

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Commentator

February 2026



Inside:

Educational Opportunities
Volunteer Recruitment
Weekly Wednesday Market
Nautical Flea Market

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



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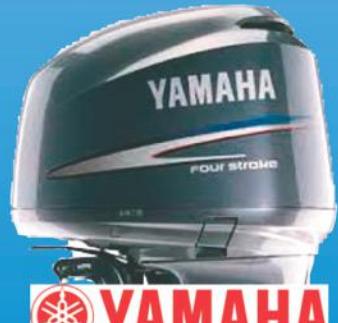
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Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

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The Commentator

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SPECIAL FEATURES INDEX

Alert Charlotte	28
Assistant Editors & Proofers	5
Calendar of Events	24-26
Classified Ads	38-39
Educational Opportunities	7-9
Government Update	40
In Memoriam	18
New Members	26
PGICA Board Members	5
PGICA Loaner Program	17
President's Message	9
Punta Gorda Police Department	41

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - CLUBS

Beyond Ourselves	34
Cruising Club	23
Friends, Fun & Community	36
JFF ~ Just for Fun	28
Mariners of PGI	11
Newcomers	32
Paradise Friends	35
PGI Castaways	20
Seafarers	22
Tennis	41

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - GROUPS

Acoustic Music	23
Aardvarks Fish and Game Adventurers	21
Bridge Groups	16
Bunco Buddies	17
Canasta	17
Euchre Group	17
In Stitches	20
Isles Girls & Guys	40
Mah Jongg	17
Pinochle Group	17
Seasonal Flockers	23
Tag Team Artists	37

PGICA Mission Statement

“To enhance the quality of life in Punta Gorda as a vibrant and unique waterfront community.”



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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 Wetzelberger. 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.

Learn to Love Tennis. Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:30 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: Feb. 20, Mar. 20, April 24 and 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.



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: Feb. 6, Mar. 6, April 10 and 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.

ART and MUSIC (cont.)



Beginner Ukulele Lessons: Thursdays, 1:30 to 3 p.m., 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. 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.



Choir Play: Mondays, through March 2, 4:30 p.m. 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.

WORKSHOPS



Let's Go Fishing! Wednesdays, Feb. 18 to Mar. 25, 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, Feb. 21 through Mar. 28, 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, 4 to 5:30 p.m., \$35 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 - February 13, March 13 and April 10. 10 a.m. to noon, \$50 per class. All proceeds benefit the PGICA! 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.



Beginner Mahjongg: Friday February 20 and 27. 1 to 4 p.m. \$50. This is a two part class. Join us for a fun introduction to Mahjongg! Whether you're new or brushing up, this is the perfect class to learn the basics. Instructor: Patty Albert. Tiles are provided - you just need to bring your curiosity and a smile! Advance registration required. Participants 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.

Advanced CCPU The Practical Application of Robert's Rules of Order: Tuesdays, February 24 through March 31. 9 to 11:30 a.m. \$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 phase "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, February 20.

Crews Bank and Trust Seminar: 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monthly sessions. Join us to explore and understand various strategies. Feb. 24, 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: 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ken Krause, 267-664-0460, kenkrause@yahoo.com

Hello PGICA members and a belated Happy New Year.

I want to say how honored and thrilled I am to be your president this year. We are a fantastic and unique organization that provides so many opportunities to interact and have fellowship with our neighbors. When you think about your friends that have moved or retired to other areas of the country, I'll bet you can count on a couple of fingers those that have a similar civic organization like ours that facilitates making friends so easily.

The theme of my presidency is to transform our culture back to being more of a grassroots and bottoms-up run organization, as opposed to the autocratic or top-down that we may have slipped into. We were once an all-volunteer run association. I know times are different, but we seriously need more volunteerism at all levels of the organization.

In particular, we are looking for members to join the fundraising as well as the finance committee as non-voting members (per our bylaws). We are also looking to create sub-committees for membership participation to help shape and guide our future. Please consider contributing; seasonal as well as full-time residents are welcome.

Your new board is committed to putting the highest priority on listening and reacting to you, the membership. To demonstrate this, at our January board meeting some of your reactions to the new member \$75 initiation fee and how it may discourage new member signups was brought up and discussed. We heard you and voted to rescind it and revert back to the \$25 initiation fee.

The board is in possession of great historical data and survey results that show our membership retention rate numbers are directly correlated to whether or not members join a club or group. Those that do belong to one or more clubs or groups tend to stay as members, those who do not tend to drop out of our organization. The message is: Get involved to fortify and make new friendships.

Speaking of the new board, we have had three new board members withdraw. The first was the treasurer position.

1. Kim Koch - has agreed to come in to fill this critical role as Treasurer. She is highly qualified, energetic and has already been making positive impact.

To fill the other two open positions, we asked two of the board members to take on alternative roles:

2. Jami Kirkwood - has agreed to move from external relations to the membership director position. She is accustomed to this type of outreach as her business is in the job recruitment space.

3. Pat Jones - has agreed to move from facilities director to the clubs & groups director. Pat has the depth and breadth of knowledge of the history of PGICA that will help us work closer than ever before. She will be reaching out and working very closely to help us all succeed.

So, as you have already concluded, we have two open board seats facilities director and external relations. Please strongly consider stepping forward to fulfill either of these key positions. By the way, snowbirds are welcome to apply as we offer participation in our meetings via audio and video conferencing.

As you may be aware, there have been some changes in our staffing. We are extremely grateful that Alexa Rice has agreed to fill an interim role as operations manager as we work through our transformation. Please welcome and support her in this new interim role.

Thank you for your support and service to this one-of-a-kind association.



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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.

- **Feb. 10*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Feb. 17** - 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.

- **Feb. 11*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Feb. 18** - 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.

- **Feb. 12*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **Feb. 19** - Punta Gorda branch, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Tips for Smooth Estate & Trust Administration - *Tuesday, Feb. 24, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Gain insight into decisions about the proper selection of personal representative, agent, and successor trustee. Learn how best to minimize stress and conflict amongst your loved ones and get your estate plan goals accomplished.

- **Feb. 24** - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Assoc, 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda

***Seminars on Feb. 10, 11, and 12 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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With the arrival of 2026, Mariners of PGI are enjoying a full schedule of boating activities despite some unusually cold weather. Mariner Cruise Director Gary Towers and wife Julie led a lunch cruise to beautiful and historic Tarpon Lodge on Pine Island on January 10. The weather was perfect, and the food and service predictably excellent.

Suzanne and Tom Martin led an overnight cruise to 'Tween Waters Marina January 23 to 25. 'Tween is a favorite Mariner destination. Marina amenities and staffing are top-notch and many of our favorite Captiva spots are back better than ever following the hurricanes of 2022 and 2024.

A lunch cruise to Barnacle's Bar is planned for February 7. We look forward to great food and fellowship while enjoying the view of Safety Harbor from this North Captiva Island location.

Former Cruise Director and Past Commodore Mike Mankin and wife Crystal will lead Mike's Birthday Overnight Cruise February 9 to 14. Heading north, cruise destinations are the Crow's Nest Marina in Venice and Marina Jack in Sarasota. With flexibility in mind, cruisers may choose to anchor out at Don Pedro either coming or going, or to extend the cruise north to Bradenton.

A lunch cruise to Riviera Bar and Grill is scheduled for February 18. Folks can cruise by boat or land yacht to this destination, another Mariner favorite. The Last Sunday of the Month Sunset Lake raftup is on the calendar for February 22.

