

July 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 call Polk City Utilities - **863 874 4808**.

City Manager Patricia Jackson patricia.jackson@mypolkcity.org Phone 863-984-1375 ext 237
Mayor Joe LaCascia joe.lacascia@mypolkcity.org Vice Mayor Michael Blethen Michael.blethen@mypolkcity.org
Councilor Trudy Block trudy.block@mypolkcity.org Councilor Kelly Downing kelly.downing@mypolkcity.org
Councilor Don Kimsey don.kimsey@mypolkcity.org Phone for an appointment with any council member call 863 984 1375 ext 221

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

July City Council Meeting	Monday, July 9, 2012	7:00 PM
Polk City Council Visioning Workshop	Saturday, July 28, 2012	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
August City Council Meeting	Monday, August 13, 2012	7:00 PM

Summary of June 11, 2012 City Council Meeting

- Presentation of Certificate of Completion to **Councilor Trudy Block** for Completion of the **2012 Advanced Institute for Elected Municipal Officials**
- **ORDINANCE 2012-1291, Polk City Solid Waste Management Ordinance**. The ordinance was updated and additional detail was added to the existing ordinance. The ordinance was approved on first reading.
- **Utility Deposits** – were previously approved by the City Council to be \$150. If citizens paid more than this amount, a credit will be attached to their utility account to bring the total deposit down to \$150.
- Approve Request for Proposals -- **Street Rehabilitation** - The proposals were distributed to interested parties and bids were received on July 5.
- **Appointments to the Planning Commission** to fill vacancy and an alternate. Congratulations to **David Prins** who will be filling the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Also, congratulations to **José Rosado** who will be the alternate on the Planning Commission.
- **Councilor Trudy Block** was nominated and accepted the role of **Voting Delegate to represent Polk City** at the **Florida League of Cities Conference** in August 2012.
- **Bid for Sale of the 1987 GMC Jet Rodder Truck** – A bid of \$601 was accepted by the City Council.

2012 Polk County Water School – Graduation Day for 8 Polk City Citizens

Polk City Councilor Trudy Block and Vice-Mayor Mike Blethen, along with citizens Gail Funk, David Funk, Bill Block, John Funk, Ernie Whanger and Wendy Whanger attended the 2012 Polk County Water School Graduation Ceremony on June 26 at the Polk County Board of Commissioners Meeting. Congratulations to all of the graduates who spent 7 consecutive weeks of classes and field trips learning about water and wastewater in Polk County.

July is “Lake Appreciation” Month (Lake Cleanup)

- The annual event is sponsored by the Lakes Education/Action Drive in cooperation with a number of other local organizations.
- Last year 56 volunteers spent 120 hours and collected 660 pounds from 10 lakes around Polk County.
- All you have to do to participate is to visit any water body you wish next month, pick up any trash you find and report the results.
- You can clean up along the shoreline or you can get in your boat and see what sort of jetsam and flotsam you can find in open water or on otherwise inaccessible sections of shoreline.
- You can sign up with
 - Lakes Education/Action Drive Lakes Education Action Drive at 863-221-5323;
 - Keep Polk County Beautiful, 863-676-7019
- The anti-litter groups can supply you with bags and other equipment if you need them.
- Just remember to report the results of your cleanup efforts.
- Additional details can be found at <http://environment.blogs.theledger.com/12512/get-outdoors-in-july-bring-a-garbage-bag/>

Van Fleet Trail (Polk City’s Trailhead)

Van Fleet Trail received a mention in the Rails to Trails Newsletter. Reported by Tom and Linda Page of Winter Haven, Fla.

- Gopher turtles by the truckload, white-tailed deer, red-shouldered hawks and turkey crossed our path in a wooded, shaded, solitary ride that took all day. An eight-foot gator strolled across the trail ahead of us. We recommend it if you want isolation and peace. The Van Fleet Trail is in excellent shape, flat, level and has almost no turns the entire length. Well worth it! For additional details see the following URL
http://www.railstotrails.org/news/recurringFeatures/tellUs/archives/2009_09_TellUs.html

Sales Tax Holiday

The 3-day sales tax holiday will begin 12:01 a.m. Friday, August 3, 2012 and end at midnight Sunday, August 5, 2012. During this period no Florida sales tax or local option tax will be collected on sales of clothing, footwear and certain accessories selling for \$75 or less per item, or on certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item.

