

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Commentator

March 2026

Inside:

Educational Opportunities
Job Opportunity
Volunteer Recruitment
Weekly Wednesday Market
Classified Ads

page 7-9
page 11
page 12-13
page 14
page 42-43



BLUE HORIZON

◆ **PRESSURE CLEANING** ◆

- RESIDENTIAL

- COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

• EXTERIOR CLEANING

• PAINTING SERVICES

• PAVER SEALING

**10% OFF WHEN YOU
SHARE THIS AD!**

BLUEHORIZONPRESSURECLEANING.COM

941.676.2058

Ride with the right coverage

Call me for a quote today



Mike Martin
Agent

425 Cross St Ste 114
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4872

Bus: 941-505-2550
statefarm.com/agent/us/fl/punt



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
Richardson, TX

REVERSE MORTGAGE



Todd Woodcock
NMLS #455369
(941) 628-2849
todd@home4lifefl.com



Supplement Your Retirement Plan with a Reverse Mortgage

Homeowners 62 and older can convert their home equity to cash and be better prepared for the future.

- ✓ No monthly mortgage payments. (Borrower must continue to pay property taxes, homeowner's insurance, and home maintenance costs)
- ✓ Increase monthly cash flow or have a standby line of credit
- ✓ Enjoy financial freedom
- ✓ Repair or remodel your home
- ✓ Purchase a home with lower cash investments than cash purchase
- ✓ Delay Social Security or Pension payouts
- ✓ Payoff existing mortgage or other debts
- ✓ Cover health care expenses
- ✓ Help with divorce settlement
- ✓ Travel

Contact me to find out how you can use a Reverse Mortgage instead of pulling from your stocks and retirement savings.

www.HomeForLifeReverseMortgage.com • NMLS#2257258 • 23 years of experience in the reverse mortgage industry

⚠ This advertisement has not been approved or endorsed by FHA or any other government agency. Home For Life Reverse Mortgage Inc. NMLS # 2257258 www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. The rates and fees are subject to change without notice. LENDER This advertisement does not represent a commitment to lend. Contact a Mortgage Loan Originator for details. Branch location 23072 Nugent Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33954 Equal Housing Opportunity 10/03/2025

**FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED FOR
OVER 45 YEARS**



www.ingmanmarine.com

**WHEN YOU WANT THE BEST
BOAT SALES OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK ALL LOCATIONS!**

SARASOTA
8311 N. Tamiami Trail
941-360-0088

PORT CHARLOTTE
1189 Tamiami Trail
941-255-1555

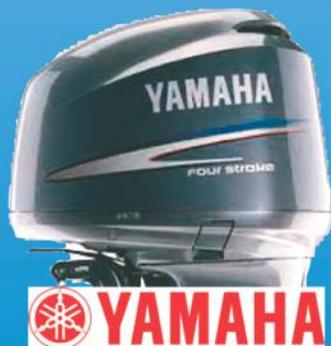
PLACIDA
15001 Gasparilla Rd
941-697-1000

N. FORT MYERS
14531 N. Cleveland Ave.
239-599-9069

WE HAVE 12 NEW BOAT LINES TO CHOOSE FROM



**Over 50 Motors
In Stock.**



adno-XNS05141

**Call KG
7 Days a Week
For Your
Outboard Motor
941-628-5000**

- Yamaha Outboard Motors Services
- Boat Motor Parts
- Fiberglass Shop
- Canvas Shop
- Bottom Painting
- Pre-Owned Boats
- Buying & Selling
- We Can Sell Your Boat
- See Our Website For Over 40 Quality Pre-Owned Boats!



Dick Shelton

We lost a beloved founding member of PGICA in December 2025. Dick and his wife Mary joined the association in 1996. He was the founder of the Tennis Club and served as president for many years. Remarkably, he played tennis right up until age 88.

He was instrumental in the tennis courts being built at the new location on Shreve St. The courts were built solely with contributions from members to fund the construction of the courts. To date, there are around 125 members.

Dick served the association in many capacities; he was the building director for many years, served as president of the PGI Cruising Club, president of the Tennis Club and founded the PGI Poker Club.

He was instrumental in finding volunteers to help with much of the painting of the new PGI Civic Association - inside and out, trim work, pulling coaxial wiring or whatever needed doing on the building. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteer hours contributed, the association was able to save a significant amount of money.

He was responsible for the installation of the beautiful compass rose in the foyer of the association building.

Dick and Mary were some of the first members to belong to the PGI Cruising Club, and Dick remained a member for over 25 years.

He started the poker club around 2006 and made a table that he donated to the PGICA, which is still being used to date.

Dick oversaw the construction of the new picnic pavilion. He was successful in convincing members and clubs to donate money for the new picnic tables needed for the pavilion.

