



Citizens for Ponce Inlet

Newsletter

Dedicated to improving the quality of life in Ponce Inlet

VOL. XCVII

July 2012

2012 Election Edition

The annual Citizens for Ponce Inlet Ponce Inlet Candidates Forum will be held on **Thursday, August 2nd, at 7 p.m., at the Community Center.**

All candidates for Seats 2 and 4 will be present to make presentations and answer your questions. The resumes of each of the candidates running for seats 2 and 4 are on pages 4-7.

Please plan to attend so you can meet and greet the people that for the next two years will represent your interests in the many important issues facing the Ponce Inlet.

The format of the event will be as follows:

- Each Candidate will be allowed up to 3 minutes for an opening statement.
- Each candidate will be given up to 3 minutes to respond to each of the following three prepared questions. These questions were generated by and agreed to by the Board of the Citizens for Ponce Inlet.

1. As a councilperson, how would you go about repairing the divisiveness that exists among our citizens?
2. What do you see as the most important asset for a councilperson to have in order to honestly and fairly represent all the citizens of our Town?
3. Should the need arise, how would you propose to generate the funds needed by the Town to pay for a lawsuit settlement?

- As time allows audience questions will be asked. Candidates will be given up to 2 minutes to respond to questions. These questions will be taken before the start of the meeting and are required to be signed by the individual asking the question. An equal number of audience questions will be asked to each candidate.

- Each candidate will be given 2 minutes for closing remarks
- Candidates will be seated at tables with the other candidate running for the same seat and in alphabetical order.
- Questions and statements will be given on a rotating basis so that each candidate will not be the first or last to have to respond.

The Forum will be limited to two hours with light refreshments to follow. At this time you can talk to the candidates, ask them questions, or just introduce yourself.

We look forward to seeing you at the Candidates Forum. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet and exchange your views with the next members of the Ponce Inlet Town Council.

Please remember to vote in this year's Town of Ponce Inlet regular election on Tuesday, August 14th, 2012.

2012 Ponce Inlet Citizens of the Year

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

The Town of Ponce Inlet's arrangement with the Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization is that the Town of Ponce Inlet covers the cost of the printing of the newsletter in exchange for running information from all of the Town's departments. The Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization puts the newsletter together to include articles from all of the various organizations within the Town. The Citizens For Ponce Inlet organization also pays for the mailing and handles other local distribution. Though the printing varies from one issue to the next based upon its size, the Town of Ponce Inlet spent \$6,075 in total for the four issues published last fiscal year.

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

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

Citizens For Ponce Inlet

4670 South Peninsula Drive
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Or

ponce.newsletter@gmail.com

Citizens For Ponce Inlet

Board Members

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

Judy Huggins and Don Hampton were presented with the 2012 Ponce Inlet Citizens of the Year award in May at the annual awards ceremony at the community center.

Judy Huggins is a citizen that has given her all in making our town a very special place to live. This award is given to a person that goes beyond the call of duty volunteering so others can enjoy events and so much more. Well, Judy does just that! She is currently serving on the Children's Activity Board and working hard to make sure the children can enjoy fun times and always have treats! She serves on the Lighthouse Advisory Board and is a past president of the Garden Club. She is still serving on the Garden Club Board and is working hard putting together a cookbook with recipes from the membership. She is in charge of Membership and Treasurer for Citizens for Ponce Inlet. You will always see her volunteering at the Flea Market and for clean-up on our beach. Thank you

Judy for all you do!

Don Hampton is a true Florida native. Born at Halifax Hospital, Don grew up in the Daytona Beach area and settled in Ponce Inlet with his family. Following in his Mother's footsteps, Wilda Hampton, Don has been a community leader for many years. He is rapidly becoming one of Ponce Inlet's "old timers."

Don served on the Board of Trustees for the Ponce Deleon Inlet Lighthouse Association for over ten years. In 1999 Don was elected to the Town Council and served as a Council Member and Vice mayor until 2001.

