



Citizens for Ponce Inlet

Newsletter

Dedicated to improving the quality of life in Ponce Inlet

VOL. C

Winter 2015

Mayor's State of the Town Address

January 15, 2015



With the start of a fresh New Year, many of us reflect on the prior year. The Town does this as well and we provide this information to you through an annual Address.

First and foremost is the financial health of our

Mayor Gary Smith Town. The Town remains fiscally sound with a general fund reserve of \$2.1 million dollars, which equates to a little over 5 months of our current expenses. The Town's standard for the general fund reserve is between 3 and 9 months of operating expenses. Legal defense of the Town in Pacetta vs. Ponce Inlet, otherwise known as *The Lawsuit*, does continue to impair our financial resources. In order to meet our approved budget expenditures for the current fiscal year, a millage rate of 6.1536 mills was adopted, which even though this rate is tax neutral compared to the prior year because it is the rolled-back rate, it is still about 1 mill higher than it would have needed to be apart from *The Lawsuit*.

As *The Lawsuit* continues to be the most preva-

lent topic in the Town, I will provide a synopsis for any of you who may wish to have it and I will also provide a status update on the case. As most of you know, *The Lawsuit*, was originally brought against the Town in 2008 by Pacetta LLC because they felt they had obtained sufficient assurances from previous members of Council and Staff which entitled them to certain economically favorable changes to the legal uses available to the property they had purchased, even without the required public process. This is the core of the current legal proceeding which unfortunately has become the most costly high stakes case the Town has ever experienced.

It is important to understand the basic components of this lawsuit before you can understand its status so I will describe them for you. *The Lawsuit* is actually four separate lawsuits. I'll list these and describe the status of each. For those of you who have heard my address over the last couple years, some of this will be a refresher but I try to improve upon the clarity of it each year and the current status may contain new information for you.

In 2008, Pacetta filed suit against the Town in Circuit Court to try to prevent a referendum for the citizen initiated Charter prohibition against

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The Citizens For Ponce Inlet Newsletter is published 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 newsletter does not accept paid advertisements.

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 \$7,000 in total for the four issues published last fiscal year.

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 support the costs of the many activities of this organization including 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

**2015 Citizens For Ponce Inlet
Board Members**

**Kristi Drumheller
Mary Lou Fillingame
Don Hampton
Jim Hinson
Mary Lou Hinson
Judy Huggins
Ellen Pagliarulo
Mary Ann Redinger
Margi Richard**

Citizens for Ponce Inlet is proud to present the 100th issue of their newsletter.

The process of producing and disseminating this newsletter has changed greatly over the years. Longtime resident and CFPI founder Kay Davies typed it on her typewriter at home and mimeographed copies, probably at some nearby office. (Page one of newsletter number one produced by Kay appears on page 37.) For most of its years the newsletter was hand delivered by CFPI Board members and volunteers to residents homes. After Kay, Walt and Marge Bogert handled the editorial duties for the newsletter. Mary Lou Hinson followed the Bogerts. For the last five years Don Hampton has filled this position. Don has decided to step down from that post and since no one has come forward to fill it this 100th issue will be the final one from the Citizens for Ponce Inlet.

Times have changed, editors have changed, and the world has changed. The process of producing the newsletter has been updated and streamlined as technologies evolved. Much of the content of this newsletter is currently written by Town staff and in the future will be available on the Town of Ponce Inlet's website. Some local clubs and organizations already have their own websites. They have also always been, and will continue to be, welcome to provide Town staff with information to be placed the Town's website as it sees fit.

The time has come and, although we know some folks will miss having a printed newsletter in hand, we trust our community will continue to be provided with vital and necessary information through alternative sources. CFPI will still host the Citizen of the Year event and also the Political Forum during local elections. The Board sincerely appreciates the support it has received over the years and will continue to serve for the good of the people.

Thank you.



dry boat storage facilities and buildings larger than 5,000 square feet in the Riverfront Overlay District (ROD), and they challenged the legality of the pre-existing ROD itself. Though the regulations prohibiting additional dry boat storage and commercial buildings larger than 5,000 square feet in the ROD already existed in the Town in either the comprehensive plan or the land use and development code, the goal of a voter-approved referendum was to elevate these into the Town's Charter – making it impossible for a Town Council to change these regulations without citizen approval in the future. By early 2008, a growing mistrust of local government had occurred in the Town regarding land use decisions in particular so this referendum process was felt by some citizens to be the best way to put some additional controls in place. Despite Pacetta's attempts to thwart the referendum process, Judge Graham allowed the vote to take place because he said that he didn't have time to determine if the referendum itself was legal before the election and would deal with it later, if the referendum passed. The referendum passed overwhelmingly and Pacetta then pursued further

action on this. In the meantime, the Town Council of that time voted on the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the results of the referendum. Many months later, Judge Graham found in favor of Pacetta in that this prohibition was an inappropriate amendment to the Charter when applied to five or fewer parcels. Judge Graham viewed the unified ownership of Pacetta's 10 separate parcels as one since Pacetta always intended to develop the parcels as one unified development. The Town appealed this ruling as the Town saw these as 10 separate parcels which had been under separate ownership prior to Pacetta's recent purchase but Judge Graham's ruling was upheld by the Fifth District Court of Appeals in favor of Pacetta. The State Supreme Court declined the Town's request for further review. Though this ruling was against the Town, it did not affect the application of the pre-existing rules of the Town since 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 to Pacetta's purchase of any of its property. The ruling simply prevented the Town from elevating these pre-existing rules into the Charter. In the years

that followed, the Town received repeated requests from Pacetta and another resident for documents that are protected so long as a case remains active. That resident even brought a suit against the Town on this matter. In response to this new suit and Pacetta's prior requests for the same information, in 2013, the Town filed a motion for dismissal of any remaining parts of the case that Judge Graham had not ruled on so that the Town could then release these protected documents. Pacetta objected to the final dismissal of this case and is now pursuing a ruling on these two remaining matters. These are: 1) the legality of the ROD and 2) a reimbursement of court costs to Pacetta. On January 14, 2014, the Town argued its motion for dismissal before Judge Smith, who was substituting for Judge Perkins. Judge Smith ruled that the legal expenses issue could continue and postponed until a future date a ruling concerning the continuation of the legality of the ROD. This future date has not been determined as yet, so the matter of court costs within this case is still pending. Subsequently, the other resident's case was withdrawn.

In 2009, Pacetta filed an administrative petition against the Town to the State Department of Community Affairs alleging 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 manatee 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 final. This case is completely closed.

In 2010, Pacetta filed a petition against the Town with the Volusia Growth Management Commission arguing that the Town's comprehensive plan prohibition of dry boat storage was in conflict with the County's manatee protection plan. All seventeen members of the Volusia Growth Management Commission found in favor of the Town in this proceeding. Pacetta appealed the ruling to Circuit Court and Judge Perkins upheld this ruling in favor of the Town. This case is completely closed.

In 2010, Pacetta filed suit against the Town in Circuit Court on several more claims. In this lawsuit, an initial trial on liability (not damages) was held by Judge Parsons on 4 counts in January 2012. In April 2012 he issued an order partially finding

in favor of Pacetta on these 4 counts. Count 1 is the Permanent Takings claim. Pacetta had claimed a permanent taking occurred on all 10 parcels of their property; Judge Parsons found partially in favor of Pacetta on Count 1 as he determined that 4 of these parcels had been permanently taken. Counts 2 & 3 are due process claims. Judge Parsons found in favor of Pacetta on Counts 2 & 3. Count 4 is the Bert J. Harris claim. The Bert J. Harris law was created to allow a property owner relief when their property has been "inordinately burdened" by a government regulation but the property owner cannot meet the much higher threshold required to establish a permanent taking. Judge Parsons found in favor of Pacetta on Count 4, determining that all 10 parcels had been inordinately burdened.

The usual process following a determination of liability by a trial judge is to have a jury trial to determine the award of damages, if any, to the property owners. However, Florida law provides a special appeal provision before the jury damage trial for Bert J. Harris claims only. Following Judge Parsons ruling in April 2012, the Town exercised its right to appeal the Bert J. Harris claim - Count 4 - prior to a jury trial on damages. The Town was not permitted to

appeal any other counts except Count 4 in advance of the jury trial but expressed its intent to do so once they met the criterion for appeal. The criterion for appeal of the remainder of the case is that the jury trial on damages be completed.

In July 2013, the 5th District Court of Appeals (DCA) overturned Judge Parsons ruling on Count 4 - the Bert J. Harris claim. The court found the Town had NOT inordinately burdened any of the ten parcels for which Pacetta had made this claim. Pacetta appealed this ruling to the State Supreme Court, who declined to hear it; thereby upholding the 5th DCA ruling in favor of the Town. This was a wonderful relief for the Town and all of you as residents. The Town believed that this appellate decision effectively resolved all remaining claims since the lower threshold of the Bert J. Harris claim had not been met, even when considering all of Pacetta's evidence. It seemed there should not have been any claims remaining. However, the trial court declined to change its prior ruling, leaving review of the remaining claims (Counts 1, 2 and 3) to the 5th DCA following a jury trial on damages. The Town was then required to defend itself in a jury trial where the only issue the jury was to determine was the value of the

4 parcels of land the Town allegedly took from Pacetta LLC in January 2007. The jury listened to testimony from various surveyors, planners, and appraisers and determined the 4 parcels were worth \$19.8 million in January 2007. Judge Perkins conducted this jury trial and found in favor of the Town on Counts 2 and 3 (the due process claims), leaving only the resolution of issues related to Count 1 for review by the appellate court. In addition to the \$19.8 million dollar award by the jury, Judge Perkins added interest costs which bring the figure closer to \$30 million plus attorneys' fees.