Dick helped shape and guide the PGI Civic Association through his leadership, congeniality and friendship. He always had a story to tell and you could count yourself lucky if he shared a joke or story with you. He was an all around good guy.



15th Biennial
National Art Exhibition
 the most prestigious art exhibit in southwest florida

On Display
February 13 - March 26, 2026
Free to Visit

- Lunch & Learn with Rosalie Mack
 March 6 | 11:30am-1:30pm | "How to Look at Art"
- Poetry Night | March 18 | 6 - 8pm




VISUAL ARTS CENTER
 210 Maud St, Punta Gorda, FL | 941.639.8810
 Open M-Th 9-9, F 9-4, Sat 10-4 | <http://visualartcenter.org>





Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-637-1655 | www.pgica.org

Office Hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Commentator

CONTACTS

OPERATIONS MANAGER

alexarice@pgica.org

ALEXA RICE

941-637-1655

EDITOR

editor.pgica@gmail.com

LYNNE MATTHEWS

941-380-1788

LAYOUT & DESIGN

donleitch@gmail.com

DON LEITCH

941-979-7438

ADVERTISING

patschaber@pgica.org

PAT SCHABER

941-637-1655

MARCH 2026 COMMENTATOR ASSISTANT EDITORS AND PROOFERS

Linda Bauman, Corinne Carlson,
Debbie Jones, Alexa Rice, Pat Schaber

Cover Photo by: David Starr



The Commentator is published digitally 12 times per year by the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Executive Offices: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 | 941-637-1655. The PGICA does not endorse, review, or rate advertisers. The PGICA, at the discretion of the Executive Director, reserves the right to refuse advertising or publication of any item received.

PGICA Board of Directors ...

President	Kenneth Krause
President-Elect	Mary Ann Kot
Past President	John Dauster
Treasurer	Kim Koch
Secretary	Cathy Hunt
Physical Facilities	Vacant

Government Liaison	Kay Abbs
Education	Susie Krause
Clubs & Groups	Pat Jones
Health, Safety & Welfare	Janet Lynn
External Relations	William Abbatematteo
Membership	Jami Kirkwood

SPECIAL FEATURES INDEX

Alert Charlotte	9
Assistant Editors & Proofers	5
Calendar of Events	24-26
Classified Ads	42-43
Educational Opportunities	7-9
In Memoriam	44
Job Opportunity	11
New Members	26
PGICA Board Members	5
PGICA Loaner Program	43
President's Message	9

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - CLUBS

Beyond Ourselves	34
Car Club	23
Cruising Club	41
Fishing Club	40
Friends, Fun & Community	36
JFF ~ Just for Fun	28
Mariners of PGI	19
Newcomers	32
Paradise Friends	35
PGI Castaways	20
PGIslanders	38
Seafarers	22
Tennis	39

REGULAR FEATURES INDEX - GROUPS

Acoustic Music	23
Aardvarks Fish and Game Adventurers	21
Bridge Groups	16
Bunco Buddies	17
Canasta	17
Euchre Group	16
In Stitches	42
Isles Girls & Guys	38
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.”



PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT



**FORBES BEST-IN-STATE
WEALTH ADVISOR**

MICHAEL W. LANDSBERG

2018-2023

**BARRON'S TOP
ADVISOR**

MICHAEL W. LANDSBERG

2010 - 2012, 2015 - 2018

**FORBES BEST-IN-STATE
WEALTH ADVISOR**

LEW BENNETT

2022-2023

**252 WEST MARION AVENUE | SUITE 200 | PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950
PHONE: 941.391.8000 | LANDSBERGBENNETT.COM**

Hightower Advisors, LLC is an SEC registered investment adviser. Securities are offered through Hightower Securities, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC.

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board) owns the CFP® certification mark, the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM certification mark (with plaque design) logo in the United States, which it authorizes use of by individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.

The Forbes ranking, developed by SHOOK Research, is a ranking algorithm based on industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria by SHOOK Research LLC, which does not receive compensation from the advisors or their firm in exchange for placement on a ranking. Investment performance is not a criterion.

The Barron's Top Financial Advisor award is based on data provided by thousands of advisors. Rankings are based on assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, quality of the practice, as well as other factors. Institutional assets are given less weight in the scoring. Investment performance isn't an explicit component. These awards are not indicative of LBPWM's future performance.

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 will 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 will 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, Jan. 28 through Mar. 4, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., \$90 per six week session. 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: Mar. 20 - Turtles, Apr. 24, May 22. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.



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: Mar. 6 - Butterflies, Apr. 10, May 8. Advance registration required. Students can register at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public.

ART and MUSIC (cont.)