Following some missed years due to hurricane damage, Mariners will once again be able to celebrate our annual regatta at Burnt Store Marina April 10 to 12. We look forward to returning to our customary regatta port.

The Mariners social calendar is just as active as the cruise side of things. Almost two dozen Mariners attended our January 4 Sunday brunch, held monthly at Tamiami Tavern. It was a great way to start the new year.



January's monthly game night held January 5 featured Bingo and popcorn and a lot of laughs and fun. The February event will focus on Trivial Pursuit; those not so trivially minded are encouraged to bring along some of their favorite games as alternatives.

Several Mariner ladies gathered at Joseph's Deli in Port Charlotte on January 20 for our monthly ladies' lunch outing. The event was hosted by Past Commodore and current Social Director Susan Hills. Joseph's is a great place for good food. Our February lunch will be held at the very interesting farmside restaurant, Blossom & Brie in North Fort Myers. I feel healthier just thinking about going there.

Sandy Franzino and her crew organized the 2026 Annual Gala and Change of Watch, held January 17 at the Isles Yacht Club. This year's theme was an elegant Night to Remember. Local favorites, Gary and Kerri

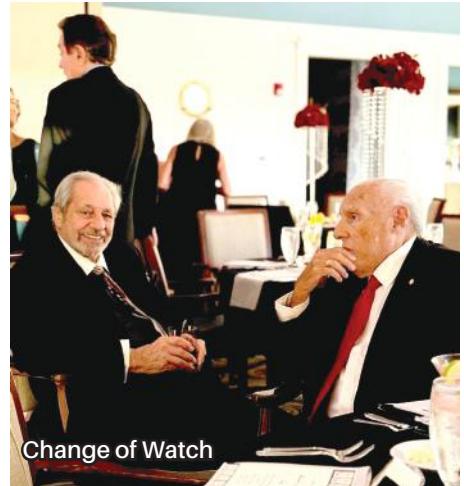
provided the music. Kerri's a cappella delivery of The Star-Spangled Banner was very moving. The event provided the opportunity to thank our outgoing officers and directors and welcome those incoming.

Susan Hills and her band of Mariner volunteers will once again host one of the homes included in the 2026 Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour, organized by the Beyond Ourselves club of the PGICA. In the past 16 years of the tour event, more than \$800,000 has been raised, with proceeds benefiting children's charities in our community. This year's tour takes place on Saturday, February 21.

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 (330-347-9023) and Tracie Goin (815-922-9833) a call. We look forward to meeting you.



Tarpon Lodge Lunch Cruise



Change of Watch



Tamiami Tavern Brunch

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

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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- ◆ Apparel & Jewelry
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- ◆ Home & Yard
- ◆ 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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Present your membership card to the participating business to receive your discount. Show card BEFORE you purchase or order.

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- Preparing Wills
- Probate



Left to Right: Nicole S. Peet, Forrest J. Bass, Dorothy L. Korszen, Guy S. Emerich, Brett H. Sifrit, and Braden H. Sharrer



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PGICA FRIDAY BRIDGE

1 - Polly Engebrecht
 2 - Susan Bennett
 3 - Sherry Lane
 1 - Debbie Meyer
 2 - Lois Olsen
 3 - Sherry Lane
 4 - Mary Ann Rindelaub

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

1 - Sherry Lane
 2 - Susan Bennett
 3 - Larry Linn

1 - Peg Williams
 2 - Cathy Eliason
 3 - Debbie Meyer

1 - Debbie Meyer
 2 - Susan Engelhart
 3 - Sherry Lane

1 - Susan Engelhart
 2 - Cathy Eliason
 3 - Susan Bennett

1 - Debbie Meyer
 2 - Susan Engelhart
 3 - Polly Engebrecht

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 - contact information is shown above.

MONDAY AFTERNOON DUPLICATE BRIDGE

1 - Gloria Hank & Terry Moeller
 2 - Sharon Biernat & Marcia Ling
 3 - Judy Dolan & Judy Keane
 4 - Yvonne Heer & Christine Kwak
 5 - Kim Bennett & Marty Welch
 6 - Nicki Harris & Lila Jameson
 7 - Cathy Eliason & Debbie Meyer

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 on the first and third Monday of every month. Since we start the game at 1, we request everyone to arrive between 12:30 and 1.

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 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.



Loaner Program

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

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

BUNCO BUDDIES



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, jlynnpgi@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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William Cary III

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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:

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- 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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If you have heard the laughter, seen the photos, or wondered what all the buzz is about, February offers a perfect snapshot of why PGI Castaways membership is in such high demand. The Castaways calendar is full of thoughtfully planned, high-energy experiences. These events are exclusive to members, which is exactly what makes them so special.

The excitement began even before February arrived, when the Castaways hosted their first annual Australia Day Party at the end of January. The event set the tone for the year ahead. Rumor has it there were kangaroo sightings, tables filled with traditional Australian fare, including lamb, hand pies, sausage rolls and fairy bread, and more than one brave soul attempting a Shooie. Friendly competition followed as Castaways tried their hand at Beach Cricket, proving once again that this group knows how to turn a theme into a memorable shared experience.

February continues the momentum with one of the most anticipated social gatherings of the year, Super Bowl Sunday on February 8 at the PGICA Auditorium. Doors open at 4:30, with kickoff at 6:30. The club provides classic game-day favorites, including hot dogs, warm pretzels with cheese, and popcorn, while members bring appetizers, desserts and their favorite team gear. A 50/50 raffle and Super Bowl squares add to the lively game-day atmosphere.



A bit of New Orleans comes to town when the Castaways host their first annual Mardi Gras Party on February 15. Members enjoy a spread of jambalaya, red beans and rice and king cake, along with a variety of other classic New Orleans favorites. Festive beads, a few surprises, and plenty of laughter fill the room, capturing the true spirit of the Castaways. As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bons temps rouler."

Later in the month, Castaways head outdoors for the first annual Castaways Boat Poker Run on February 22. Thanks to members who generously volunteer their docks, this signature event comes together smoothly. Participants can join by boat or by land, traveling from stop to stop to draw cards, reconnect with friends and enjoy the day together. Additional

hands and extra cards are available for \$5, adding a layer of friendly competition.



Beyond these featured gatherings, Castaways members enjoy a full social calendar throughout the month. Regular happy hours at rotating locations, bocce ball gatherings, music trivia nights, and music Bingo events ensure there is always something happening and always an opportunity to connect.



All events are for Castaways members only, and that sense of exclusivity is part of what makes the club so appealing. Membership offers connection, creativity and a community that genuinely enjoys spending time together.

If you have been considering joining or wondering what you might be missing, February tells the story clearly. Becoming a Castaway means being part of the fun as it happens.

IN STITCHES



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.

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



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.



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH AN ESTATE SALE?

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
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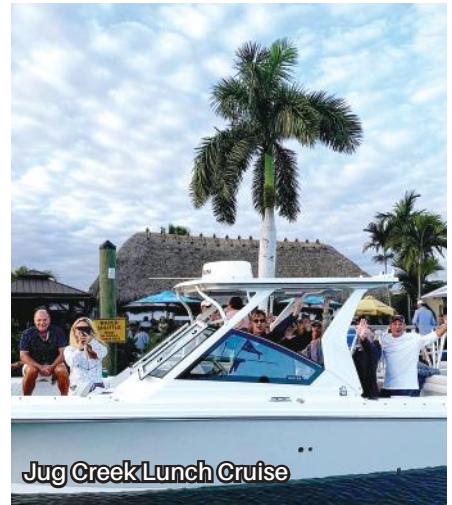




Greetings to everyone from the Seafarers Cruising Club! The Seafarers marked 2026 with an overnight cruise to Burnt Store Marina, celebrating New Year's Eve and Day at Cass Cay Restaurant under past Commodore Ron Olsen's leadership.

