

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The **Commentator**

January 2026

Inside:

Educational Opportunities
Volunteer Recruitment
Weekly Wednesday Market
New Member Reception

page 7-9
page 12-13
page 14
page 27





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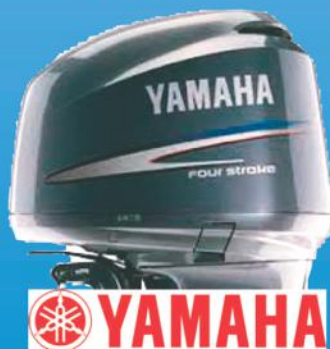
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15th BIENNIAL

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- NAE Docent Tours
- NAE Workshop 2/10 to 2/12
- NAE Opening Night Gala 2/12
- Lunch with the NAE Judge 2/13
- NAE Awards Reception 2/19
- Lunch & Learn with Rosalie Mack 3/6
- Poetry Night 3/18

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SCAN for Info



Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

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941-637-1655 | www.pgica.org

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The Commentator

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SPECIAL FEATURES INDEX

	PAGE
Alert Charlotte	28
Assistant Editors & Proofers	5
Calendar of Events	24-26
Classified Ads	40-41
Educational Opportunities	7-9
Government Update	42
In Memoriam	10
New Members	28
PGICA Board Members	5
PGICA Loaner Program	44
Punta Gorda Police Department	43

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - CLUBS

Beyond Ourselves	36
Car Club	23
Cruising Club	29
Friends, Fun & Community	38
JFF ~ Just for Fun	30
Mariners of PGI	11
Newcomers	34
Paradise Friends	37
PGI Islanders	10
PGI Castaways	20
Seafarers	22
Tennis	42

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - GROUPS

Acoustic Music	28
Aardvarks Fish and Game Adventurers	21
Bridge Groups	16-17
Bunco Buddies	17
Canasta	17
Euchre Group	17
In Stitches	27
Isles Girls & Guys	39
Mah Jongg	17
Pinochle Group	17
Seasonal Flockers	28
Tag Team Artists	39

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“To enhance the quality of life in Punta
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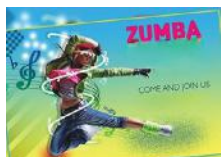
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FITNESS/DANCE



Zumba: Tuesdays and Fridays, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., \$12 per class. Zumba is a fun, effective dance workout that is a good option for people who enjoy upbeat music and an energetic group exercise environment. Instructor: Gigi Caceda. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Chair-a-Cise: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m., \$10 per class. Chair-a-Cise is a low-impact, full-body workout designed to strengthen and tone muscles using a sturdy chair for support. This class targets: improving strength, flexibility and balance. It also targets muscle groups for toning and strengthening and promotes blood flow and circulation. Instructor: Cathy Wetzelsberger. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Morning Yoga: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m., \$10 per class. Enjoy a safe and playful mixed-level Yoga Flow class designed for beginners to intermediate-level practitioners. Join us and explore the awareness of the mind/body connection to inspire good posture, better breathing, movement, balance, and relaxation. Instructor: Linda Haverlock. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Basic Beginner Line Dancing with Judy: Wednesdays, 3 to 4 p.m., \$10 per class. Learn beginner choreographed line dancing with a repeating sequence of steps to a variety of musical rhythms. The dances are performed individually without a partner, in rows of other dancers. Dancing enhances physical and mental health as well as providing social interaction. Get your cowboy or cowgirl hats & boots and lets "Boot Scootin' Boogie!" Instructor: Judy Barnhill. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.

Advance Line Dance with Judy: Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m., \$10 per class. This class is for students who took the basic class, along with dancers who have previous line dance experience. Instructor: Judy Barnhill. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Mat Pilates: Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 am., \$15 per class. This class was designed this class to help strengthen, lengthen and restore your body through mindful movement. No experience is necessary. Students are required to bring their own mat. Instructor: Angelica Asperilla. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Learn to Love Tennis. Wednesdays, 1 to 2 p.m., \$90 per six week session. Jan. 28 to Mar. 4. This instruction is geared toward people who have never played tennis, or those re-starting. Requirements: Athletic shoes, racquet preferred, loaners available. PTR Certified Instructor: Leigh Chak. Students will receive a USTA Love to Learn shirt. Students 18+ can register. Advanced registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.

ART and MUSIC



Paper Quilling: Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon, \$35 per class. Whether you are new to this beautiful art form or you're a seasoned quillist, please join us! Learn a few techniques, complete a project to take home, and keep the tools to pursue more creations at home. Instructor: Kathy Peters. 2026 Class dates: Jan. 23, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, April 24, May 22. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.

ART and MUSIC (cont.)



Watercolor Painting: Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon, \$35 per class. Watercolor is a water-based medium applied by brush. Whether an accomplished artist or a beginner, your instructor, Kathy Peters, will help you create paintings for others to admire. Supplies are provided. 2026 Class dates: Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, April 10, May 8. Advance registration required. Students can register at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



Beginner Ukulele Lessons: Thursdays, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Jan. 8 through Feb. 12, \$15 per class. Each student will realize they can be a Ukulele player! Focus points will be tuning, strumming, music keys, and chord shapes. Students should bring their ukulele and buy the yellow and blue “Daily Ukulele” books. ISBN numbers for books: 9-781423-477754, yellow book; 9-781458-482686, blue book. Instructor: Peter Coleson. Classes are open through Oct. 30. Advance registration requested. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.

WORKSHOPS



Let's Go Fishing!: Wednesdays, Jan. 7, through Feb. 11, 6 to 8 p.m., \$75 for the series. This class will introduce you to both fresh and saltwater fishing in SW Florida. While geared toward beginners, even the most experienced angler will pick up useful tips. Topics include techniques, equipment, knot tying, lures and bait, and fishing regulations. Instructor: Captain Josh Olive. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.

Let's Go Fishing!: Saturdays, Jan. 10 through Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$75 for the series. This class will introduce you to both fresh and saltwater fishing in SW Florida. While geared toward beginners, even the most experienced angler will pick up useful tips. Topics include techniques, equipment, knot tying, lures and bait, and fishing regulations. Instructor: Captain Josh Olive. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



Creative Cell Phone Photography: Thursdays, 9 to 11 a.m., \$40 per class. Take beautiful pictures with your cell phone, exploring color, portraits, nature, close-ups, flowers, and architecture. We meet at PGICA. Bring any camera, however, your phone camera is recommended. Instructor Jim Austin, has been teaching and photographing for over 40 years. Jim has an engaging and supportive way of teaching, offering visual examples tailored to each photographer. No experience is needed. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



The ART of a Traditional French Dinner: Fridays, January 9, February 13, March 13 & April 10, 10 a.m. to noon, \$50 per class. All proceeds benefit the PGICA! First course: January – Salade Lyonnaise w/ poached egg in red wine. Main course: February – Poulet à la crème. Side course: March – Tarte aux asperges. Dessert course: April - Profiteroles. We will also taste the dishes in class! Students will be advised of what bowls, pans etc. to bring. (Maximum 8 students). Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



Choir Play: Mondays, January 12 through March 2, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$100 for course series which includes practice CD, sheet music, rehearsals, and concerts. Concert: Sunday, March 22. This is not your granny's choir! If you can carry a tune, please join us and give it a try. We sing together for the fun. After the first rehearsal, if you decide it's not for you, you will receive a full refund. Practice CD's and sheet music will be available at the front desk. Directed by Cahal Dunne, B. Music, National University of Ireland. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



CCPU The Practical Application of Robert's Rules of Order: Tuesdays, January 13 through February 17, 9 a.m. to noon. \$50 for course series. Ever sit in a meeting and wonder what just happened? Have you heard “Madam or Mr. Chairperson “I so Move.” So Move What? Do the meeting agenda give you a sense that you are in for a long meeting? What parliamentary authority does your organization follow? Maybe it's the phrase “we've always done it that way.” This class will demonstrate how following Robert's Rules of Order can produce fairer and more efficient meetings while protecting the rights of all to be heard. It is offered by the award-winning Charlotte County Parliamentarians Unit and is open to the public. For more information, contact Luceal Curry at 941-833-5552, palzetta@embarqmail.com. Students should register with the PGICA by Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Crews Bank and Trust Seminar: 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monthly sessions. Join us to explore and understand various strategies. Jan. 29, 2026 – Advanced estate planning. Feb. 25, 2026 – Tips for smooth Estate and Trust Administration. March 24, 2026 – Proper funding of Wills and Trust. Interested participants can register at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.

Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar. Monthly sessions. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please come and gain more insight to your finances. Seminar dates: Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7. Interested participants can register at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.

PGISLANDERS

Robin Herrick, New Members Director, PGIslandersNewMembers@gmail.com



The PGIslanders have some terrific news to share, starting January 2026. We as a group have noticed that we've missed out on some terrific potential members because they've just moved to Florida and haven't yet purchased a boat. Our old rule was that you needed to have a boat to be a member, and it stemmed from a long waiting list back in the 20th century when all three of the boating clubs of PGICA were at their maximum.

In the 21st century, we all have many, many more obligations and options as to how we spend our time and resources, and this rule change voted on by the members reflects that. It's not about pivoting away from being a cruising club to a mere social club; just the opposite, in fact. It's about using one of our unique strengths as PGIslanders to its best benefit - sharing the deep knowledge of the best kinds of boats and the best places to go for Southwest Florida.

For everyone who's followed along with the PGIslanders in The Commentator and wished they could join but were held up by a lack of a boat, overwhelmed by the idea of getting into boating, and wondering how to break into a boating social group, we're now your people. Come and see us at one of our socials held every second Wednesday at the PGICA at 4:30, or our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 (we have pizza). Regardless of what kind of boat you're thinking of buying, from a big sailing catamaran (and there's no better place in the U.S. to keep one affordably in your backyard than here in Punta Gorda Isles), to a get-about pontoon, one of our members either has one or has had one and can guide you towards finding the right fit.