Beginner Ukulele Lessons: Thursdays, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Mar. 19 through Apr. 23. \$15 per class. Each student will realize they can be a Ukulele player! Focus points will be tuning, strumming, music keys, and chord shapes. Students should bring their ukulele and buy the yellow and blue “Daily Ukulele” books. ISBN numbers for books: 9-781423-477754, yellow book; 9-781458-482686, blue book. Instructor: Peter Coleson. Classes are open through Oct. 30. Advance registration requested. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Choir Play: Mondays, through Mar. 2, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$100 for course series which includes practice CD, sheet music, rehearsals, and concert on 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



Beginner Mahjongg. Friday Feb. 20 and 27. 1 to 4 p.m. \$50 for the two classes. 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.

WORKSHOPS

Let’s Go Fishing!: Wednesdays, Feb. 18 through 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, exploring color, portraits, nature, close-ups, flowers, and architecture. You only need your smart phone, iPhone, Google, Android - all smart phone types are welcome! Meet at PGICA. Instructor Jim Austin, has been teaching and photographing for over 40 years, 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, Feb. 13, Mar. 13 and Apr. 10. 10 a.m. to noon. \$50 per class. All proceeds benefit the PGICA! 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.



Conversational French. Fridays beginning Feb. 27 through Mar. 27. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Are you thinking about a trip to France? Would you like to polish up your high school French? How about simply enjoying the French language? This is the class for you! Your instructor, Janice Fullman, has designed a class of emphasis on conversation over grammar rules. The class is based on students’ interest and skill level. You’ll leave each class with useful French phrases and sentences. Prior registration is recommended. 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.



Let's Make Soap! Wednesday: Mar. 18, Apr. 1, 15 and 29. 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. \$45 per class. Have you wondered how soaps are made? We have the class for you! Your instructor, Jennifer Gosnell, will instruct how to make, melt and pour soaps. Each month will focus on a different soap. You can even look forward to holiday soaps as holidays pop up. Classes will range from 45 minutes, to an hour. Advance registration requested. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



All About Skin Care and Make-up: Mondays beginning Feb. 16 through Mar. 16. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. \$5 per class. Would you like to look 10 years younger? After: Have you ever thought you'd like to know more about make-up and how to apply it? Your instructor, Colleen Beckwith, will help you with tips on skin care and make-up. February 16 – Wrinkle Re-Wind : February 23 – Complexion Perfection: March 2 – All About the Eyes: March 9 – Lips & Tips: March 16 – Cheeks! Supplies will be provided. Advance registration requested. 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.



CCPU - Advanced The Practical Application of Robert's Rules of Order: Tuesdays, Feb. 24 through Mar. 31. 9 a.m. to noon. \$50 for course series. Ever sit in a meeting and wonder what just happened? Have you heard "Madam or Mr. Chairperson "I so Move." So Move What? Do the meeting agenda give you a sense that you are in for a long meeting? What parliamentary authority does your organization follow? Maybe it's the phrase "we've always done it that way." This class will demonstrate how following Robert's Rules of Order can produce fairer and more efficient meetings while protecting the rights of all to be heard. It is offered by the award-winning Charlotte County Parliamentarians Unit and is open to the public. For more information, contact Luceal Curry at 941-833-5552, palzetta@embarqmail.com.



Crews Bank and Trust Seminar: 10 to 11:30 a.m., Monthly sessions. Join us to explore and understand various strategies. Feb. 24 – Tips for smooth Estate and Trust Administration. March 24 – 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, Mar. 3, Apr. 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.



ALERT CHARLOTTE Emergency Alert Program

Get alerted about emergencies by signing up for Alert Charlotte. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick where, you pick how.

IF WE CAN'T REACH YOU, WE CAN'T ALERT YOU!

www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Pages/Alert-Charlotte.aspx

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Hello PGICA members,

Thank you for all of your support with our recent events! Our Nautical Marketplace was a great success both financially and by providing fantastic exposure in the community for our organization.

Additionally, your support of the Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour (put on annually by Beyond Ourselves) was outstanding. We are very proud of all your contributions of service, volunteering and finances to help benefit those in need right here in Punta Gorda. Keep up the good work - it's part of our DNA.

The next big event coming up is the 2026 Giving Challenge which is presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour giving event that takes place every other year. This year the event runs from noon April 15 to noon April 16. The foundation will match the first \$100 of all donations made during the Giving Challenge, thereby doubling your gifts to PGICA. Tell everyone you know to participate no matter how small or large their donation.

This year's funds will be used in part to replace the dilapidated wreck of a van that we own. The van is primarily used by Isles Guys & Girls in support of their estate sales. Did you know that they donate the bulk of their proceeds (\$20K to \$40K per year) back to PGICA? They are a special group of dedicated people that we want to help in any way we can.

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



Plan today. *Protect tomorrow.*

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

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

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

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

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

- **March 12*** - Murdock branch, 1100 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte
- **March 18** - Punta Gorda branch, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Proper Funding of Wills and Trusts - *Tuesday, March 24, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

Discover the most successful ways to avoid probate, not disinherit someone by accident, and keep estate assets in your bloodline. A few simple lessons can offer you a solid plan.