In January, the Seafarers engaged in multiple cruises and took part in a range of social events. On January 10, Commodore Jeanne Myers coordinated a pop-up cruise to Pelican Bay, where Seafarers and their guests spent a relaxing and sunny afternoon on the beach, enjoying a variety of snacks and refreshments. A lunch cruise to Jug Creek Restaurant and Marina in Bokeelia was led by Nancy Houghtaling on January 23. Participants had the opportunity to enjoy quality cuisine and engage in pleasant conversation with fellow attendees. Jane Orlin, the social director, arranged the Seafarers general meeting and pizza event on January 27. Along with going over the club's organizational changes, attendees received an early preview of events scheduled for 2026. After the meeting, members enjoyed pizza together and spent time socializing. Another social event organized by Jane was the Seafarers Dinner and Darts, held at the Ice House Pub on January 29. As in previous years, this event attracted strong attendance and was well received by all participants. The final event in January was an overnight cruise organized by Dan Ruckman, which took place on the weekend of January 30 at 'Tween Waters Marina on the picturesque Captiva Island. The participants engaged in group gatherings at both the pool and beach, while also

exploring various areas of the island.



Jug Creek Lunch Cruise



Pelican Beach

On February 5, the Seafarers begin their month with a lunch cruise to Rum Bay at Palm Island Resort in Placida. Led by Mark Kalb, the event welcomes members arriving by boat, car or motorcycle to share a delicious meal and catch up on what's ahead for the Seafarers. The Seafarers will hold their annual Valentine's Day weekend cruise at Pink Shell Resort and Marina from February 13 to 16. Members enjoy celebrating together, exchanging stories and connecting with friends, making it an unforgettable occasion. Organized by Arlene Epting, this event has consistently attracted many participants, often resulting in a waiting list. The following weekend, Seafarers cruise leader Kathy Nelson organized a lunch cruise to Cass Cay Restaurant at Burnt Store Marina on Saturday, February 21. Members can choose to arrive by boat or car and enjoy a casual lunch gathering. The Seafarers will hold their general meeting on February 24 to review ongoing club activities. After

the meeting, members will be invited to enjoy specialty pizzas and an opportunity to network and engage with fellow participants. Following the evening meeting and dinner, Nancy Gamblin, who served as last year's Seafarer board member education director organized a family and friends CPR training session conducted by the Punta Gorda Fire Department. Jeff Critser, who was recently named education director, facilitated the CPR training program for the Seafarers attending the training.

The Seafarers look forward to making new friends and sharing our adventures with you. Membership Director Lisa Wienecke is looking forward to greeting prospective members with a warm welcome aboard! The Seafarer membership is a friendly, inclusive and active group. We are committed to providing a variety of day and overnight boating adventures as well as numerous fun-filled land-based activities.

We encourage you 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 add February 12 and 26 to your calendar and jump aboard one of our social events so you can meet our members and learn about all the fun we have together. There is no obligation - just stop by the 50/50 table in the foyer to let our greeting team know you are a new visitor interested in the Seafarers.

We are eager to welcome new members who wish to join our many fun adventures and make lasting friendships along the way. For more information, please contact Lisa Wienecke, membership director at 630-715-6333 or lawienecke@gmail.com, or Jeanne Myers at Jeanne.myers@icloud.com.



Thursday Social Happy Hour



February already? Unbelievable! January is just a memory now and following the Christmas holidays we'll now get down to the final planning stages for some upcoming social activities.

The social committee members, club officers and directors are once again busy planning events for the first few months of 2026. January/February boating activities often take a back seat to land-based events due to the passage of cold fronts that bring occasional wind and rough water conditions to Charlotte Harbor and surrounding waterways. As I write this article, the outside wind chill here in PGI is a balmy 29 degrees - proof enough. Regardless of what the weatherman has in store, we are once again busy putting the final touches on our annual PGICC Anniversary Dinner Dance on January 27, signing up players for dart night on February 4, and firming up details for our lunch cruise to Cass Cay Restaurant at Burnt Store Marina on February 11.



Interested in seeing what we're all about and meeting new boating friends? Join us for happy hour every Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 at St. Andrews South Golf Club. To learn more about the club, we invite you to visit our website at www.pgicruisingclub.org.

Ready to join? Please contact our Membership Director Marcia Ling at membership@pgicruisingclub.org or download a membership form directly from our website.

PGICA ACOUSTIC MUSIC GROUP



A great aspect of the Acoustic Music Group is that there is an entry point for all members, regardless of skill level, musical preferences, even one's personal schedule. No one is keeping track of attendance - we are happy to see and hear anyone who comes to a Tuesday night meeting. There are regulars and newbies, year round residents and snowbirds, people who are comfortable singing and people who are not comfortable singing, veteran musicians and beginners. Regardless of who shows up on any given night, there is always good music and a fun time.

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.

Jennifer deChiara, jenniferdechiara@gmail.com

SEASONAL FLOCKERS

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



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.

February Activities



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1	2	3	4
	<p>8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge</p> <p>9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg</p> <p>10:00a Tag Team - Artists Duplicate Bridge</p> <p>12:00p Choir Play</p> <p>4:30p 6:00p Mariners Club- Game Night</p>	<p>8:30a Zumba</p> <p>9:00a CCPU PARR course</p> <p>9:00a Chair-a-Cise</p> <p>10:00a Morning Yoga</p> <p>10:30a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar</p> <p>11:30a Newcomers Club- Lunch & Learn</p> <p>12:15p Pinocchio</p> <p>6:30p Bunco Buddies</p> <p>7:00p Acoustic Music Group</p>	<p>8:00a Weekly-V Market</p> <p>9:30a In Stitch Couples</p> <p>12:00p Learn to clinic</p> <p>12:30p PGIsland Beginner Dancing</p> <p>1:00p Advance Dancing</p> <p>3:00p Newcomer</p> <p>4:00p Let's Go</p>
8	9	10	11
1:00p PGI Castaways Super Bowl Party	<p>8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge</p> <p>9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg</p> <p>10:00a Tag Team - Artists</p> <p>4:30p Choir Play</p> <p>6:00p Seasonal Flockers</p> <p>7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group</p> <p>7:00p Texas Hold'em</p>	<p>8:30a Fishing Club Board</p> <p>8:30a Zumba</p> <p>9:00a CCPU PARR course</p> <p>9:00a Chair-a-Cise</p> <p>10:00a Morning Yoga</p> <p>12:15p Pinocchio</p> <p>5:30p Fishing Club</p> <p>7:00p Acoustic Music Group</p>	<p>8:00a Weekly-V Market</p> <p>9:00a PGICA B</p> <p>9:30a In Stitch</p> <p>12:30p Duplicate</p> <p>1:00p Learn to clinic</p> <p>1:00p Just For Fun</p> <p>1:00p PGIsland Beginner</p> <p>3:00p Dancing</p> <p>4:00p Advance</p> <p>4:30p Dancing</p> <p>6:00p PGIsland Let's Go</p>
15	16	17	18
	<p>8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge</p> <p>9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg</p> <p>10:00a Tag Team - Artists</p> <p>12:00p Duplicate Bridge</p> <p>3:30p Friends, Fun, & Community Board</p> <p>4:30p Choir Play</p> <p>7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor</p>	<p>8:30a Zumba</p> <p>9:00a CCPU PARR course</p> <p>9:00a Chair-a-Cise</p> <p>10:00a Morning Yoga</p> <p>12:15p Pinocchio</p> <p>7:00p Acoustic Music Group</p>	<p>8:00a Weekly-V Market</p> <p>9:00a Beyond C</p> <p>9:30a In Stitch</p> <p>12:00p Couples</p> <p>12:30p Learn to clinic</p> <p>1:00p PGIsland Beginner</p> <p>3:00p Dancing</p> <p>4:00p Advance</p> <p>4:30p Dancing</p> <p>6:00p PGIsland Let's Go</p>
22	23	24	25
	<p>8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge</p> <p>9:30a Mariners Board</p> <p>9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg</p> <p>10:00a Tag Team - Artists</p> <p>4:30p Choir Play</p> <p>6:30p FF&C Ladies Game Night</p> <p>6:30p Mariners Social</p> <p>7:00p Texas Hold'em</p>	<p>8:30a Zumba</p> <p>9:00a Chair-a-Cise</p> <p>9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR</p> <p>10:00a Crews Bank Seminar</p> <p>10:00a Tips for Smooth Estate & Trust Administration</p> <p>10:00a Morning Yoga</p> <p>12:15p Pinocchio</p> <p>5:00p Seafarers Mtg</p> <p>7:00p Acoustic Music Group</p>	<p>8:00a Weekly-V Market</p> <p>9:30a In Stitch</p> <p>10:00a Crews B</p> <p>12:30p Tips for S & Trust A</p> <p>12:30p Duplicate</p> <p>1:00p Learn to clinic</p> <p>1:00p PGIsland Beginner</p> <p>3:00p Dancing</p> <p>3:30p Paradise</p> <p>4:00p Advance</p> <p>4:30p Dancing</p> <p>6:00p PGIsland Let's Go</p>