The Town has always and continues to maintain its position that no permanent taking of Pacetta's property occurred – in January 2007 or ever - and the fact is that all of the uses available to Pacetta LLC are the same now as they were when they bought the property between 2004 and 2006. Therefore, the Town appealing the takings claim on the same basis that the Bert J. Harris claim was successfully appealed. All damage awards are included in the appeal. An appeal of the Permanent Takings claim does not mean that the Town has given up hope of finding an agreeable settlement, as we continue to express our desire for and willingness to consider

any reasonable settlement offer as long as the settlement offer is presented and discussed within the view of the public, as the public has a great stake in this and input from the public is critical. Settlement proposals offered by Pacetta in the past have been determined to be unreasonable in light of the following: 1) amount of proposal, 2) available funds, 3) available means of obtaining funds, and 4) restrictions on what may be agreed upon in the way of land use changes. Below are the major mediation attempts and settlement offers that have previously occurred:

July 2011 – Both the Town and Pacetta LLC spent an entire day in mediation with a certified mediator, trying to come to a settlement offer that could be taken to the Town Council for consideration. This mediation yielded no agreeable proposal for settlement that day but further mediation was anticipated. In August 2011, Pacetta requested the Court declare an impasse on mediation.

September 2011 – The Town sent a formal letter to Pacetta extending an invitation for a settlement proposal.

November 2011 – Pacetta LLC proposed they would agree to settle the case if the Town paid them \$13.7 million and made all of their desired changes to the comprehensive

plan, zoning map and for relief from certain requirements of the land use and development code affecting the 10 parcels of land owned by Pacetta LLC. Pacetta would keep all of its property. The Town declined that offer.

May 2012 – Upon direction of the Town Council, Vice-Mayor Hoss and the Town Manager had several negotiation meetings with Pacetta. Proposed desires of Pacetta were expressed along with the limitations for which the Town had the ability to negotiate. No official settlement proposal was reached for further consideration.

July 2012 – Both the Town and Pacetta LLC spent a half day in mediation with a certified mediator, trying to come to a settlement offer that could be taken to the Town Council for consideration. This mediation yielded no agreeable proposal for settlement.

August 2012 – Pacetta LLC proposed they would agree to settle the case if the Town paid them \$35 million and made all of their desired changes to the comprehensive plan, zoning map and for relief from certain requirements of the land use and development code affecting the 10 parcels of land owned by Pacetta LLC. Pacetta would keep all of its property. The Town declined

that offer.

September 2012 – The Town Council proposed a settlement offer to Pacetta LLC in the amount of \$1.5 million dollars and invited Pacetta LLC to submit an application for consideration subject to the legally required public process for its desired changes to the comprehensive plan, zoning map and for relief from certain requirements of the land use and development code for Pacetta LLC's 10 parcels. Pacetta would keep all of its property. Pacetta declined that offer.

On December 30th, 2014, the 5th DCA ordered the Town and Pacetta to participate in an appellate mediation process in a further attempt to resolve the case. The parties will be working towards scheduling a date and choosing a mediator as quickly as possible. The Town remains willing to consider in an open public meeting any reasonable proposal that takes into account both the legal and practical means for resolving the dispute. However, the Town does not have unlimited resources or taxing ability with which to settle this case. Nor can the Town agree to changes in the comprehensive plan, zoning map, or relief from certain requirements of the land use and development code in advance of the public process requirements established in the

Florida statutes and the Town's Charter and Code of Ordinances. If this mediation cannot yield a result which meets these requirements and is satisfactory to both parties, the Town will proceed with its appeal to the 5th DCA on the remaining counts of this case.

This concludes *The Lawsuit* synopsis and I will now focus on the brighter aspects of last year.

In 2014, we continued the review of our Code of Ordinances and the Land Use and Development code to reevaluate some of our rules and in most cases we reduced the regulatory impact on property owners. Over the course of one year, the following changes were made to regulations in the Town:

Exceptions were created to height and setback requirements for certain accessory structures in waterfront yards;

The certificate of appropriateness requirements were amended to create an exemption from additional Town review requirements for properties recognized as national historic landmarks and local register of historic places;

Our landscape and tree preservation requirements were amended to bring them up to date and make them more user friendly;

In consideration of the possi-

ble passage of the medical marijuana referendum at some point in the future, we established rules within our Code that medical marijuana dispensaries would be a major special exception with certain standards and prohibiting them in all zoning districts except B-1; and

The yard trash regulations were amended so that single-family homes would not have to wait until 6:00 p.m. the night before pick-up to place their clippings out by the road.

With the invaluable assistance of community volunteers, the Town was pleased to sponsor or co-sponsor a number of events during the year. 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 following thirty-two events are listed by month:

January:

Ecological, Cultural, Heritage & Outdoors (ECHO) rangers program at the Historic Museum;

February:

Community Day which was organized by the Ponce Inlet Community Center, Inc. (PICCI) Board and held at the Community Center to showcase Town businesses and services;

Historical Museum Presenta-

tion on Genealogy, parts I, II, & III

Living Legends Historic Racing Parade which was organized by the North Turn Restaurant;

Mardi Claws;

SAFE Class (Women's Self Defense);

March:

Historical Museum Program on Archeology

ECHO rangers program at the Historic Museum;

Historical Museum Presentation on Shipwreck;

April:

Historical Museum Presentation on Myth-busting;

Children's Easter Party which was organized by the Children's Activity Committee;

Marine Science Center's Turtle Release Day;

Historical Museum Presentation on Riches;

Historical Museum Presentation on Preserving History;

May:

Ponce Preserve the Planet;

Vettes at the Light, a corvette show organized by the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club;

Memorial Day Ceremony organized by the Ponce Inlet Veterans Association;

June: none

July:

YMCA Triathlon

Ponce Police & Fire partici-

pated in a meet & greet with Chinese exchange students;

August:

Surfers for Autism organized by various volunteers;

September:

ECHO rangers program at the Historic Museum;

October:

Children's Halloween Party;
Lighthouse Loop Half-Marathon;

November:

Shape-Up Ponce Inlet, a 5 week series of 1 hour exercise classes in the Town's various parks;

ECHO rangers program at the Historic Museum;

Veterans Day Ceremony organized by the Ponce Inlet Veterans Association;

Marine Science Center's Annual *Wings on the Wind* bird release;

Operation Changing Lives 5K race;

December:

Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Children's Christmas Party which was organized by the Children's Activity Committee;

Christmas Parade which was organized by volunteers on the Parade Committee;

Ponce Inlet Fire Department hosted *Santa's Run* through Town.

The Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial was once again

proudly selected by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day 2014. It is important to add that we are one of only four memorial locations in the State of Florida and one of only sixty-seven sites in thirty-nine states to have achieved this honor. The Ponce Inlet Veterans Association is to be commended for their ongoing efforts to show the patriotic pride of our small but mighty Community.

The Town's police department was unanimously approved by the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission for another three year certification as an accredited agency. This is a major accomplishment for any law enforcement agency but can be particularly challenging for a small department. We are very proud to continue to carry this distinction of professionalism.

The Town has successfully provided non-emergency medical transport to Ponce Inlet residents and visitors for over 2 years now and over the past year we have transitioned into providing full emergency transport. Fire Chief Scales brought forth this idea and has received very positive feedback from our users about the job our employees are doing; patients are getting to the hospital faster and with continuity in care.

This service has also enabled the majority of the revenue from Ponce Inlet transports to return to Ponce Inlet, thereby allowing the enhancement of the service we provide at no additional cost to you.

In an effort to further seek minimal cost ways to increase public safety, we reviewed address number identifiers and found a brand that worked very well to identify a home day or night and we have promoted that company on our website and extended an offer to citizens that if they buy these and need help installing them on their mailboxes, our fire department staff will gladly assist. Interest in this has been slow to start but if you would like more information on these, please visit our website or contact the fire department.

The Town has taken additional steps toward the completion of Town-wide water system improvements. Later in 2015, we expect to begin some of these large scale construction projects in the areas of Town where older water pipes are in need of replacement and some others where pipes are smaller than what is recommended for fire suppression.

The Town worked with Volusia County to reduce the accumulation of storm water in the 4300 block of South Atlantic Avenue. The Town author-

ized the use of Town-owned property for the County to place a swale at no additional cost to the Town. This has had the effect of making the road a little less hazardous during short downpours, though there is no good solution available for the longer periods of rainfall.

The Town was recognized as a Healthy Weight Community Champion in 2014 for the inter-connecting sidewalks, our walking trails and athletic equipment in parks, for amending our landscape regulations to allow a percentage of the front yard for vegetable gardens, and for several athletic events that we have co-sponsored.

2014 was not as the final construction year that we had planned it to be for Timucuan Oaks Gardens. Turtles, turtles, turtles and their relocation from Timucuan Oaks became the focus for the first half of the year. As we were completing that, the Council began to discuss the creation of a memorial for long-term resident Constance Hunter who had passed away in 2014. Mrs. Hunter spent a large portion of her life as a resident of Ponce Inlet and dedicated both her time and financial resources to the betterment of our community via our local clubs and town government. The construction of Timucuan Oaks has afforded us an opportunity to create a memorial

within the park to express our appreciation to this great lady. Many of our local clubs and other organizations have made donations for this and we thank you for your contributions. We intend to complete this park in 2015.

The Ponce Inlet Historical Museum located at 143 Beach Street received a total of 1,890 visitors in 2014. We currently have 12 volunteers assisting with the operation of this facility and we welcome any more who are interested. We have enhanced what is offered at this museum and we change display items and themes on a regular basis for your ongoing enjoyment of this facility, which is available at no charge. We are also planning a number of talks in the coming year. All of this supports the commitments made in our grant agreements with the Florida Communities Trust and the Volusia County ECHO Grant program.

In responding to our community's desire for more attention in parks and recreation, for the last quarter of 2014 we created a new part-time parks and recreation position which we combined with the existing part-time position historic museum position and now have one full-time staff person to cover both of these areas. This position handles all special events applications as well, which has relieved planning staff from that responsibility, better enabling them to focus on their core

work.

In keeping up with the ever increasing demands for technological enhancements, we hired the Town's first in-house Information Technology (IT) staff member in the last quarter of 2014. This was a minimal increase in expense, as we eliminated the costs associated with contracting this service, and we have brought a significantly greater focus to the Town's specific technology needs.