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

***Seminars on March 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.



Investments are not a deposit or other obligation of, or guaranteed by, the bank, are not FDIC insured, not insured by any federal government agency, and are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Managing Director

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc.

Punta Gorda, Florida

Full-Time, Exempt

Reports to: Board of Directors

Compensation: Competitive and commensurate with experience; flexible starting salary \$50K – \$70K; positioned as the highest-paid role in the organization to attract exceptional talent.

About Us

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association is a vibrant, member-driven nonprofit dedicated to education offerings, fostering community spirit, civic engagement, and quality of life in Punta Gorda and surrounding areas. With annual revenues of approximately \$500,000, we operate a community facility for events and rentals, offer educational programs, host gatherings, offer many social clubs and groups, and advocate for local interests. We are at an exciting inflection point—seeking a hands-on, strategic leader to reverse recent declines in membership, rental income, and advertising revenue while building sustainable growth and deeper community impact.

Position Overview

This pivotal Managing Director role is truly hands-on in our small-team environment. You will serve as Managing Director, balancing big-picture strategic vision with daily execution. Reporting directly to an engaged Board of Directors, you will lead efforts to expand membership, diversify and grow revenue streams, optimize operations, and strengthen ties across Punta Gorda. We need a dynamic, results-oriented leader who thrives in resource-constrained settings, thinks critically, motivates teams (staff and volunteers), and turns challenges into opportunities for our community’s future.

Key Responsibilities

- **Membership Growth and Retention:** Design and execute targeted recruitment strategies (outreach, marketing, events, networking) while building loyalty through value-added programs, surveys, and proactive retention efforts to stabilize and grow our engaged member base.
- **Revenue Generation and Financial Management:** Identify and secure new income sources (grants, sponsorships, partnerships, innovative offerings); market and manage building rentals for maximum utilization and contract value; curate, promote, and oversee education classes for fee generation; maintain financial health via budgeting, forecasting, expense control, and transparent Board reporting for long-term sustainability.
- **Daily Operations:** Oversee all operational aspects in a lean environment—including supervising staff/volunteers, facility upkeep, event coordination, administrative duties, and compliance with nonprofit regulations, safety standards, and best practices.
- **Board Collaboration and Governance:** Partner closely with the Board to set and advance strategic goals, deliver performance updates/metrics, support policy development, and implement decisions effectively.
- **Community and Civic Engagement:** Serve as the public face of the association—representing us in local forums, forging partnerships with government, businesses, schools, and organizations; lead civic initiatives, events, advocacy, and volunteer programs to boost visibility and impact.

Qualifications

- **Education & Experience:** Bachelor’s degree preferred (business management, public administration, or related field). 5–7+ years of progressive leadership in nonprofits, civic groups, small businesses, or community organizations—with demonstrated success in revenue generation, membership development, and managing budgets under \$1M.
- **Skills & Competencies:**
 - Strong financial acumen (budgeting, fundraising, revenue diversification).
 - Excellent communication, relationship-building, and stakeholder management.
 - Proficiency in marketing, event planning, and operational leadership.
 - Critical thinking and strategic problem-solving in resource-limited settings.
 - Ability to lead and inspire small teams/volunteers while handling hands-on tasks.
- **Personal Attributes:** Deep passion for civic engagement and community building; highly organized, adaptable, ethical, inclusive, and results-driven. Local knowledge of Punta Gorda and Charlotte County is a strong plus.
- **Other Requirements:** Flexible schedule (including evenings/weekends for events); valid Florida driver’s license and reliable transportation for outreach.

Why Join Us?

This is more than a job—it’s a chance to shape the future of a beloved Punta Gorda institution during a transformative period. You’ll enjoy autonomy, direct Board support, and the opportunity to make tangible, visible impact in a welcoming Southwest Florida community.

How to Apply

Please submit your resume and a tailored cover letter (addressing your experience with revenue turnaround, membership growth, and hands-on nonprofit leadership) to searchcommittee@pgica.org with the subject line: “Managing Director Application – Your Full Name.” Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; priority given to those received by March 30, 2026. We are an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association is proud to serve our community and looks forward to welcoming our next visionary leader!

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 \$small commi\$\$ion?)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Weekly Wednesday Market

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

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

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

“Hooray for Wednesdays!”



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



PGICA SHOP AND SAVE

Your PGICA Membership benefits saves you money and supports local businesses.

- ◆ Apparel & Jewelry
- ◆ Auto, Boats & RV's
- ◆ 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.



Present your membership card to the participating business to receive your discount. Show card BEFORE you purchase or order.

WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES

Trusted Estate Planning

Our experienced team, including three attorneys Board Certified in Wills, Trusts & Estates by The Florida Bar, provides trusted guidance on preserving wealth and protecting what matters most.