CALENDAR

ESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Wednesday- es Bridge Love Tennis ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy. d-Improve Line with Judy ers Club Fishing!	5 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele Lesson 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 5:30p PGIslanders Mtg 6:30p Euchre Group	6 8:30a Zumba 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	7 8:00a NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
11 Wednesday- Board Meeting es Bridge Love Tennis Fun Board Fun Book Club ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy ers Club Fishing	12 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 6:30p Euchre Group	13 8:30a Zumba 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginner Mahjongg Pt 1	14 11:00a Let's Go Fishing Newcomers
18 Wednesday- Ourselves es Bridge Love Tennis ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy Fun Club ers Club Fishing	19 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 6:30p Euchre Group	20 8:30a Zumba 10:00a Paper Quilling Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginner Mahjongg Pt 1	21 11:00a Let's Go Fishing!
25 Wednesday- es Bank Seminar Smooth Estate Administration e Bridge Love Tennis ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy Friends d-Improve Line with Judy ers Fishing	26 8:00a PGIslanders- Board 8:30a Mat Pilates 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a PGIslanders Board Mtg 10:00a Just For Fun Mah Jongg Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 4:30p Newcomers Club 6:30p Euchre Group	27 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginners Mahjongg Pt 2	28 11:00a Let's Go Fishing

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Looking Ahead to March

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a PGI Cruising Club- Captains Meeting 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 12:00p Duplicate Bridge 4:30p Choir Play 6:00p Mariners- Game Night 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	2 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR 10:00a Morning Yoga 10:30a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar 11:30a Newcomers Club- Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	3 8:00a Weekly-Wednesday- Market 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples Bridge 12:30p 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	4 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jongg 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 5:30p PGIslanders 6:30p Euchre Group	5 8:30a Zumba 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	6 11:00a L	
4:00p PGI Cruising Club	8 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 6:00p Seasonal Flockers 7:00p Texas Hold'em	9 8:30a Fishing Club Board 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:30p Fishing Club Social 5:30p Newcomers Special Events 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	10 8:00a Weekly-Wednesday- Market 9:00a PGICA Board Meeting 9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate Bridge 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	11 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jongg 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography 6:30p Euchre Group	12 8:30a Zumba 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	13 11:00a L



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

Carolyn & Erich Awender
Janet Asher & Sal Barone
Cindi & Peter Bissonnette
Susan & John Cravens
Jane & James DiMatta
Deanne Garrett
Mindy & Robert Hockenberry
Deb & Tim Howell
Mona Kropp King & Allen King
Christine & Michael LaBombard

Donna Lauer
Nanette Leonard
Corinne & Peter Masotti
Diane & William Mogensen
Thomas Palmisano
Kimberlee & John Springston
Cherylllyn Tallman
Raymond Varrone

Thank you to our "Un-Decorating Elves" Volunteers!

Marcia Ellis
Bob Golden
Tom Mills
Richard Nicholas
Cindy Simoni

Linda Smidt
Richard Strowd
Paul Swetkoff
Julie Towers

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 **Lender 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, meetings, 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.



Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve Street *Punta Gorda FL 33901
941-637-1655 *info@pgica.org * pgica.org
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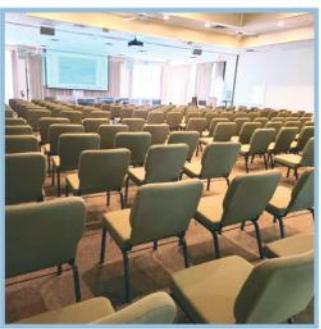
Keep the PGICA venue in mind for your next special occasion...

SATURDAY

7
Let's Go Fishing
Castaways Dance Party

14

Let's Go Fishing



Call for more information or to schedule a tour!



2001 Shreve Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-637-1655 pgica.org

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
- ◆ Meeting Rooms
- ◆ Large Parking Area
- ◆ Outdoor Pavilion

NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, February 7 • 8 AM – 1 PM



PGICA • 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda • 941-637-1655

**TO RESERVE SPACE:
PGICA.ORG or 941-637-1655**

NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET VENDOR SPACE:

\$35, Two Parking Lot Spaces, Tents allowed encouraged (Boating, fishing, and diving supplies.)

OTHER FLEA MARKET ITEMS VENDOR SPACE:

\$35, Two Parking Lot Spaces, Tents allowed encouraged (Nautical themed or whatever you have!)

The PGICA is also collecting unwanted items for the Nautical Flea Market. Please consider donating items for us to sell including anchors, life vests, boat fixtures, motors, ropes, fishing gear, dinghies, steering wheels, oars, diving gear, nets, buoys, things that floated up during the storms, bumpers, props, decor and whatever other nautical goodies you may have! Drop off donated items to the PGICA, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Set-Up Saturday at 7 a.m.
PGICA Parking Lot**



We are off to a great start. January was an active month, and we heard that the January cruisers had a great time. Thanks to our wonderful hosts for Bite Night and Host and Toast. Now February is full of fun activities. We start off with our Mix & Mingle on Monday, February 2, 5 to 7 at the Spinnaker Bar and Patio Dining located at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel (On 41N, left side, just before the bridge). This is the time to bring a friend or two who might be interested in joining our friendly group. Check JFF calendar for more details and sign up.

If interested in learning how to play Mah jongg, check out the JFF calendar for the weekly meetings. Also check for the monthly ladies and men's lunches, Bite Night, and girl's game night all happening this February.



