome and encouraged to enter their contact information for home, business, and mobile phones so they may be contacted by the system in the event of an emergency. It is important for town residents and businesses customers to register, especially if they use unlisted numbers, cell phones, or VOIP. Those who do not register their address and phone number may not be notified with CodeRED® in the case of an emergency. Registration is confidential, free, and easy.

Please go to the Town's web page at www.ponce-inlet.org and click the CodeRed® link for more information and to register.

Town Holiday Closings. Town offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th, 2012 in observance of President's Day.

Town Businesses on Website. Please check out our webpage for a directory of Ponce Inlet businesses. You'll be surprised by the variety of services so close at hand. This is a compilation of those within the Town limits who have obtained the required business tax receipt (formerly known as occupational license). This business directory can be found as a link to the Town's home page – www.ponce-inlet.org.

Wanted: Interested Citizens to serve on Town Boards. The Town Council seeks interested citizens to serve on our advisory committees. To view the current vacancies, you can visit our website: www.ponce-inlet.org or call Town Hall. Please note that you must be a resident & a registered voter of the Town of Ponce Inlet in order to be appointed to the various boards. We appreciate your interest in serving as a volunteer in your community.

Town Council & Board Meetings. The Town Council meets the third Thursday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 4300 S. Atlantic Avenue. Special meetings are scheduled and noticed as needed. The agendas are for all Town Council and Town Boards are posted at Town Hall, and on the website. For your convenience, all Town Council and Town Board meetings are now live-streamed so that you may listen from the comfort of your home through the Town's website. The audio of all

meetings is also archived on the website. Both the live and archived meetings can be found by clicking on the audio streaming icon on the front page. Live streaming plays through Windows Media Player. If you come to meetings at the Council Chambers, enjoy free Wi-Fi while you're there.

Please visit our website www.ponce-inlet.org for all public meeting notices and minutes, general information, and status of current or upcoming projects. Further, be sure to read the back of your utility bills for special announcements and important information. If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our email list through the website. Just please be informed that in doing so your email address becomes a public record and we must provide it to anyone upon request.



On December 5, 2012, we offered our first Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (S.A.F.E.) program. The two-hour program introduced women and girls (14 years and up) to the concept of physical self-defense and educated them in ways to reduce the risk of becoming victims of

ous donation of the law firm of Rue & Ziffra, P.A.

The class has been well-received by the women who participated and the enthusiasm they displayed was contagious. The class was completely full, and we already have a waiting

list for our next program.

Our ultimate goal is to promote safety and build confidence. Our hope is that no one will ever have to use the skills they learned in the class. We're not teaching people



how to fight, but to have some skills they can use to create a diversion and get away if they ever find themselves in a dangerous situation.

We are offering another S.A.F.E. class on February 26, 2013, from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Please contact the Police Department at (386) 236-2160 to register, as seating is limited or check the Town's web site for additional information.



violent crimes. The program was broken down into three parts:
Introduction and discussion about individual mindset and safety
Informational video
Physical self-defense techniques

At the end of class, every participant was given a thirteen-piece color folio to read and study at home. This material reinforces what was discussed in class and was made possible by the gener-

Police



Frank Fabrizio
Chief of Police

As we start 2013, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and had a chance to spend quality time with family and friends. The Ponce Inlet Police Department wishes everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous New Year!

Are You S.A.F.E.?

Don't Be a Victim of a Scam



The Ponce Inlet Police Department (PIPD) is warning the community about scams committed via email, telephone, and in person, designed to entice victims to give money or disclose personal information to allow the suspect access to the victim's finances. These scams have claimed victims not only in Volusia County, but nationwide.

The following scams are variations on frauds that have been around for years:

Lottery/Sweepstakes Scam

The victim receives an official-looking letter informing them that they are the winner of a cash prize, but are asked to keep this confidential as part of a security protocol until the claim is processed. Included with the letter is a check payable to the victim with instructions to deposit it and immediately wire money to another location (usually outside the U.S.) to cover the taxes or other fees. The suspect hopes to get the wired cash from the victim before the bank notifies the victim that the deposited check is counterfeit or stolen.

Disaster Scams

Several varieties of scams will arise following disasters like Hurricane Sandy and other catastrophes. Some scammers will call or email people fraudulently soliciting donations for an aid

group claiming to help those affected by the disaster. Other scammers will mail, email, or phone potential victims claiming that the victim is the closest living relative of someone who perished in the disaster, and is now the recipient of an insurance settlement related to the deceased. As in the lottery scams, the suspect may request the victim make a payment to cover fees or taxes, or request the victim provide their banking account information so that the settlement money can be electronically transferred into the victim's account. The suspect can now access the victim's bank account and withdraw their money.

Sometimes after scam victims have already lost money, the same suspects will pose as federal agents investigating the crime and re-contact the victim. The "agents" advise the victims to make an additional payment to the suspects so they can apprehend them and return the victim's money. The victim loses again.

Relative in Distress Scam

An elderly victim receives a phone call or email from a person who poses as a grandchild (or friend or other relative) and says he is in a foreign country where he was involved in an accident or is in jail. He says he doesn't want his parents to know and asks the victim to wire money to help him. He then says his public defender will call. A second suspect then calls and tells the victim where to wire money to help the grandchild.

What to do if you are targeted by, or a victim of, a scam:

All scams and crimes occurring over the Internet should be directed to <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. Incidents of attempted telemarketing fraud, including those from entities in for-

eign countries, should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission which provides a complaint form on their website at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/index.shtml>.

Preventative Measures

Residents are encouraged to take preventative measures and remove their information from telemarketing lists by registering their telephone numbers on the "Do Not Call List" at <https://www.fldnc.com/>. Elderly relatives and neighbors should be alerted of these scams, screen phone calls, and if contacted by solicitors or anyone requesting personal information, should state they are not interested and hang up. Allowing the caller to engage one in conversation only opens the door for them to try additional tactics of persuasion.

Use common sense if contacted by anyone you don't know who asks for money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you are contacted by a "relative" who claims to be in distress, find out from another family member or friend if the story is true before you do anything to help.