In reviewing 2014, it is easy to see that our Town staff has been very hard at work for all of us and we appreciate them and we understand the value to our community in hiring and retaining quality employees. It also cannot go unsaid that our citizens continue to serve as the pulse of our community. You are the best at telling us what you want. Your opinions are very important to us. And you are a citizenry that volunteers at an amazing rate, which shows that you will put your time into what you are telling us is important to you. In recognition of you, I am going to acknowledge as many of the organizations that I am aware of that are directly related to the Town: Citizens Watch; Volunteer Firefighters; Volunteer Police Officers; Museum Volunteers; Volusia Growth Management Commission representative; Citizens Advisory Committee and the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee to Transportation Planning Agency representatives; Code Enforcement Board; Historic & Archaeological Preservation Advisory Board; Parks, Recreation & Tree Advisory Board; Planning Board; Accession Committee; Ponce Inlet Com-

munity Center, Inc (PICCI Board); and the Lighthouse Preservation Association. In addition, we have the volunteer groups which are not directly related to the Town, but 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; Christmas Parade Committee; Ponce Animal Welfare; the Ponce Inlet Corvette Club; and the Ponce Inlet Veterans 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 just over 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



SAVE THE DATE - DONT MISS IT

FEBRUARY 7, 2015 - 9:30am- 12:00 Noon

COMMUNITY DAY PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER

Learn about the Business Services, Town Services, Social Clubs and Activities, from representatives and displays from the following:

Restaurants	Local Social Clubs
Marine Science Center	P.I. Lighthouse
Town Government	Gift Shops
Real Estate Firms	

4670 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL. 32127

Town Manager



**From the
Town Manager,
Jeaneen
Witt...**

Well, it's been five full years now that I've served as your Town Manager. These have been difficult years for certain but we continue to make improvements both to our community and our Town operations and we are all the stronger for it. Thank you for the privilege of continuing to serve you. I wish you well in the coming year individually and even more importantly as a community! For a summary of this very productive year, please take the time to read the Mayor's State of the Town Address, which has been thoughtfully prepared to give you a lot of information on what has occurred in your Town over the past year and some things that are just ahead.

Special thanks to all of you on behalf of the Town's employees who coordinate the *Hearts of Ponce Inlet* food and toy drive and also those items needed by our military troops and for needy pets in Volusia County. Many of you have other means of doing this in your lives and it is most appreciated, I'm sure. In the spirit of Christmas, the Town coordinates a donation campaign locally for

your convenience. In addition to this event, the Town staff participated in the County initiated food drive, which collects food and money donations from local government employees for the needy. Ponce Inlet at 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 newsletter 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 \$7,000 in total for the printing of the four issues published last fiscal year.

**Ponce Inlet Employee of the
Year
Wanda Binz, Administrative
Supervisor, Police Department**



Wanda Binz has worked for the Town of Ponce Inlet since March 1999. Although Ms. Binz has always been a dedicated professional employee, this past year has been a high point in her service to the Ponce Inlet Police Department. On July 18, 2014, the Commission for Florida Accreditation, On-Site Assessment Team advised that the Ponce Inlet Police Department is in compliance with all standards and would be unanimously recommended to the commission for accreditation. While our success in this process lies with the entire department's hard work and dedication, Ms. Binz is the one key individual who played an instrumental role in ensuring our accreditation success. Ms. Binz is assigned the responsibility of Accreditation Manager for the police department. An accredited police department has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that the police department has met specific requirement and prescribed standards. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence and competence. Ponce Inlet Police Department (PIPD) is proud to be State Accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. As an accredited law enforcement agency, Ms. Binz must ensure that PIPD adheres to the 39 chapters and 261 standards

set by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. This is a mammoth undertaking, as the last agency on-site accreditation inspection was over 3 years ago. Every three years Ms. Binz must provide evidence of the department's compliance with a large number of policies requiring multiple proofs to show compliance. The many hours put into this task and the organizational skills necessary to accomplish this reflect well on Ms. Binz. Her tremendous effort improved the effectiveness and efficiency of our agency and has made things more streamlined and consistent. The sheer volume of compliance standards that needed to be met entailed Ms. Binz to work beyond regular business hours, including nights and weekends in order to complete her task. This sacrifice of her private time reflects the excellence of character and dedication to her job that I admire most. The extraordinary effort given by Ms. Wanda Binz this past year is a compelling reason she was honored with the "Employee of the Year" award. Furthermore, Ms. Binz also completed a total of 2 On-Site Assessments and 3 Mock Assessments for other agencies and has received numerous letters of appreciation. She oversees the Records Section, is on the Town's Safety Committee, ensures that all training records are up to date and all required re-certifications are completed, and is a tremendous asset to the Chief of Police on a

variety of assignments. Ms. Binz commitment, reliability and outstanding work ethic are a great asset to the Town of Ponce Inlet and the Police Department, making her a highly valued employee.

Spotlight on ... Ken Sinisi.



Ken Sinisi currently works as a Maintenance Technician in the Public Works

Department. Ken moved down here from upstate New York where he retired from the US Postal Serves after 24 years of employment. In addition, Ken previously served in the United States Air Force. Ken started with the Town in April 2012. On his off days Ken helps pilot boats for delivery all around the United States. Ken also likes watching Sunday football especially his beloved New York Giants. If you enjoy Italian food, then you must compare notes with Ken on where the best Italian food can be found in our area. You can find Ken at all corners of the Town as he is making sure that all of the Town's restrooms and parks are restocked and clean throughout the weekend. Ken also cleans all of the Town buildings and takes care of other miscellaneous

needs as they arise. If you see Ken, feel free to stop him and say hello, but be quick, as he is never in one area for too long!

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 16th, 2015 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 e-mail address becomes a public record and we must provide it to anyone upon request.

Police



...with Chief Frank Fabrizio

As we start 2015, 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!

Tax Identity Theft



Here are some tips to help stop tax identity theft:

- File your tax return early
- Use a secure internet connection if you file electronically, or mail your tax return directly from the post office
- Shred copies of your tax return, drafts, or calculation sheets you no longer need
- Respond to all mail from the IRS as soon as possible
- Know the IRS won't contact you by email, text, or social media. IRS will only contact

you by mail

- Don't give out your Social Security Number (SSN) unless necessary
- Research a tax preparer thoroughly before you hand over personal information
- If your SSN has been compromised, contact the IRS ID Theft Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490
- Check your credit report at least once a year for free at annualcreditreport.com and make sure no accounts have been opened in your name



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 foreign 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.

Bicycle Registration

The Ponce Inlet Police Department has developed a bicycle registration program which will allow Ponce Inlet bicycle owners to voluntarily register their bicycles with the Police Department. This program is free of charge and will assist the Police Department in the event

your bicycle is lost or stolen. Anyone wishing to have their bicycle registered may bring it to the Ponce Inlet Police Department anytime between the hours of 9am and 4pm Monday through Sunday. If you should have any questions, call the police department at 386-236-2160.

Are You S.A.F.E.?



On March 24, 2015, the Ponce Inlet Police Department will offer a Self-Defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange (S.A.F.E.) class. This two-hour program has helped educate women in ways to reduce the risk of becoming victims of violent crime and the concept of physical self-defense. The classes in the past have been completely full and we always have a waiting list for our next program. The enthusiasm displayed by the participants has been contagious and an entertaining time has been had by the women as well as the instructors. 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. The

Ponce Inlet Police Department wants to keep you and Ponce Inlet safe. Always remember that safety comes with staying AWARE and ALERT!

Fire and Rescue



... With Fire Chief Dan Scales

2014 Activity Summary for the Fire Department

2014 was very exciting and productive year for the Ponce Inlet Fire Department. Our biggest project (which is still ongoing) was the pilot non-emergency transport program started in August of 2012. As we've reported in past newsletters, the program has been a huge success, with Ponce Inlet transporting close to 400 patients since the beginning of the program, with 168 patients to the hospital.

The community's support and your firefighters dedication has been a large part of the program's continuing success, and we hope that Volusia County will allow Ponce Inlet to continue to transport ALL of our patients in the very near future.

For January through December 2014, the Fire Department responded to 418 requests for service, with a majority of those re-

quests being EMS related (220).

Who's Watching Your Child

The Ponce Inlet Fire Department is determined to reduce the number of child deaths in our area and prevent potential dangerous situations. Make sure you know who's really watching your child. Do they have what it takes? There are a few things you can do to lower the risk of leaving your child with a secondary caretaker. Ask yourself these questions:

Does my partner/friend/caretaker:

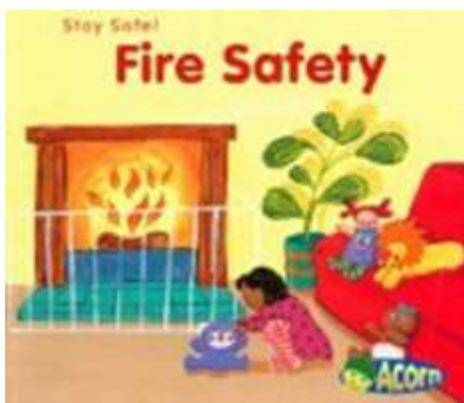
1. Treat other people in his/her life with disrespect?
2. Get angry when you spend time with your child?
3. Get angry or impatient when your child cries or has a tantrum?
4. Call your child bad names or put them down?
5. Think it's funny to scare your child?
6. Make all the decisions for you and your child?
7. Put you down or tell you that you're a bad parent or that you shouldn't have your kids?
8. Pretend when he/she hurts your child that you are to blame or that it's no big deal?
9. Tell you that your child is a nuisance or annoying?
10. Scare or threaten your child by

using guns, knives, or other weapons?

11. Does my friend/partner/caretaker treat or interact negatively with other children (nieces, nephews, friends' children, etc.)?

Your child could be at risk if you answered "yes" to even one of these questions.

Never leave your child alone with someone you don't trust to keep your child safe.