THAT my friends is the whole point of our pivot - to keep the boating community alive and well by mentoring and welcoming boating newbies and showing them just how much fun getting out there with a bunch of new friends can be. One day you're looking wistfully at the ads in the local paper for your dream boat, and the next thing you know, your wife (or husband) is asking when the next PGIslanders raftup, lunch cruise or hop on hop off cruise is happening and is the dream boat fueled up and ready to go!

One other item of note: this will be my (Robin) last article for The Commentator as I hand over the writing reins to our upcoming 2026 vice commodore. I'll be pivoting to the webmaster/communications position, which suits my nerd heart very well. If you join the PGIslanders, you'll get the rare treat of continuing to enjoy my slightly unhinged missives to our nearly 100 members. Here's wishing y'all a sparkling 2026, and sea you out there.

PGIslanders Remove Boating Requirement!



Education: Find Your Boat With Our Help



Fellowship: Learn What It's Like To Belong To A Boating Group



Exploration: "Follow Me" Cruises To Teach Local Knowledge



Inclusiveness: New Boaters Are Encouraged



Plan today. *Protect tomorrow.*

Take the first step toward securing your legacy and ensuring peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Join Christine Hause, Vice President and Senior Wealth Strategist at Crews Bank & Trust, for complimentary estate-planning seminars.

Estate Plan Essentials - *Select Tuesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Learn the fundamentals of a last will and testament, power of attorney, and health care directives, as well as the pitfalls to avoid, with account titles and beneficiary designations. Probate avoidance, proper administration, and cost reduction will also be covered.

- **Jan. 13*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Jan. 20** - Punta Gorda branch, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Value of Florida Residency - *Select Wednesdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Explore the benefits of homestead laws, favorable tax, and estate planning codes. We'll discuss common problems with out-of-state documents, outline the steps to become a Floridian, and share helpful tips.

- **Jan. 14*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Jan. 21** - Punta Gorda branch, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Will vs. Trust - *Select Thursdays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Discover the key differences between wills and trusts, including the administration, costs, and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Learn best practices for handling IRAs, real estate, investments, and personal property to make the best choice for yourself and your loved ones.

- **Jan. 15*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Jan. 22** - Punta Gorda branch, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Building a Better Estate Plan - *Thursday, Jan. 29, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Explores techniques and tools to protect spouses, children, and other loved ones in remarriage situations. Pet planning will also be discussed.

- **Jan. 29** - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Assoc, 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda

***Seminars on Jan. 13, 14, and 15 are also presented virtually via WebEx.**

Although the seminars are free, registration is required. Please RSVP with any Teller, Personal Banker, call a Trust Services Associate at 941-624-1988 or visit our website at www.crews.bank.



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We hope all readers enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season with friends and family, whether locally or in other places near or far. Despite the busy holiday season, Mariners participated in several activities and cruises, some recurring and others unique.



IYC Brunch Cruise

Southwest Florida's ideal cruising season has arrived, thankfully not preceded by any dreaded H's (I am leery of spelling out the word), and we had several cruises, with more in the works. A large group of Mariners kicked off the season with a November 30 lunch cruise to Isles Yacht Club. The food and service were top notch. Thanks to yacht club members Robert and June Toothaker and Paul Baird and Tracie Goin, our incoming membership co-directors, for leading and hosting that cruise.

Dennis Barkow organized and led a cruise north from December 12 to 17, heading to Sarasota, St. Petersburg and Bradenton. In Sarasota, cruisers docked at Marina Jack and enjoyed the Christmas boat parade and an excursion to Selby Gardens to be immersed in their annual Lights in Bloom extravaganza,

with displays comprised of more than two million lights. Next stop was the St. Petersburg Municipal Marina for two nights, in walking distance to gorgeous Christmas lights, museums and the pier. The final stop was Twin Dolphin Marina in Bradenton, also within walking distance of plenty of activities. The cruise was a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit.

Cruise Director Gary Towers hosted a lunch cruise to Riviera Bar and Grill on December 17, and a brunch cruise to Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club on December 21. A lunch cruise to Tarpon Lodge is planned for January 10; land yachts are welcome, especially for those whose drafts exceed the skinny water approach. As always, we have our last Sunday of the month raftup in Sunset Lake.



Sarasota Selby Gardens

Thanks to Sheila Wiens for hosting the monthly Lunch with the Ladies December 3, this time at The Perfect Caper. Food and service were terrific, and conversation lively. Sheila led a fun-filled gift exchange of vintage Christmas items.

Almost 60 Mariners joined together at PGICA December 6 for a Jingle Bam Christmas party, including a delicious dinner of ham and turkey, with side dishes prepared by excellent Mariner cooks. Instead of toys and gifts, we used the proceeds of the dinner to support local food pantries. Folks were encouraged to don their most dazzling holiday outfits; prizes were awarded for several fashion categories. A special treat was music provided by the Suncoast Swing Band, including our own Larry Lowy on trumpet; Mariners do love to dance. Thanks to outgoing Commodore Carol Barkow and her team for putting this event together.

December 1 marked the inaugural Mariners Monthly Game Night, led by Brad and Laurie Betting at PGICA. Participants brought snacks, good spirits and enthusiasm. This will be a recurring activity, held the first Monday of each month, starting at 7.

Sandy Franzino and her crew are organizing the 2026 Annual Gala and Change of Watch, scheduled for January 17 at the Isles Yacht

Club. This year's theme is an elegant Night to Remember. In addition to great food and dance music provided by local favorites Gary and Kerri, the event provides the opportunity to thank our outgoing officers and directors and welcome those incoming.

Along with the recurring events noted above, Mariners enjoy brunch the first Sunday of every month at Tamiami Tavern, Bullets and Brunch the second Wednesday of the month, a Sunset Lake raftup the last Sunday of the month, and a weekly informal get together Thursday evenings at Gilchrist Park.

If the above has sparked your interest, we invite you to join in the Mariners fun and fellowship. Drop by and meet the crew at one of our happy hours, held every Wednesday from 5 to 7 at the Village Brewhouse in Fishermen's Village. Check out our monthly newsletter, Nautical Notes, which can be viewed at <https://marinersofpgi.org/nautical-notes/>. For questions, give our Membership Co-Directors Paul Baird at 330-347-9023 and Tracie Goin at 815-922-9833 a call. We look forward to meeting you.



Jingle Bam



Game Night

PGICA Volunteer Recruitment

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. (PGICA) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit community organization. It serves the entire Punta Gorda area by providing a wide variety of programs and services which highlight a transparent commitment to overall civic welfare and education. It is one of more than 800 nonprofit organizations serving our community.

Volunteers in several areas would greatly assist with the success of PGICA programs and services.

You are needed!

ADVERTISING SALES- Does cold-calling make you feel all warm and fuzzy? Are you a CRM guru? Do you absolutely love the PGICA? If yes, yes, and yes ... this might be for you! *The Commentator* digital magazine and a new monthly digital advertiser beginning in January could use your devotion.

(There might even be a \$mall commi\$\$ion?)

EVENT PROMOTION- How organized ARE you? It's hard to believe, but the PGICA has an average of more than 50 classes and events each month. That does not even include club and group events or private functions. Those 50 activities include ukelele lessons, festivals, line dancing, fundraisers, concerts, yoga, photography, markets, exercise, and more ... without an advertising budget. Yes, members have the resources to stay informed of the PGICA happenings. However, we need the general public to be constantly kept updated about those happenings. That includes postings on all digital community calendars and other free announcement resources.

EVENT PARKING LOT ASSISTANCE- Maybe you were a school crossing guard, or you had an orange Safety Patrol belt and badge, or you generally like to ~~boss people around~~ ... help people! As our events become more successful, additional assistance is needed. It's a good problem to have, but it is a problem.

- ♦ Pre-marking vendor spaces
- ♦ Signage placement
- ♦ Directing traffic/traffic control
- ♦ Vendor assistance- parking, tables, electrical, etc.
- ♦ Traffic cone placement
- ♦ Trash can placement/emptying
- ♦ General safety
- ♦ Break down

LOANER PROGRAM ASSISTANCE- By far the most popular service offered by the PGICA, the Loaner Program does demand quite a bit of TLC. Assistance is needed with inventory organization, cleaning of returned items, repairs to equipment, and the disposal of unusable items.

HANDS-ON TECHIE TYPES- We do get ourselves into a jam sometimes. Maybe it's a paper jam in the copy machine or a musical jam when the audio/visual equipment decides to become obstinate, we sometimes need fixing. What seems like a major computer malfunction to us just might only be a case of the wrong button being clicked. Who we gonna call? **TECH BUSTERS!**

INDOOR EVENT SET-UP- Yes, we make it look easy, but there is a lot more to hosting an event other than opening the doors. When needed, how about volunteering to help with:

- ♦ Stage assembly and skirting
- ♦ Audio/visual set-up and operation
- ♦ Table and chair placement
- ♦ Table coverings
- ♦ Centerpieces/flyer placement
- ♦ Lobby set-up
- ♦ Green room set-up
- ♦ Greeter/registration
- ♦ Refrigerator/warmer clean out
- ♦ Ice inventory
- ♦ Holiday decorating
- ♦

MAINTENANCE AND FACILITIES ASSISTANCE- As much as we love doing it all ourselves, sometimes it's just not possible. If you are experienced in bid research and solicitation, plumbing projects, electrical work, computer glitches, copy machine jams, and stone work, and if you have a love for special projects, WE are here for YOU!

GRANT WRITER- Are research, project alignment, and persuasive writing your passion? Do you have an unwavering Oxford comma stance? Have you ever experienced joy because of new highlighters, binders, and colored tabs? You are in luck ... we are here to "grant" you hours of bliss!

PGICA OFFICE RECEPTION- The little desk behind the glass window in the lobby loves to have new attendants. All you need is a very friendly face and voice! Volunteering in the PGICA office involves answering the phone, checking in and out loaner program items, assisting with class and event registrations, making copies, providing general information, and other various office tasks.

THE 2026 GIVING CHALLENGE- It's almost time for the April 15-16, 2026 Giving Challenge. We need to rally the troops, muster the masses, and assemble our supporters. The best thing about the Giving Challenge is that every donation to the participating nonprofit organization is matched up to \$100! Each year there are more nonprofits vying for the Giving Challenge dollars, and we need your help. Another good thing? It only happens every-other-year. Feel free to take a peek at givingchallenge.org.

