

CivicCon and PYP Present 2022 Quality Of Life Survey Results

A Quality of Life Survey has been done annually in Escambia County and Pensacola since 2008 and the 2022 poll results will be shared at a CivicCon Town Hall on Monday, Oct. 17 at The Rex Theatre, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Quint Studer, founder of the Studer Community Institute, and Claire Kirchharr, Director of Community Development for Pensacola Young Professionals, will present the results. You can register for tickets to attend the free public event at this [LINK](#).

Each year the survey results are an indicator of what issues the community ranks as important as well as answering a key question: “Generally, do you think that (Escambia County/Pensacola) is heading in the right direction, or are things on the wrong track?”

CivicCon is a partnership of the News Journal and the Studer Community Institute to make our community a better place to live, grow, work and invest through smart planning and civic conversation. The Quality of Life survey is one important measure to understand the progress of the community in the eyes of those that live here.

The report's author defines Quality of Life “as an individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture,

community, and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns.”

The survey includes standardized batteries of questions concerning the factors that contribute to and define the quality of life in the community—economic conditions, job security, educational opportunities, availability of cultural displays and entertainment, safety, clean and healthy environment, a sense of community and welcoming, a shared vision and understanding of future plans for community and economic development, and effective, competent government and community leadership that plans and executes.

Participants who are interviewed are chosen randomly and accurately represent the actual demographic breakdown of a community. This includes the ratios of the respondents’ gender, race, age, political affiliation and area of residence, which mirror the county’s real statistics.

Pensacola philanthropists Quint and Rishy Studer established the Quality of Life Survey in 2008. They continue to fund the survey each year but have no control over its content. The purpose of the survey is to provide benchmarks of public opinion, concerns and what the community identifies as the issues of importance. In recent years, the Pensacola Young Professionals assist in curating the report.

The Quality of Life survey is an independent survey tool that was developed by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy, an independent polling and communications firm with offices in Washington, D.C., and Jacksonville, FL.

Mason-Dixon studies communities around the country and came up with the categories and characteristics that people perceive as having the most impact on the quality of life.



Who Deserves A CivicCon Award?

You've attended a lot of CivicCon speaker events and you have learned much about best practices that can improve a community.

We need your nominations right now for local individuals and organizations as we prepare to recognize community members with the 2022 CivicCon Awards.

The CivicCon Awards are meant to identify and honor those community members in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties that have taken one or more of the best practices from the past five years of the CivicCon Speaker Series and put it to action.

We've had speaker events on how to create safer streets for pedestrians and people on bicycles. You've heard speakers on topics such as equity, the environment, the importance of government transparency, public safety and how to develop a vibrant downtown and improve neighborhoods. And there are many more topics to choose from with 5 years of CivicCon events now completed.

In December of 2021, CivicCon asked the community to nominate people for the first-ever CivicCon Awards. The idea was to recognize those people who have taken some of the ideas and best practices from the expert speakers and put them into place in our community.

After 130 people were nominated, CivicCon recognized 22 individuals and organizations who received 2021 CivicCon Awards.

Nominations are now open for the 2022 CivicCon Awards and you can go to this [LINK](#) to nominate as many people as you wish for an award. Categories and other details are available at this link.



Sign Up Now For CivicCon Courses

CivicCon Civic Engagement Courses are being offered to those who want to be better prepared and informed when it comes to advocating for a cause or appearing at public meetings to impact a decision by elected officials.

Below is the full list of Civic Engagement Courses being planned. Further details will soon be available.

Civil Civic Engagement

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We should always be respectful and kind when dealing with another person. But what about when the person we are engaging with isn't reciprocating? And what do we do if that same person is somebody that we need to respond to us with some form of action or recognition? That happens often to an advocate of a project, an idea or a cause. The old analogy that spreading

honey is more successful than spreading vinegar when wanting someone to respond is only partly true. Some people simply don't care what you want. How do you get them to care? You'll learn some strategies not only about how to keep a conversation on a useful level but also strategies about how you can still be civil but follow many avenues in pursuit of your goal.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesday, October 4, 2022, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: Studer Community Institute, community room, 220 W. Garden Street, Pensacola

INSTRUCTOR: Christian Wagley, local environmentalist and a CivicCon legacy volunteer

Enroll Free at this [LINK](#)

Be a Better Speaker

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An advocate should be passionate for a cause. But being passionate alone is not enough. What happens when you appear at a public meeting? Do you not speak because you are having stage fright or afraid that you will not sound smart? And if you do speak, do you wish afterward that you had done a better job of communicating what you wanted to say?

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: Studer Community Institute, community room, 220 W. Garden Street, Pensacola

INSTRUCTOR: Daniel Pennington, a professional speaker coach, and author of *Nailed It, a Step-by-Step Guide to Giving Your Best Presentation Ever* and *The Seven Step Guide to Speaking Success: An Essential Leader's Handbook*.

Enroll Free at this [LINK](#)

Be a Better Writer

COURSE DESCRIPTION: When you write a letter to the editor or submit a guest column, do you have a template to use on how you will approach the writing? Does your writing end up having an impact? Are you able to send emails and letters to potential donors that help them understand the importance of your work

and why they should support your cause? Can you write using effective storytelling so that you energize others to join your cause?

COURSE SCHEDULE: Wednesday, October 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

COURSE LOCATION: Studer Community Institute, community room, 220 W. Garden Street, Pensacola

INSTRUCTOR: Terry Horne is the director of the Center for Civic Engagement and a former reporter, columnist, editor and media executive

Enroll Free on Eventbrite at this [LINK](#)

Public Records

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Sometimes it is hard to know what government is doing. It may seem like someone is not cooperating or willingly offering information that you want or need. When is it your right to demand it? How do you go about acquiring it when they refuse? Making public records requests requires knowing the ropes. And often it isn't free. You sometimes are required to pay to get information, so it is important that you know how to make the request in a way that minimizes your out-of-pocket cost. What information can be withheld by government because it is protecting private information of employees or others doing business with the city? All these questions look like you are facing a tangled web when you don't know what you are doing. Our instructors will untangle it for you.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Thursday, November 10, 2022

COURSE LOCATION: Studer Community Institute community room, 220 W. Garden Street, Pensacola

INSTRUCTORS: Jack Brown, former associate director of CivicCon and past Escambia County administrator

Enroll free on Eventbrite at this [LINK](#)

If you have questions, please reach out to CivicCon Executive Director Terry Horne at thorne@civicconversations.org or on his mobile number at 480-395-7736.