Fire Safety During Winter

As the weather gets colder, the days shorter and the nights darker we find ourselves turning up the heat to keep warm over the winter months. Before you all reach for the thermostat, start up the log fire or dig the portable heaters and electric blankets out of storage, there are a few things you should be thinking about in order to protect yourself and your family from the threat of fires within your home this winter:

Open fires

- Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained; it

is best practice to thoroughly clean your fire place and chimney area during autumn time, before the first fire of the year

- Only burn suitable fuels and never overload the fire place
- Be careful when using open fires to keep warm. Make sure that embers are extinguished before leaving the room unattended for long periods of time or before going to bed
- Never store firewood close to a fire place or stove in case of accidental ignition via radiated heat
- Never empty ashes into a plastic bag or cardboard box.

Portable heaters

- Always keep heaters away from curtains and furnishings; in no circumstances should portable heaters be covered or used to dry clothes
- Always ensure you turn off and unplug electric heaters when they are left unattended for long periods of time, when leaving the house and before going to bed
- Heaters should always be positioned with their backs against the wall and if possible, secured against the wall to prevent them from falling over

Electric blankets

- Always unplug blankets before you go to bed unless they have a thermostat control ensuring their safety for overnight use, although it is advis-

- able to turn them off
- Under no circumstances should a hot water bottle be used in the same bed as an electric blanket
- Check regularly for wear and tear of your blanket. It is advised you have them checked once every three years and they should be replaced after ten years
- Keep electric blankets flat or rolled up when in storage, as folding them will damage internal wiring

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



The men and women of the Ponce Inlet Fire Department would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our residents for your continued support for all we do.

We wish you and your family happy and healthy 2015.

All of you make Ponce Inlet a great place to live and work, truly the "jewel" of Volusia County.



Help Us Find You!







In order to help locate your residence quickly in case of an emergency situation, the Ponce Inlet Town Council, Ponce Inlet Fire Department and Ponce Inlet Police Department are encouraging all residents to purchase address number identifiers. Nothing is more frustrating than not being able to locate the address for which we are being called to render aid.

The Town Council recommends the purchase of the blue signs since they have a better long-distance appearance.

The vendor that the Town Council has identified as having the best quality sign and color is Smart Sign. They can be found at www.smartsign.com/911-signs. The signs cost approximately \$22.

The signs can be mounted on the mailbox either vertically or horizontally. Arrangements can be made, for those who need assistance with installation, but residents must provide all installation hardware.

For more information, feel free to contact the Ponce Inlet Fire Department at 386-322-6720.

Links to Smart Sign do not constitute an endorsement by the Town of Ponce Inlet or their products and services. This link is provided solely on the basis of Council recommendation.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



...with Aref Joulani, Director

PLANNING & ZONING DIVISION

Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) Updates

Progress on the Town's effort to

update its LUDC continues in 2015. This past December, the Planning Board held a workshop on potential new regulations regarding "waivers." A waiver is intended to grant limited, reasonable flexibility from certain development requirements in situations that may not meet all the criteria or level of hardship required for granting a variance. An updated draft of the regulations will be presented to the Board for review at its January 2015 meeting. Once the drafting process is finished,

the regulations will be incorporated into an ordinance for Planning Board recommendation and Town Council approval.

For the remainder of 2015, the Planning Board will continue to hold workshops on additional LUDC amendment topics, including:

- Parking
- Courtyards
- Minor re-plats
- Max. size of non-residential buildings
- Signs

The public is invited to attend these workshops, which are held at 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. For more information, please check the calendar on the Town website at www.ponce-inlet.org, or contact the Planning and Zoning staff at (386) 236-2181.

Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)

Every seven years, local governments in Florida are required by state law (F.S. 163.3191) to assess the need to update their comprehensive plans. This periodic evaluation analyzes whether amendments to the plan are needed to reflect changes to state requirements and local conditions since the last time the comprehensive plan was updated. Local governments are required to notify the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) by letter of this determination.

If the local government deter-

mines amendments to the comprehensive plan are necessary, it must prepare and send the proposed amendments to DEO within one year after notification. If a local government does not meet this deadline, it may not amend its comprehensive plan for other purposes until its "EAR-based amendments" are submitted first.

The EAR notification letter for Ponce Inlet is due by November 1, 2015. For more information, please contact the Planning and Zoning staff at (386) 236-2181.

BUILDING & CODE DIVISION:

Welcome Hank Baker! We are pleased to introduce Hank Baker as the Town's Building Inspector and newest member of staff. Hank has worked for local contractors, is a state certified General Contractor, and has many years of experience in the construction industry. Hank performs building inspections and assists with Code Enforcement. Hank is available at 386-236-2185 or by email at hbaker@ponce-inlet.org.

2015 looks promising for our community as the number of construction permits increase. We are currently reviewing the Ponce Inlet Key development which will include five homes between Atlantic Avenue and Peninsula Drive. The Town is also looking at the completion of homes at

4825 S. Atlantic Avenue and one home at 14 Mar Azul North.

Staff anticipates that several new single-family permit application packets will be submitted during the 1st quarter of 2015.

Staff has received inquiries about vacant lots in Las Olas as well as other vacant lots throughout the Town. Several vacant/foreclosed properties have been sold and are currently being renovated.

I would also like to mention that the building office also does the floodplain management for the Town of Ponce Inlet. Staff is available to answer any type of flood-related questions you may have, including if your home is located in a special flood hazard area (SFHA), is flood insurance required for a particular property, or is there a limit on how much work can be done before a property must be elevated. Please contact Robert Bailey, Chief Building Official at 386-236-2186 if you have any questions.

Don't Feed the Wildlife



We would like to remind our residents about using approved garbage cans for curb pick up. Not using a can with a lid or overfill-

ing your garbage can attracts intrusion by wildlife. Most recently we have experienced problems with Turkey Vultures disturbing the contents of open cans and plastic bags. The can is considered overfilled when the lid doesn't close properly. In some cases, the cans are so overfilled that the lid either sticks straight up into the air or it isn't even used at all. This situation has become an environmental problem for the Town residents, not only because of the attracting of numerous Vultures disturbing the garbage and littering the area; it may also contaminate the ground water and pollute the storm water system and waterways. All garbage should be in an approved garbage container when put out for pick up.

Section 62-33 of the Town of Ponce Inlets Code of Ordinances states that "garbage and rubbish receptacle shall have a capacity of not less than ten gallons and not more than 40 gallons, shall be of metal or plastic, shall be free from holes or leaks, and shall be provided with an appropriate fitted metal or plastic cover to prevent entrance of rainwater and insects". Please contact Steve Linkfield, Code Enforcement Office at 386-236-2187 or slinkfield@ponce-inlet.org if you have any questions.

PONCE INLET HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Ponce Inlet Historical Museum (PIHM) had an eventful 2014 with 1,890 visitors and the most visitation of any summer so far. The museum hosted two lecture series in 2014, opened new exhibits, and had several programs throughout the year including "A Very Merry Cracker Christmas" where families journeyed into Christmases past and children enjoyed making vintage crafts and playing historic games. As the Museum begins a new year of programs and exhibits, please visit the Town calendar and/or the Museum website for up-to-date information!

One of the programs PIHM hosts annually are four Volusia County ECHO Rangers events for children in grades one through five. The ECHO Ranger program educates children, their families and scout troops about the many Ecological, Cultural, Heritage and Outdoors offerings in Volusia County. ECHO Rangers programs take place at parks, museums, historical sites and libraries throughout Volusia County. At PIHM, the students tour the historic buildings, analyze historical artifacts, and participate in historical games. For more information about the ECHO Ranger program, please contact Ms. Kayce Looper at kloopper@volusia.org or by calling 386-668-3840. PIHM's next ECHO Rangers Program is Saturday, March 14, 2015.

"Children of Ponce Inlet" is PIHM's latest exhibit focusing on children who grew up in Ponce Inlet during the early 1900s. It is based on oral reports, historical documents, and photos of those who grew up here. The exhibit shows the history of the area seen through the eyes of children, which helps other children relate to the story of Ponce Inlet. The exhibit incorporates a historical narrative about what life was like, where children went to school, what chores they had, and what they did for fun. The display also includes interactive games and toys for children and those young at heart to play with.

PIHM is offering another great **Lecture Series** in the spring. Titled "Florida's Environment," the series' theme and timing are intended to coincide with Earth Day and the Town's environmental awareness events, "Turtle Day" and "Ponce Preserves the Planet." Please join us for the following presentations, which will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers at Ponce Inlet Town Hall, 4300 South Atlantic Avenue.

February 11 - "An Environmental History of Florida Archaeology" presented by Kevin Gidusko, Public Archaeology Coordinator, Florida Public Archaeology Network

Public Works



... with Public Works - Keith Gunter, General Manager

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

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:

Jeff Miller completed 2 days course dealing with street signs and road markings.

Special Events

Ponce Inlet has numerous special events throughout the year, some of which require a Special Event permit. To determine if your event requires a permit, please review the Special Event regulations in Chapter 51 of the Town's Code of Ordinances. All questions should be directed to Amy Zengotita, Special Event Coordinator at 386-236-2163.

Save the Date!

February 14, 2015 at 8:00am - run the 4.1 mile Beach Race Course before the 4th Annual Historic Racing Legends Parade

February 14, 2015 at 9:30am – watch the 4th Annual Historic Racing Legends Beach/Road Course Parade. The parade will run from Racing's North Turn south on Atlantic Avenue to the Beach Street ramp, enter onto the beach, and proceed north back to Racing's North Turn, completing the original 4.1 mile course. VO-TRAN will provide shuttle service between Toronita Park and Inlet Harbor Road.

Please visit the Special Events Calendar on the Town's website for information on upcoming events.

March 11 - "The Wonders for Our Coastal Ecosystem" presented by Zach Zacharias, Curator of Education and History at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach

April 8 - "A Land Sculpted by the Sea: A Natural History of Volusia County" presented by Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center

An audio file for previous presentations can be found on the PIHM webpage located on the Town website: <http://www.ponce-inlet.org>.

If you would like to support the museum in any manner, please contact Amy Zengotita at (386) 761-2408 or azengotita@ponce-inlet.org.