To be added to the volunteer list for any of these categories, please contact Alexa Rice at alexarice@pgica.org or by calling 941-637-1655. A special orientation is being planned for all new volunteers, which may or may not involve refreshments. Yes, we will resort to bribery.



Weekly Wednesday Market

INDOOR and **OUTDOOR**
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

~ Plants ~ Fresh food Items ~ Arts and Crafts
~ Businesses and Services ~ Used and/or Thrift Items ~
~ Nonprofit Organizations ~ Food Trucks ~ And More ~

There are countless arts and craft events, church bazaars, farmers markets, school festivals, boat shows, car shows, home and garden shows, yard sales, parades, RV shows, football games, airshows, fairs, carnivals, flea markets, yada, yada, yada, yada ... to enjoy on the weekends. So, say it with us,

“Hooray for Wednesdays!”



Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-637-1655 pgica.org
A 501(C)3 Nonprofit Community Organization



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- ◆ Personal & Health Care
- ◆ Recreation
- ◆ Restaurants
- ◆ Retail
- ◆ Services

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Take a look at our PGICA Shop and Save Program and check back frequently to see additional listings being added in the future.

TO VIEW YOUR MEMBER DEALS BY:

- Go to pgica.org
- Click "MEMBER LOGIN" in the upper right corner with your username and password.
- On the blue title bar, select "Members." The dropdown list appears, select "PGICA Shop and Save" to view the list.

OR

Swing by the office and pick up a printed copy at the front desk.



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PGICA FRIDAY BRIDGE**Sharon Biernat, 941-833-4441 or (c) 941-286-3062, biefla3@gmail.com**

1 - Peg Williams
 2 - Judy Krausman
 3 - Susan Bennett
 4 - Cathy Eliason

1 - Judy Anderson
 2 - Sherry Lane
 3 - Judy Dolan
 4 - Debbie Meyer

1 - Judy Krausman
 2 - Christine Kwak
 3 - Polly Engebrecht
 4 - Joanne Ciampa

1 - Judy Krausman
 2 - Cathy Eliason
 3 - Judy Dolan

1 - Terry Moeller
 2 - Debbie Meyer
 3 - Judy Keane
 4 - Sharon Biernat

We meet every Friday at 12:15. When everyone arrives, we start the game. All players are required to be members of the PGI Civic Association. To join the association, please call the front desk at 941-637-1655 or visit the association's website at www.pgica.org and select Membership. We only compete for prizes if we have at least two tables (eight players). We collect \$1 from each player when you check in.

If you wish to play and are not signed up, please contact Sharon Biernat at 941-286-3062 or 941-833-4441 and leave a message, or email biefla3@gmail.com.

MONDAY AFTERNOON DUPLICATE BRIDGE**Debbie Meyer, 352-615-3976, Dmeyer50@msn.com**

1 – Judy Dolan & Judy Keane
 2 – Jeanne Hogan & Chris Taylor
 3 – Judy Anderson & Mary Ann Rindelaub
 4 – Cathy Eliason & Debbie Meyer
 5 – Kim Bennett & Marty Welch
 6 – Sharon Biernat & Marcia Ling
 7 – Gloria Hank & Terry Moeller
 8 – Lila Jameson & Linda Chimzar

We meet the 1st & 3rd Monday of every month. Since we start the game at 2, we request everyone to arrive between 1:30 and 2.

All players are required to be members of the PGI Civic Association. To join the Association, please call the front desk at 941-637-1655 or visit the Association's website at www.pgica.org and select "Membership." We only compete for prizes if we have at least two tables (8 players). We collect \$1 from each player when you check in.

If you wish to play and want additional information, please contact Debbie Meyer. Contact information is shown above.

MEN'S SOCIAL BRIDGE**John Iredale, 919-474-1223, jiredale1243@gmail.com**

Attention all men: We need you to join us.

- If you played bridge in college and have not played since but would like to rekindle an interest.
- If you think only women play bridge, you might be surprised.
- If your wife would like you to learn to play bridge with her (But you don't want to read Bridge for Idiots and can't stand her lessons or criticism).
- If you would like a new, less active hobby other than boating, golf, fishing, carving, woodwork, drinking, carousing or bingeing Netflix series.
- If you just want to get out of the house for one morning a week.
- If your wife would like to get rid of you for one morning a week.
- If you would just like to learn how to play bridge.
- If you already know how to play and would enjoy a challenge from some decent bridge players.
- If you would just like to enjoy some fun and a little kidding and fellowship with PGICA members.
- Enjoy competing against other great and not so great minds.

We would love to have you. Men's Social Bridge group, Mondays at 9.

Contact John Iredale at 919-474-1223. To leave a message or text, be sure to mention PGICA Men's Bridge. Better to text - that way if I miss it when you send it I can still read it later.

COUPLES BRIDGE

Melissa Brown, 734-769-3138, melbrown@umich.edu
 Jeanne Hogan, 317-431-5948, jeanno383@gmail.com

Our fun and friendly group usually meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. January play dates are January 7 and 21. We have changed our start time to 12:30. If you get there on time, you will receive 500 bonus points toward your score for the day.

Contrary to the name of the group, you do not have to be a married or committed couple. All that is necessary is that there are two of you - yourself and your partner. We happily welcome players of all skill levels. Whether you are new to bridge, have played forever, or are a little rusty since you have not played in years, we would love to have you join us.

Results of December 3:

1. Marian Harkins and Yvonne Heer, 4,150 points
2. Polly Engebrecht and Jeanne Hogan, 3,630 points
3. Jeff and Penney Hanson, 3,450 points

Results of December 17:

1. Sue Bennett and Judy Dolan, 5,350 points
2. Charlotte and Steve Todd, 3,100 points
3. Sherry Lane and Chris Taylor, 3,050 points.

If you have questions and/or would like to sign up to play, please contact either one of us by email or by phone. We are always looking for new players.

BUNCO BUDDIES

Mary Dowdall, 904-210-3168, mcdowd1@aol.com



If you're looking for a fun group of people playing a really easy game, look no further than Bunco Buddies. No skill involved, purely a game of chance - if you can roll three dice, you can play Bunco*. Great for meeting others because you change teammates every round. Come alone, with a friend, or even a spouse. Beginners welcome - you'll be an expert in no time. We play the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30, usually ending around 8:30. Bring a snack to share, your own beverages/glasses, and \$5 for prizes. Check out

our website** (https://www.pgica.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=799073&module_id=655892) for more details. If possible, register in advance so the tables/chairs are set up appropriately.

*only physical requirement is you do get up and change tables with each hand - unless you win

**We're a group of the PGICA, not a club, so no dues or membership required

CANASTA/HAND AND FOOT GROUP

Janet Lynn, jlynnpqi@hotmail.com

We play canasta/hand & foot every Thursday at noon. We draw cards for our partners at 11:55 and play until around 4. This is a fun group we play for laughs. No signup required. We play year-round unless the building is closed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

MONDAY MORNING MAH JONGG

Donna Bernhardson, 732-713-3723

We play on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Call Donna if you have any questions.

PGICA PINOCHLE GROUP

Mary Ann Kot, 941-347-8582, mamkot@aol.com



Consider joining us for cards. Getting together to play pinochle is enjoyable and an easy way to have fun. We welcome returning and new players. If you are new or want to learn more, you are welcome to observe. The time is every Tuesday at 12:30.

Current high score: 688 Laurie Betting

THURSDAY EUCHRE CARD GROUP

Marcia Ellis, 269-760-2582, marcia.ellis@wmich.edu



Euchre is known as a Midwest game. It's simple and fast. Anyone interested in playing for fun is welcome. Bring a snack to share and the beverage of your choice for yourself. We begin at 6:30 and play eight games of eight rounds each. We usually finish around 9. Hope to see you there.



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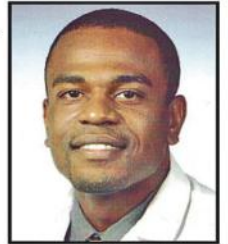


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be a volunteer



**PGICA
needs you!**

Our greatest need is for volunteers to help at the front desk, greeting and assisting people and answering phones.

We are also in need of a Volunteer Coordinator... a very special someone to help coordinate the volunteer schedule.

Volunteering is good for your health!

You can:

- Experience a Mental Pick-Me-Up... a cure for the blues is to do something for someone else.
- Improve your health... it's been shown to add a few years to life expectancy
- Meet new people... and make new friends
Break away from your routine... get out of your comfort zone
- Make a difference...helping people can benefit the whole
- Teach skills to others...pass your wisdom and experience onto others.
- Be an inspiration to others...a willingness to serve others may inspire those around you to follow suit.

Please call the PGICA office for more information and opportunities at 941-637-1655

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Welcome to the first full year of the Castaways. A new year, a growing club, and plenty of adventure ahead. As we kick things off, we are excited to introduce our board: President Tom Hyatt, Vice President Dave De LaMotte, Treasurer Pat Franco (lovingly known as Girl Pat), Membership Director Helen Hyatt, Social Director Dan Avenancio, Communications Director Cat Avenancio, and Secretary Viveca Teuber, who keeps us organized and on course during board meetings.

Our members are the heartbeat of the Castaways. Over the past several months, participation has continued to grow, with strong turnouts at happy hours, social gatherings and on-the-water events. We have big ideas, bold plans and a full calendar in the making. Our goal is to offer a wide mix of events that appeal to many interests and welcome as many members as possible. With a club our size, that balance can be challenging, but it is always what we strive for.

The Castaways thrive on member involvement. This is your club, and we invite you to jump in. Member-led ideas and volunteer support have already played a key role in recent events, and we encourage more of the same. If you have an event idea, help us bring it to life by researching the details, including attendance, cost per person and capacity, and by serving as the event contact. Our board members give a great deal of time, but they also balance commitments beyond the club, and your involvement is what keeps the momentum going.