- Transferring Wealth Between Generations
- Estate & Gift Tax Planning
- Establishing Trusts
- Trust Administration
- Asset Protection Planning
- Durable Powers of Attorney
- Advance Medical Directives
- Preparing Wills
- Probate



FARRLAW

Serving Southwest Florida Since 1924



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



Charlotte & Sarasota Counties | 941.639.1158 | farr.com

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

1 - Helen Connelly
 2 - Cathy Eliason
 3 - Polly Engebrecht

1 - Sherry Lane
 2 - Nicki Harris
 3 - Kathleen Davey

1 - Nicki Harris
 2 - Susan Engelhart
 3 - Sherry Lane
 4 - Polly Engebrecht

1 - Sherry Lane
 2 - Larry Linn
 3 - Debbie Meyer
 4 - Terry Moeller

1 - Cathy Eliason
 2 - Sharon Biernat
 3 - Sherry Lane

1 - Patti Linn
 2 - Nicki Harris
 3 - Sherry Lane

1 - Terry Moeller
 2 - Betty Luckow
 3 - Nicki Harris

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 have not signed up, please contact Sharon Biernat - contact information is shown above.

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

We play Duplicate Bridge on the first and third Monday of every month at 1. At sign in we collect \$1 for prize money. You and your partner must sign up in advance to play on a specific day. A signup email is sent out a week in advance. We are a fun, welcoming group and are always looking for new players.

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

Remember, all players are required to be members of the PGICA. To join, call the front desk at 941-637-1655 or visit the association's website at www.pgica.org.

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.

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.



COUPLES BRIDGE

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

Our fun and friendly group usually meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. March play dates are March 4 and March 18. We have changed our starting time to 12:30. If you get to bridge on time, you will receive 500 bonus points toward your score for the day.

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

Results January 7:

- 1 - Melissa Brown and Jeanne Hogan, 4,640 points
- 2 - Donna Lauer and Amy Fucini, 3,963 points
- 3 - Cathy and Charlie Eliason, 3,890 points

Results January 21:

- 1 - Cathy and Charlie Eliason, 5,090 points
 - 2 - Penney and Jeff Hanson, 4,925 points
 - 3 - Chris Taylor and Sue Bennet, 4,340 points
- Judy Dolan and Judy Keanne made a small slam.

Results February 4:

- 1 - Jeff and Penney Hanson, 5,300 points
- 2 - Sherry Lane and Peg Williams, 4,160 points
- 3 - Jim and Mary Fish, 4,020 points

Two small slams were bid and made: Penney and Jeff and Marian Harkins and Chris Kwak.

Results February 18:

Judy Keane and Mary Ann Rindelaub, 5,000 points. Bid and made a small slam.

Sherry Lane and Peg Williams, 4,480 points. Bid and made a small slam.

Marian Harkins and Chris Kwak, 4,075 points.

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

BUNCO BUDDIES

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



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

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

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

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

CANASTA/HAND AND FOOT GROUP

Janet Lynn, jlynnpqi@hotmail.com

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

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

MONDAY MORNING MAH JONGG

Donna Bernhardson, 732-713-3723

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

PGICA PINOCHLE GROUP

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



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

Current high score: 703 Brad Betting

COME TASTE WHY WE'RE PUNTA GORDA'S FAVORITE TACO SPOT!



EST 2012
EL GUERO TACOS

AUTHENTIC STREET TACOS MADE WITH LOVE!

Serving Tacos, Burritos & More Mon-Sat 11am-8pm

221 Wood Street, Punta Gorda | 941-623-3324

LORRAINE
ROSS
MASSAGE

CALL **304-281-1881**
FOR A CONSULTATION



ONLINE at LORRAINEROSSMASSAGE.COM

LORRI ROSS LMT CMMP BCTMB
Certified Medical Massage Practitioner



PAIN RELIEF • CLINICAL MASSAGE • SPORTS MASSAGE



We invite you to learn music while having fun!

6 keyboard lessons for \$30

Includes keyboard rental

Class material

and 1-1 instruction

Attending lessons

automatically enters you in a drawing for a FREE keyboard!

Fletcher Music Centers 941-625-8820

Sign up now



FRESH-N-UP CARPET & TILE CLEANING

*FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS OF LOCAL EXPERIENCE*

POWERFUL TRUCK MOUNTED EQUIPMENT

LICENSE & INSURED FOR YOUR PROTECTION #158956

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 941-255-9722

10% OFF WITH THIS AD

BRIANCHARLIE1@AOL.COM
WWW.FRESH-N-UP.NET





Despite the continued unseasonably cold weather, Mariners have been cruising actively, with only one cancelled due to potential blustery conditions.

Five Mariner boats led by Suzanne and Tom Martin participated in an overnight cruise to 'Tween Waters Marina January 23 to 25. In accord with long-established Mariner tradition, folks socialized over docktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the pavilion area of the dock the first night. Dinner the second evening was enjoyed at The Shipyard, one of multiple dining options available on site.