PIHM always welcomes donations. These are just a few of the Artifact items the museum is looking for:

- Early 20th century fishing equipment
- 1950s Racing Memorabilia
- 19th and early 20th century photographs of the area
- Diaries, postcards, and letters relevant to Ponce Inlet
- Items that relate to the Halifax River or the Inlet
- Artifacts that relate to rum running in the area
- 1940s Post Office supplies

Public Works passed our annual water inspection from the Volusia County Health Department. All water testing reports and monthly reports were reviewed.

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

<http://www.ponce-inlet.org>

Please view the Public Works video "*So Community Works Better – APWA Florida Chapter*".

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.**

Please Note Change in Dates!
Solid Waste, Yard Trash & Recycling: Household trash, Yard Trash and Recycling services are provided by Waste Management. If you have questions, they can be reached at 386-615-7781 during normal business hours. **The regular schedule for pickups will change effective the week of January 12, 2015.**

Monday and Thursday will continue to be house hold trash days, Monday will now also be recycling day (instead of Tuesday) and Wednesday will be yard trash day (instead of

Tuesday). 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.

Storm water Maintenance: Please visit the Town Hall or the Public Works Yard to pick up information on storm water runoff or visit www.sjrwmd.com or epa.gov/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm and help keep our storm water systems clean and working properly.

The county landfill will be closed on Sundays.

Backflow Device Information

What is back-siphonage? Back-siphonage is the reversal of normal flow in a system caused by a negative pressure (vacuum or partial vacuum) in the supply piping.

What factors cause back-siphonage?

Back-siphonage can be created when there is stoppage of the water supply due to nearby fire-fighting, repairs or breaks in the city main, etc.,. The effect is similar to the sipping of a soda by inhaling through a straw, which induces a flow in the opposite direction.

What is backpressure flow?

Backpressure backflow is the reversal of the normal flow in a system due to an increase in the

downstream pressure above that of the supply pressure.

What factors can cause a back-pressure-backflow condition?

Backpressure-backflow is created whenever the downstream pressure exceeds the supply pressure which is possible in installations such as a heating system, elevated tanks, and pressure-producing systems. An example would be a hot water space-heating boiler operating under 15-20 lbs. pressure coincidental with a reduction of the city water supply below such pressure (or higher in most common boilers). As water tends to flow in the direction of least resistance, a backpressure-backflow condition would be created and the contaminated boiler water would flow into the potable water supply.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is a direct arrangement of a piping line which allows the potable water supply to be connected to a line which contains a contaminant. An example is the common garden hose attached to a service sink with the end of the hose submerged in a tub full of detergent, supply lines connected to bottom-fed tanks, supply lines to boilers.

What is the most common form of a cross connection?

Ironically, the ordinary garden hose is the most common offender as it can be easily connected to the potable water supply and used for a variety of potentially dangerous applications.

PICCI POINTS



...by
Susie Hagey

Hoping all had a great Christmas and/or Holiday Season and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR. Just a reminder, be sure to come in to the center and get your Christmas Cards that haven't yet been picked up. You might not think you received any....but I bet you did! It's back to business now and figuring out ways to earn money to run our Ponce Inlet Community Center.

Coming up Feb. 7 will be COMMUNITY DAY chaired by Peter Finch. For all newcomers, who may not know, on this day all businesses, restaurants, clubs, town departments, etc. in Ponce Inlet have been invited to come to the center to share their talents, information and maybe 'samples' with all the residents and visitors of Ponce Inlet. Time is 9:30 to noon. EVERYONE IS INVITED – AND IT'S FREE!

So, our first big fundraiser of the year is going to be our second annual BBQ SHOWDOWN! The girls on the PICCI board are handling this event

with Kristi Drumheller as chairperson. Mark your calendar – Feb. 28, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Cost is \$10.00 for the tasting ticket which includes sampling of the BBQ entries, 3 sides (cole slaw, baked beans, Faye's potato salad), dessert, and coffee. BYOB & snack for your table if you wish. There will be a signature drink at the Tiki Bar (\$3.00 donation). Soft background music via of our sound system playing while people are discussing entries.

For those who don't know, this is a contest to find the best BBQ in Ponce Inlet and will be judged by three 'experts'. Here are the rules: ENTRANTS – gather your fellow foodies and name your team for a chance to win 1st prize in the PICCI BBQ SHOWDOWN (examples: Garden Club Team, Town Team, Fish Fry Team, Lighthouse Team, Harbor Village Team, other clubs, even a street team or condo team is welcome). Form a team in honor of your favorite charity and, if you win, donate the proceeds to your charity. If you can BBQ it...you can bring it ready to serve and enter it. Entrants will be asked to cook 1-2 tablespoons sampling for 100-120 people (or for purchasing purposes Entrée size portions for appx. 20). Teams with left overs at the end of the event can package and sell food to go and keep proceeds. (Teams are responsi-

ble for their own small serving containers, to go boxes, foils, packaging...) Each team will have one server for the food line. The PICCI ladies will serve the sides. SIGNUP DEADLINE FOR ENTRANTS IS FEB. 9, 2015. For more information and to enter your team, call or email Kristi Drumheller, 561-308-0312, gsdkd@hotmail.com. Check out poster in this booklet. WARNING – LAST YEAR, ALL TICKETS WERE SOLD OUT AT LEAST A WEEK AHEAD OF TIME – SO, WATCH FOR NOTICE & GET YOUR TICKET RIGHT AWAY – WE TURNED AWAY QUITE A FEW. THIS IS SUCH A FUN DAY!

Our 44th semi-annual fleamarket will be Fri., March 5th (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Sat., March 6th (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). This will be the 44th time that Carolyn Sprague (such dedication) has been in charge. Lill Cocce has been helping her for years (thanks so much). Bill Hynds has been very helpful (thanks also). For those of you who don't know, items to sell are collected year 'round. Items can be left off in a storage box on the south side of the building. Need a pick-up? Call Carolyn, 767-6765. Mark your calendar.

Irish Night will be on Saturday, March 14. We really need you and it will be a fun night as

usual. Check out all the particulars on the poster included in this newsletter.

A stretch & tone exercise class has been added at the center. It will be on Monday at 10:15 a.m. The Friday 9 a.m. stretch & tone class is still meeting. There will still be aerobics on Monday & Thursday at 9 a.m. Yoga is at 6:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday (except not on 1st Wednesday); 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday & Thursday; and 9 a.m. on Tuesday. Call the office for more information at 760-0615.

The FLOW (Florida Licensing on Wheels) Van will be at the center the second Monday of January, which is the 12th. The time is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The March schedule may change so call the office in late February to find out.

The PICCI board would like to thank the Ponce Inlet Women's Club for the new stainless steel utility table for the kitchen and also for the spoons & forks. They have been so very generous to the center for many years now.

The Ponce Inlet Community Church meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. All are invited.

Want to remind you that we do rent the center for weddings, parties, etc. Call Faye McHugh for any questions on renting. 386-846-0814

Keep up with what is going on at PICCI by picking up a calen-

dar of events each month, by checking the sign out front, by reading our bulletin boards located on the walls on either side of the front doors outside or by googling our web site at: Ponceinletcommunitycenter.com.

Send us your ideas and suggestions...and enjoy our beautiful town.

The Ponce Inlet Community Center Board is hosting a **BBQ SHOWDOWN**

February 28, 2015

5:00 PM—8:00 PM

**Grab your "foodie" friends
and name your team!**

1st Prize \$100.00 and
1st Place Trophy

2nd prize—\$50.00

3rd prize—\$25.00

Deadline for entries 2-9-2015

We want Organizations, Groups,
Clubs, Condos and Individuals to
enter. Keep the prize or donate to
your favorite charity/club.



***If you can BBQ it
you can enter it!
Bring entrees ready
to serve in "tasting"
portions.***

Call or email Kristi Drumheller for more
information and to enter your team. 561-308-0312
or 386-760-9911 or gsksd@hotmail.com

PICCI BOARD IS HOSTING A BBQ SHOWDOWN

FEBRUARY 28, 2015
5pm to 8pm

JOIN US FOR A
FUN EVENING
SAMPLING GREAT FOOD

Come visit with friends and
neighbors and our three celebrity
judges.

BYOB and appetizer for your
table if you wish



**\$10.00 "Tasting Tickets" will be
on sale at the Community
Center from 1-12-15 until
2-20-15. Only 120 tickets will
be sold. Don't get shut out.**

*Signature drink at Tiki Bar
Donation \$3.00*

Ponce Inlet Women's Club



PIWC Pink Lady Talk
By Sandy Wester, Publicity Chair

Greetings and Happy New Year 2015

News from fall, 2014, the Ponce Inlet Women's Club participated in the Veteran's Day Ceremony held at the Ponce Inlet Vet-



eran's Memorial. PIWC President Ann Dunbar and Vice President, Ada Landers presented a beautiful wreath in commemoration of the day set aside to honor our veterans.

Chairs, Suzie Hagey and Marlene Heiden hosted a very successful luncheon and fund raiser on November 12, 2014. This annual auction and luncheon is a major fund raiser for Daytona State College scholarships and

local charities. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the special lunch. Many generous people bid



on beautiful gifts donated by PIWC members, raising close to \$5,000. Auctioneer volunteers, Bill Hibbert and Jim Volz seemed



to enjoy the event just as much as those bidding on the gifts. We were happy to have

their help and they added to all the fun of the day.

In addition to the items auctioned off at



the Boutique, Barbara Larsen donated a large Christmas Sled filled with Christmas dishes, wine, candy and a dining gift certificate, and Kathy Griscom donated a large crate



filled with lots of wine. Sixty tickets of \$10 each were sold on each item for a total of \$1,200. The drawing was held at the PIWC Annual Christmas Luncheon. Members Cathy Bauerle won the Christmas Sled and Shirley Hibbert won the Wine Crate.