December Happy Hour

The Castaways holiday party was a fantastic way to close out the year and a perfect example of what makes this club special. A heartfelt thank you to Pat Franco (Girl Pat) for opening her home so Castaways could enjoy the PGICA's Saturday Night Before Christmas Eve Boat Parade. We also thank Pat McMahon and Stacy McLain for representing the Castaways on the water. Captain Pat (Boy Pat) and first mate Stacy, joined by crew members Dan Avenancio, Dave De LaMotte and Suzi De LaMotte

sailed aboard The Salty Shamrock, brilliantly lit, filled with holiday music and full of Castaways spirit. The Buffalo Trace Experimental Raffle was drawn during the festivities and served as another fun way for members support future Castaways activities.

Looking ahead, the Castaways have an exciting lineup you will not want to miss. Our first annual Australia Day celebration will bring a themed twist to winter in Florida, followed by a Super Bowl viewing party, Mardi Gras festivities and more. What sets the Castaways apart

is a shared spirit of fun, inclusiveness

and a willingness to pitch in, and the year ahead is shaping up to be another great adventure.

A quick heads up, effective this month, the Castaways are no longer a free club. If you have not yet paid your 2026 dues, please do so soon. Membership dues directly support our events and activities, helping ensure we can continue offering creative, well-organized gatherings throughout the year. We would hate for anyone to miss out on what is ahead.

At the heart of the Castaways is a simple idea; show up, get involved and enjoy the ride. We are excited for the events ahead and even more excited to spend them with such a great group of people.



5 Girl Kick



Parade boat



Tree Lighting

Introducing the Aardvark Fish and Game Adventures Group

Are you passionate about the outdoors? Do you enjoy fishing, hiking, shooting sports, or simply spending time in nature with like-minded adventurers? If so, we invite you to join the Aardvark Fish and Game Adventures Group, a new community of outdoor enthusiasts right here in Punta Gorda Isles.

Our group was founded to bring together people who love the outdoors - whether you're an experienced angler, an avid hiker, a shooting sports enthusiast, or someone who just enjoys fresh air and good company. We'll be organizing a variety of excursions, including fishing trips, hiking outings, wildlife explorations, visits to local sporting clubs and social gatherings, all designed to embrace the natural beauty of Southwest Florida.

In addition to fishing Charlotte Harbor and offshore and exploring local trails, we'll also plan trips to sporting clubs like the Sarasota Trap, Skeet & Sporting Clays Club for those who enjoy shooting sports. Whether you're a seasoned marksman or just interested in trying something new, these outings will be a great way to connect and enjoy some friendly competition.

We also want your input. What types of outdoor adventures interest you most? Are there specific fishing spots, hiking trails or sporting clubs you'd love to explore with the group? Let us know - we're excited to shape this club around the interests of our members. Stay tuned for upcoming events, and don't hesitate to reach out with your ideas. We look forward to seeing you out there.



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ISLES GIRLS AND GUYS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
A Club of the PGICA

The Isles Girls and Guys Assistance Program started over 25 years ago and has been one of the PGICA's most successful volunteer programs. The original goal was, and still is, to provide a service to PGICA members by conducting estate sales. The Isles Girls and Guys do it all! Proceeds from the sale are presented to the homeowner who in turn donate 30% to the PGICA.

WWW.ISLESGIRLSANDGUYS.COM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tom Teubert: 201-960-5340
tb2@att.net



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Greetings and Happy New Year to everyone from the Seafarers Cruising Club. The Seafarers have set sail to enter 2026 with an exciting schedule of events, including their established cruises and regular social activities.

Throughout December, the Seafarers marked the holiday season with various activities which included day and overnight cruises as well as social gatherings. On December 3 the Seafarers celebrated the Change of Watch with a holiday banquet at the Isles Yacht Club with 115 members attending. The board members for 2025 were formally introduced and commended for their dedication and efforts in creating a successful year for all members. The board members were Commodore Ron Olsen, Vice Commodore Jeanne Myers, Past Commodore John Otte, Treasurer Rick Bunnell, Secretary Joyce Gordon, Membership Director John Koch, Social Director Cheryle Gurk-Turner, Education Director Nancy Gamblin and Communications Director Don Schedlbauer. After acknowledging the 2025 board members, the installation of the 2026 board members took place. They are Commodore Jeanne Myers, Vice Commodore Ron Ellsworth, Past Commodore Ron Olsen, Treasurer Rick Bunnell, Secretary Joyce Gordon, Cruise Director Kathy Nelson, Membership Director Lisa Weinecke, Education Director Jeff Critser, Social Director Jane Orlin and Communications Director Don Schedlbauer. The evening finished with a wonderful banquet dinner and dancing to live music by the New Collections.



2026 Board Members

Concluding the cruising season during December, outgoing Commodore Ron Olsen led two overnight cruises. On the weekend of December 5 to 7, the Seafarers enjoyed a beautiful cruise to Boca Grande. Additionally, a lunch cruise was scheduled by Vice Commodore Jeanne Myers for Saturday, December 6 at the Pink Elephant, where participants from both the overnight and lunch cruises gathered for a pleasant afternoon meeting and enjoyed an excellent meal. The final overnight cruise was arranged by Commodore Ron Olsen for Burnt Store Marina on December 31 and January 1, during which the Seafarers welcomed the new year with a formal gathering at Cass Cay Restaurant. The event was a memorable occasion appreciated by all attendees.

The Seafarers will commence 2026 with their first social event at the Ice House Pub, featuring Dinner and Darts as the main activities. Social Director Jane Orlin has scheduled this gathering for Thursday, January 29. This event has consistently attracted strong attendance and has been well received by all participants.

The first overnight cruise in January is scheduled by Cruise Director Kathy Nelson to 'Tween Waters Marina on beautiful Captiva Island from January 30 to February 1. This location captures the appeal of Captiva Island, where members can enjoy the pool, go kayaking and explore the island by golf cart together.

The Seafarers cordially invite individuals interested in boating to consider membership in our distinguished club. We are committed to providing a variety of boating and social activities designed to meet the interests of our members.

You are invited to visit and get to know us at one of our Meet and Greets at St. Andrews South Golf Club from 5 to 7 on the second and fourth Thursdays each month. As a friendly reminder please put January 8 and 22 at 5 on your calendar for another opportunity to join our social event. There's no obligation - just stop by the 50/50 table and let our greeting team know you are a new visitor interested in the club. We are always eager to welcome new members to join the Seafarers to make new friends and enjoy new adventures. For more information, please contact our Membership Director Lisa Wienecke at 630-715-6333 or lawienecke@gmail.com or Commodore Jeanne Myers at myers@icloud.com.



Pink Elephant lunch



St. Andrews Meet & Greet



The PGI Car Club (PGICC) meets at Beef 'O' Brady's in Punta Gorda at 11:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next general meeting is on January 13. Look for a reminder email a couple days before. Last month the Punta Gorda Fire Department provided the club with a demonstration of AEDs (Automated external defibrillator) for personal use. The club will continue to offer educational presentations during or in addition to our monthly meetings.

Cars and Coffee at Bal Harbor Plaza is open to all automobile enthusiasts and continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next Cars and Coffee is January 20 at 9. Look for us at the Bal Harbor side of the parking lot. The Celtic Ray hosts a car show every second Thursday from 2 to 5. They offer discounts on food and drink for participants. It's a great way to spend an afternoon.

With the new year come a new PGI Car Club board of directors and new ideas for events and cruises. We are exploring interesting cruise destinations to some new establishments as well as some old favorites. As always, we look to our members to suggest cruises to their favorite haunts.

This month, we highlight Collette and Roland Ericsson's 1966 Pontiac GTO. This story begins in the 1960s in Sweden where Roland was born and grew up. Like so many other kids, he had been influenced (read: forced) to get a Volvo as his first car. But the Volvo didn't do anything for him, so in short order he moved on and traded in the Volvo for an MGB. But that particular car was an owner's nightmare and a mechanic's dream, so he traded it for newer MGB. These MGBs were fun cars, and they were convertibles. What else could a young man wish for? This period lasted approximately two years until one day when Roland was driving past a used car lot in his hometown, and boom! All was instantly turned on its head. On the lot sat a 1965 Pontiac GTO hard top and Roland was lost in love. That very same day he traded in the MGB for the GTO even though he could not afford it, having just begun a four-year engineering degree at the Merchant Navy Academy. That was one of these must-have deals and his father's reaction was explosive; "My son is out of his mind!"



GTO



GTO front quarter

Fast forward a couple of years and a 1966 GTO hard top happened to show up at another dealership. Having looked at other '66s in town, thinking that that year had the most audacious backend of any car, Roland knew that this was another must-have deal. A couple of days later the deal was done and the '66 went home with Roland. That was a really neat car, and for a while, he thought that he had found his true love...until a 1967 GTO convertible that he had looked at before suddenly became available. Many are probably thinking, "A convertible in Sweden?" Oh yes, Roland bought it and even sometimes brought it with him on the container ship where he worked summers as an engineer. Since then, there has always been a convertible in Roland's garage. But he missed the '66 GTO and eventually found a convertible with a jazzed-up 400 ci engine and a Hurst Dual Gate Shifter and everything power.

But, somehow, something else grabbed Roland's attention and that something else was muscle in the form of a 1973 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am SD with over 600 hp and a four-speed. That was an unbelievably fast car, and he won a lot of street races in it. But it ended when a new baby came into his life and his then-wife refused to commute to work in it, especially in the wintertime.

Skipping forward many years, Roland lived in and traveled many places around the world and finally emigrated to the U.S. in 1993. Following the adage that nothing is really new under the sun, he bought a 1966 GTO convertible in 2021 after over 30 years without owning one. Roland's dream came full circle and his admiration for GTOs is still apparent. Just recently though, Roland bought a 1964 Volvo. But that's another story for another day.



GTO rear quarter

We encourage new and current members to visit the club's Facebook page under PGI Car Club. It features members' postings, what's happening, photos of impressive automobiles and more. Check it out and post your favorite vehicle images. For more info contact Roland Ericsson at roland.ericsson@yahoo.com.