Thank You Ponce Inlet

After serving as your Chief for almost one year, I can say that I have only grown more proud of our community. On behalf of the PIPD, I would like thank all of those in the community who brought food and desserts to our officers who were on duty and couldn't spend time with their families during the holidays.

The Ponce Inlet Police Department wants to keep you and Ponce Inlet safe. Whether it be measures to protect your person, your property, or your personal information, always remember that safety comes with staying AWARE and ALERT!

Fire and Rescue



... With Fire Chief Dan Scales

Non-emergency Transport Program Update:



On August 1, the Ponce Inlet Fire Department began transporting non-emergency patients to the hospital.

To date, the fire department has transported almost 40 patients, and all transports have occurred with **no** operational issues. The feedback from patients and our firefighters continues to be very positive. The most obvious benefit our patients continue to experience is getting to the hospital quicker with Ponce Inlet transporting. Another significant benefit that our patients now enjoy is what we call "continuity of patient care". This is where the EMT or paramedic that initiates patient care continues it throughout the entire transport process. This results in no loss or degradation in patient care information when they arrive at the hospital. Also, our staff knows the patient outcome at the receiving facility and the results of the care we provide, which helps improve future patient encounters.

If you have any questions about the non-emergency transport program, please contact the Fire Department.

Volunteer Participation

In 2012, we had six operational volunteers. These folks are fully certified firefighter/EMT's or paramedics that help supplement our full-time staffing. All of our operational volunteers participate in regular departmental training and call responses, functioning as complete members of our response crew.

The total time that these volunteers donated to the Fire Department for calendar year 2012 was a phenomenal **1,670.5** hours! This averages to 278 hours per volunteer, or 139 hours per month.

From the Fire Marshal:



This month, the Fire Marshal would like to remind the residents of the condominiums and multi-family

homes to be mindful of common fire hazards. I will focus on two issues, improper use of electrical strips and exit access. Please review, the information posted below. If you have any questions, please email them to firemarshal@ponce-inlet.org or call (386) 322-6720.

Requirements for Means of Egress and Exit Access in Apartments or Condominiums

Means of Egress Reliability (NFPA 101 Section 7.1.10)

7.1.10.1 General. Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency.

7.1.10.2 Furnishings and Decorations in Means of Egress. No furnishings, decorations, or other objects shall obstruct exit, access, thereto, egress therefrom, or visibility thereof.

As the Fire Marshal, I like to limit the amount of obstructions that are being placed in the exit access and corridor area. Items such as chairs, tables, trees, rugs, floor mats and similar items can become trip hazards in the event of an emergency or whenever the need for a rapid evacuation of the building occurs. In addition, mirrors shall not be placed on exit doors. Mirrors shall not be placed in or adjacent to any exit in such a manner as to confuse the direction of egress

Extension Cords and Power Strips

Most Common Inappropriate Use of Extension Cords and Power Strips

Used as permanent wiring.

Using unapproved extension cords.

Overloading power capabilities of the extension cord/power strip during temporary use.

Daisy chaining or piggy-backing (plugging one extension cord into another and another, etc.)

Extension cords shall not be used to power heat-producing appliance such as coffee makers, toaster ovens and portable heaters.

Extension cords/power strip's shall not be concealed, covered, or run through moist environments.

Use of an extension cord or power strip without the three-pronged ground plug.

Use of an extension cord or power strip that is damaged.

Use of a single outlet multi-plug

adapter located at the outlet to power multiple devices.

Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Extension Cords and Power Strips

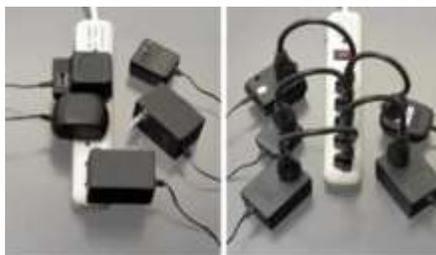
- Shall be approved and listed (UL, FM, etc.)
- Extension cords shall be used on a temporary basis only (no more than 90 days)
- Extension cords must be the physical size of or greater than the physical size of the power cord it provides electricity to.
- Shall be a three-pronged ground type and shall only be plugged into a grounded three-prong outlet.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
- Power strips shall only be used if provided with an integrated circuit breaker rated higher than all devices plugged/powered by the power strip.

Relocatable Power Taps (RPT)



The main purpose of a power strip is to provide multiple outlets for you to plug-in things that require electricity. Most power strips have an On/Off indicator light. In addition, power strips can be equipped with an integral circuit breaker. The circuit breaker, or fuse, protects the power strip against excessive loads. If you draw too much current because you plug in too many devices or one big appliance like a heater then the fuse or circuit breaker will open. This prevents the power strip from overheating that can result in a fire. All power strips used in a commercial application must be equipped with an internal circuit

breaker. Power strips are commonly used in offices to provide multiple re-



ceptacles to office equipment. Power strips are also used to provide power to equipment such as computers, printers, cell phones, and Ipad/MP3 devices. They are generally priced under \$10.

Due to their size, it is often difficult to plug more than two or three AC adaptors into a power strip. Mini extension cords are available to facilitate AC adaptor connections to the power strip receptacles. These mini extension cords are allowed.

A surge protector looks very similar to a power strip because it also provides multiple outlets, but



their main purpose is to provide protection from power surges. Surge protectors should have an indicator light on them that tells you the surge protection component is working. Some also have phone and cable jacks. Surge protectors/suppressors are used to protect sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, monitors, scanners and printers from transient over-voltages. Surge protectors are generally priced between \$20-\$170, depending on

the level of surge suppression the unit can provide and the time it takes for the unit to react to a surge.

Surge control is important because even small surges or spikes can eventually destroy or affect the performance of expensive electronic equipment. Damage can occur either instantaneously or over time as smaller surges that cause the gradual deterioration of internal circuitry. This gradual deterioration is often referred to as "electronic rust."

Please take a look at the diagram on page for acceptable and unacceptable uses of extension cords and multi-plug adaptors.

Planning & Development



Aref Joulani
Director

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATES

On December 20, 2012, the Ponce Inlet Town Council adopted a new Land Use and Development Code. The new code, referred to as the LUDC Phase 2 update, replaces the previous development code that had been in place since 1992. The update process was undertaken not only to make the code consistent with the Town's 2010 comprehensive plan, but also to make it easier to use and understand. The new LUDC has been completely reorganized, and much of the wording has been streamlined and "translated" into plain Eng-

lish. The new code also includes several changes to zoning, permitted uses, setbacks, signs, docks, and historic preservation requirements.