Cruisers on their way to the ship



Mix & Mingle at Ortigia Cuchina & Bar

The Seasonal Book Club holds their meeting on the second Wednesday of each month, January till April. Check the website for more information and who to call if interested in joining.

If you haven't tried our Dinner and Darts at the Ice House Pub yet, mark Sunday, February 15 on your calendar. No pressure, just fun and laughter. Sign up on the club website.

Our special activity for the month should be so much fun that you will want to sign up right away, because registration is limited to 60 people. Don't miss the Square Dance and Social at the PGICA, February 18, from 5:30 to 8:30. There will be some instructions by an experienced caller. Come western style. Main course provided by club. Attendees will bring sides and desserts. Further information is available on the website. Yee haw!

February also includes the holiday for celebrating your love of friends and family. Yes, Valentine's Day on February 14. Everyone loves to be remembered.



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



ALERT CHARLOTTE Emergency Alert Program

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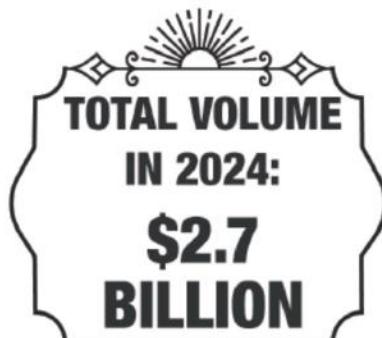
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JUST SOLD PGI DECEMBER 2025*

HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$379,000	\$360,000	0.95	1206 WINWARD CT	1,884	1974	None	3	2	0	234	12/12/2025	\$201.17	\$191.08
\$445,000	\$420,750	0.95	2621 VIA VENETO DR	1,768	1984	Private	2	2	0	210	12/22/2025	\$251.70	\$237.98
\$475,000	\$435,000	0.92	2562 BRAZILIA CT	1,929	1987	Private	3	2	0	5	12/03/2025	\$246.24	\$225.51
\$485,000	\$475,000	0.98	500 VIA CINTIA	1,832	1972	Private	3	2	0	2	12/08/2025	\$264.74	\$259.28
\$490,000	\$455,000	0.93	134 GULFVIEW RD	1,898	1960	Private	3	2	0	134	12/10/2025	\$258.17	\$239.73
\$497,000	\$497,000	1.00	890 CORONADO DR	1,728	1979	Private	3	2	0	0	12/30/2025	\$287.62	\$287.62
\$499,000	\$473,000	0.95	808 SANTA MARGERITA LN	1,790	1972	Private	3	2	0	4	12/18/2025	\$278.77	\$264.25
\$515,000	\$495,000	0.96	1022 LUCIA DR	1,807	1977	None	2	2	0	254	12/08/2025	\$285.00	\$273.93
\$550,000	\$510,000	0.93	260 CORONADO DR	1,870	1999	Private	3	2	0	133	12/11/2025	\$294.12	\$272.73
\$580,000	\$575,000	0.99	1460 RAVEN CT	2,027	1988	None	3	2	0	59	12/23/2025	\$286.14	\$283.67
\$634,900	\$605,000	0.95	1506 SAN MARINO CT	1,566	1978	Private	3	2	0	93	12/05/2025	\$405.43	\$386.33
\$669,000	\$660,000	0.99	1236 SWAN CT	2,123	1988	Private	3	2	0	11	12/22/2025	\$315.12	\$310.88
\$749,000	\$710,000	0.95	808 LUCIA DR	1,831	1991	Private	3	2	0	10	12/29/2025	\$409.07	\$387.77
\$750,000	\$720,000	0.96	2129 CHARLOTTE AMALIE CT	1,956	1988	Private	3	2	0	74	12/01/2025	\$383.44	\$368.10
\$750,000	\$735,000	0.98	3431 CURACAO CT	2,061	1992	Private	3	2	0	13	12/29/2025	\$363.90	\$356.62
\$795,000	\$795,000	1.00	1316 MONTE CARLO CT	1,909	1989	Private	3	3	1	5	12/01/2025	\$416.45	\$416.45
\$799,000	\$775,000	0.97	2833 LA MANCHA CT	2,337	2001	Private	3	3	0	176	12/04/2025	\$341.89	\$331.62
\$939,900	\$900,000	0.96	5010 LA COSTA ISLAND CT	2,333	1991	Private	4	2	0	190	12/15/2025	\$402.87	\$385.77
\$959,000	\$920,000	0.96	1217 PINE SISKIN DR	2,473	2002	Private	3	2	1	8	12/18/2025	\$387.79	\$372.02
\$979,000	\$969,000	0.99	3829 SAINT KITTS CT	2,283	1996	Private	3	2	1	3	12/05/2025	\$428.82	\$424.44
\$999,000	\$975,000	0.98	10 TROPICANA DR	2,731	1980	Private	3	3	0	17	12/30/2025	\$365.80	\$357.01
\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	1.00	1380 WILLET CT	2,357	2023	Private	3	2	1	0	12/03/2025	\$445.48	\$445.48
\$1,100,000	\$945,000	0.86	2716 RYAN BLVD	3,066	2000	Private	4	3	2	22	12/19/2025	\$358.77	\$308.22
\$1,100,000	\$900,000	0.82	95 COLONY POINT DR	2,601	2016	Private	3	2	1	46	12/12/2025	\$422.91	\$346.02
\$1,300,000	\$1,260,000	0.97	1200 GORDA CAY LN	2,605	2021	Private	4	2	0	29	12/29/2025	\$499.04	\$483.69
\$1,645,000	\$1,575,000	0.96	261 VENEZIA CT	2,911	1990	Private	3	2	2	167	12/30/2025	\$565.10	\$541.05

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$189,900	\$185,000	0.97	1640 ATARES DR Unit#21	1,340	1989	Community	2	2	0	23	12/15/2025	\$141.72	\$138.06
\$215,000	\$200,000	0.93	4000 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#126	1,110	1989	Community	2	2	0	38	12/22/2025	\$193.69	\$180.18
\$225,000	\$215,000	0.96	95 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#9534	1,485	2006	Community	2	2	0	32	12/18/2025	\$151.52	\$144.78
\$225,000	\$215,000	0.96	1080 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#5B	1,114	1974	Community	2	2	0	112	12/01/2025	\$201.97	\$193.00
\$264,500	\$264,500	1.00	1519 ATARES DR Unit#112	1,618	2003	Community	3	2	0	15	12/05/2025	\$163.47	\$163.47
\$275,900	\$247,000	0.90	3228 WOOD THRUSH DR Unit#113	1,448	2004	Community	3	2	0	13	12/29/2025	\$190.54	\$170.58
\$375,000	\$365,000	0.97	1624 COMPASS POINTE CT Unit#202	1,867	2024	Community	4	3	0	23	12/12/2025	\$200.86	\$195.50
\$375,000	\$350,000	0.93	290 LEWIS CIRCLE CIR Unit#132	1,872	2005	Community	3	2	0	80	12/15/2025	\$200.32	\$186.97
\$415,000	\$415,000	1.00	1625 COMPASS POINTE CT Unit#105	1,867	2024	Community	4	3	0	411	12/19/2025	\$222.28	\$222.28
\$419,000	\$419,000	1.00	3800 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#212	2,224	1994	Community	3	2	1	392	12/22/2025	\$188.40	\$188.40
\$425,000	\$350,000	0.82	3800 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#312	2,224	1994	Community	3	2	1	63	12/30/2025	\$191.10	\$157.37
\$429,000	\$380,000	0.89	85 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#8542	2,348	2008	Community	3	3	0	255	12/30/2025	\$182.71	\$161.84
\$565,000	\$525,000	0.93	1425 PARK BEACH CIR Unit#127	1,642	2020	Community	2	2	1	420	12/11/2025	\$344.09	\$319.73
\$579,000	\$569,500	0.98	200 HARBOR WALK DR Unit#253	2,018	2000	Private, Commu	3	2	0	38	12/15/2025	\$286.92	\$282.21
\$639,000	\$625,000	0.98	95 N MARION CT Unit#231	2,745	2006	Private, Commu	3	3	0	2	12/12/2025	\$232.79	\$227.69
\$675,000	\$660,000	0.98	1425 PARK BEACH CIR Unit#149	1,642	2020	Community	2	2	1	315	12/10/2025	\$411.08	\$401.95