After his term on the Town Council, Don continued his community service on the Planning Commission. He was a member of the Planning Commission until 2002. That same year the Town started the Visioning process, *Charting a Course for Ponce Inlet*. Don was appointed as a member of the committee by the Planning Commission.

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(..continued from page 2)

Today Don serves as President for the Citizen's for Ponce Inlet and is charged with coordinating the Newsletter. He has been in-

involved with the Citizens for Ponce Inlet for the past five years. Don is a person who would rather do what he enjoys and not be recognized. Don

loves his community and has raised two children here. He is a great example of a wonderful neighbor and Citizen of the Year.



2012 Citizen of the Year winners surrounded by some of the past winners of the award.

Standing Left to Right: Bill Hibbert - 1999, Bill Dauksis - 2011, Edwina Knox - 1992, Sherry Utter - 1994, Faye McHugh - 2009, Jim Utter - 1997, Margi Richard - 2008, Tony Giralomi - 1989, Tami Lewis - 2007, Jim Hinson - 2006, Diane Smith - 2011 and Kristi Drumheller - 2010

Sitting Left to Right: Hazel Dauksis - 1998, Judy Huggins - 2012, Don Hampton - 2012 and Mary Lou Hinson - 2007

The following four pages have been submitted for your review by the candidates in this year's Ponce Inlet Town Council election. They appear alphabetically and the seat they are running for begins the page.

Seat 2



Scott Meacham

Wife: Elizabeth (Betty)
Meacham
Date of Birth: 06/14/1949

Occupation:
Frank Door Company, V.P.
Cold Storage Sales, 413 Howard
Blvd. , Newport, NC 28570

Political Experience:
Ponce Inlet - Town Council,
Seat #2, since January 2011,
I ran un-opposed in the last elec-
tion cycle.

Volunteer Boards:
Planning Board, Planning Com-
mission, Land Acquisition Ad-
visory Committee

As Council member, I plan to
accomplish a number of goals:

- Insure that Ponce Inlet contin-
ues to be a prosperous and

unique community, meeting the
needs of our citizens, business-
es, and visitors,

- Continue to provide the high
levels and quality of service
through our Fire Department,
Police Department, and Public
Works that the citizens of Ponce
Inlet have come to expect,

- Support the strengthening of
Community Spirit, as we have
seen through activities such as
Veterans Memorial, the Inaugu-
ration of the monuments at the
original North and South Turns
of the beach race track, and
NASCAR's "Beach to the High
Banks" ceremony.

I feel I must address some alle-
gations made by my opponent in
a recent mailer sent to the citi-
zens of Ponce Inlet. The follow-
ing must be understood:

The Charter Amendment ruling
did not say what policies the
Town could have, just that this
policy could not be in the Char-
ter. The Charter Amendment
vote had an 82% voter turnout.
Does my opponent value **your
opinion**? All Comprehensive
Plan challenges made by the de-
veloper have been won by the
Town. The Comprehensive
Plan has been upheld by the Cit-
izens, Volusia County, and The
State of Florida.

I voted along with every other
Council member to Appeal the
recent decision on the Bert J.
Harris claim. The Council vote
was overwhelmingly supported
by the citizens.

Thus far, I have advocated a res-

olution to the issue through ne-
gotiation, mediation, or legal
process. All avenues have been,
and are still open. To date, all
efforts to negotiate or mediate
have been met with no results or
any serious, reasonable options
being put on the table. My oppo-
nent comments on the amount of
legal fees, yet he is a member of
the **Citizens Who Care** group
that proposed spending \$2 mil-
lion dollars of tax payer's mon-
ey before any debate or citizens
participation in the proposed
Comprehensive Plan changes
that were required in the settle-
ment proposal plus an additional
\$11.7 million in financed debt.
**Who is he representing? Not
you!** My opponent apparently
does not support the Appeal of
the Bert J. Harris ruling.