Former Cruise Director and Past Commodore Mike Mankin and wife Crystal led Mike's Birthday Overnight Cruise from February 9 to 14. Cruise destinations were the Crow's Nest Marina in Venice and Marina Jack in Sarasota. Five Mariner boats participated in this cruise. As always, participants enjoyed good food and camaraderie.

Six boats and a land yacht or two cruised to the Riviera Bar and Grill on February 18. This lunch cruise to a favorite Mariner destination was led by Past Commodores Bill and Kate Albers. The weather was very cooperative; all had a good time. The last Sunday of the month Sunset Lake raftup is on the calendar for March 29.

Following some missed years due to hurricane damage, Mariners will once again celebrate our annual Regatta at Burnt Store Marina April 10 to 12. The regatta proper will be preceded by a lunch cruise to Cass Key Restaurant on April 9. Thanks to Michael Mankin for managing the boating side of the arrangements. Past Commodore and current Social Director Sue Hills and her team of volunteers are organizing activities landside.

The Mariners social calendar is just as active as the cruise side of things. Many members attended February's first Sunday of the Month brunch, held at Tamiami Tavern. March 1 is the next event, perhaps to be enjoyed on the patio if the weather cooperates.

Mariners are both imaginative and adaptable. Cold weather prompted some changes to our weekly happy hour gatherings, normally held on the outside deck at the Village Brewhouse in Fishermen's Village. Long time loyal Chicago Bears fans, Julie Towers and Tracie Goin, hosted a Bears Down happy hour January 28 at Tracie's and Paul Baird's home to celebrate a great season that ended a few weeks shy of Super Bowl Sunday. Fare included Chicago-style hot dogs and Italian beef sandwiches, and an assortment of traditional Chicago side dishes and desserts provided by attendees.



Mariners like to plan ahead. Although the weather had moderated by the following Wednesday, the February 4 happy hour was designated the Souper Social, with at least ten hearty soups, multiple sides and desserts prepared by Mariner cooks. All dishes were enjoyed at the home of Brad and Laurie Betting. The Bettings also led our first Monday of the month game night at PGICA February 2. Sadly, Brad passed away suddenly Monday, February 9. He and Laurie have brought great fun and enthusiasm to countless Mariner activities over the years. We offer prayers and our most supportive thoughts to Laurie and the families in this time of loss.

On February 5, Julie Scharpf and four more orchid enthusiasts traveled to Sundance Orchids and Bromeliads in Ft. Myers; a beautiful place to visit. We lunched at nearby Fat Katz Sports Bistro. Richard and Peggy Northrup led a group of 11 Mariners on a bike ride and picnic at Webb Lake wilderness area February 13. February's Lunch with the Ladies will be at Blossom and Brie. Sheila Wiens is hosting this event, with a total of 16 signed up for the February 25 event.

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



If the last 30 days have proven anything, it's this: when Castaways gather, ordinary moments turn into legendary ones. From record-breaking crowds to international flair to calm seas and Cajun spice simmering onsite, our crew has been on a roll - and not the gentle kind. The joyful, full-throttle, life-is-better-together kind.



Australia Day brought energy and creativity to the calendar. From Aussie-inspired bites to themed décor and plenty of good-natured fun (kangaroos included), it was a reminder that Castaways are always up for something different. Down Under traditions, great food and laughter filled the day. Events like this showcase what makes our club special - someone shares an idea, and suddenly we're celebrating halfway around the world without ever leaving Punta Gorda.

We kept the momentum going with our Super Bowl celebration - and what a night it was. The turnout was record-breaking. The energy was electric from kickoff to final whistle. When members



were asked to bring a dish, they delivered. Tables overflowed with game-day favorites and creative additions. The squares winners celebrated, the 50/50 added excitement, and the funds raised will help power future Castaways events.

After two weather-related cancellations, patience finally paid off. On Valentine's Day, the seas cooperated, the skies cleared and our Castaways set out for a long-awaited deep sea fishing adventure. There's something fitting about spending Valentine's Day on open water - rods bending, reels spinning, laughter echoing across the gulf. It wasn't just about what was caught; it was about finally getting offshore together. A sincere thank you to Dave De La Motte for persevering and making sure this trip happened. His steady commitment turned maybe someday into lines in the water. It was a day of fresh air, salt spray and shared stories - exactly the kind of experience that strengthens the ties of this crew.



Then came Mardi Gras, and with it, one of the most heartfelt gatherings of the season. At the center of the celebration was Keith Kosnic and his soon-to-be world-famous gumbo, made completely from scratch and cooked onsite. This was no small undertaking. It was time, preparation, skill, and generosity poured into one very large pot. Keith didn't just volunteer - he delivered. Every bowl reflected the care and pride he brought to the task. Thank you to Glenn Ranfos, who stepped in as Keith's sous chef and worked behind the scenes to keep everything humming. Great events rarely happen because of one person. They happen because others quietly roll up their sleeves.

