



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Ponce Inlet Town Council

Reported by Deb Arkian

March 19, 2026

ENVIRONMENT

- Ponce Inlet Town Council unanimously approved Resolution 2026-04 as presented – Support for Volusia County Beach Management Feasibility Assessment and Comprehensive Beach Management Plan.
- Topics discussed included the need for residents and town input to be integral in all future discussions and models developed.
- Jessica Fentress, Volusia County Coastal Division was present to answer questions.

TRANSPORTATION

The Town Manager, Mike Disher, announced that:

Ponce Inlet and Volusia County will hold an open house on March 31, 2026 from 3pm to 5pm, at the Ponce Inlet Community Center, to discuss the proposed South Peninsula Drive sidewalk mobility project.

On March 18, 2026 Ponce Inlet Police officers participated in a periodic crosswalk detail on South Atlantic Avenue with Best Foot Forward, a group that promotes safety awareness in crosswalks. The goal of this operation is to educate drivers. During this detail, 16 of 174 drivers did not stop, 13 stops were made, 12 citations and 3 warnings were issued. Drivers were provided with educational materials.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Mayor Paritsky proclaimed April 2026 Water Conservation Month in Ponce Inlet. The Town of Ponce Inlet encourages residents and businesses to focus on outdoor irrigation efficiency with the goal of saving water. She stated that April is a very dry month in Florida and that one half of the State of Florida is currently under extreme drought conditions. The Proclamation was presented to Jim Cannon, Governmental Coordinator of the St. John's River Water Management District.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ponce Inlet Town Council unanimously approved, as presented:

- Authorizing Volusia County Mosquito Control Division to perform low-level flights, inspections and application of insecticides in the Town of Ponce Inlet for 2026-2028.
- Interlocal Agreement between Volusia County and the Town of Ponce Inlet to provide night-time security at the Marine Science Center.
- John Veldan, Board Member of the Port Orange/ South Daytona Chamber of Commerce, announced upcoming Chamber events and inviting Ponce Inlet residents to attend.
- Ponce Inlet Town Council unanimously approved Resolution 2026-05 Support for the Volusia Forever Program in its current form only, voicing concern that County Council may try to change the control mechanism for this program.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Mayor Paritsky recently attended the Volusia County State of our Schools presentation. She reported that:

- Ponce Inlet has 154 students in Volusia County Schools
- Volusia County Schools attained the first A rating since 2008-2009
- Volusia County Schools have a graduation rate of 95.6%, among the top 9 in the State of Florida
- Volusia County Schools have a 73.8% College and Career Acceleration rate, among the top 8 in the State of Florida
- Volusia County Schools now have 4600 Industry Certifications available to students
- Volusia County Schools avoided having any D or F rated schools for the first time since 2008