

POLK CITY

# In The News



October 2014

Patricia Jackson, City Manager  
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Mayor Joe LaCascia [joe.lacascia@mypolkcity.org](mailto:joe.lacascia@mypolkcity.org)  
Commissioner Don Kimsey [don.kimsey@mypolkcity.org](mailto:don.kimsey@mypolkcity.org)  
Commissioner Wanda Harris [wanda.harris@mypolkcity.org](mailto:wanda.harris@mypolkcity.org)

Vice Mayor Michael Blethen [michael.blethen@mypolkcity.org](mailto:michael.blethen@mypolkcity.org)  
Commissioner Keith Prestage [keith.prestage@mypolkcity.org](mailto:keith.prestage@mypolkcity.org)

For an appointment with any City Commissioner or the City Manager, please call 863-984-1375 x 238  
City Commission Meetings are the **3rd Monday** each Month at 7:00 pm



**POLK CITY GOVERNMENT CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2014 IN OBSERVANCE OF COLUMBUS DAY. THE OFFICES WILL RESUME NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014.**

## *Recap of September 15, 2014 City Commission Meeting*

- 1) September 4, 2014 FY 2014-2015 Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Approved
- 2) September 16, 2014 FY 2014-2015 Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - Approved

## *Message from Mayor Joe*

Fridays are usually quiet around your Government Center. But NOT last Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>! Usually closed, City Hall was opened exclusively to the fourth grade students and teachers at Polk City Elementary to see and explore some of the workings of their local government procedures and Commission makeup. Teachers; Mrs. Parnow, Miss Love, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Badillo did their best to contain the enthusiasm and energy of some 74 students as they toured the building, occupied Commission seats and asked a myriad of questions relating to City history, Commission and Staff responsibilities, the Mayor's age and salary and other oft times blunt queries. Mayor Joe, Vice-Mayor Mike Blethen and City Manager Patricia Jackson led them thru just how their wants and needs can be communicated to Commissioners and then become a reality thru democratic processes of discussion and majority vote. But the best part for the kiddos turned out to be a tour of the Polk City Sheriffs annex conducted by our own Sgt. John Conover. They had a hands-on perspective of police duties and procedures. You can't even imagine the questions asked about the interview and detention room, caliber of firearms and the best one of all. .does Sheriff Grady Judd carry a bigger gun than Sgt. John? Clearly a great time was had by all. We should plan a "mock" Commission meeting for them sometime in the future!

## *Polk City Library*



The Polk City Library will offer free tutoring in reading, beginning Monday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 16. Tutoring will continue each week on Monday and Tuesday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Paula Bucci, certified reading specialist, will conduct these sessions. Book Club resumes on Tuesday, October 21 at 6:00 pm. This month's choice is Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal Vegetable Miracle*. Please see the librarian to get a book. October is teen read month. Come in, sign up and for every book you read, you can enter your name to win a Kindle. We will be collecting "Cans for Fines" beginning November 1 – December 30. All food will be donated to local food banks. Dwight Kitchens will be conducting computer classes on Tuesdays at 10:00 am beginning November 4, 11 and 18. Please sign up. We will be observing Family Week November 14 – 20, 2014 with various activities scheduled each afternoon at 3:30 pm. Call 863-984-4340 for more information.

## *Business of the Month*



122 North Commonwealth Avenue  
Polk City, FL 33868  
Phone (863) 984-1047

We are small but mighty. Come in and enjoy any variety of our home cooked meals, sandwiches and desserts. Bring this newsletter and receive a free drink with a full meal. We look forward to serving you.

## *Hurricane Season – Helpful Websites*

### **Polk County Emergency Shelters**

[http://www.polk-county.net/subpage.aspx?menu\\_id=20&nav=res&id=852](http://www.polk-county.net/subpage.aspx?menu_id=20&nav=res&id=852)

## *Other Happenings around Polk County*

### **Safe Haven Halloween**

**Date:** Saturday, October 25, 2014

**Time:** 12 Noon – 4:00 pm

**Location:** Freedom Park, Polk City

It's that time again.....the weather is cooling off a bit and Polk City is gearing up for the Safe Haven Halloween event. Come out to Freedom Park in your best costume and enjoy a variety of food, games and a special appearance by the animals from the Floppy Eared Farms and the Headless Horseman.

### **River Ranch Introduces Cattle Drive Experience**

Westgate River Ranch Introduces Cattle Drive Experience for Groups in Florida Cowboy Country. Groups can now participate in the ultimate cowboy teambuilding adventure: working together on horseback to drive a herd of cattle across open plains. For More Information, please visit [www.wgriverranch.com](http://www.wgriverranch.com) or call (863) 692-1321.

### **ZombieFest: Unearthed 2014 Creeps into Downtown Lakeland**

**Date:** October 11, 2014

**Time:** 3 pm -10 pm

**Location:** Munn Park

Egyptians, step aside. It's time to walk like a zombie. ZombieFest: Unearthed 2014 will creep into Downtown Lakeland and promises a frighteningly good time for people of all ages. This year's headlining sponsor is Monochrome Games, makers of the zombie-themed game "Contagion." For more information, please visit [www.downtownlakelandzombies.com](http://www.downtownlakelandzombies.com).

### **Paintball Sports Promotions World Cup**

**Date:** Thursday, October 9 – Sunday, October 12

**Location:** Fantasy of Flight, Polk City

Paintball enthusiasts from across the world will travel to Fantasy of Flight over the four-day event, along with a manufacturers' tradeshow where paintball players can pick up all of the latest equipment and apparel in the paintball industry.

### **Fine Swine at the Pit**

**Date:** Friday, October 10

**Location:** Mulberry

Get your butts smoked and share your ribs at the American Legion Mulberry Memorial Post #72 October 10 and 11. This world class event is a state championship and Jack Daniels Qualifier.

## *Utilities Department*



Polk City now accepts credit card payments for utility payments at the Polk City Government Center. This includes Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover card. Please note there is a 2.95% processing charge on the total payment, from the credit card processing company. Utility deposits and other payments still have to be paid with cash, check, or money order at this time.

All bills for service shall be due by 2:00 p.m. on the 25th of each month. All utility bills not received by 2:00 p.m. on the 25th of the month shall be considered delinquent and be subject to the delinquent charge. If the payment due on the 25th has not been received by the 5th of the next month, then the utility service will be subject to disconnection on the next business day. In all cases where water is subject to cut-off, due to nonpayment, a service charge of \$50.00 shall be made without regard to whether the service is off or on. Once utility service is cutoff due to nonpayment, the reconnect fee will also apply.

Polk City has the ability to offer paperless billing to our customers, which is known as E-bills. If you are interested in taking advantage of this new service, please contact the Utilities Department at 863-874-4808, or email [xochitl.munoz@mypolkcity.org](mailto:xochitl.munoz@mypolkcity.org). Monday-Thursday during normal business hours.

Polk City Utilities EMERGENCY number is 1 -866- 815- 0074.

\*\*\*If you have community activities or news that would be of interest to the Polk City service area, please contact Sheandolen Dunn – [sheandolen.dunn@mypolkcity.org](mailto:sheandolen.dunn@mypolkcity.org) – 863-984-1375, extension 238.