Polk City Library – July Activities

- Polk City Library receives a grant from the Libri Foundation for children's books. Thank you to Mary Ellin Barrett for writing the successful grant. The Libri Foundation matches 2 for 1 donations of up to \$350. Polk City Library raised the \$350 to receive the maximum amount for a total of \$1050 for new children's books. Congratulations on a job well done!
- Thanks to BB&T Bank and the **Lighthouse Grant** for painting the trim at the library and the beautiful landscaping. Polk City appreciates the time and effort provided by our local BB&T.
- **Polk City Library** continues with the fantastic **Summer Library Program**.
 - **Gatorland** visited in June. The visit was a big hit again this year with the children.
 - **Thanks** to the Florida Department of Transportation for the backpack bags, bicycle bells, coloring books, pedometers, and water bottles. And, for all of the **beautiful free bicycle safety helmets** custom fitted to each child that attended.
 - A special thanks to our volunteers, **Dwight Kitchen and Will Byers**, who fitted many of the children with the bicycle helmets.
 - The **"Balloon Man"**, Jonathan Fudge, entertained the children during the summer program. To the delight of the children (and their parents), he constructed a huge octopus, dog, monkey swinging from a tree, balloon bracelets, Mario (video game character), SpongeBob, a dinosaur and many more great characters. His jokes were enjoyed by all while he created the balloon characters. One lucky little girl became a Princess with a skirt, crown, and wand all made of balloons. All the children left with a balloon artwork of their own.
- Don't miss July 11 - the Wonder Makers (A Mystery Program)
- July 25 is Craft Day and the **Final Day of the Polk City Library Summer Program**. **Awards will be presented** to the children who read the most this summer. Refreshments will be served.

In the News

Polk City was in the news again this month.

- **Polk City Council Defines Trash Service Rules** June 13, 2012
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20120613/politics/120619743>
The city council gave preliminary approval Monday to a 27-page ordinance that sets the framework for a franchise agreement for garbage and trash pickup. The solid waste ordinance will return to council for a final vote at its July 9 meeting. Polk City currently has a franchise agreement with Republic Services, Inc., of Lakeland, formerly Florida Refuse Service, to pick up all residential garbage and trash. It expires in September 2013.
- **A Day in the Polk City Park** June 14, 2012
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20120614/NEWS/120619625/1326>
 - Polk City Park, less than a mile south of the Polk City limits bordering Duey Road and State Road 33, is an active-use, community park.
 - It features three baseball fields, a softball field, a football field, a basketball court, two batting cages, a large-screened, enclosed pavilion, and playground and combination concession stand/restroom/meeting room building located in the center of the complex.
 - The 10-acre park is home to the Polk City Little League and the Polk City Jaguars youth football program.
- **Who You Gonna Call?: Polk City Utilities** June 17, 2012
<http://www.theledger.com/article/20120617/NEWS/120619351/1134>
A great picture of Polk City's Utility Manager, Charles Nichols began the column in the Ledger. Polk City Utilities, operated by Woodard and Curran, fields calls every day pertaining to Polk City Utilities. The most common subject concerns the amounts on the bill, but other issues include a missing bill, or one not received, and repair issues.
- **Pol Special Friends Uses Horses to Help Disabled Children** July 1, 2012
<http://www.newschief.com/article/20120701/NEWS/207015038>
The work is hard and there's not much money in what they do, but then again, money is not why they do it. J.J. Jablonsky and his wife, Deb, of the Floppy Eared Farm in Polk City are paid in smiles and hugs -- and that's just how they like it. The Jablonskys run **Polk Special Friends, a not-for-profit program for disabled children** who benefit from **animal therapy**. What started about six years ago with just a few animals on one acre has now grown to 45 acres of mostly self-sustaining farm and includes sheep, chickens, geese, ducks, llamas, pheasants, peacocks, horses and more.



Polk City's American Legion Post 396



- Join Florida's newest American Legion Post. Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. sharp at the Polk City Activity Center. Need Info? Call 863-984-4696 or Email; BJ132@netzero.com Post Cmdr John Forsburg.. Thank John Forsburg

XX Issue

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