

March 2012 – Polk City Newsletter



- Polk City Utilities **emergency number** is 1 866 815 0074. Please use this number **only for emergencies**.
- If you have any questions regarding utilities **Monday through Thursday during Business Hours**, please feel free to call Polk City Utilities - **863 874 4808**.

City Council Meetings are the second Monday Night each Month at 7:00 PM

April City Council Meeting – Monday, April 9, 2012 7:00 PM

City Manager Patricia Jackson patricia.jackson@mypolkcity.org Phone 863-984-1375 ext 237
Mayor Joe LaCascia joe.lacascia@mypolkcity.org Vice Mayor Trudy Block trudy.block@mypolkcity.org
Councilor Nancy Adorno nancy.adorno@mypolkcity.org Councilor Mike Blethen mike.blethen@mypolkcity.org
Councilor Don Kimsey don.kimsey@mypolkcity.org Phone for an appointment with any council member call 863 984 1375 ext 221

APRIL CLOSURE *In observance of Good Friday: City Hall closed on April 5th, 2012 Library closed on April 6th & April 7th, 2012*
Trash, recycle and yard waste pickup for Polk City (brown trash receptacles) will not be affected by the holiday.

Summary of February 13, 2012 City Council Meeting

- ORDINANCE 2012-01, Second and Final Reading - Imposing a moratorium on the collection of Impact Fees, other than Impact Fees for water and sewer services for twelve months. Polk County also has a moratorium on impact fees. Yes – 4 No- 0
- Review of Utility Deposits – City Attorney preparing an ordinance for the March 12 meeting based on the recommendation of City Manager and staff
- Woodard and Curran (Polk City Utilities) presented a year-end report
- Woodard and Curran – City Council approved the amended contract for Operations and Maintenance of Water and Wastewater.

Congratulations to Mike Blethen and Kelly Downing

Mike Blethen and Kelly Downing were unopposed for 4 year terms on the Polk City Council. Their term starts in April 2012.

Congressman Dennis Ross Staff Visit to Polk City Hall - March 21, 2012

Having Trouble with a Federal Agency (VA, Social Security, Medicare)? A Constituent Services representative from Congressman Ross' Office will be present on March 21, 2012 from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in Polk City Hall to answer your questions about federal agencies. If you're having trouble contacting or hearing back from a federal agency such as the Veterans Administration, Social Security, Medicare, etc. come to Polk City Hall on March 21st. **Take advantage of this opportunity** to understand your benefits from the federal government.

Twelfth Congressional District Art Competition – Congressman Dennis Ross

On Saturday, February 18, Polk County High School Art Students received awards for outstanding works of art. This annual exhibition features works from high school students in the 12th Congressional District. The exhibit is organized through the efforts of the Polk Museum of Art and the offices of U.S. Rep. Dennis Ross. The piece named the "Congressional Award" will travel to Washington, D.C., to be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol along with other winning works from districts throughout the nation. Vice Mayor Trudy Block presented a Merit Award to Jenny Miller (Polk City) a student at Teneroc High School for her digital photography.

Attention! Polk City Business Leaders and Interested Citizens

(you do not need to be a Polk City resident or a permanent resident to attend) The Meeting will be at the City Government Center on March 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Polk City has come a long way over the past 2 years, through a financial crisis and a year of stabilization. Over the next few years, Polk City will be working on growth. Growth will make it possible to decrease the ad valorem and utility rates in a fiscally responsible way over time.

- Polk City uses the Central Florida Development Council (CFDC) to represent them at business events and to prospective business developers. However, Polk City needs to update the information shared with the CFDC to put Polk City's best foot forward. This is where you can help!
- Polk City is hosting an informal Business Leader and Citizen Meeting where we can share ideas to update the Polk City marketing brochure and discuss ideas to market Polk City to potential commercial business investors.
- If you have business, marketing, or economic development experience please consider attending this meeting and contributing your ideas.
- All constructive ideas are welcome and encouraged.
- The ideas will be reviewed and will need to be approved by the Polk City Council.
- If you cannot make the meeting but want to contribute, please call or email Vice Mayor Trudy Block 630 853 3673 or trudy.block@mypolkcity.org

Online Polk City Utilities Payment is Here!!

Customers can now review their utility (water, sewer, irrigation, & garbage) account anytime online and now pay their utility bill online.

To make an online payment or view your utility account online:

- Go to www.mypolkcity.org
- On the home web page, select 'Polk City Utility Account Information' (under Quick Links on the left bottom of the page).
- Enter the customer's account ID, pin #, then select 'enter'. **The customer's account ID and pin # will be printed on your utility bill. Customers can also call the utility billing office and request this information as well.