The purpose of the club is to create friendships among car enthusiasts through the fun and enjoyment of owning and operating special and/or antique vehicles. The club sponsors overnight and day trips, automobile maintenance and safety education, displays, shows, and related social events. Interested in finding out more about PGI Car Club? Check us out at <http://pgicarclub.com/> or contact Wayne and Joan Erickson at mabax2@aol.com for membership information.



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January Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4	5 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:00a PGIslanders BOD 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 2:00p Duplicate Bridge 6:00p Mariners - Game Night	6 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Morning Yoga 10:30a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar 12:15p Pinochle 12:30p Newcomers Club- Lunch & Learn 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	8:00a Weekly-Market 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples 1:00p PGIsland Beginner Dancing 3:00p Advance Dancing 4:00p Let's Go
11	12 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 4:30p Choir Play 6:00p Seasonal Flockers 7:00p Texas Hold'em	13 8:30a Fishing Club Board Mtg 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU PARR course 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:00a PGICA B 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Learn to Clinic 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p Just For 1:00p PGIsland Beginner Dancing 3:00p Advance Dancing 4:00p Paradise 4:30p PGIsland 6:00p Lets Go
18	19 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 2:00p Duplicate Bridge 3:30p Friends, Fun, & Community Club BOD 4:00p Friends, Fun, & Community 4:30p Choir Play 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	20 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU PARR course 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:00p Newcomers 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:00a Beyond 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples 12:00p Learn to Clinic 1:00p PGIsland Beginner Dancing 3:00p Advance Dancing 4:00p Paradise 4:30p PGIsland 6:00p Lets Go
25	26 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 4:30p Choir Play 7:00p Mariners Meeting 7:00p Texas Hold'em	27 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU PARR course 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:00p Seafarers 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	8:00a Weekly-Market 9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland Learn to Clinic 1:00p Beginner Dancing 3:00p Advance Dancing 4:00p PGIsland 4:30p PGIsland 6:00p Let's Go

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HOLIDAY- PGICA CLOSED  12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Club Mah Jong 6:30p Euchre Group	2 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	3
7 Wednesday- es Bridge ers- Mahjongg r-Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy Fishing	8 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a PGIslanders BOD 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 6:30p Euchre Group	9 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	10 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
14 Wednesday- oard Meeting es Love Tennis e Bridge Fun BOD Fun- Book Club ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy Friends ers Club Fishing	15 8:00a Friends Fun and Community Ladies Game Night 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 6:30p Euchre Group	16 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	17 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
21 Wednesday- Ourselves es Bridge Love Tennis ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy Fishing	22 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Club Mah Jong 5:00p New Member Reception 6:30p Euchre Group	23 10:00a Paper Quilling Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	24 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
28 Wednesday- es Bridge ers- Mahjongg Love Tennis -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy ers Fishing	29 8:00a PGIslandersBOD 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Crews Bank Seminar Advanced Estate Planning. 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 4:30p Newcomers 6:30p Euchre Group	30 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	31 11:00a Let's Go Fishing

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Looking Ahead to February

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 2:00p Duplicate Bridge 4:30p Choir Play 6:00p Mariners Game Night	2 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 2:00p Duplicate Bridge 4:30p Choir Play 6:00p Mariners Game Night	3 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU PARR course 10:00a Morning Yoga 10:30a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar 12:15p Pinochle 12:30p Newcomers Lunch & Learn 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	4 8:00a Weekly-Wednesday-Market 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples Bridge 1:00p Learn to Love Tennis Clinic 1:00p PGIslanders Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner-Basic Line Dancing with Judy 4:00p Advanced-Improve Line Dancing with Judy 4:30p Newcomers 6:00p Let's Go Fishing!	5 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 5:30p PGIslanders 6:30p Euchre Group	6 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	8:00a N 11:00a L
8 1:00p PGI Castaways Super Bowl Party	9 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 4:30p Choir Play 6:00p Seasonal Flockers 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group 7:00p Texas Hold'em	10 8:30a Fishing Club BOD 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU PARR course 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	11 8:00a Weekly-Wednesday-Market 9:00a PGICA Board Meeting 9:30a In Stitches 1:00p Learn to Love Tennis Clinic 12:30p Duplicate Bridge 1:00p Just For Fun BOD 1:00p Just For Fun- Book Club 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner-Basic Line Dancing with Judy 4:00p Advanced-Improve Line Dancing with Judy 4:30p PGIslanders 6:00p Let's Go Fishing	12 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Creative Cell Phone Photography 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 6:30p Euchre Group	13 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	11:00a L



Please welcome these new members who have joined since the last publication:

Diana & Frank Braun
 Dorothy Brydges
 Linda & Paul Chimzar
 Stephanie & Thomas Cowan
 Theresa & Robert D'Angelo
 Kim & John Dicke
 Judy & Peter Donlevy
 Amy Goodemoot
 Ann & George Gruse
 Barbara Harry
 Barbara & David Hess
 Gail & David Heveron
 Helena & Rick Johnston
 Judy & Bryan Kemker

Sharon & Robert MacLeod
 Carol Moran-Brown
 Lisa & Bill Nachman
 Nancy & Rich Ojard
 Cheri & Ken Schell
 Peggy & Alan Schneider
 Elena Smith
 Kim & John Stibal
 Linda & David Tuls
 Daniel Voorhees
 Leslie Wilson & Eric Peterson
 Deborah & William Abbatematteo
 Pharon Thomas & Russell Dinstein

PGICA EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS

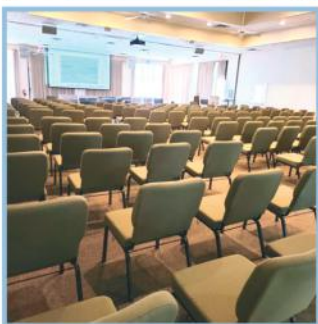


- Substantial PGICA member discounts at more than 40 local shops and restaurants with the **Shop & Save Program**.
 - Free use of the PGICA **Loaner Program** to borrow items including car seats, wheelchairs, life jackets, walkers, kids bikes, foldable cribs, chairs, toys, and more.
 - Ability to join more than 30 PGICA **Clubs and Groups** which include popular activities such as fishing, boating, table games, cars, music, painting, tennis, paddling, and social clubs. And you can start your OWN new club or group!
 - Receive discounts on all PGICA **Entertainment** events including concerts, comedy shows, and dance parties.
 - PGICA **Room Rentals** are discounted by 25% for your upcoming event including all varieties of parties, weddings, receptions, showers, life celebrations, etc.
 - The **Commentator**, a full-color digital magazine, will be emailed to you every month to keep you apprised of all PGICA news and activities.
 - Receive the weekly **In The Know** email newsletter which includes PGICA news and announcements, city news, and reminders for upcoming classes and events.
 - Attend special **Community Seminars, Presentations, and Events**.
 - Be quickly notified of important issues, breaking news, and emergency weather tips and announcements.
 - Access the **On-line Member Directory** which allows you to keep in contact with your PGICA friends and neighbors.
 - Utilize the drive-thru document **Shred Event** twice every year.
 - Participate in the **Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Annual Nautical Flea Market** and our very popular **Weekly-Wednesday-Markets** with premium locations.
 - Attend annual **Exclusive Member Parties**.
 - Your annual dues of \$80 **help the nonprofit PGICA** provide these many member benefits and additional events and opportunities for the entire Punta Gorda community.
- You are supporting a reputable and valuable community asset which, with **over 3,100 members**, has existed for more than 60 years ... the PGICA.



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TYPES OF EVENTS

- ♦ Weddings and Receptions
- ♦ Bridal Showers
- ♦ Rehearsal Dinners
- ♦ Anniversary Parties
- ♦ Baby Showers
- ♦ Business Meetings and Seminars
- ♦ Celebrations of Life
- ♦ Birthday Parties
- ♦ Bar/Bat Mizvahs
- ♦ Promotional Events
- ♦ Dinner Parties
- ♦ Graduation Parties
- ♦ Quinceaneras
- ♦ Fundraisers

AMENITIES

- ♦ Auditorium Capacity:
 - 125 with tables (dance floor open)
 - 160 with tables (entire room)
 - 225 with chairs only, auditorium style seating
- ♦ Tables and padded banquet chairs included.
- ♦ Catering kitchen with commercial refrigerators, freezer, warming ovens, microwaves, commercial sinks, large granite work areas.
- ♦ Auditorium split with one-third dance floor and two-thirds carpet.
- ♦ Podium, microphone, portable bar, various tables, projector, large drop-down screen, sound system, stage and stage lights available.
- ♦ Air purification system throughout building.
- ♦ Wireless Internet Service
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- ♦ Outdoor Pavilion

THANK YOU TO OUR HOLIDAY PARTY VOLUNTEERS

Janet Asher, Marilyn Boehm, Mary Boehm, Shawn Carlson, Mick Clary, Pete DeBree, Frank Easby-Smith, Marcia Ellis, Jack Gardner, Linda Gillum, Barbara & David Hess, Dawn Hayworth, Ted Hock, Joan Hoffman, Cathy Hunt, Susie Krause, Janet Lynn, Bert & Stan Majocha, Tom Mills, Lois & Gabe Palotas, Tom Rice, Mary Sebahar, Cindy Simone, Gary Skillicorn, Linda Smidt, Richard Strowd, Bill Taylor, Julie Towers, Linda Wiens

IN STITCHES

Norma Angus 941-575-1049, Debbie Scholtes 941-347-7044



In Stitches has many philanthropic interests. One of them is the Guardian Ad Litem program. We made more than 100 Izzy Dolls to be distributed to children during stressful situations. We sincerely hope they are of some comfort and assistance to the children. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon.





A great time was had by all at the annual Acoustic Music Group holiday party. If you are thinking of joining this group but have some questions, please email our President Terry Dotson at terrywdotson@gmail.com. Grab your guitar, choose your favorite song, and come join us.