The adoption of the new LUDC concludes a two-year effort involving the Town Council, the Planning Board, the Historic Preservation Board, the public, and town staff. Beginning in 2011, the proposed draft was reviewed chapter by chapter over the course of 23 workshops and special meetings. In addition, the Town Council passed 11 individual ordinances that were later wrapped into the Phase 2 document.

As extensive as the Phase 2 revisions were, the Town Council recognized the need for further improvements. Accordingly, the Council created a "Top 10" list of prioritized future amendments to be reviewed in Phase 3. Public workshops have already begun to consider amendments to the regulations for altering historic structures, as well as tree preservation and landscaping. Upcoming workshops will focus on the regulations for "wedding cake" height setbacks, floor area ratios, measurement of building height, and dwelling rentals.

For more information about upcoming workshops, check the calendar on the Town website at www.ponce-inlet.org, or contact the Planning and Zoning staff at (386) 236-2181.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY

Last year concluded the first full calendar year of operation for the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum. During 2012, the Museum hosted 2,584 guests, an average of 215 per month. According to the Mu-

seum's visitor log, visitors peaked during the late winter and early spring, coinciding with area-wide special events such as Race Week, Bike Week, and Spring Break. After a small lull during the summer months, attendance again rose during September and October, matching tourism during Labor Day and Biketoberfest.

In 2012, the Museum hosted several local events and special displays, including visits by the Volusia ECHO Rangers, a Labor Day open house, a collection of quilted fiber art courtesy of the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and 1940s Christmas decorations. Upcoming displays include historic beach racing memorabilia and artifacts from the historic *Gay Wind* fishing vessel. The Museum will be hosting ECHO Ranger programs throughout 2013. The next program will be Saturday, March 16th.

The Museum is in need of items relating to the *Families and Life in Ponce Park, 1913-1963*, encompassing the 50 years prior to the Town's incorporation. If you would like to donate any items or memorabilia related to this theme, please contact Jeff Tichenor at (386) 527-0137.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOW CODIFIED

The Town's Comprehensive Plan has now been codified and can be accessed on-line from the home page of the Town's website. The Town Charter, and Land Use and Development may also be accessed from the same link. After clicking on the link, scroll down the left-hand side of your screen to Part IV, where you will find the various chapters of the Plan. From there, click on any particular chapter, from where you can reach the

Support Documents and the Goals, Objectives & Policies. The Comprehensive Plan represents the Town's 20-year blueprint for its future growth, and is updated approximately every seven years. For more information, please contact the Planning & Development Department at (386) 236-2181.

TIMUCUAN OAKS GARDENS PHASE 1 UPDATE

After years of planning, the first phase of improvements to Timucuan Oaks Gardens is scheduled to begin in late January. Core Construction Company of Jacksonville was awarded the contract by Town Council on December 20th. This phase of work includes a boardwalk over the marsh to the waters of Daggett Creek. The boardwalk will include a covered gazebo over the marsh for wildlife viewing and a canoe launch at the creek. Work is scheduled to be completed by May 2013. A more formal entrance to the park will be completed with the final phase later this year.

Positively! Ponce

T-SHIRT CONTEST

The Positively! Ponce Committee is pleased to announce the winner of the T-shirt design contest. After reviewing the entries, the Committee selected the artwork of Diane Hand as best demonstrating the contest theme: "Celebrating all that is positive about Ponce Inlet in commemoration of the Town's 50th year of incorporation." The Committee wishes to acknowledge all of the artists who submitted designs for the contest – the judges did not have an easy job!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16, 10 a.m. – "2nd Annual Legends of Beach Racing Parade" co-Sponsored by the Town of Ponce Inlet, County of

Volusia, Racing's North Turn and the Legends of Beach Racing. View the parade of vintage race cars on the historic beach race course, running from Racing's North Turn down Atlantic Avenue to the Beach Street ramp and back north on the beach.

February 16, 6 p.m. – “Mardi Gras Dinner Dance” at the Community Center.

February 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – “Beach Racing Day” at the Lighthouse.

February 27, 5:30 p.m.– Kent Donahue from the City of Port Orange will be presenting information on the historic link between Ponce Park/Ponce Inlet and Port Orange as part of the Historic Board's “Our Town” talks.

March 1 & 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Community Center Flea Market.

March 2, Noon to Sunset – Lions Club “Jazz on the River” at Down the Hatch restaurant.

March 8-10 and 15-16, Noon to 2 p.m. – Bike Week activities at the Lighthouse.

March 16, Noon to 2 p.m. – ECHO Rangers at the Ponce Inlet Historical Museum and the Ponce Preserve.

March 16, 6 p.m. – “PICCI St. Patrick's Dinner Dance” at the Community Center.

March 19 – Sarah Miller from the Florida Public Archaeology Network will be presenting information on Timucuan Technology in celebration of Florida Archaeology Month as part of the Historic Board's “Our Town” talks. *Time and location to be determined.*

March 28 & 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – “Family Fun Days” at the Lighthouse.

March 30, 10 a.m. to 2: p.m. – “Florida Heritage Day” at the Lighthouse.

April 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – “Florida Lighthouse Day” at the Lighthouse.

April 27, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – “Turtle Day” at the Marine Science Center

April 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – “Preserve Art Walk” at the Ponce Preserve – Join us for a day of nature viewing art along the trails.

April 28, Garden Club's Ice Cream Social at the Community Center

Please check the Town's website for further information.

Building and Code Enforcement

... with Adrian Marks, Chief Building Official/Floodplain Manager; Peg Hunt, Code Enforcement Officer; and Bob DeFilippo, Code Compliance Inspector

How to Contact us:

Mr. Marks @ 236-2185

E-mail: amarks@ponce-inlet.org

Ms. Hunt @ 236-2187

E-mail: phunt@ponce-inlet.org

Mr. DeFilippo @ 236-2186

rdefilippo@ponce-inlet.org

Welcome Bob DeFilippo: We are pleased to introduce Bob DeFilippo as our Code Compliance Inspector and newest member of staff. Bob worked for the City of Port Orange as a Code Compli-

ance Inspector for several years and has many years of experience in the construction industry. Bob performs inspections for building permits and assists with plan review and Code Enforcement.