For the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6,



2014, Chair Angela Molpus and her committee members, Ada Landers, Eleanor Perocier, Joann Doyle, Ramona Thomas, and Dr. Suzie Hagey, designed a beautiful float "Disappearing Island". The float was recognized by the judges



as the “most original”.

Every Christmas season brings the PIWC ladies together



for a luncheon meeting at a local restaurant. This year the luncheon,



chaired by Joann Doyle, was held at Stonewood Grill and Tavern. Forty-three members came to the lunch to celebrate the holiday season.

Our thanks to member, Shirley Hibbert, Chair, Special Projects, for using some of the funds allotted to her by the "Club" to benefit the Ponce Inlet Community Center. On behalf of the PIWC, she purchased one stainless steel kitchen work table (this replaced a similar table in the kitchen that has outlived it's usefulness) and salad forks and teaspoons that were badly needed. In cooperation with the PICCI Board, it was determined that these items were the most needed at this time.

In January, the PIWC members always look forward to a special outing outside of the regular meeting schedule. Special Event Chair, Jeanette Kellum and her committee have arranged for a fun day of shopping and lunch on January 27 at the St. Johns Town Center in Jacksonville. The tour bus will be waiting at the community center that morning for all who signed up.

The PIWC objective is a united effort for the welfare of the community. The Club invites all women in Ponce Inlet, especially those who have just moved here, to come and check-out our Club and perhaps become members. The Club meets the second Wednesday each month September through May at 10:30am in the Ponce Inlet Community Center. Please stop by the Community Center to pick up an application for membership.

In just 9 weeks, it will be showtime for the premier **2015**

Style of Your Life Fashion Show Luncheon. This educational scholarship and cultural/charity Benefit of the Ponce Inlet Women's Club includes membership from the Port Orange, Wilbur by the Sea and Daytona Beach Shores communities, and will be held on Thursday, March 19, at the Halifax River Yacht Club.

Time is of the essence for making reservations for yourself and your friends, to fill a table of 10; deadline, one week in advance...that's Thursday, March 12. For reservations, call the Ponce Inlet Community Center today at: 386.760.0615, and go to the Center to purchase your ticket (s), or mail check(s) for \$35 per person, made out to "PIWC", to Ponce Inlet Community Center, 4670 S. Peninsula Ave., Ponce Inlet, 32127.

Highlights:

The new House of Fashion is Dillard's, featuring the latest spring/summer fashion collections from beach/resort wear, casual chic to simple elegance, starring new member models with Celebrity Guest Lilly Pulitzer Model Susan Sheldrake of Palm Beach and Miami. Guest Commentator on the Eileen Fisher and Lilly Pulitzer designs will be Screen Actor Guild Member Cecilia Bataglini of Philadelphia.

Returning show highlights feature the *Parade of Hats* by the Patrons, showcasing footwear as well as hats to add that special elegant touch to attire...finale grand

prize for Best in Parade.

Schedule:

Doors open at 10:30 am for traditional social with friends, as well as preview of the fabulous auction items, and the grand raffle prizes from the business communities.

Show begins at 11 am with entertainment and a special gourmet luncheon at noon.

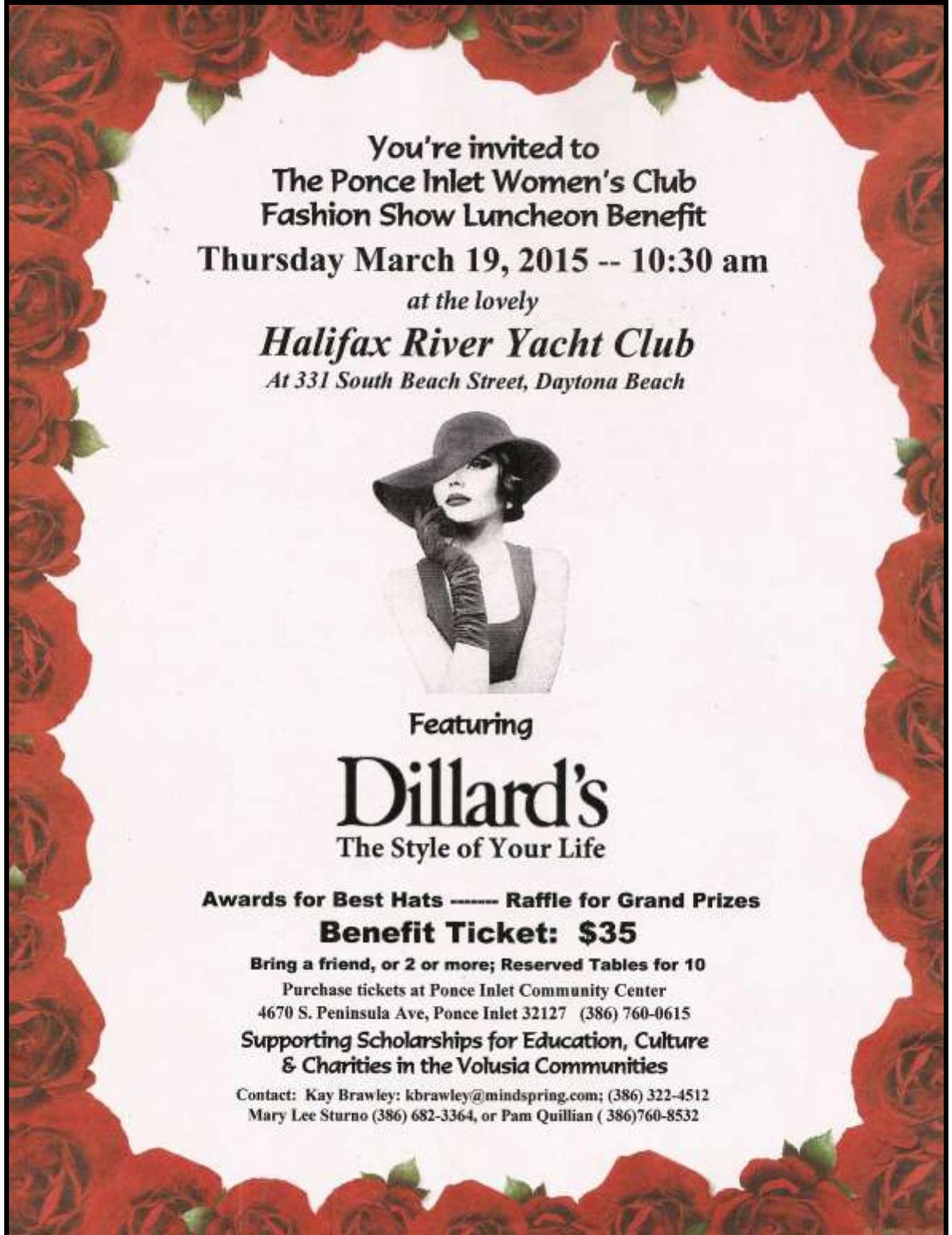
Make plans now to come to the Halifax River Yacht Club for a really "Good Time for a Good Cause" on Thursday, March 19! Tickets will be on sale at the Community Center. Please share the promotional flyer...bring a friend or two, or a whole table of your buddies (10).

Also, **donations** of gifts from local business, organizations and individual patrons are solicited for the Auction. When making a gift contribution, please identify its

value and minimum bid, and how you, your business or organization would like to be listed in the program.

For more information, contact Benefit Director Dr. Kay

Brawley, kbrawley@mindspring.com (386.322.4512), or Co-Chairs Pam Quillian (386.760.8532), and Mary Lee Sturno (386.682.3364).



**You're invited to
The Ponce Inlet Women's Club
Fashion Show Luncheon Benefit
Thursday March 19, 2015 -- 10:30 am
at the lovely
Halifax River Yacht Club
At 331 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach**



**Featuring
Dillard's
The Style of Your Life**

**Awards for Best Hats ----- Raffle for Grand Prizes
Benefit Ticket: \$35**

Bring a friend, or 2 or more; Reserved Tables for 10
Purchase tickets at Ponce Inlet Community Center
4670 S. Peninsula Ave, Ponce Inlet 32127 (386) 760-0615
**Supporting Scholarships for Education, Culture
& Charities in the Volusia Communities**

Contact: Kay Brawley: kbrawley@mindspring.com; (386) 322-4512
Mary Lee Sturno (386) 682-3364, or Pam Quillian (386)760-8532



Jim Hinson
Vice President



Herb Fix
Secretary



Bill Wester
President

Ponce Inlet Veterans Memorial
Bill Wester, President



Bob McLaughlin
Treasurer

This past November, Veterans Day was celebrated with a ceremony at the Memorial. This year for the first time we were blessed to have the Aca Fella singing group from the ROTC program at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University who performed the service songs and patriotic music for us. Also, we would like to thank all who attended as this shows what a grateful community we have in saluting our veterans.

In December we held a successful Christmas Pancake Breakfast with Santa (Tony Raia) and his Elf (Liz Raia) highlighting the event for the children. Later in the day we participated in the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade.

The Association would like to thank all of our members who helped make these events possible and the community who supported us.

We would like to extend an invitation for all to join us on Monday, May 25, 2015 at 9:00 AM when we celebrate Memorial Day with a ceremony at the Memorial at Davies Lighthouse Park. There will be a color guard, speakers, a fly-over, dedication and wreath laying, a firing squad and taps. Memorial Day is a special holiday which remembers the men and women who died while serving in our country's armed forces. This holiday, which is celebrated every year on the last Monday of May, was formerly known as Decoration Day and originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the war. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

Garden Club

By Jane Magrady

The Garden Club of Ponce Inlet members have enjoyed two garden-focused fall meetings and a marvelous holiday program. On October 22, Jennifer Pell of Lindley's Nursery discussed "Fall and Winter Perennials". Following the presentation, plants were available for sale to the members. Jim and Lois Dinneen of 69 South Turn were the October Beautification winners.

Club member Arlene Conklin decorated the wreath that was presented on November 11, 2014 at the Veteran's Memorial.