SEASONAL FLOCKERS

Paula McIlvride, pmcilvride@att.net, 248-330-7802

Seasonal Flockers

Seasonal Flockers are snowbirds that gather to socialize, meet new people, share stories of our seasonal travels and perhaps share in some adult beverages and fun times. We will meet once a month at the PGICA or sometimes take field trips for other fun adventures. Seasonal Flockers meet beginning in November and ending in April each year. If this sounds like your kind of group, please text or email me. Looking forward to meeting my fellow Flockers.



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Here we are at the start of another new year, and time seems to move especially fast in Southwest Florida. Nearly every day offers an opportunity to explore an unspoiled beach, enjoy a dock-and-dine venue, attend a dinner theater production, or browse a local craft fair. Shorts and flip-flops remain the unofficial dress code as we gather with friends to talk about the cold and snow up north.

December marked a time of appreciation as we thanked our outgoing club officers and committee chairs for a job well done. Their generosity of time and energy made it possible to organize and execute a full calendar of boating and land-based social events throughout the past year. At the December general membership dinner meeting attended by approximately 75 members, we welcomed our new leadership team and shared the vision for the PGI Cruising Club in 2026.

Club President Bill Hogue called the meeting to order and introduced the 2026 officers: Vice President Larry Mac Kinnon, Secretary Kevin Baron and Treasurer Laura Mullins. Additional leadership team members include Membership Chair Marcia Ling, Social Chair Carol Mac Kinnon, Sunshine Chair Carol Geiger, and Dart Night Coordinator Sherry Stibbard. Men's and ladies' luncheons will be coordinated by Donnis Bergman and Bette Coopland, respectively, and Libby Kryzanowski will serve as our new member sponsor.

The evening featured a spiral-sliced ham provided by the club, complemented by a delicious potluck assortment of side dishes and desserts. Following a brief Christmas holiday break, January activities will begin with our annual PGI Cruising Club Dinner Dance hosted by the Isles Yacht Club. Additional upcoming events include a trip to the Broadway Palms Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers to enjoy a production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, a luncheon cruise, and our regular men's and ladies' luncheons.

For those new to the area or unfamiliar with the open waters of Charlotte Harbor, the Intracoastal Waterway, or offshore cruising, the PGI Cruising Club is an excellent way to



to get your feet wet - figuratively, not literally. If you are still undecided on boat ownership, renting a boat from one of the local rental businesses is a great way to join us on a dock-and-dine excursion. These outings provide an opportunity to learn about navigating local waterways beyond the PGI canal system while connecting with experienced members who are always happy to share their enthusiasm for Southwest Florida boating.

We are always welcoming prospective members who share our interest in boating and social activities. The PGI Cruising Club meets for happy hour on Tuesday afternoons from early October through late May at St. Andrews South Golf Club, beginning at 5. Summer gatherings are less frequent, as many members head north for cooler climates, so be sure to check our activities and events calendar at pgicruisingclub.org.

For additional information about joining the PGI Cruising Club, please contact our Membership Chair Marcia Ling at membership@pgicruisingclub.org.



Welcome to the new year. Welcome to our new slate of officers and committee volunteers who have already planned an exciting and busy 2026. President Kim Taylor-Flynn, Vice President Nancy Glick, Secretary Linden Elwood; Treasurer Tim Weimer.

Be sure to check the weekly Flamingo Express emails and the JFF calendar on the PGICA website to keep up with everything that is going on. If you are looking for a friendly and active social club, join us each month at our Mix and Mingle event. This January, Wednesday the seventh, Mix and Mingle will be held at Ortigia Cucina & Bar from 5 to 7. We would love to have you be a part of our community. The February Mix and Mingle event will be at the Spinnaker Bar and Patio dining on Monday the second.

In addition to the many regular monthly activities like Mah jongg, ladies and men's lunch, book clubs, and bite night we try to include special events throughout the year. Our first event of the year is PopStroke Miniature Golf in Fort Myers, January 21 from 2 till 5. You must sign up on our JFF calendar at Club Express website. You can access information about these events at www.pgica.org and search for the JFF club calendar. As club members you will get regular notification emails called Flamingo Express that have up to the minute information as to what's happening.



We of course had to have a spur of the moment celebration on November 30 to mark the end of hurricane season at the Tiki Hut at Fishermen's Village. No hurricanes this season and for that we are grateful.

The November and December holiday activities were a huge success. The Thanksgiving feast at the PGICA pavilion brought out the best holiday recipes to enjoy, and enjoy, we did. The Christmas holiday party at the Isles Yacht Club provided the opportunity to dress up, enjoy good company, eat, dance and listen to a great band.

We also look forward to Dinner and Darts at the Ice House Pub Sunday, January 11 at 5. The meeting of the seasonal book club is Wednesday, January 14 at the PGICA from 1 to 3. The book is Kristen Hannah's Four Winds. Contact Jennifer Fox at 513-314-8298.

We are waiting to hear about the travel experiences of the members who are attending the highly anticipated annual cruise scheduled from January 11 to 17.

If you'd like to join our club, contact our Membership Director Nancy Keppel at 585-267-9272.



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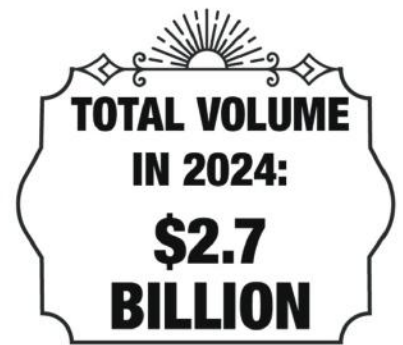
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HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$320,000	\$300,000	0.94	3014 GUADALUPE DR	1,884	1977	Private	3	2	0	177	11/14/2025	\$169.85	\$159.24
\$379,900	\$350,000	0.92	548 BELVEDERE CT	2,172	1970	Private	3	2	0	0	11/24/2025	\$174.91	\$161.14
\$399,700	\$366,000	0.92	2501 RIO LARGO CT	1,666	1974	Private	2	2	1	331	11/12/2025	\$239.92	\$219.69
\$440,000	\$430,000	0.98	931 JUNO DR	1,520	1971	Private	3	2	0	186	11/17/2025	\$289.47	\$282.89
\$445,000	\$410,000	0.92	2361 VIA VENICE	1,744	1985	None	3	2	0	23	11/26/2025	\$255.16	\$235.09
\$450,000	\$400,000	0.89	2426 FLORA LN	1,288	1963	Private	2	2	0	34	11/14/2025	\$349.38	\$310.56
\$599,000	\$601,000	1.00	3730 TURTLE DOVE BLVD	1,939	1996	Private	3	2	0	3	11/17/2025	\$308.92	\$309.95
\$599,900	\$580,000	0.97	1571 ALBATROSS DR	1,679	1984	Private	3	2	0	10	11/17/2025	\$357.30	\$345.44
\$600,000	\$545,000	0.91	3819 AVES ISLAND CT	1,842	1987	Private	3	2	0	153	11/03/2025	\$325.73	\$295.87
\$619,000	\$580,000	0.94	4001 LA COSTA ISLAND CT	1,908	2009	Private	3	2	0	177	11/03/2025	\$324.42	\$303.98
\$629,900	\$595,000	0.94	35 SABAL DR	2,076	1974	Private	3	2	0	242	11/25/2025	\$303.42	\$286.61
\$675,000	\$675,000	1.00	917 FRANCESCA CT	2,112	2000	Private	3	2	0	0	11/12/2025	\$319.60	\$319.6
\$710,000	\$710,000	1.00	313 PALM ISLES CT	2,169	2002	Private	3	2	0	0	11/21/2025	\$327.34	\$327.34
\$725,000	\$692,000	0.95	2736 MAGDALINA DR	2,004	2013	Private	3	2	0	339	11/04/2025	\$361.78	\$345.31
\$744,999	\$720,000	0.97	2346 MAGDALINA DR	2,087	2012	Private	3	2	0	40	11/03/2025	\$356.97	\$344.99
\$875,000	\$840,000	0.96	2913 RYAN BLVD	2,153	1988	Private	3	2	0	39	11/24/2025	\$406.41	\$390.15
\$925,000	\$925,000	1.00	414 CAICOS DR	3,209	1991	Private	3	3	0	113	11/28/2025	\$288.25	\$288.25
\$982,850	\$982,850	1.00	1237 PARTRIDGE DR	2,527	2025	Private	3	3	1	0	11/18/2025	\$388.94	\$388.94
\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	1.00	5043 BAL HARBOR BLVD	2,504	2020	Private	3	2	1	25	11/26/2025	\$569.09	\$569.09
\$1,484,000	\$1,425,000	0.96	3800 CARUPANO CT	2,525	2024	Private	4	3	0	229	11/14/2025	\$587.72	\$564.36
\$2,340,000	\$2,240,000	0.96	2800 VIA PALOMA DR	3,349	2007	Private	4	4	0	58	11/19/2025	\$698.72	\$668.86
\$2,495,000	\$2,100,000	0.84	1820 JAMAICA WAY	3,332	1986	Private	4	3	1	207	11/25/2025	\$748.80	\$630.25

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$219,000	\$203,000	0.93	1345 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#A204	1,164	1974	Community	2	2	0	20	11/21/2025	\$188.14	\$174.40
\$249,000	\$249,000	1.00	1400 MINEO DR Unit# 12A	1,050	1982	Community	2	2	0	54	11/07/2025	\$237.14	\$237.14
\$283,000	\$270,000	0.95	1432 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#2A	1,077	1981	None	2	2	0	99	11/20/2025	\$262.77	\$250.70
\$289,000	\$249,000	0.86	99 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#312	1,915	2007	Community	3	2	0	307	11/20/2025	\$150.91	\$130.03

LOTS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP	Address	Lot Size SqFt	Lot Size Acres	Water Access Y/N	CDOM	Sold Date
\$469,000	\$450,000	0.96	174 CRESCENT DR	10,330	0.24	Yes	151	11/20/2025

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The Newcomers Club is ringing in 2026 with open arms, big smiles and lots of excitement. With new faces joining us, fresh ideas bubbling up and plenty of enthusiasm all around, we're ready for another fantastic year together.