Code Board Vacancy: The Ponce Inlet Code Enforcement Board currently has vacancies. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on this board, please contact the Planning & Development Department at 236-2181 for an application.

Vegetation Maintenance: Please inspect all sides of your property to ensure that vegetation does not obstruct visibility of roadways or sidewalks and trim, cut, or remove all vegetation that encroaches into these areas. This allows safe passage of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Please be aware that plants with sharp thorns are prohibited in these areas.

Code Enforcement rounds:

Please take note that the Code Enforcement Officer performs daily visits throughout the town. You may see the white SUV, identified with the town's logo, driving in your neighborhood. This vehicle makes frequent stops. This does not mean that there is a violation in your area. The Code Enforcement Officer practices safe vehicle operations by stopping the vehicle to make notes or take a phone call.

If you have a question or wish to report a violation, please contact 236-2187. You may also file a complaint on-line at www.ponce-inlet.org.

Thank you for maintaining your property, which ensures the safety of your community.

Public Works



... with
Public
Works -
Keith Gun-
ter, Gen-
eral Man-
ager

How to Contact Us:

Office: 4875 S. Peninsula Drive
Phone: 322-6729 / Fax: 322-6718

Hours: Mon – Fri, 8:00am – 4:30pm

E-mail: kgunter@ponce-inlet.org
arebello@ponce-inlet.org

Leaving Town?: If you are leaving town, we recommend that you turn off the water supply to your residence. This prevents any leaks from occurring within your property, and will avoid a high utility bill and costly repairs. If you contact the Utility Billing Department with this request, staff can also lock your meter to prevent meter tampering and theft. There may be a fee for this service. Contact 236-2151 for more information.

Staff News

This August Ken Jones and Steve Linkfield passed their level B Storm water class; congratulations to both of them!

Each year the Health Department performs a survey of the Town's water system and documentation; this is a very important survey. I would like to thank Jeff Miller and Ann Rebello for a job well done and we passed with high remarks.

In the year of 2012 the Public Works Department completed 214 in-house work orders, 192 utility locates, 326 water service work

orders and repaired 8 water breaks.

For more information about Public Work click on the Public Works link on the Town's web site.

Water Meter Access: Please keep your water meters clear of vegetation, vehicles, and other obstacles as this hinders meter readings and repairs. Ready access to your meter is a *must*. **Meters that need to be re-read due to blocked access are subject to additional fees.**

Solid Waste, Yard Waste & Recycling: Household trash (solid waste), Yard Waste, and Recycling services are provided by Waste Management. If you have questions, they can be reached at 673-0800, x-331 during normal business hours. Please keep in mind that large piles or special pick-ups may be assessed additional fees. The regular schedule for pickups in the Town is: **Monday** and **Thursday** house hold trash, **Tuesday** recycling and yard trash, and **Wednesday** large piles of yard trash. Please make sure all items are to the curb before 7 am on the day of pick up.

Call Before You Dig: It is required by State law that you contact Sunshine State Locates at **1-800-432-4770** before doing any digging (hand or machine). This will prevent damage to buried cables, water lines, sewer lines, etc. and an unnecessary expense to you should you damage a utility.

Stormwater Maintenance: Please keep trash and yard debris from entering into storm drains. If you see a plugged or blocked storm drain, please contact Public Works and provide the location so that staff can address the situation. Please remember to bag or containerize all loose yard waste such

as grass, leaves and trimmings for pick up. This type of debris can plug the stormwater system resulting in poor drainage and possible flooding.

Never pour *anything* into a storm drain. Our storm drains lead directly into the inter-coastal waterway and cause pollutants to enter the system (paint, gasoline, concrete, solvents, etc...). If you witness someone putting chemicals or any other material into a storm drain, notify Public Works or the Police Department immediately.

Fertilizers: If you must use fertilizers, only use low-phosphorus, slow release varieties.

There are educational materials regarding stormwater systems and water conservation available at the town hall and the Public Works facility. To learn more about Stormwater systems, please visit the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) at: www.sjrwmd.com.

The county landfill will be closed on Sundays.

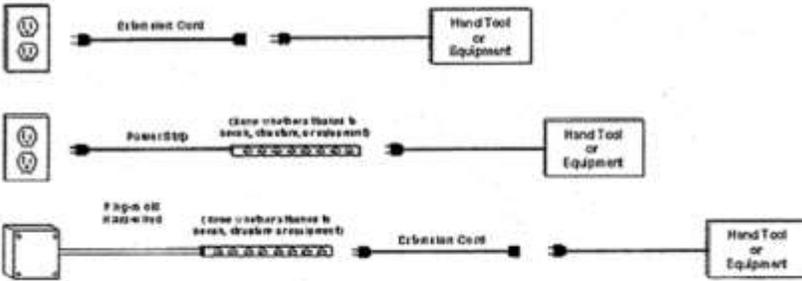
Water Facts in just 16 hours, US water utilities produce as much potable water as the oil industry produces in oil in a year.



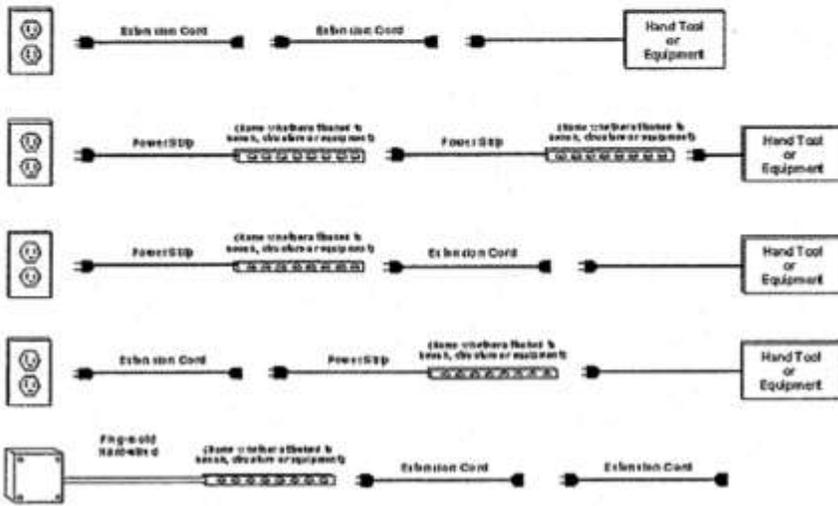
...continued from Fire Marshal article on page 8

Below is a diagram of acceptable and unacceptable uses of extension cords and multi-plug adaptors.