Polk City's 4th Citywide Residential Yard Sale - Vendors Registrations for Freedom Park

WHEN April 28, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 PM.

VENDOR Applications are available at City Hall and online at www.mypolkcity.org

YARD SALE SELLER APPLICATIONS are available online (www.mypolkcity.org) or at City Hall.

Submit your application to City Hall to ensure your address will be listed on the Master Yard Sale list.

We think this will be the biggest sale ever! Start saving items for the sale now. If you do not want to have a sale in your yard, you can always donate to the yard sale where all proceeds will be used for the Polk City Library and Polk City Special Events. Details on where and when to donate these items will be published in the April Newsletter.

Polk City Library

- **March 19th Couponing for the New and Old Couponer** You seen it on TV and want to learn how its done; come ask some local shoppers how its done. **Wanted Experienced Couponers-** Bring the coupons that you don't use and exchange them with others.
- **Book Club on March 20th The Immortal Life** of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. Fascinating book about cells that were taken from her body back in the 1950's that are still alive and have been used in all kinds of medical research.
- **Polk City Library Story Time every Thursday at 11:00.**
Preschool story time at the library - where we don't expect everyone to sit still perfectly. Please bring your children ages 2 to 4 to the library to join Miss Linda for stories and a craft.
March 15 St Patrick's Day March 22 Sheep March 29 Ducks
April 5 Easter April 12 Boats

Polk City Elementary School Cake Auction and BBQ – A Huge Success!

The Cake Auction was a huge success and lots of fun! A BBQ dinner started the night off to a great start with delicious BBQ, beans, and coleslaw. After the BBQ, the bidding for the cakes heated up quickly. Polk City Elementary auctioned over 40 beautiful and delicious cakes. The auction earned over \$4100. This money goes directly to Polk City Elementary. We will keep you posted on where the money will be used this year. Thank you to all those who baked and purchased the cakes. Some of the cakes were sent immediately to the cutting table to be enjoyed by the bidders. This is an annual "don't miss" event that should be on everyone's calendar next year!

State of Polk County - Highlights of County Manager's Speech (February 16, 2012)

Polk Vision sponsored a State of the County speech given by Polk County Manager Jim Freeman. County Manager Freeman said, "We are in a recovery, but it is painfully slow."

- Polk officials have used a number of approaches in hopes of helping the recovery, ranging from trying to attract new development through tax breaks and an impact fee moratorium for businesses and developers to raising taxes to improve roads, schools, parks and health care.
- Polk County Commission has held the line on tax increases during the recession by cutting expenses and increasing efficiency to deal with the 35 percent drop in property tax revenue, adding he expects a further, though less dramatic, drop this year.

The entire speech can be viewed at the Polk Vision website - <http://polkvision.com/>

Polk City Jaguars Football Team and Cheerleaders

The Polk City Jaguars Football Team and Cheerleaders would like to thank Dr. Andy Baird, and Jim and Kathi Saladrigas for volunteering their services during the free physical examinations. The team appreciates your dedication to the Jaguars. Go Polk City Jaguars!



American Legion Update

Florida's Newest Post - Polk City American Legion Post #398. Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every month (starting March 20, 2012) at Buckshot Grill – 7:00 PM. Come on in and feel at home in your Hometown Post!



Polk County Easter Egg Hunt

Polk County Parks and Recreation is hosting a free Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 2-9 on Saturday, April 7th at the Polk City Park (on SR 33 with the Baseball fields). The Easter Egg Hunts begin at 9:00 AM SHARP! Bring a basket or bag to store the eggs as they are collected. Don't forget to check your eggs for SUPER PRIZES before leaving the park.

Polk County Fire Department in Polk City to Bring Their New Fire Truck and New Ambulance to the Polk City Council Meeting on March 12

Polk County Fire Department has a new state of the art Fire Truck and Ambulance. The Fire Truck and Ambulance have the latest features including space for 6 in the cab of the fire truck. If you would like to see these vehicles up close, come to the next Polk City Council Meeting on March 12 at 7:00 PM to get a tour of the new vehicles.

Polk County Water School 2012(Free) – Registration Open

Water School is a 7 week (every Thursday afternoon with 2 full day field trips starting April 19) symposium sponsored by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) designated to educate the public and community leaders about current issues and future concerns regarding water quality, quantity, and conservation in Polk County. This is a very interesting series of lectures and 2 field trips. The classes are free and there are no exams. Online registration can be found at the following URL - <http://polk.ifas.ufl.edu/NR/WaterSchool2012.shtml>



If you have activities or news that would be of interest to the Polk City service area, please contact Trudy Block at 630 853 3673 or trudy.block@mypolkcity.org