Before we jump ahead, we want to give a huge thank you to our 2025 board members. Their time, energy and dedication helped make the past year packed with fun, friendship, and memorable experiences. We are so grateful for all they did to keep our club thriving.

And now...on to what's next. Our new board has already met and is busy planning a year full of activities, laughter, and opportunities to connect with both old friends and brand-new ones. Get ready, as 2026 is going to be a great ride.

We're kicking things off with kayaking: What better way to start the year than out on the water? Our popular kayaking trip on the Orange River is back by popular demand. This self-guided paddle was such a hit last year that we just had to bring it back. Join us on January 3 for a peaceful (and playful) adventure - keep your eyes peeled for manatees along the way. Spots are still available, so be sure to head to the calendar and sign up soon.

Fan favorites are back...plus some new surprises: You'll be happy to hear that many beloved Newcomers traditions are returning in 2026, including small-group appetizers, dine-arounds, Monday morning walks, and women's and men's lunches. We're also mixing things up with some exciting new offerings. Our new president, Jane Connors will be hosting a monthly Lunch & Learn gathering - an engaging way to connect, learn something new and enjoy great company. Trust us - you won't want to miss these.



2026 Newcomer's Club Board Members



Flamingo Crew at the Gala



Oasis Tiki Boat Canal Lights Cruise

We want to hear from you:

This club is all about its members, and your ideas matter. Have a suggestion for a new event? Thoughts on a past activity? A fun idea you'd love to see happen? Please share. With such a wonderfully diverse membership, your input helps shape the future of Newcomers.

A look back at a fabulous 2025:

What a year it was. Our calendar was bursting with social and educational events, making it hard to choose just one favorite. We wrapped things up in true Newcomers style with our unforgettable Newcomers Gala in December. The PGICA auditorium was transformed into a tropical paradise - tiki bar included. Nearly 100 members joined the fun, enjoying games, a delicious buffet and dancing the night away. Best of all, thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$1,000 for the Southwest Florida Honor Flight, an organization we're

incredibly proud to

support. It was truly a magical night filled with laughter, connection, and giving back.

Here's to an amazing year ahead: As we head into the new year, we can't wait to reconnect after the holidays and continue building friendships. Your 2026 board includes Jane Connors, Nan Erb, Sherry Perley, Dawn Crawford, Leanne Murphy, Alison O'Brien and Sonya Critser, and we are so excited for what's ahead.

Here's to a 2026 filled with fun, friendship, laughter and unforgettable moments. Let the party begin.



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Happy New Year! We had a busy morning on December 17 with a regular meeting followed by a holiday potluck lunch and a check presentation. Beyond Ourselves members were proud to be able to distribute the funds raised from our fall Sip & Savor events, donating \$6,190 to the Peace River Wildlife Center and \$6,190 to the Charlotte CARE Center. A huge thank you to all of those who contributed to the success of these events, including our sponsors, donors and all those folks who purchased tickets. We're proud to be fulfilling two of our club missions, protecting the wildlife and aiding the homeless of Charlotte County.

Beyond Ourselves is a community service club that meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21 at 10 at the PGICA. As a reminder to our members, annual dues of \$10 are due in January. We invite you to come meet us and learn about the many ways we give back to our community.

Our biggest event of the year, the Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour, is coming up soon. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 21 from 10 to 4. Proceeds from our home tour will benefit nine local children's charities in Charlotte County. Community participation not only contributes to a memorable and successful event but will bring hope and joy to countless young hearts. We hope you'll plan to join us this year.

Ticket sales for the 2026 home tour will start Monday, January 12. You may purchase your tickets in person at the PGICA on Monday, January 12 and Tuesday, January 13 from 9 to 2. You may also purchase home tour tickets in person at any PGICA Weekly Wednesday Market from January 14 to February 18.



Home Tour Preview

hunt and try your hand at winning one of the many fabulous raffle baskets.

Every Wednesday, Beyond Ourselves members pick up donations of perishable food and deliver it to the Peace River Wildlife Center. Nancy Sharpless coordinates all these volunteers to ensure the wildlife receives much-needed food that might otherwise be thrown away. Volunteers in January will be Cindy Magnuski, Lynn Rogers and Linda Taylor.

On the first Saturday of every month, Beyond Ourselves members volunteer their time by serving dinner at the Charlotte CARE Center. Servers on February 7 will be Susan Hills, Nancy Sharpless and Kim Stibal. Servers on March 7 will be Ellen Jodway, Rich Strelchuk and Leanne Murphy. If you wish to volunteer to serve dinner, or if you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Lynn Rogers directly via email at earthlyynn25@yahoo.com.

This article is written by Laura Hart. If you have photos or information to contribute, please email them to me at BeyondOurselvesPuntaGorda@gmail.com.



CCC Check Presentation



PRWC Check Presentation

Our special home tour ticket sale days will be January 12 and 13 (two days only) when tickets will be on sale for only \$35 each. Tickets can also be ordered online using a credit card on these special sale days. From January 14 to February 20, tickets will be available online at a cost of \$40 each. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the home tour, in person only, for \$50 each.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to tour the five beautiful homes, as well as the Rest & Refresh home sponsored by Harbor Home Builders, featured in this year's Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour. On the day of the home tour, you'll also be able to participate in a scavenger

**SHARE THE LOVE FOR THE KIDS
2026 HOME TOUR**

February 21, 2026 • 10 AM to 4 PM
www.PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves

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17 Years

Raising Over
\$800,000

To Benefit Children's Charities of Charlotte County

SPECIAL Ticket Price: \$35
 January 12 & 13, 2026 only
 Online: 9 AM to 9 PM
 In Person at PGICA: 9 AM to 2 PM

EARLY Ticket Price: \$40
 January 14 to February 20, 2026
 Online Anytime or
 In Person at PGICA: Weekly Wednesday Markets

Day of the Home Tour: \$50
 February 21, 2026
 In Person Only
 At PGICA: 10 AM to 1 PM

Beyond Ourselves
A Community Service Organization
of the PGICA & 100+1 members
2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Here we are welcoming 2026. Special thanks go to our outgoing president, officers and chairs who are stepping down. A warm welcome to our new President Jack Gardner, Vice President Mary Heins, Treasurer Dennis Barkow, Membership Director Dan Kain, Communications Director Sue Kelley, and to all the committee chairs who are staying on to lead our club events through the year.

As in previous years, we will keep our activities scheduled to Thursdays for consistency, though occasionally a different day may work better for an event. Our first event this year is Sips and Dips on January 8. Struss and Bob Shirk will be hosting. Watch for an email saying that registration is open and be sure to sign up as soon as you are able if you plan to attend. This event fills up quickly. Thank you to Claudia and Jack Chopp for opening their home to us in December.

On January 8, the Ladies Lunch will be at Bella Napoli Pizzeria and Restaurant on Kings Highway in Port Charlotte. Come try the pizza that won second place in a competition in Italy. Check the website for more information and to reserve your seat for this luncheon.



Chowhounds Men's Lunch

Chowhounds Men's Lunch is planned for Wednesday January 7, 11:30 to 1 at Hooters, 1360 S. Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte. Hooters is the popular sports bar and grill famous for chicken wings served by waitresses in short shorts. Information is available on the website and in an email being sent to members.

Our mixer at The Library in the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel will be on January 15, from 5 to 7. Guests are welcome. Please register on the club calendar if you plan to attend so we can provide them with an accurate count.

A special event on Wednesday January 14 is our Wine Tasting with a Twist from 5 to 8, hosted by Ron and Shelley Schmidt and assisted by Anthony and Lois Benvin. Everyone brings a bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. We'll be tasting wines and sharing our wine knowledge (or lack thereof) with one another with a bit of a twist - a trivia contest. Prizes go to those at the winning table. Information is on the website and in an email being sent to members. Registration is required.

If you have anything you would like mentioned in a Paradise Friends article or if you have any interesting photos of our members, send them to Sue Kelley at skelley180@aol.com for possible inclusion in The Commentator.

Membership in Paradise Friends is open to any PGICA member. We'd love to have you join us. Dues are \$20 per person per year. Membership forms are available in the PGICA lobby and on our website under the Join the Club menu bar.



Jack & Claudia, Sips & Dips Hosts



Sips & Dips



December Happy Hour



We at FF&C hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. So on with the show as the season gets into full swing with flocks of snowbirds everywhere and many fun things to do.

November and December in review:

November was a fun month starting off with Breakfast Belles at Toulas's Greek Restaurant, a new ladies breakfast event. Members had a dine-around and enjoyed Indian food at Curry and Kabob in Port Charlotte. The club had a happy hour at Ortigia Cucina, an open air venue with wonderful Italian food and live music several days a week. The monthly meeting was Friendsgiving. Dinner was catered by Bob Evans. Men met for lunch at Donato's in Port Charlotte. Toward the end of the month the ladies got together for lunch at Leroy's and then a night of games at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. The month finished up with Friday Night Bites hosted in various members homes and happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. December was even busier, starting off with Breakfast Belles ladies breakfast at Elena's Restaurant, then the FF&C holiday party at the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club. At mid-month the ladies went to lunch at Ginger Dim Sum, and the men got together for lunch at Chubby's Grill & Tavern. Later in the month members got together for a night of trivia fun at the beautiful Sunseeker Resort. Rounding out the month was Friday Night Bites, a small cocktail party hosted at various member's homes, and happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. The last event of the year was the New Year's Eve annual conch blow.

January events planned:

- January 6 Breakfast Belles ladies breakfast at Burg'r Bar
- January 7 Dine Around at Pioneers Pizza Port Charlotte
- January 11 Out and About at the Ice House Pub for dinner and darts
- January 15 Ladies Lunch at the Riviera Bar and Grill
- January 15 Out and About at Coastal Isles Wine Bar
- January 19 FF& C General Meeting
- January 21 Men's lunch at Jay's Smokin BBQ
- January 27 Happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
- January 30 Friday Night Bites



There is always something to see and/or do for FF&C members. Pay attention to the email reminders and be sure to use the website calendar to sign up. Remember, the reservation slots fill up quickly. Reservation cancellations are available up to 24 hours in advance directly on the calendar. For cancels inside the 24-hour window please reach out to Social Director Barb Endrey at bendrey@comcast.net or 610-420-1685, so others on the waitlist can be accommodated. As always, if you have a recommendation for a new restaurant to try or venue to checkout please contact Barb. If you're outside of the club looking in and would like to join us for Friends, Fun and Community, please contact Membership Director Linda McMeans at lhmcmeans@aol.com, or President Bill Cary a wiff57@yahoo.com for membership information.