Members like Keith, Christy and Glenn embody what makes this club extraordinary. Their willingness to step up and contribute something meaningful elevates a gathering into a lasting memory. Our very own Helen Hyatt reigned beautifully as Queen of Mardi Gras, wearing the crown with grace and festive flair. Between the gumbo,

red beans and rice, king cake, beads, boas and colorful attire, Ponce de Leon Park felt like a little corner of New Orleans right here at home.

The past month has been a powerful reminder that the Castaways are not powered by a small handful of people. We are powered by all of us. Our success relies on participation. It relies on members who bring a dish, buy a square, host a dock, captain a boat, stir a pot or lend a hand. It relies on ideas being shared and volunteers stepping forward to turn those ideas into experiences. To everyone who has stepped up recently, thank you. Your time, effort, creativity and enthusiasm are noticed and deeply appreciated.

As we look ahead, we need your help to keep this momentum going. If you have an idea for an event, share it. If you can volunteer to help organize, cook, coordinate, decorate or assist in any way, raise your hand. The strength of this club lies in shared ownership and shared effort.

The tide is high, and the Castaways are riding it together.



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
tb2@att.net

**Witness over a
MILLION BLOOMS
on any given day**



#1 Hidden Gem in America





Learn More

Plan Your Visit Today!



5827 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33982
941.621.8299 | www.peacrivergardens.org





Warm greetings from the Seafarers Cruising Club. Despite encountering adverse weather conditions, members were able to enjoy the month of February by engaging in multiple cruising activities and attending various social events.

The rescheduled lunch cruise to the Rum Bay at Palm Island Resort in Placida on February 11 ended up being a great cruise with the event attendance near full capacity for the restaurant. The overnight cruise to Pink Shell Resort and Marina was organized again by Arlene Epting for St. Valentine's Day weekend. Over the weekend everyone relished the warm sunshine - spending time on the beach, lounging by the pool and discovering the island as a group. Closing out in February, Social Director Jane Orlin scheduled a fun evening of Wino Bingo on February 19. The final lunch cruise of the month took place on February 21 at Cass Cay Restaurant, located at Burnt Store Marina. This lunch cruise is particularly popular because of its easy-to-reach location and welcoming staff. The final event in February was the Seafarers CPR training session, facilitated by the Punta Gorda Fire Department on February 24. This important training was fully attended and received positive feedback from the participants.

The Seafarers March calendar was filled with numerous cruises and social gatherings. Cruise Director Kathy Nelson coordinated a lunch cruise to Miller's Dockside at Boca Grande Marina scheduled for March 7. The popularity of both the cuisine and the setting consistently led to high registration numbers. Participants could arrive by boat or choose alternative modes of transportation to attend. The first social event that the Seafarers attended was the annual Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo which was scheduled for Thursday, March 12 and was organized by Social Director Jane Orlin. This annual event consistently attracts a strong turnout, offering participants the opportunity to appreciate the dynamic performances of the rodeo, as well as enjoy food, music and socializing with fellow members. There is one event in March that you do not want to miss,

and it is the Seafarers famous Poker Run

scheduled for Saturday, March 17. The Poker Run features a St. Patrick's Day theme, inviting hosting docks and participants to decorate, dress up and bring friends to join the Seafarers for an afternoon that wraps up with all boaters gathering in a raftup. Prizes will be awarded for best decorated dock and boat. Vice Commodore Ron Ellsworth is organizing the event, guaranteeing that everyone will enjoy a fantastic time. The Seafarers concluded their most recent cruise event with an overnight excursion to Marina Jack in Sarasota, held from March 19 to 22. This cruise was expertly organized and led by Cruise Director Kathy Nelson and consistently attracts strong participation. Guests may take a short walk from the marina to board a shuttle to St. Armands Circle or proceed directly to downtown Sarasota on foot, allowing them



Jug Creek Lunch Cruise



Beach Party

to enjoy the weekend in the company of other members.

The Seafarers look forward to making new friends and sharing our adventures with you. Lisa Wienecke, membership director 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.

Since the beginning of January, we have welcomed aboard 11 fun and interesting new Seafarers. 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 Membership Director Lisa Wienecke at 630-715-6333 or lawienecke@gmail.com, or Commodore Jeanne Myers at Jeannemyers@icloud.com.



Tween Waters Cruise Group



The PGI Car Club (PGICC) meets at Beef O'Brady's in Punta Gorda at 11:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next general meeting & lunch is on Tuesday, March 10 at Beef O'Brady's. Look for a reminder email a couple days before.

Cars and Coffee at the Bal Harbor Plaza is open to all automobile enthusiasts and continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 9. Look for us at the Bal Harbor side of the parking lot. Come and join us for some coffee, donuts and car talk.