**Please VOTE on August 14,
2012**

*Political Materials Approved by
Scott Meacham*

Seat 2



Bill Milano

My wife Patty and I have been homeowners in Ponce Inlet since 2000 and permanent residents since 2002. We have two children, four grandchildren and soon to be five in November.

My background includes:

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

Educational Specialist Degree
Principal, High School, 17 years

- Master in Education, Guidance and Counseling Assistant Principal, 6 years
- Bachelor of Science, Mathematics Education Guidance Director and Counselor, 12 years
- Certification Administration and Supervision Mathematics Teacher, 2 years
- Program and Facility Specialist, 1 year

My career in education spanned over 37 years. For 17 years I was a High School Principal within the fifth largest school district in the United States. The school's student population ranged from 2,800 to 3,500 students and over 200 employees. My annual school

operating budget was 10 Million to 12 million dollars depending on the student population.

While I served as a High school Principal I had the opportunity to assist our district as a member of the negotiation team dealing with the district's teacher's union. I also assisted in recruiting of prospective educators by visiting Universities and Colleges throughout the Eastern United States.

I wanted to be involved in my community and became an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce and Exchange Service Club. I trained to become a United States Swimming Official and during my years as a volunteer I was selected as the head official for the Florida State High School Swim Meet on three separate occasions. Because of my service to the community and work experiences I was selected by Broward State College as one of their Distinguished Alumnus.

Once my wife and I moved to Ponce Inlet I became involved in our homeowner's association board and have been President for the past 7 years. I was responsible for the complete rewrite of the association's "Covenants and Declarations." I became a member of the Ponce Inlet Planning Commission in 2008 and became a member of the Planning Board in 2011 and I am now Vice Chair. The board is currently working on the completion of the Land Use and Development code.

When I ran for the Ponce Inlet Town Council in 2009 there were

priorities that I felt were important. These remain the same today. These priorities are still necessary for all our property owners.

They include:

1. Maintaining Ponce Inlet's small town qualities
2. Promoting resident safety and security
3. Basing decisions on what is best for all property owners
4. Improving communication and community relations for all property owners.
5. Be proactive and not reactive to our continual and ongoing litigations.

My entire career as an educator and my volunteer service to the community has given me the ability to look at all conditions of a situation and work with individuals for the best solution for all. It is my intention if I am elected to the Ponce Inlet Town Council to:

1. Provide professionalism, integrity, courtesy, and common sense leadership.
2. Respect all citizens and listen to their concerns.
3. Maintain Ponce Inlet's Town Manager style of Government.

Ponce Inlet has been faced with continual litigations that seem never ending. We have had the opportunity to negotiate and settle these differences, but have not been successful in this attempt. It is time for all property owners to make the decisions necessary so Ponce Inlet can move toward a positive future and not have to look over our shoulders at the past.

Seat 4



Joe Perrone

I want to thank the citizens of Ponce Inlet for the privilege of serving on the

town council this past year, which has been a pivotal time for us all, especially in view of Judge Parson's ruling on the Pacetta lawsuit. The town is currently appealing the judge's ruling while at the same time leaving the door open for a possible negotiated settlement. However, if neither is successful, financial penalties would be determined at a separate jury trial. I understand your concerns as to what the final financial cost may be for both the town and for each of us with regard to our future tax bills, and I am aware of the emotional toll the lawsuit has taken and the way it has divided our community. Keeping this in mind, and focusing on the future of our community, I will work toward an acceptable resolution that hopefully will enable us all to move forward and to heal.