Acceptable combinations of extension cords and power strips,



Unacceptable (Daisy-chain) combinations of extension cords and power strips,



Poet's Corner

Ode to Lost Laurel Trees
By Jana Kristl

An evil brown
covered your green body
discolored your crown
no chirping bird is seen
no squirrel jumping
down

Your branches are still
No whistling or singing
in the wind, you are ill
why
in the summer
are your leaves dry
brittle with no shine
why you don't feel
my gentle touch
curing hand
trying to heal

you never aged
in 50 or 100 years
not afraid of hurricanes
brought from the seas
surviving ,standing tall
basking in the sun
enjoyed by us all

we'll remember you
when you are gone
your calming shade
your vibrant shine
that tearful day
we found out
you won't survive



Creature Feature

By Jo Ellen Basile

Now that winter is here, animal activity in Ponce Inlet will decrease along with the length of our daylight hours. Sea turtle nesting season is over, fewer critters are wandering around looking or fighting for mates, some of our bird species have migrated to warmer climates, and scary creatures such as snakes are seldom seen. Even fleas and ticks subside somewhat during winter.

One creature that doesn't slow down much during winter is our stray (feral) cat population due to our relatively mild winter temperatures and the fact that cats have fur coats to keep them warm.

Ponce Inlet Animal Welfare (PAW) is a nonprofit citizen's group that has been working since 2009 to humanely reduce the number of stray cats in Ponce Inlet through a trap-neuter-return program and cat colony. The program reduced the number of cats at a well-known cat dumping site from 22 cats to 5 cats in just one year. This was accomplished through fostering and adoption of kittens and neutering and natural attrition of older cats. The colony has been stable with the 5 cats since summer 2010, demonstrating the success of such programs.

It is with great sadness that we report that PAW's Vice President and principal donor, Alan Redinger, passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Words cannot express our sadness

and deep appreciation for Alan's contributions and enthusiastic care for our animals.

In addition to caring for Ponce Inlet's cats, Alan and Mary Ann Redinger also provided a grant to establish Halifax Humane Soci-



Three of the 5 cats at the colony wait for a meal.

ty's Redinger Clinic, at 600 Mason Avenue in Daytona Beach. The clinic is open to all Volusia County residents and offers spay/neuter and basic vaccinations at a reduced rate.

PAW's president, Nancy Epps, is working with the town to develop a town-wide notification system for lost and found animals.

Please note the following facts about Animal Control in Ponce Inlet:

- Pet registration is free.
- Spaying or neutering your dog or cat is mandatory unless you qualify for an unaltered animal permit (for breeding or show animals).
- It is unlawful for any person to own or keep any animal that is a nuisance in the community.

Tom cats (male cats that have not been neutered) are often nuisances and become infected with FIV, a deadly and contagious feline disease, from fighting with other cats.

It is unlawful for any person to feed a feral or stray animal within the city except by owners or by officially designated cat colony caregivers.

Those who feed stray cats are essentially taking ownership responsibility and should help get the animals neutered. Without this, your kindness is incomplete because well-fed, unaltered animals reproduce quickly, creating many more unwanted cats that may suffer for lack of food and care.

PAW has the equipment and procedure to help with stray cats in town, but there are so many that need our help and very few willing to take on the task. We need people to help with trapping and transport of animals, caregivers, fostering of kittens, or donations of food. PAW is a 501(c)3 corporation, and your tax deductible contributions are appreciated. Please contact PAW at (386) 756-1467 or mail your donation to 139 Anchor Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. Thank you!



Garden Club Of Ponce Inlet



By
Liz Finch

The members of The Garden Club of Ponce Inlet wish you a Happy New Year! The opening of the 2012-2013 Garden Club year has been busy, busy, busy! It takes many hands to accomplish all the events that the club endeavors.

Our meetings are held every 4th Wednesday of the month. We have enjoyed learning about Landscape and Irrigation from Jim Siddall of Eco Outdoors and Organically Grown Food presented by Liz Dannemiller of Green Flamingo Organics. At our December meeting we were entertained with music from a local favorite, "The Parallels".

A great afternoon was spent on January 16th at a Tea at the community center. At the January 23 meeting we are looking forward to having Jenny Pell with Lindley Nursery back for a repeat performance. This year she will be speaking about Water Gardens. Come join us...we would love to have you.

A big "THANK YOU!" to everyone who supported our Arts and Crafts Festival that was held on Oct. 12 and 13. It was a terrific success.

Garden Club members, Edwina Knox and Kathy Cannon, were proud to present a decorated wreath created by Faye McHugh and Sherry Utter at the Veteran's Day Ceremony held on Nov. 10th.

Did you see our float at the Christmas Parade on Dec. 8th? A committee of "helping hands" had been planning it since the summer. Again this year, the float had a live tree which the Garden Club donated to the town of Ponce Inlet.

The cooler weather is here... great time for some comfort food. How about a stew or some home-made soup? If you are looking for "tried and true" recipes there are a few Garden Club Cook-books left. You can purchase one at The Lighthouse Gift Shop, at the Community Center, or by calling Judy Huggins at 386-212-0011.

Have you seen two women doing "drive bys" in your neighborhood? They are looking to award "The Garden Club Beautification Award". So far this year, the winners have been Walter and Marie Goshlin at 64 Bushman in September, Tammy and Tom Baker at 6729 River Glen Drive in October and for November, Kathy and Joe Cannon at 109 Beach Street. Do your own "drive by" to see these beautifully landscaped yards.

December brought our annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

This year the winners were:

1st place- Alan and Stephanie Burnworth at 4686 S. Atlantic Avenue.