On November 19, Barbara Willey of the Ormond Beach Garden club demon-

strated "How to Arrange Flowers for Special Holiday Events." Barbara shared many tips for how to turn inexpensive bouquets into lovely arrangements for fall and Christmas holidays. At the end of the program, her arrangements



were awarded to six lucky club members. Michael and Julie Longfellow of 103 Old Carriage Rd. were the beautification winners for November.



The Holidays were kicked off with the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade on December 6th. Portia Mallack and Gwen Girard led club members, attired as trees and gifts, along the parade route.



The December 17, 2015 meeting attendees were treated to a performance of "The Story of the Christmas Song" by International Concert Harpist, Melody Long Anglin. Melody is a seasoned concert artist, harpist and vocalist with a Master's Degree in Musical Performance.

In December, the Beautification Committee makes 5 awards



for best Christmas lights. Ginger Bayer announced that the 1st place award went to George and Yvonne Misleh of 38 Loggerhead Ct.; 2nd Place Otis and Mary Whited of 4701 Peninsula; and 3rd Place Lloyd and Phyllis Subbfield of 4333 Peninsula. The Condo Award went to Harbour Village, while Inlet Harbor Restaurant and Marina was awarded as the best business lights.

In addition to our plants, our membership continues to grow! In fact, the club has added nine members in just the past 3 months. Marian Kelly and Sue Conklin were honored as lifetime members and received a plaque and flowers at the October meeting.

Luncheon meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Community Center at 10:30 a.m. For more information about attending a meeting or becoming a member, please stop by the PICCI office for an application.

Our upcoming meetings and events to look forward to will be:

January 21, 2015 - The Garden Club of Ponce Inlet Tea

Party and “Thyme and Again Boutique”, which will be held on at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Center. This year’s theme will be Black and White. Tickets are on sale at the PICCI until January 15th. Remember to bring your own tea cup!

Other easy ways you can help out is to save box tops for education, pop tops to support Ronald McDonald House and Campbell Soup labels also for education. Just drop these by the PICCI building addressed to Sherry Utter

and she will make sure they go to good use.

More information about the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet can be found on their new website:

www.gardenclubofponceinlet.org

January 28, 2015 – David Griffs, County Extension Director, Natural Resource Agent will present “Soils and your landscape on the coast.”

February 25, 2015 – Lindley’s Nursery, Jennifer and Taylor Knight will discuss “Miniature gardening.”

March 25, 2015 – Lori Allen, a garden club member, will share “Butterflies in your garden.”

Thanks to the community support for our special events, the club is able to continue to fund scholarships for local students and projects to beautify our town. Lovely holiday plants were donated to the town offices, community center and the museum for the holiday season.



Garden Club of Ponce Inlet
Tea Party
January 21, 2015
@ 1:00
Community Center
\$10.00



Thyme and Again Boutique
Gently enjoyed accessories

Tickets on sale at the
Ponce Inlet Community Center
until January 15, 2015

Questions??? Mary Ann- maopperud@gmail.com
1-425-314-5595



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

GARDEN CLUB OF PONCE INLET MARGIE JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

PURPOSE: To assist in the continuing education of a high school senior upon graduation
CRITERIA: High school seniors living in Ponce Inlet are eligible to apply

\$1500

1. NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____

2. CURRENT GPA _____ CLASS RANK/SIZE _____

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR VERIFICATION _____

3. ON A SEPARATE PAPER, PLEASE TYPE AN ESSAY ON THE TOPIC:

"MY TOWN, I'M PART OF IT, I'M PROUD OF IT." LIMIT THE ESSAY TO 500 WORDS.

4. PLEASE ATTACH A RESUME OF YOUR *SCHOOL, EXTRACURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY* ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING THOSE **SPECIFIC TO PONCE INLET**), AND *EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION* YOU PLAN TO ATTEND FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

5. PLEASE ATTACH ONE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.

6. PLEASE DROP OFF* OR MAIL (*preferred method*) YOUR APPLICATION TO:

THE GARDEN CLUB OF PONCE INLET
PONCE INLET COMMUNITY CENTER
4670 SOUTH PENINSULA DRIVE
PONCE INLET, FL 32127

DEADLINE: THE APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015

CONTACT SHERRY UTTER 767-1669 or ponceutter@bellsouth.net
FOR MORE INFORMATION

*If you plan to hand deliver the application to the Community Center, please call 760-0615 for hours to ensure someone will be present to receive it.

Ponce Church

Living On Mission

Ponce Church has begun a NEW "Mission" outreach for our homeless friends and families in need at 320 North Street in Daytona Beach every Saturday from 4:30-5:30pm. We feed approximately 100 people. Anyone is welcome to join us and serve. They are also welcome to bring a dish on any given Saturday. We are also taking blanket donations during the cold winter months. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us you are also welcome to give to help purchase food. 100% of your gifts go toward the purchase of food. To donate go to <http://poncechurch.com> For more info call the Ponce Church home office at [386-308-1533](tel:386-308-1533). Ponce Church also meets Sundays, 10:00am at 4670 S. Peninsula in the PI Community Center. Thank you.



Garden Club of Ponce Inlet, Inc.

4642 Riverwalk Village Ct., Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet cordially invites you to participate in the 33rd Annual Arts, Crafts, and Plant Show on October 9-10, 2015 at the Ponce Inlet Community Center.

Thursday, October 8 - Set-up will be from 3:00 till 7:00 PM. Outside Vendors, or those coming from long distances may set-up beginning at 7:00 AM on Friday, Oct. 9.

Friday, October 9 - Show open to the public from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM

Saturday, October 10 - Show open to the public from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM

Spaces (maximum two per Vendor):

- Inside spaces vary – 8'x8', 6' x 10' w/table & 2 chairs 2 days \$50.00
- Outside spaces 12'x12' (no table or chair) 2 days \$30.00

Reservations are made at time of receipt of the Vendor's check. The 21 available inside spaces will be assigned on a first come/first served basis. The building is locked overnight, but security is NOT available for the outside spaces. Lunch is available for purchase.

NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2015.

.....
Please return this portion with your check:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Number of Spaces _____ Inside _____ Outside _____

Briefly describe your arts/crafts or submit a non-returnable photo:

Make checks payable to the Garden Club of Ponce Inlet. Return payment with application to:

Garden Club of Ponce Inlet
% Jane Magrady
4642 Riverwalk Village Ct.
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

For question call Jane Magrady at 386-285-5120 or email: jmagrady@cfi.rr.com

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

Mary Wentzel
Programs Manager

As we recuperate from a very busy holiday season and dive head first into the New Year, we look back fondly on past events that celebrated the season and brought so many of us together.

On October 18th we had our Fall Museum at Night event. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse remained open after dark in support of the Museums at Night initiative. The Museum at Night concept began as a national campaign in the United Kingdom as a way to encourage museum visitation by opening galleries and heritage sites after normal operating hours and hosting special educational events. Participants at the event looked into the sky, enjoying the chance to study the stars through high-powered telescopes from Daytona Beach Museum of Arts and Science. Many thanks to Curator Seth Mayo and the members of the Astronomy Club from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for their participation in this event.

The month of November was full of exciting events at the Lighthouse as well as in the community. On November 1st we celebrated Girl Scout Earn a Badge Day. The afternoon activities offered over 40 girl scouts the chance to earn

an official Girl Scout archaeology patch. The Lighthouse educational department, working with the Girl Scouts of Citrus Counsel and the Florida Public Archaeology Network, designed a unique program to teach girls about the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and the wide range of careers in the field of archaeology.

Then on November 13th we had our Homeschool Day Fall Gathering at the Lighthouse. Nearly a hundred homeschooler converged on the Lighthouse for a day of fun educational activities. The event included seven stations set up throughout the lighthouse grounds. Activities featured at this year's Homeschool Day included: the Lighthouse Chores Obstacle Course, Hot Inventions in History, Early Games at the Lighthouse, Keeping Healthy at the Lighthouse, Science of Light and Immigration: Building the Lighthouse.

During the month of November we took the Lighthouse curriculums on the road presenting our science and history programs. Lighthouse staff and volunteers conducted educational workshops at Westside Elementary, Orange City Elementary, Longstreet Elementary and Forest Lake Elementary. Forty-five students from Bronson Middle School in Gainesville came a long way to visit the Lighthouse and attend a special presentation of our Science of Light and Lighthouse Illumination program.

The holiday season was in full swing on November 28th when we

held our annual Thanksgiving Gifts event at the Lighthouse. Visitors came to the Lighthouse to make old time holiday decorations using pinecones, oranges and cloves. The following weekend of December 6th and 7th were festive days of colorful parades and holiday excitement. Our six foot tall costumed Nelly the cat and our valiant Lighthouse keeper were greeted by hundreds who came out for the Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade. On Sunday we did it all again by attending the Port Orange holiday parade.

In keeping with the holiday tradition the wonderful Choir from Longstreet Elementary School came out to the Lighthouse to sing holiday songs to our visitors. December 26th was our annual Winter Holiday Event at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Over 600 guests came out to the Lighthouse on the day after Christmas to enjoy the special activities available to visitors and the beauty of the tallest Lighthouse in Florida.

As we look ahead to a new year our lighthouse VIP volunteers are gearing up for a great season of fun. Upcoming events in January, February and March are: *Girl Scout Day* on January 10th, *Museum at Night* on January 16th, *Beach Racing Day* on February 15th, and *Florida Heritage Day* on March 28th.

Additional events scheduled in the coming months include *Bike Week at the Lighthouse* on March 6,7,8, and on March 13,14,15 and

Family Fun Day on March 20th. Please go to our website, www.ponceinlet.org to learn more about upcoming events at the Lighthouse. If you have any questions about any of our upcoming events please contact Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18.