Although I have been on the council only since last November, I have been successful in accomplishing the following: (1) restoration of property rights to owners of TIF deeded properties having partially submerged land (specifically in the Emerald Isle development) where setback measurements and floor area ratio calculations had been changed from the submerged lot line to the seawall, thereby preventing owners from rebuilding existing homes or to be able to rebuild them with the same footprint

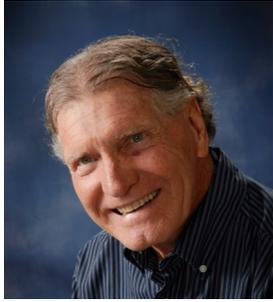
or living area. The first reading of the ordinances to accomplish this occurred at the council's June meeting. (2) I represent the town on the county's Transportation Planning Organization and initiated the process of obtaining a grant to install a pedestrian operated dual alternating blinking yellow caution light at the beach access crosswalk from the North Turn Restaurant to the parking area across it on A1A. If the grant is approved, the light would alert drivers, especially at night, to the presence of pedestrians who must use the crosswalk to reach their cars. (3) As the council's representative to the Ponce Inlet Business Association, and in response to their concern for fees charged when police are called to respond to burglar alarms that are falsely called, I was instrumental in obtaining council approval to lower these fees. I view my role on the council as representing all residents and all businesses.

Yes, even though I have yet to complete only one year of service on the council, I am up for re-election on August 14th. Please know that I have no hidden agenda and have no allegiances to any group or individual and, accordingly, I am financing my own campaign for re-election. It will be your decision whether or not I stay, but if you decide to keep me on, here are some of the things I would like to see looked at in the future: (1) The current "wedding cake" restrictions that require side yard and front yard setbacks at odd elevations to a new home (15 feet on the side and 20 feet in front) that add to construction costs and which can negatively affect architectural integrity and/or design. Elevated setbacks need to occur at normal

floor heights so that upper floors can be adequately supported within the floor plan. (2) Floor area ratios on residential homes currently permit full lot coverage only with regard to dwellings where all the living area is at ground level. A two story home, for example, must have only one-half the footprint of a one story home and a three story home must have only one-third the footprint of a one-story dwelling. I would think that the size of a new home should be proportionate to the lot it sits on, which should be determined solely by setback and coverage requirements. (3) Since town departmental expenses for staff, etc. are budgeted costs paid from direct tax revenues, I would like the council to revisit town fees charged residents for variances, site inspections, permits, etc. These fees should not include additional charges based on staff time and, in my opinion, should be lowered. (4) Regardless of the outcome of the Pacetta lawsuit, the council should take a new look at the Riverfront Overlay District (agreeably a hot topic) and with public input look at its future development potential in conformity with the town's vision statement. (5) The council is in the process of selecting a new law firm to represent the town. I look forward to selecting a firm that will be professional, knowledgeable and respectful of town residents.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly on anything of concern regarding our town or my role on the council. You can reach me at (386) 316-2419, as well as before or after any council meeting. My town e-mail address is jperrone@ponce-inlet.org.

Seat 4



Joe Villanella

Thank you once again for the opportunity, and your time, to refresh/provide you with some information about me, for your consideration in the upcoming election on August 14, 2012, for Ponce Inlet Council, - Seat 4. You may recall that I ran for Council in 2011. As a result of much positive reinforcement from my supporters, I said last year--- "I'll be back", so thanks to many of you, here I am again in 2012!

My wife Diana and I have been in Ponce Inlet since 1992,-- before the development boom that swept our town from a sleepy little fishing/surfboarding village into the vibrant, yet quaint and charismatic seaside town we cherish. Like most of you, we absolutely love the serene life we have come to treasure, here in Ponce. We reside in the beautiful Sea-Gull Landing Town-home community, where I have been the President of our HOA since 2007. I volunteered to serve on the Code Enforcement Board in 2010, and was elected by my peer board members as Chair-person on the Code Enforcement Board for 2012.

Contrary to the absolutely false e-mail, sent out on last election-day, let me reassure you that I am retired from a very successful 40 year career with Xerox Corporation, where I enjoyed a variety of jobs in all venues within the company. I had responsibility for tens of millions of dollars of yearly revenue generation, launching new office technology, budgeting processes, all levels of employee training, field and office management, executive-level quality decision-making, and negotiating large pur-

chase and lease contract's terms and conditions with corporate as well as governmental entities, to name a few of my roles. My education and career provided me with real world experience in problem solving, utilizing well thought out, logical, and deductive reasoning skills that were circumstantially driven, to arrive at best case decision-making. My business experience and volunteerism, coupled with my knowledge of navigating various and unique State Statutes, regulations, ordinances and legal issues have enhanced my skills set to allow me to serve our town.