2nd place- Yvonne and George

Misleh at 38 Loggerhead Court

3rd place – Kristi and Scott Drumheller- 124 Ponce Deleon Circle Business- Inlet Harbor Restaurant and Marina- 133 Inlet Harbor Road

This annual event has its judging taking place the second weekend in December. It's never too early to start planning.

Garden Musings-

From the University of Florida IFAS Extension Florida - Central

What to Plant:

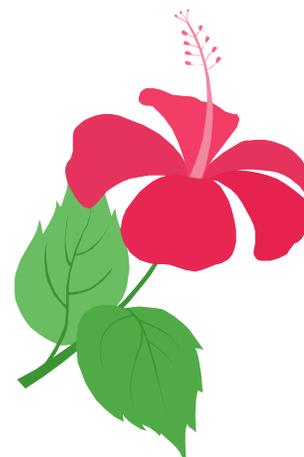
Bedding Plants: To add color to the winter garden, plant masses of petunia, pansy, and snapdragon.

Herbs: Plant herbs that thrive in cool weather. Some to try are parsley, thyme, sage, dill, fennel, and cilantro.

Vegetables: Reliable cool season vegetables to plant this month include celery, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, and carrot.

"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st, and ends on December 31."

- Marie Huston



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

...by Mary Wentzel

In early November the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse welcomed a hundred homeschoolers during its annual *Home School Day* event. With a primary focus on early navigation, Lighthouse staff and volunteer presented a variety of workshops addressing early navigational technology and techniques used by early explorers. Our V.I.P. Volunteers, many of them Ponce Inlet residents, spent the entire day sharing their knowledge of the subject with the children and their families.

The museum hosted its annual *Thanksgiving Gifts* event on November 23rd. Enjoyed by more than 450 visitors, scheduled activities included a variety of family-oriented workshops including the ever popular artifact table, a climb to the top of Florida's tall-

est lighthouse, and an opportunity for children to make their very own home-made ornaments from oranges and pine cones.

On December 27th hosted *Holidays at the Lighthouse*. Offered free of charge to all museum visitors with paid admission, this unique event provided guests the opportunity to talk with the "Old Lighthouse Keeper" in his office and to learn about crystal radio

sets at the top of the tower. Arts and craft activities offered on this beautiful sunny day included yarn doll and lighthouse pendent workshops.

Our wonderful Climb to the Moon event has become one of the Lighthouse's most popular RSVP events. Held on the eve of each full moon, participants are given the unique opportunity to experience the historic Ponce Inlet Lighthouse by the light of full moon. What better place to see the day turn into night than a top of the tower. We thank the folks at Inlet Harbor Restaurant who have sponsored the food for the Climb to the Moon event since its incep-



tion. Due to popular demand, individuals interested in participating in one of our Climb to the Moon events are encouraged to purchase their tickets well in advance. Please contact Mary Clancy via email at mary@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10 for details.

The Lighthouse will be hosting its annual Beach Racing Day on February 22nd from 10:00 to 3:00. We

are pleased to announce that racing pioneer Ray Chaika (Ray drove for Holzmueller Racing during NASCAR's Grand National Beach/Road Course race in 1955 and 1956) will be on site to talk about his early experiences behind the wheel, to sign autographs, pose for pictures, and meet with other racing enthusiasts. William Lazarus, author of *Flying Sand, Crashing Cars and Oncoming Tide: Racing on the Beach in Daytona*, will also be in site during this very popular event to discuss the history of motorsports on the World's Most Famous Beach.

The spirit of volunteerism is at the very heart of the Ponce De Leon

Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association. Founded by volunteers, the ongoing success of the Lighthouse's many educational offerings would not be possible if not for dedicated corps of volunteers who enjoy spending time at the lighthouse and working with the school children and guests. Individuals interested in learning more

about volunteer opportunities at the Lighthouse are encouraged to contact Programs Manager at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821, ext. 18.

With Warm Regards,

Mary Wentzel
Programs Manager
Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse

Ponce Inlet Community Center, Inc



by
Susie Hagey

HI, everybody! Below, my thoughts on the Ponce Inlet Community Center, Inc. (PICCI).

The 'second' newest item at the community center is that we now have Wi-Fi there. You may bring in your computers, set up in the library or board room, find 'picci' to access the internet, and you're good to go. In fact, you can access the net from your car in our parking lot or sit at a picnic table when the center is closed. We hope this new service will be useful to many.

And...our 'first' newest item at the center is our sound system. With only a flick of one switch, the microphone is ready to use. The sound is just terrific. Installed near the office on the wall in the gallery are many receptacles where a computer and other machines can be connected. Now powerpoint programs can easily be shown at club and rental events by using our extra large screen and projector. PICCI wants to thank the clubs at the center that donated money to help us purchase this new sound system.

We have many events coming up in the near future, hopefully we'll see our faithful ones plus many

new faces at these events. Hoping each of you had a nice Thanksgiving day and a blessed Christmas. PICCI's Christmas tree was decorated Nov. 26th, by the board members & friends. Hope you had a chance to enjoy it during the season. The PICCI post office was a great way to send locals their Christmas cards. It really was used this year.

Kristi Drumheller's 'Children's Day' was Dec. 21st - Actually, this day is a MOTHER'S DAY OUT. Kristi reported that it was a huge success. Many volunteered to help her with the children. Around 35 children attended. There were games to play, a fire engine and police car to check out, and pizza for lunch, again, donated by Mary Ann Redinger. All had a wonderful time. Look forward to next year's event.

PICCI entered the Christmas Parade for Dec. 8. We're happy to tell you that our Honorary Member, Lou Perocier drove his red truck again this year --- and right by his side was the 2nd VP, Carolyn Sprague. Jerry McHugh helped Lou set up our beautiful tree in the bed of his truck. PICCI didn't win a prize but all enjoyed the effort.

Thursday, January 17, 2013 there was a SOUP & SALAD Dinner with soft music in the background from. It was a great day for the town to gather and catch up on the news. We appreciated your donations of your best soup and thank you for your support.

Saturday, February 2, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon will be COMMUNITY DAY at PICCI.