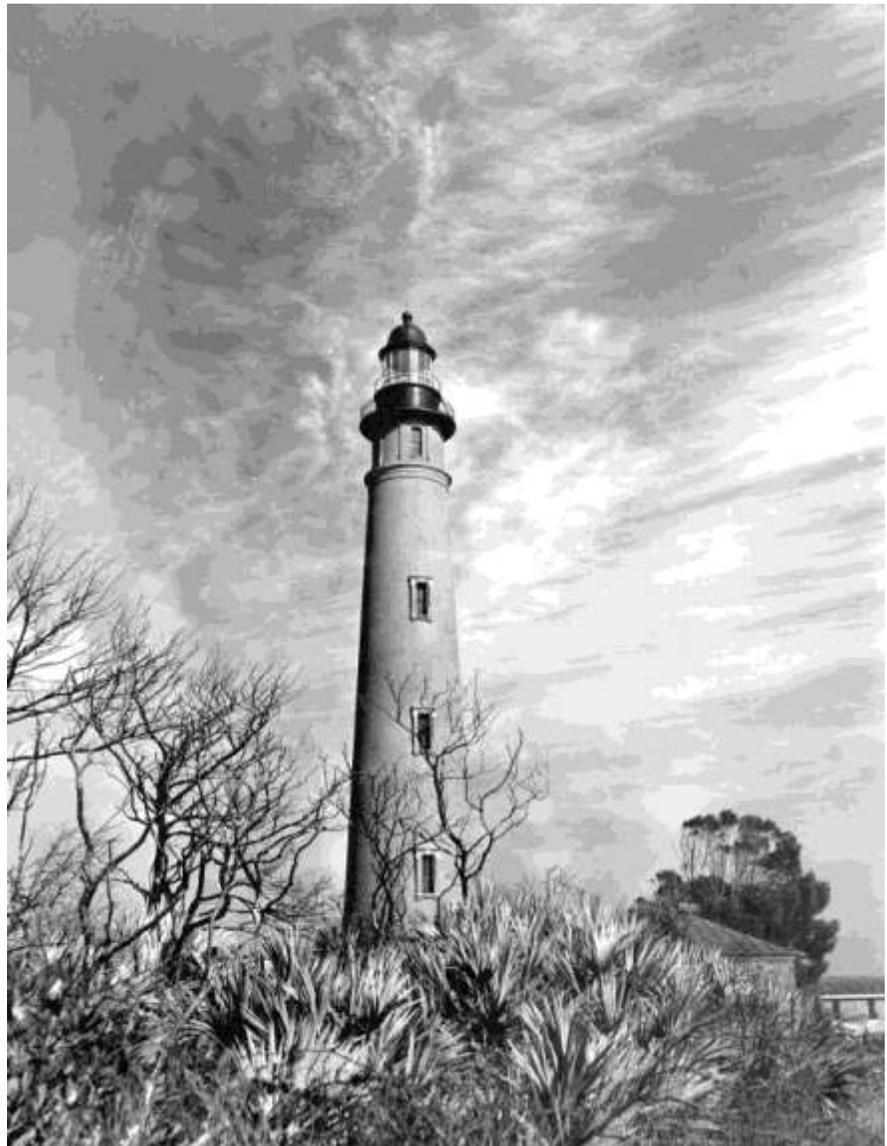
Looking to share a unique experience with a friend or loved one? Reach for the moon during our *Climb to the Moon* event. Held every month on the first night of the full moon, the climb is one of the lighthouse's most sought-after RSVP offerings. Participants are given the unique opportunity to experience the historic Ponce Inlet Lighthouse by the light of both the full moon, and the flash of our own third order Fresnel lens, up close and personal. Visitors to this special event are treated to an escorted tour to the top, view of the sunset and the moon rise over the river and the ocean from 175 feet in the air, and also a rare tour of the lantern room, open only during these special events. We have to thank our special partners, the folks at Inlet Harbor Restaurant, who have sponsored the food for the monthly Climb to the Moon since its inception. Due to the incredible popular demand, individuals who are interested in participating in this event are encouraged to purchase their tickets well in advance. For more information contact Karen Huffman, at khuffman@ponceinlet.org or by phone

at (386) 761-1821 Ext. 10.

Congratulations to our Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer of the Quarter, Ponce Inlet resident Tana Lee White. Tana began volunteering at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse in 2005 because she enjoyed learning about history. She shares that "history is investigation and discovery and I love sharing the unique Lighthouse story with others." Although the entire volunteer corps contributes collectively towards helping our organization achieve its mission, the Preserva-

tion Association honors the spirit of volunteerism by acknowledging specific individuals whose contributions far exceed what would normally be expected.

If you would like to become one of our wonderful volunteers, or are interested in learning more about the rewarding opportunities for volunteers at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, contact **Mary Wentzel** at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821, ext. 18.



Pickleball Has Arrived in Ponce Inlet!

In April 2012, a Ponce citizen approached Parks, Recreation and Tree Board (“PRTAB”) about painting lines on the tennis courts in Pollard Park (just south of the Fire Station). The lines would be used to play Pickleball and would co-exist with the tennis court: the tennis lines are white and the pickleball lines are yellow. PRTAB recommended to Council that the lines be painted, and Council approved the project.

Pickleball is a fast-growing sport which, according to the U.S.A. Pickleball Association, relies heavily on badminton rules and is a hybrid of tennis, ping pong, and badminton. See <http://www.usapa.org/>

The USAPA website explains the history of pickleball:

After playing golf one Saturday during the summer (in 1965), Joel Pritchard, congressman from Washington State and Bill Bell, successful businessman, returned to Pritchard’s home on Bainbridge Island, WA (near Seattle) to find their families sitting around with nothing to do. The property had an old badminton court so Pritchard and Bell looked for some badminton equipment and could not find a full set of rackets. They improvised and started playing with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball. At first they placed the net at badminton height of 60 inches and volleyed the ball over the net. As the weekend progressed, the players found that the ball bounced well on the asphalt surface and soon the net was lowered to 36 inches. The following weekend, Barney McCallum was introduced to the

game at Pritchard’s home. Soon, the three men created rules, relying heavily on badminton. They kept in mind the original purpose, which was to provide a game that the whole family could play together. . .

By 1990, Pickleball was played in all 50 states. . .

In 2008, Pickleball was included in the National Senior Games. . .

There are now over 2,000 places to play Pickleball in the United States (and are listed on the USAPA website).

Daytona Beach Shores has 8 dedicated pickleball courts behind the police station and adjacent to McElroy Park, and a Facebook page at “Daytona Beach Shores Pickleball”. A beginner’s Orientation Clinic is held each Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the courts. Paddles and balls are provided for use at the Clinic. A number of Ponce Inlet residents have taken the Shores clinic and play both in the Shores and the overlay court at the Ponce Inlet tennis court.

Because there are now many pickleball players in Ponce on the shared tennis/pickleball court, a citizen suggested to PRTAB that lines also be painted on the basketball court and a free on-line reservation system be implemented for both courts. At the December 2014 meeting, PRTAB recommended both projects to Council, which Council approved at the December Council meeting. Town Manager Jeaneen Witt estimates both projects will be completed in January 2015.

The Shores Recreation Department holds Pickleball tournaments in October and March, and Pickle-

ball is included in the Senior Games. On December 9, 2014, local residents Ruth Chapman and Barbara Davis took home a 2nd place medal in their age group by playing in the Port Orange Senior Games, which will be held next year in October. Hopefully, many residents will begin playing this fun sport, which is usually played with 4 persons. Join us!



Happy Tails Dog Park Annual Fundraiser: the annual Mardi Claws Dog Parade event has been canceled for February 2015. The event is coordinated by local residents. Unfortunately, the former coordinator is unable to assist with the event this year and was unable to recruit anyone to put on the event for this year. If you are interested in heading up this well worth fundraiser event for the Happy Tails Dog Park for 2016, please contact Rene' Higelin at 788-6379 for event details.



PICCI Board

Irish Night

**Saturday, March 14, 2015
Corned Beef and Cabbage**

\$15.00

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

Dinner 6:00 PM



**Irish Coffee
\$2.00 donation**



**DJ Kent & wife Shannon
7:00 PM**



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

**Cut-off for ticket sales
Wednesday,
March 11, 2015 at 4:00 pm
Only 120 tickets will be
sold
Don't get shut out**

Ponce Inlet Lions Club Presents Pancake Breakfast for Sight



Saturday, April 18, 2015

8:00 am—11:00 am

**\$5.00 per person
\$3.00 children 10 & under**

**Pancakes
Sausage
Orange Juice
Coffee**

**Ponce Inlet
Community Center**

**Proceeds to help Lions Charities
(Sight, Diabetes, Conklin Center, Hearing)**



CITIZENS FOR PONCE INLET

NEWSLETTER

Issue I
January 1983

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life in Ponce Inlet

TOWN OF PONCE INLET
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 1983*

Organization	Day of Week	Time
Town Council Agenda Meetings	First Wednesday Each Month	7:30 PM
Town Council Meetings	Second Wednesday Each Month	7:30 PM
Planning Commission	Fourth Wednesday Each Month	7:30 PM
Board of Adjustment	Third Thursday Each Month	7:30 PM
Lighthouse Preservation Assn. Board Meetings	First Monday Each Month	8:00 PM
Lighthouse Assn. Quarterly Membership Meetings	Third Wednesday in January, April, July and October	8:00 PM
Beach, Parks and Recreation Commission	Third Thursday Each Month	7:30 PM

*All meetings are held in the Municipal Services Building. (Clip for reference.)

WOMEN'S CLUB TO SPONSOR WATER SAVER PROJECT

Cathie Thompson

THE Ponce Inlet Women's Club is conducting a town-wide campaign in mid-March to promote "Water Savers." The City of Holly Hill shows test results using the water flow restrictors to have a water savings of 60.6 percent. The Volusia Council of Governments has found that the average shower head allows 5 to 10 gallons per minute and that a flow restrictor can usually cut that amount in half while keeping the pressure close to that of the old shower head.

The Women's Club feels that with the water situation as it is in Ponce Inlet, this is a very important project. When the Women's Club commences the project in March, they will provide the flow restrictors but are hoping that the "Citizens for Ponce Inlet" will help make it work.

CONSERVE ENERGY — EAT OUT!
CONSERVE WATER — DRINK BEER!

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTONA BCH FL
PERMIT #328



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 support the annual Candidate's Forum and the Citizens of the Year Award event.

2014—2015 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)