While canvassing the neighborhoods of Ponce during last year's campaign I learned that far too many citizens were not well informed of the Pacetta litigation's potential impact on each of us financially, if a negotiated agreement could not be achieved. Since then, many more have become better informed, or are more aware of the depth of the issues that Ponce has faced during the last several years, and the angst created due to failed attempts to negotiate a solution. It is my opinion that the Pacetta litigation, while urgent to resolve, is not an issue that can be solved with simplistic, emotionally-driven, or tactical responses. Both parties must arrive at logical, well-thought-out, and long-lasting decisions, that once implemented, will avoid further litigation. Meaningful compromise is the most fundamental approach to accomplish this. Keep in mind, this issue absolutely must be resolved within the parameters of the laws of the State, County and City. Ultimately, this need not become a dire financial burden on the citizens of Ponce, or lead to dissolution of the town, as some 'puffed-up' magazine articles would have you believe. Do some research--- take the time to learn more about the matter--any of this info is available in the public and state records domain. This need not become a financial quagmire for us! The recent 'articles', 'reprints', etc; seem to be purposefully aimed at swaying the opinion of a potential jury pool in Volusia County towards the Plaintiff, while portraying the Town of Ponce Inlet in as negative manner as possible. Yet, the Plaintiffs indicate they wish no harm to Ponce's citizenry. While it seems that previously overzealous town

leaders, lost sight of balancing the need to focus on considering the potential needs of the developer, along with the wishes of the citizens, we still must pull together if we want to see Ponce Inlet emerge from this turmoil, intact. May I suggest you do some well informed information gathering of your own, since nothing is pure "Black or White", as suggested by some. Ultimately, the answers are going to be somewhere in the middle-'The Grey area'. The vast majority of the citizens of Ponce Inlet do not wish to see our town 'go-away', 'go-broke', become insolvent, go back to the County, or any other such 'hogwash'. I believe the citizens of Ponce Inlet want to see the Town successfully navigate through this chapter of our history. I suspect the Town, and the Plaintiffs, have unexplored options that should be reviewed openly and candidly.

The Council is mindful of the urgency to resolve the impasse, but is absolutely obliged to proceed very carefully into the potentially murky waters of any meaningful negotiations. Additionally, we must all be mindful that only an extremely competent negotiator, along with an excellent new legal team, thoroughly immersed in understanding the history, timeline and actions undertaken since this matter became so contentious, is ultimately the only way to proceed in the judicial system if we wish to put this issue to rest, in that venue. That means some 'give and take'-'out-of-the-box' thinking is what is required at this point in time, if negotiation is deemed the option to begin moving forward to close this chapter in our history. I am confident I can bring to the table skills that will allow me to support and work closely with the Council, and any negotiator, or legal team, selected to bring about a resolution to this situation.

You will see me around town in my red pick-up, as I go door to door, to meet as many voters as possible to earn your trust and vote on August 14, for Seat 4. Please feel free to contact me, my number is 788-4617 or my e-mail address is - jjvillane@ymail.com.

I sincerely thank you for your time,
Joe Villanella

Citizens for Ponce Inlet
4670 South Peninsula Drive
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Did you enjoy this newsletter?

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

2010—2011 Membership Registration Form

I wish to become a new member _____ ; renew my membership _____

Enclosed is \$10 ___ \$15 ___ Other _____ (We can hope) contribution for my annual membership.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Alan and Mary Ann Redinger

139 Anchor Drive

Ponce Inlet, FL 32127-6901

(or leave in the Citizens For Ponce Inlet box at the Community Center)