Bill Hibbert is the chair of this event. He will go out & visit all

the businesses inviting them to come into the center that day and display their wares. The town workers will be here to show you what they offer the community. Everybody is invited to come out and meet the members of the town's several departments, elected officials, all the Town Clubs who meet in the community center and representatives of the many commercial establishments in Ponce Inlet. Last year's event was enjoyed by well over 100 citizens and we look forward to many more of you visiting this year. Remember, 2013 is our town's 50th anniversary and we will be helping to celebrate the "POSITIVELY PONCE" theme. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 will be PICCI'S Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance. Hours are 5:00 Happy Hour, 5:30 p.m. Dinner, and it'll close at 9 p.m. - Tickets are \$15 per person.

We have a few changes in our exercise programs. Please note them. Aerobics by Kathleen will be Tuesday & Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m., \$6; Strength & Toning by Kathleen on Monday at 10:15 a.m., \$6; Zumba by Tamika is on Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for \$6. Yoga is back! It will be on Monday & Wednesday nites by Cindy Caron at 7 p.m. except for the 1st Wed. of the month, \$7. We would like to build up all of our exercise programs. Why not give it a try?

Keep up with what is going on at PICCI by picking up a calendar of events each month, by checking the sign out front, and by reading our bulletin board located on the wall by the doors outside. Send us your ideas and suggestions....and enjoy our beautiful town.

2013 Ponce Inlet Community Center Activities

DATE	Activity	Sponsor
February 12, 2013	Mardi Gras Dinner/Dance	PICCI
March 1 & 2, 2013	Flea Market	PICCI
March 16, 2013	St Patrick's Dinner/Dance	PICCI
April 11, 2013	"Citizen of the Year Award" Dinner	CfPI
April 19, 2013	Sock Hop	Lion's
May 18, 2013	Red, White, Blue Dinner/Dance	PICCI
September 21, 2013	Caribbean Dinner/Dance	PICCI
October 4 & 5, 2013	Flea Market	PICCI
October 26, 2013	Italian Dinner/Dance	PICCI
December 7, 2013	Breakfast with Santa	Veteran's

Notes from PICCI President, Jim Hinson

The PICCI Board consists of 16 members and the Town Manager or his/her representative. The present PICCI Board members are as follows: President Jim Hinson; 1st V.P. Susie Hagey; 2nd V.P. Carolyn Sprague; Secretary Mary Ann Redinger; Treasurer Wini Irvin; Directors Bill Hibbert, Mary Lou Hinson, Jerry McHugh, Marlene Heiden, Jim Volz, Barbara Lambert, Jim Irvin, Kristi Drumheller, Gene Hynds, Peter Finch, and Joe Grasso. Faye McHugh is our Event & Wedding Coordinator.

Our goal is to raise money to maintain the building eliminating the use of your tax dollars. So when you see an event that says "PICCI" come on out and have good food, music and save your Tax Dollars.

We have volunteers who man the auxiliary office and a paid maintance man to maintain the building. Our monthly expenses are as follows: water bill; landscaping; telephone; propane gas; auditor; miscellaneous maintenance, supplies and repairs; pest control inside and out; Quarterly: 25% of the electric bill; plus liability insurance for the Directors. Recently we had new carpet installed at the cost of \$12,000.00 and added the river rock in front.

Any suggestions that you have please contact Jim Hinson at (386) 760-5448 or mihinson@aol.com.

Thank you for attending functions at your Community Center.

Jim Hinson, President

COMMUNITY DAY FEBRUARY 2, 2013 9:30 AM—NOON

Ponce Inlet Women's Club

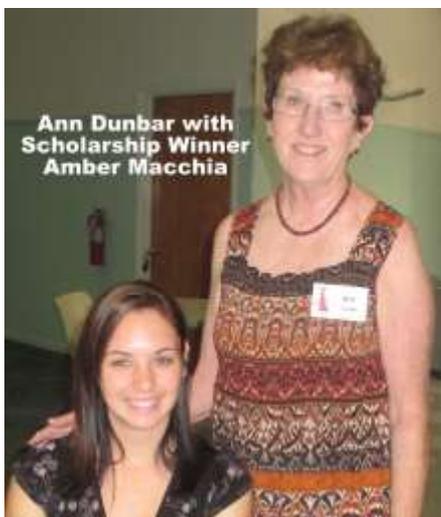


By Sandy Wester,
Publicity Chair

At the September meeting, the Ponce Inlet Women's Club (PIWC), Scholarship Chair, Mary Hoss and Committee awarded their Genesis Scholarships to three outstanding women who wished to further their education. A \$1000 scholarship was presented to Beth Dobberstein. Kelly Reid and Amber Macchia each received a \$500 scholarship. These scholarships are



awarded in addition to those given through the Daytona State Foundation program. Additionally, the Scholarship Committee has awarded a Daytona State Foundation Scholarship to Linda Marie Hill. Ms. Hill has outstanding credentials and met all of the criteria to qualify for the



scholarship.

At the Art Guild of Ponce Inlet's members' show, PIWC member and talented local artist, Dianne Hand, received 2nd prize for her "Undersea Adventure" painting in acrylic.

Barbara Lambert and Barbara Larsen chaired the PIWC annual Holiday Boutique auction and luncheon held on November 14. The Boutique is a fund raiser for Daytona State College scholarships and local charities. A good time was had by all those in attendance and the auction fund raiser was a tremendous success. Local artist, Dianne Hand contributed over seven paintings for the Boutique. Also, bringing in \$500 for scholarships, tickets were sold for the chance to win a beautiful sleigh, donated by Kristi and Scott Drumheller, and filled with many items including a brick worth \$100 to be engraved with the winner's information and placed in a walkway at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. PIWC member, Edwina Knox had the winning ticket. Our sincere appreciation to all who attended and helped with the Boutique.

On Veteran's Day, PIWC President, Suzie Hagey and past President, Eleanor Perocier placed a wreath at the Veteran's Memorial during the program at the Memorial site in Lighthouse Park.

Christmas Parade Chair, Nancy Fowler and Committee designed the PIWC holiday float for the annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade at 1pm on December 8th. The float in keeping with our beautiful ocean surroundings had several "mermaids" on board waving to the on-lookers.