As the holidays arrive with colorful displays at stores and homes, festive fronds and cooler temperatures, Punta Gorda lights up with parties, parades and fun. We welcome families and celebrate gratefully with shared drinks and delicious nibbles made with care and anticipation.

Tag Team Artists celebrated the holidays with just such a gathering in December to celebrate successes and lovely works that have evolved over the year with fun, new members sharing their talents, stories and time dedicated to beautiful work and evolving our talents. As we welcome our families or travel to be with the people we love, we wanted to express our appreciation for the community that allows us the opportunity to share the experience with new friends and old in a bright and beautiful space with everything we need at our fingertips. Special thanks to our PGI Civic Association for working to keep,

restore and maintain the

location and resources to celebrate as a community. Thank you to them and all the volunteers that make it possible.

Tag Team Artists is a group that uses dedicated time to pursue our creative sides. There is no expense for being in our group. The single requirement is membership with the civic association and availability on Mondays. We meet from 10 to 1. We invite you to come and meet us to see what it's all about, especially if you are an artist or an aspiring artist. One fine day the group will host a show to feature our work and sell some as it stacks up over time. Happy holidays and wishes for a blessed and healthy 2026 with memories that last a lifetime.



ISLES GIRLS & GUYS CLUB

Dave Little, dblittle321@gmail.com

As we bid farewell to 2025, we would like to thank the community for supporting us in helping the community with the estate sales. Your support this past year was greatly appreciated. We had 15 sales with a total contribution to PGICA of \$36,839.01. This was accomplished by 8,384 hours by the volunteers. We are now looking forward to continuing to serve the community in 2026.

The Isles Girls and Guys met in November for the quarterly business meeting which included election of officers for 2026. A motion was made and seconded to nominate the existing 2025 officers for the same offices in 2026. The vote was unanimous. The officers for 2026 will be President Tom Teubert, First Vice-President Karen Schwarck, Second Vice President Rich Oakley, Secretary Claudia Sayers, Treasurer Michele Teubert, Social Director Bernice Pearson, Security Kevin Mulligan, Safety Officer Jeff Hanson and Traffic Control Alan Ford.

Continue to monitor our website, <https://islesgirlsandguys.com> for upcoming sales. You can also go to <https://islesgirlsandguys.com/contact-us> and fill out the form to be added to our email alert list. Don't forget, if you have any flat white twin size sheets that you are going to get rid of, please bring them to a future sales as we use sheets to cover the tables.



If you have any interest in having an estate sale, do not wait. Please call Tom Teubert or Karen Schwarck so we can get you on the calendar. We will come out and preview your home. Our team always takes pride in being courteous and professional with both the seller and the buying public. We will treat your items as if they were our own. It will be our pleasure to assist you in your time of need. We understand that this can be a difficult time.

Also contact Tom or Karen if you are interested in joining our happy band of volunteers. We will let you know when there is an opening.

Tom Teubert 201-960-5340 tb2@att.net
Karen Schwarck 941-276-8593 tkschwarck@centurylink.net

CLASSIFIED ADS

Contact Alexa Rice at alexarice@pgica.org or via phone at 941-637-1655

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FOR SALE / WANTED

ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN ESTATE SALE ~ Reduce stress, save time, make some money and help the PGICA. The volunteer club, Isles Girls and Guys, will plan, organize, price, conduct the sale, and help with disposition of leftover items. All for a tax-deductible donation of 25% to the PGICA. Call Tom Teubert at 201-960-5340.

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The Australian Open is this month, marking the start of a new season for professional tennis players. Meanwhile, here in PGI, our league play is in full swing as we start a new calendar year. We have three men's teams this season. An A2 team, a B3 team, and a new B73 team. Our women's teams are at the 3.0 and 3.5 levels. Reach out if you're interested in joining a team, and we'll put you in touch with the respective captain. In addition to league play, there are open times when members can reserve the courts for use outside of already scheduled play. For beginners or those returning to the sport after a period of absence, PGICA offers a new series of classes.

The purpose of our tennis club is to create and foster good fellowship among our members through the playing of tennis and other social activities. During our winter season, our club organizes tennis socials each month. After some social mixed doubles, lunch or dinner is provided by the club. Our club relies on members to actively maintain our court amenities, such as securing the net curtains between each court and collecting all the balls when done using the ball machine.

Most members join one of our organized league teams, which play from November through March. We have several men's and women's teams playing at different levels. If you have never played an official league match but are interested, our teams can help you get ready with strategies for some competitive tennis. Our club also has a ball machine that members can use to practice their skills. Throughout the calendar year, we have weekly designated social times when members can show up to play with others. Additionally, there are many opportunities to reserve open court times for organized play by members.

Our tennis courts are on display next to the PGICA building. Dues from tennis club members fully support the upkeep of the courts. Our members pay \$75 in annual dues. There is an additional one-time \$100 fee for new memberships. All club members must also join the PGICA, as is the case with all the wonderful clubs the association offers. For more details, visit our Tennis Club website on the PGICA website.

Our 2025 slate of officers for the Tennis Club were: President Jackie Rahsaz, Vice President Tony Rahsaz, Treasurer Janet Lynn, Secretary Janelle Anthone, Social Director Mitzie Kohrman, and Webmaster Bill Hogue. We will be voting for our 2026 officers this month.

Thank you to our members who help to keep our club going.



GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Kay Abbs, 941-979-6667, bnkabbs@yahoo.com

Will there be a hostile takeover over the City of Punta Gorda water system? It seems our local government representatives are in a fight with local state representative Vanessa Oliver over who should have control and ownership of the City of Punta Gorda water system. State Representative Vanessa Oliver has proposed legislation for what the City is calling a hostile takeover of the City water. She wants it to be transferred to the County. She did not contact nor discuss with either party but both the City and County claim they first got wind of this when they read the small legal notice that Representative Oliver posted in the newspaper the weekend of December 6. The City Council quickly called an emergency meeting to discuss and council voted unanimously against the proposal. This was quickly followed by a special meeting by the Board of County Commissioners where they too voted unanimously against the proposal. On December 17, Representative Oliver had a meeting with Representative Danny Nix and State Senator Ben Albritton. County officials, City officials and residents spoke against her proposal, yet the three legislators voted in favor of the legislation.

City Manager Dr. Melissa Reichert has an explanation in her December 19 to 26 newsletter <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/16717>.

Steven Leskovich, interim city attorney offers a concise legal explanation during the City Council emergency meeting on December 9. Fast forward to the 1:03:50 mark https://puntagorda.granicus.com/player/clip/966?view_id=1&redirect=true.

If you would like to express your opinion to the state legislators, here is their contact information:

Representative Vanessa Oliver - 850-717-5076 mailto: Vanessa.Oliver@myfloridahouse.gov

Representative Danny Nix - 850-717-5075 mailto: Danny.Nix@myfloridahouse.gov

Senator Ben Albritton - 850-487-5027 mailto: Albritton.Ben@flsenate.gov

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 14 and 28. The next Board of County Commissioners meeting will be Tuesday, January 13.



Make Safety a Habit for the New Year

As we begin 2026, January is an ideal time to reassess and adopt better habits, especially when it comes to crime safety. Whether you want to improve your personal security or safeguard your home and loved ones, starting the year with proactive crime-prevention steps can offer peace of mind. Here are some simple yet effective tips from the Punta Gorda Police Department that you can add to your routine.

1. Strengthen Home Security

One of the most important steps in preventing crime is securing your home. Consider installing a smart security system, adding motion-sensor lights and cameras, and regularly checking that doors and windows lock properly. If you haven't already, start using a peephole or security camera when answering the door, and avoid opening it to strangers.

2. Be Careful with Personal Information

Protecting your personal information is crucial in today's world of rising cybercrime. Start by being aware of what you share on social media. Avoid posting your real-time location and limit the sharing of sensitive details. Also, make sure your passwords are strong and unique, and enable two-factor authentication whenever possible.

3. Develop Situational Awareness

Stay alert to your surroundings, especially in public. Watch for people and vehicles nearby and trust your instincts if something feels wrong. Avoid distractions, such as looking at your phone while walking alone, and always choose well-lit, populated areas at night.

4. Update Emergency Contacts and Plans

Take time to review and refresh your emergency contact lists, and establish clear plans for your family in case of an emergency. Make sure everyone knows what to do during a break-in, fire, or natural disaster.

5. Secure Your Vehicle

Vehicle break-ins are common but often preventable with simple habits. Always lock your car, even if you're just running a quick errand. Don't leave valuables in plain sight, and consider installing steering wheel locks or a car alarm for extra protection.

6. Keep Your Online Safety in Check

As we spend more time online, staying vigilant about cybersecurity is essential. Update your software regularly, avoid suspicious emails and websites, and back up your important data.

By making these small but impactful changes, you can greatly lower your risk of becoming a crime victim in 2026. Focus on safety in your daily routine, and you'll enjoy a safer and more confident year ahead. For more tips or help, feel free to contact the Punta Gorda Police Department at 941-639-4111.

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VOLUNTEER

WE NEED YOUR HELP

PGICA Members, do you occasionally have a few hours free, and are interested in donating your time?

We could use your help with various events and tasks!

Call the office to inquire: 941-637-1655

Loaner Program

This *FREE* lending service is a major membership benefit which includes:

FAMILY ITEMS:

- Pack-n-Play Cribs
- Strollers
- Car Seats & Booster Seats
- Highchairs
- Life jackets
- Scooters & Toys
- Bikes & Helmets

MEDICAL:

- Wheelchairs
- Knee Scooters
- Shower Seats
- Bedside Commodes
- Crutches
- Walkers
- Canes

Tables and chairs are also available! 941-637-1655