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* Based on data supplied by the PuntaGorda-PortCharlotte-North Port MLS. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



February is underway, and the Newcomers Club has already enjoyed a full and lively calendar filled with both new offerings and longtime favorites. The year began with a mix of wellness, learning, adventure and just enough lighthearted fun to keep things interesting.

January brought a large group of adventurous Newcomers out on the Orange River for a kayaking excursion, surrounded by manatees. Few expected those gentle creatures to be quite so playful, and at least one kayak tipped over as a result. It made for a memorable outing and plenty of stories to share afterward.

Continuing the wellness theme, our Monday morning walks remain popular following their successful launch last year. Each Monday at 8:30, Newcomer members gather in front of Fishermen's Village to enjoy a scenic walk together. A bit of tea, coffee and good conversation often follows, making it a great way to start the week.

Another welcome addition this year is our group bike ride series, led by Niamh McAnally. With varied days and locations, the rides stay fresh and accessible. They are designed to be comfortable for beginners while still offering enjoyment for more experienced riders. Be sure to look for emails and check the Newcomers calendar for upcoming rides.

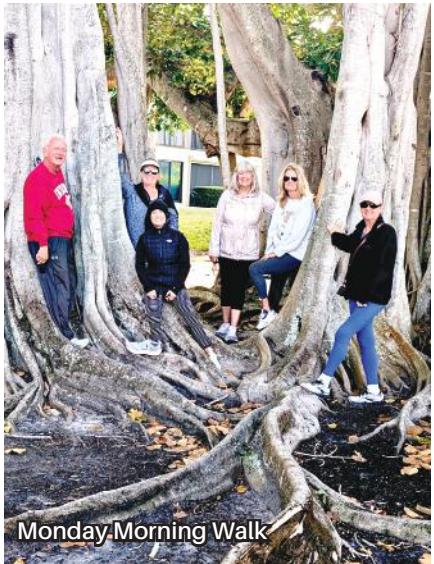
Always a favorite, Nan Erb's tasting and appetizer pairing events are already off to a strong start. January featured Rum and Done, followed closely by Cheap and Cheerful,

which proved that great wine does not have to come with a high price tag. These events continue to draw strong attendance, thanks to Nan's thoughtful planning and enthusiasm.

New this year, our Bring Your Lunch and Learn series is quickly gaining momentum.



Appetizer Night



Monday Morning Walk



Men's Lunch at the Ice House Pub

This idea, introduced by Chief of Cheer Jane Connors, takes place on the first Tuesday of each month. February's session will feature world travelers and fellow Newcomers Niamh McAnally and Gary Krieger, who will present one of their Beyond the Podium enrichment talks from Celebrity Cruises.

Attendees can expect practical travel tips designed to make future trips easier and more enjoyable. Upcoming sessions will cover topics such as local history, wildlife, hurricane preparedness, first responders and more.

Thanks to the dedication of new committee chairs, several favorite activities are thriving. Dine-Arounds (Donna Culver), Men's Lunches (Dave Horney), Women's Lunches (Deb Horney), and Small Group Appetizer Nights (Wendy Panourgijs) have all been well attended and enthusiastically received. Looking ahead, Greg Carpenter will be sharing information on specialty dining opportunities, while John Crawford is planning activities just for the gentlemen. Meanwhile, Jeff Murphey has stepped into a new role on the communications committee, capturing moments behind the camera and sharing updates through Facebook and email.

These volunteers along with many others keep the Newcomers Club active and welcoming through thoughtfully planned events and gatherings. Members are encouraged to regularly check the Newcomers calendar on the PGICA website and stay connected through our private Facebook group, The Official PGICA Newcomers Club. A full and engaging year lies ahead, and there is plenty more to enjoy.

Cheers for now.



Ladies' Lunch at Pioneers Pizza

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Top Row: Braden H. Sharrer, Nicole S. Peet and Brett H. Sifrit
Bottom Row: Guy S. Emerich, Forrest J. Bass and Dorothy L. Korszen

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Our biggest event of the year, the Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour, is coming up on Saturday, February 21 from 10 to 4. Get your tickets now! We're excited for you to join us and see the amazing homes on this year's tour.

Tickets for the home tour are \$40 each and can be purchased online at any time by visiting our website: PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves. You also have the option to purchase your tickets in person at any PGICA Weekly Wednesday Market from 8 to 1. 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 spectacular homes featured in this year's home tour, as well as the beautiful rest and refresh home, sponsored by Harbor Home Builders. On the day of the home tour, you can also participate in a fun scavenger hunt and try your hand at winning one of the many fabulous raffle baskets.

Proceeds from our Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour will benefit multiple children's charities in Charlotte County. Community participation not only contributes to a memorable and successful event but will bring hope and much-needed resources to countless local, at-risk children. Following is some information about the charities supported by our home tour.

A.N.A.'s Friends serves abused, neglected and abandoned children in our community by providing support, care, guidance and resources they need. Donations support children's essentials such as clothing, beds, linens and toiletries.

Back Pack Kidz provides a stable source of food for children in grades K-12, supplying bags filled with nutritious food items to over 2,500 children weekly and by stocking local food pantries.

Crossroads Hope Academy provides a residential home at two campuses for boys facing challenges in foster care; donations help pay expenses to house and educate residents.

Families in Transition assists families dealing with housing loss; donations assist in paying for school supplies, student uniforms, school activities and college application fees.

Healthy Start provides infant essentials for those in need such as diapers, wipes, formula, pack-and-plays and car seats. Donations also assist in providing heart rate monitors for mothers with preeclampsia and fatherhood support tools to promote healthy co-parenting.

Imagination Library provides a free book a month to pre-school children up to age five to registered families, promoting literacy and preparation for kindergarten.

St. Vincent DePaul offers services and goods to those in need, including cribs, toddler and kid-size beds, each complete with new linens.

Valerie's House provides grief counseling, peer support groups, family nights and a mentorship program for children who have lost a parent or sibling. Donations help pay for children's craft supplies, sympathy cards and books on loss and grieving.

On the first Saturday of every month, Beyond Ourselves members volunteer their time by serving dinner at the Charlotte CARE Center. If you wish to volunteer to serve dinner, please contact Lynn Rogers directly via email at earthlynn25@yahoo.com.

Beyond Ourselves is a community service club that meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Our next regular meetings will be on Wednesday, February 18 and March 18 at 10 at the PGICA. We invite you to come meet us and learn about the many ways we give back to our community.