Members of PIWC attended a Christmas luncheon at The Grille at Riverview on December 12. Marian Kelly made all the arrangements for this well attended event. All members are looking forward to the January 30th, 2013 bus trip to San Sebastian Winery in St. Augustine. The Special Events Chair, Jeanette Kellum made all the plans and had to increase the size of the bus to accommodate the large group who signed up. Members will enjoy a tour of the winery followed by free time for sightseeing, shopping and lunching at local St. Augustine restaurant.

On February 6, 2013, the PIWC will have a luncheon for three new members. It will be held the Ponce Inlet Community Center.

The Women's Club Photographer, Rosemary Volz has taken some great pictures

of scholarship recipients and the Holiday Boutique which are included with this article.

This newsletter includes details about the PIWC annual fashion show and luncheon on March 13, 2013 at the Halifax Yacht Club. The show's theme "Step it Up", will focus on footwear as well as hats to add that special elegant touch to any attire. Fashion Show Chair, Kay Brawley and Committee always work hard to make this major fund raiser a very special event.



You're invited to
The Ponce Inlet Women's Club Annual
Fashion Show and Luncheon Benefit
Supporting Scholarships for Education & Charities in the Community

Wednesday March 13, 2013 -- 10:30 am
Kalifax River Yacht Club

Discover the Best of 2013 Style
By **SteinMart**



Featuring Guest Emcee, Lesiye Gale of Magic 107.7

Awards for Best Hats -----Raffle for Grand Prizes

Benefit Ticket: \$30

Bring a friend, or 2 or more to fill a table of 8 or 10

Purchase tickets at Ponce Inlet Community Center
4670 S. Peninsula Ave, Ponce Inlet 32127 (386) 760-0615

Contact: Kay Brawley (386) 322-4512, Mary Lee Sturno (386) 682-3364, or
Pam Quillian (386)760-8532

4th Annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade December 8, 2012 Parade Committee

*Jim Hinson—Coordinator
Mary Lou Hinson
Harvey Bach
Kristi Drumheller*

*Fire Chief Scales
Police Chief Fabrizio
Police—Lieutenant Binz
Public Works—Keith Gunter
Administration—Kim Cherbano
Fire—Jeni Trepasso
Planning—Margi Richard*



**Most Original
Inlet Harbor Restaurant**



Tony Girolami



Most Creative—Marine Science Center





Christmas Spirit
Longstreet Elementary—Student Government Assoc



Judge's Choice
Sea Love Boat Works/Down the Hatch



Best Overall
Racing's North Turn



Parade Judges
Zac Anderson, Cheryl Nungusser,
Tyler Okhovatian, Mary Ann Scott



Santa & Mrs Claus

5th Annual
Ponce Inlet
Christmas Parade
will be held on
Saturday,
December 7, 2013



Children's Activity Committee Christmas Party 2012





PICCI Board Presents

1st Annual Mardi Gras

Fat Tuesday, February 12, 2013

**Mardi Gras entrees
Including King cake**



**B.Y.O.B.
Cocktails 5:00—5:45
Dinner 5:45—6:45
Band 6:30—9:30**



Solid Gold

**Purchase tickets at Community Center \$15.00
For info call 760-0615
Cut-off for tickets Friday, February 8, 2013—12:00 noon
Dress for the themed occasion**

PICCI Board

Irish Night

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Corned Beef and Cabbage

\$15.00

B.Y.O.B. Cocktails 5:00 PM

Dinner 5:45 PM

Music TBA 6:30 PM
Come and have fun!!!



Irish Coffee
\$2.00 donation

**Purchase tickets at the
Community Center
Information—760-0615**

**Cut-off for ticket
sales Wednesday,
March 13, 2013
at noon**



**Please join us in presenting the
The Ponce Inlet Lions Club's
Jazz on the River, March 2, 2013
4894 Front Street, Ponce Inlet
Noon to Sunset
8 Bands!**

Headliners include *Berklee School of Music* Jazz Trumpeter **Wayne Percy**

Jazz Festival 2012 was our first effort. It was so amazing that we decided to do it again!
Please join us to enjoy a great event while also supporting local services which include:

- **Lion's Conklin Center for the Multi-handicapped and Visually Impaired**
- **Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind**
- **Division of Blind Services Talking Library**
- **Southeastern Guide Dogs**
- **Halifax Urban Ministries**
- **Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Collection**
- **Florida Braille Association**
- **Eyeglasses for select Longstreet Elementary students and other needy citizens**
- **Hurricane Sandy victims**

For pre-event ticket purchases, please contact Ponce Inlet Lions Club President Nancy Epps at: 386-795-2310.

Tickets will also be available at the gate on the day of the event.
Tickets - \$10: children under 12 years - \$5.

Thank you for your support. Your Ponce Inlet Lions have donated over **\$85,000** to charitable causes over the past 5 years thanks to the generous support of citizens!

Veteran's Day at the Ponce Inlet Veteran's Memorial
Ayers and Kay Davies Park
November 11th, 2012





**Ponce Inlet Lions Club
Fund Raiser
April 19, 2012**



50's & 60's Sock Hop



**Dance to the tunes provided by
Debbie Owen & Tony T
Beginning at 6:30 PM**

**BYOB Happy Hour 5:00 PM
Dinner 5:45 PM**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, BBQ Chicken,
\$15.00**

**Purchase tickets at the
Community Center 760-0615**

Cut-off for Ticket sales April 17—noon

**Jitterbug
Contest**



**Sandy & Danny
Look-A-Like
Contest**



*"Rock the Evening Away"
and Support*

Sight, Hearing & Diabetes

Citizens for Ponce Inlet
4670 South Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127-7134

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Did you enjoy this newsletter?

If so, please consider supporting this organization by becoming a member of the Citizens For Ponce Inlet. Your financial contribution will be used to help defray the costs of this newsletter as well as the annual Candidate's Forum and the Citizens of the Year Award event.

2010—2011 Membership Registration Form

I wish to become a new member _____ ; renew my membership _____
Enclosed is \$10 ___ \$15 ___ Other _____ (We can hope) contribution for my annual membership.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make all checks payable to Citizens For Ponce Inlet. Detach and mail to:

Judy Huggins
44 Coastal Oaks Circle
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127-6901
(or leave in the Citizens For Ponce Inlet box at the Community Center)