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



2026 Home Tour Preview



2026 Home Tour Preview



Home Tour Charity Representatives

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PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves

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EARLY Ticket Price: \$40
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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, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
2021 Shores Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

February is a wonderful month with exciting experiences awaiting you. If you never got around to making New Year's resolutions, you can still do it now. Make a resolution to love Paradise Friends and get active by joining as many activities as possible. If you haven't joined our Club yet, now is the time to do it. It only costs \$20 for the entire year. That is a bargain. Friends may come and go, but Paradise Friends isn't going anywhere. Of course, we are going places, as you will read about in this article. If you do not know one person in our Club, now is the time to join it. This is the month of love, and we would love to have you join us.

If you are new to this area, as we all were at some point, just decide to sign up and come to an event. That is how you start to make friends here. There is nothing more enjoyable than to get to know a few new people, and then at the next event, you meet some more new people. Then you go shopping to Publix and run into them. I cannot tell you how many times I have had great conversations at the grocery store with friends from this Club. Read about our offerings below and decide which events you want to join.

Sips & Dips: We start out the month gathering together on February 5 at the home of Lois & Tony Benvin from 6 to 8 for a very fun evening. There will be room for 36 members to attend, so please sign up quickly 2 weeks ahead, which would be January 22 at 12 a.m. You will be asked to bring either an appetizer or dessert to share, plus bring your own beverage. No doubt there will be chatter regarding the upcoming Super Bowl to be played 3 days later. For more information contact Lois Benvin at lbenvin@gmail.com.



Ladies Lunch is scheduled for February 12 at Farlow's on the Water in the heart of Englewood on S.R. 776, from noon to 2. They offer a variety of Caribbean and southern-inspired cuisine and fresh seafood. We will probably chatter about the love of our lives, or what our hopes are for our favorite chocolate or jewelry gifted to us in 2 days for Valentine's Day. This is a hint to the men who are reading this article. Please register so we know how many will be coming. Contact Joan Erickson at joanpe524@yahoo.com for more information.

Chowhounds Men's Lunch will be held on February 12 from 11:30 to 1 at the Blue Dog Bar & Grill in Matlacha. Dog on it, you men need to get in your cars and drive or carpool to see a blue dog! Just joking. You can enjoy a few drinks with lunch and talk about all kinds of things. Mike Dougherty is organizing this event. For more

information contact Mike Dougherty at CaptnMikeD@gmail.com.

Our Mixer will be held on February 19 from 5 to 7 in the Palm Room at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Punta Gorda. Come enjoy all of our friends for fun and frolic. Our new President, Jack Gardner, will be our contact for more information about this event. The Palm Room has a good menu, including great appetizers. You can also order a wide range of options for dinner and drinks. Please sign up for this event. See above for Jack's email if you need to reach him.

We are excited for our National Chowder Day and Game Night on February 25. Guests will be asked to bring either New England style or Manhattan style chowder. We will also ask guests to bring bread, appetizers, and desserts. Other participants will be asked to bring board games and cards for poker. This will be a fun night to enjoy hot soup, play cards or board games, and enjoy each other's company. For more information, contact Jan Esterly at janesterly@hotmail.com who is coordinating this event.

If you want to learn about the wonders of the ocean, come with us to Mote Aquarium in Sarasota and for a fun lunch afterward. In Punta Gorda, we live by the sea. It would be wonderful to know more about what is in the ocean. At the Aquarium there are stingray touch tanks and manatees to observe. Lots to learn, look at, and touch. As of this writing, the date is to be determined. There will be an opportunity to carpool if you wish. Susan Kohlback is organizing this event. Contact her at susan_kohlback@yahoo.com for more information.

To join our Club, membership forms are in the lobby of the PGICA and on our website under the Join the Club bar. If you would like to contact someone, please contact Dan Kain, our Membership Director, at dkain01@gmail.com who will answer your questions about our wonderful Club.

Please submit any photos to Sue Kelley who will write this year for Paradise Friends at skelley180@aol.com.





The holiday lights are down and Santa is in the rearview mirror. As spring approaches we are thankful to be in south Florida enjoying the mild weather as we watch snow flurries on the news up north.

December and January in review: December was a busy month 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'z Grill & Tavern.



- Pizza

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 started with Breakfast Belles ladies breakfast at Burg'r Bar. Breakfast out always tastes better. After that, FFC members had a Dine Around at Pioneers Pizza Port Charlotte where there is frequently live music. The pizza is great and if you like craft beers this is the place for you. In the second week of January, members went to an Out and About at the Ice House Pub for dinner and darts, always fun. In mid-month the ladies had lunch at the Riviera Bar and Grill and that evening members gathered at Coastal Isles Wine Bar for dinner and drinks. On January 19 FF&C had its general meeting. Business aside it is one of the vbest ways to meet and socialize with a larger number of members and get to meet new people. Later in the month the men had lunch at Jay's Smokin' BBQ. The month ended with happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. The hotel is immediately adjacent to its outside venue, TT's Tiki Bar, beautiful sunsets and lots of live music. The last



Darts



The winner



Happy Hour at 4 Points

Friday of the month was for Friday Night Bites, small gatherings held at various members homes.

February events planned:

- February 4 Dine Around at Italia
- February 9 Breakfast Belles ladies breakfast at Tamiami Tavern
- February 11 Happy hour at the Fishermen's Village Sunset Tiki Bar
- February 16 FF&C Membership meeting at the PGICA
- February 18 Men's lunch at Cass Cay Restaurant
- February 19 Ladies lunch at the Grill at 1951
- February 20-21 FF&C sponsored home tour
- February 23 Ladies Game Night at PGICA
- February 24 Happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
- February 27 Friday Night Bites

March events planned:

- March 2 Breakfast Belles at Family Grill Towles Plaza
- March 5 Dine Around at River City Grill
- March 8 Dinner and Darts at the Ice House Pub
- March 13 Out and about, Little river Band at the Caloosa Sound Amphitheater
- March 16 FF&C membership meeting at PGICA
- March 18 Men's Lunch location not set yet
- March 19 Ladies Lunch location not set yet
- March 27 Friday Night Bites
- March 30 Ladies Game Night at PGICA
- March 31 Happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel

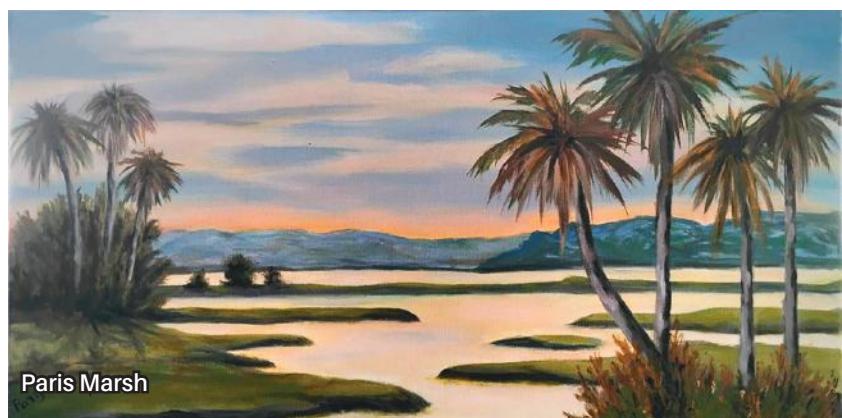
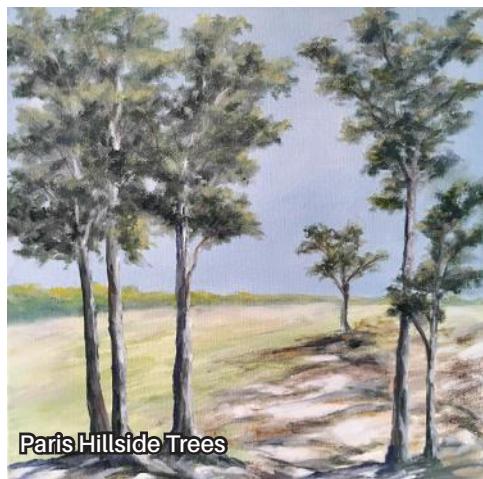
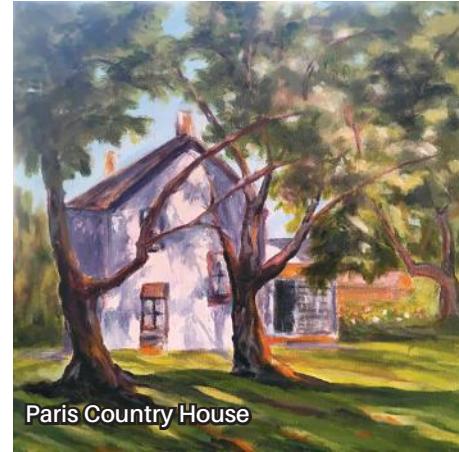
There is always something to see and/or do for FF&C members. Pay attention to the email reminders and be sure to use the website calendar to sign up. Remember, the reservation slots fill up quickly. Reservation cancellations are available up to 24 hours in advance directly on the calendar. For cancels inside the 24-hour window please reach out to Social Director Betty Wilcocks at bhw613@gmail.com or 757-508-1070, 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 Betty. 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 Donna Cary at carydkc1@yahoo.com for membership information.

Tag Team Artists are getting back into the routine and loving the warm temperatures of our season. Hopefully you have had a chance to be out on the water and are enjoying the city lights and shops. Very different from last year's devastating closures, restoration and repairs. The music and return of visitors feels merry and normal, like years past.

We asked Paris Miliken to be the artist in this month's Commentator. Born and raised in New York City, by age ten, she began studying the ancient art of Chinese painting on rice paper with ink and watercolor, under award-winning artist Peiling Liang. She recently shared some copies of her work which are remarkable.

After studying with Mary Taglieri (our mentor) she found a new freedom in her painting style and is devoted to landscapes, seascapes, coastline and islands using a vivid color palette and a relaxed brush strokes. Paris paints with our group on Mondays at 10 and has influenced many of us with her impressionist style, the opportunity to see her work and the wisdom of her knowledge and suggestions. We feel lucky to count her among us.

Paris exhibits her work at Island Visions Gallery and Gifts in Fort Myers on First Street and also teaches private lessons in her home studio. You can also find her work at www.FINEARTAMERICA.com – search: PARIS MILLIKEN. If you'd like a private lesson, you can reach her at 781-733-2513. Here is some of her work.



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We would like to wish all our friends, neighbors and fellow shoppers a very happy Valentines Day. In fact, if you are looking for the perfect gift for your Valentine, maybe you should come to one of our estate sales and see if you might find it there. After a slow start to 2026 we are now getting back into full swing.

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. You can also follow us on Facebook by following Isles Girls & Guys Estate Sales. 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 sale as we use sheets to cover the tables.

If you have any interest in having an estate sale, don't 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

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

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

State Representative Vanessa Oliver (District 76) refuses to back down from her bill for her proposed hostile takeover of the Punta Gorda City water system. On January 13, Oliver introduced HB 4077 to the State legislature. Despite mounting pressure and formal demands from local government leaders, Oliver says she will not back down on her controversial proposal.

Charlotte County Commissioners voted to send a formal letter to Representative Oliver demanding the immediate withdrawal of the bill. "We need to know the money, we need to know what we're doing here," said Chairman Joe Tiseo of the Charlotte County Commission. "To continue to amend the bill like this is like trying to put lipstick on a pig."

The Punta Gorda City Council also opposes the bill. Councilmembers expressed deep concern that Oliver's bill could cripple the City's ability to pay off long-term utility debts, likely forcing significant rate hikes for the Punta Gorda City residents.

Here is Representative Vanessa Oliver's contact information if you would like to express your opinion:

Representative Vanessa Oliver - 850-717-5076

Mail to: Vanessa.Oliver@myfloridahouse.gov

Developing Minds and Bodies is the title of the new mural placed on the Cooper Street Recreation Center. It is a reminder of the many years of dedication so many have put into our community. Past Cooper Street directors Anna Caldwell, Zelda Smith, Grace Nurse and Buster Brown were in attendance at the reveal. Reverend Haddock talked about the history of the building, recognizing its deep meaning to the heart of the community and its purpose of developing the youth, along with what it meant to him personally growing up in Punta Gorda.

The Cooper Street Recreation Center in Punta Gorda has a rich history, originally established as a safe gathering space for African Americans during the Jim Crow era. It has served the community for decades, providing various programs for youth and families, and has been a vital hub for cultural and social events.

Dr. Curtis (principal at Murdock Middle School) was also present. He is on the YMCA Punta Gorda community board, who currently leases the building from the City of Punta Gorda.

Along with continuing to fix our infrastructure and damages from the hurricanes, City Council has committed money toward the water plant and wastewater plant and have made provisions to improve failing infrastructure. Council is working to increase impact fees so that cost is shared by new development. Council is also working to rehabilitate Laishley Marina and considering all options to make this happen as quickly and efficiently as possible.



City Council meetings will be on February 11 and 25. County Commissioners meeting will be February 10.



Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County scholarships

In 1995, the late Captain Don Cerbone of the Punta Gorda Police Department founded the organization Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County, to instill positive attitudes and self-esteem in the youth of our community by publicly recognizing their accomplishments. Since its inception, Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County has recognized over 1,100 Charlotte County students for achievements in academics, athletics, acts of heroism, community service and decisions to do the right thing. Each month during the school year, Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County recognizes Charlotte County students for their amazing contributions to our community.

In addition to the monthly recognition programs, Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County also awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors to help with the cost of continuing education. Each year, three seniors from Charlotte High School, three from Port Charlotte High School, three from Lemon Bay High School, and three from the FSW Collegiate High School receive \$1,000 scholarships. If you know of a deserving high school senior, please make sure they are aware of this opportunity. Students should apply through their school's career development teacher. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year must be submitted no later than March 1. The scholarships are then presented at each school on Senior Award Night.

Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County is a nonprofit organization that operates entirely on sponsorships and donations from local businesses and community members. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or making a donation, please contact Executive Director Lieutenant Justin Davout by calling 941-575-5525 or emailing jdavout@pgorda.us.

TENNIS CLUB

Jackie Rahsaz, President, jackiesemail@me.com



We hosted our annual meeting in January, followed by dinner, where members were able to interact socially off the court. 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, PGICA offers a new series of classes – Love to Learn. Register through PGICA if interested.

The purpose of our tennis club is to foster good friendships among our members through tennis and other social activities. During our winter season, our club organizes tennis socials each month. After some social mixed doubles, the club provides lunch or dinner. Our club relies on members to actively maintain our court amenities, such as securing the net curtains between each court and collecting all balls after use of 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 for members 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 for members to reserve open court time for organized play.

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 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 2026 slate of officers for the Tennis Club is: 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.