The Celtic Ray hosts a car show every second Thursday from 3 to 6. They offer discounts on food and drink for participants. This is a great way to spend an afternoon.

Future cruise destinations include the Port Charlotte Moose Lodge Swap Meet and the recently re-opened Revs Institute in Naples. This is a great museum...and of course lunch will follow.

Keep in mind, we are always looking for additional events and lunch cruise destinations to new establishments, as well as some old favorites. Our members do have a variety of gathering spots that are fun and enjoyable too.

A special car that we want to shine the bright lights on this month is the Nissan Figaro. This pretty little cult classic grabs attention from all ages, teenagers to grandmothers. The retro styled, two door convertible somehow matches up to everyone's vision of cute. Our longtime club member Gary Kropf recently sought one out and brought it home to the delight of his family, friends and club members. The design of this car was inspired by the middle 50's European styling, with folding soft tops, and enhanced with a beautiful leather interior, complete with retro switches and instrumentation. The performance is respectable, with a one-liter turbocharged engine, but the style and pastel colors are what make this petite gem grab you.

Gary and his wife Joanne have always had special cars to drive around town, and some to race as well. Congrats to Gary and Joanne on your unique and special automobile.

Please take some time to visit the PGICA Car Club Facebook page. It features members' postings, photos of impressive automobiles and current happenings. Check it out and post your favorite vehicle images.

The purpose of the Punta Gorda Isles Car Club is to create friendships among auto enthusiasts through the fun and enjoyment of owning and operating special and/or antique vehicles. The club sponsors overnight and day trips, automobile maintenance and safety education, displays, shows and related social events.

If you are interested in finding out more about PGI Car Club, check us out at: www.pgicarclub.com/ or contact Wayne and Joan Erickson at mabax2@aol.com for membership information.



Figaro

PGICA ACOUSTIC MUSIC GROUP

Jennifer deChiara, jenniferdechiara@gmail.com



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.

SEASONAL FLOCKERS

Paula Mcilvrde, pmcilvrde@att.net, 248-330-7802



Seasonal Flockers

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

March Activities



RELIABLE SCREEN PRO

Craig Mahoney
941.276.5731
 LICENSED & INSURED
 AAA-15-00008
 RELIABLESCREEN@GMAIL.COM

- ALUMINUM
- LANAI/CAGE
- RE SCREENING

www.reliablecreenprotection.com



SANDSTAR

REMODELING & INTERIOR DESIGN

REMODELING DONE ONCE, DONE RIGHT

Kitchens, Baths, Laundry Rooms, Closets, Garages, Entertainment, Dens, Home Offices, Outdoor, Lanais/ Pools, Accessible Design

INTERIOR DESIGN, HANDYMAN, HOME MAINT., & HOME WATCH+ SERVICES

Our office and design studio are located at:

1203 West Marion Ave
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950



For more information, call:
(941) 637-8080
 Or scan the QR code

REAL ESTATE | PROPERTY MANGEMENT | RENTALS



FIVE STAR REALTY

OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FL



Waterfront Homes, Vacant Land, Condos ★ Annual & Seasonal Rentals

Rentals are in HIGH demand and we have a waiting list of seasonal and annual renters. Call to learn more about our property management services.

1203 West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda, FL 33950
 941-637-6116 | FiveStarRealty.com | buy@FiveStarRealty.com



Peace Harbor Real Estate

Lisa Heid
 Realtor®
 (920) 205-1633
Lisa@peaceharborrealestate.com
peaceharborrealestate.com



Scan here for the Peace Harbor Real Estate App!

- Home Search - At Home or on the Go
- Home Valuation
- Local Favorites & Trusted Professionals




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1	2 8:30a Cheeks - Make up and Skin Car 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 Duplicate Bridge 12:00p Choir Play 4:30p Mariners - Game Night 6:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group 7:00p	3 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Morning Yoga 10:00a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar 10:30a Pinochle 12:15p Newcomers - Lunch & Learn Open to All Clubs 12:30p Bunco Buddies 6:30p Acoustic Music Group 7:00p	8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:30a In Stitches Couples Learn to clinic 12:00p PGISland Beginner Dancing 12:30p Advance Dancing 1:00p PGISland Newcomer Let's Mal 1:30p Let's Go
4:00p PGI Cruising Club Poker Run	8 8:30a Cheeks - Make up and Skin Care 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 6:00p Seasonal Flockers Social 7:00p Texas Hold'em	9 8:30a Fishing Club Board Meeting 8:30a Zumba 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Morning Yoga 10:00a Pinochle 12:15p Fishing Club Social 5:30p Newcomers Special Events 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	10 8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:00a PGICA B 9:30a In Stitches Duplicate Just For 12:00p PGISland Beginner Dancing 1:00p Advance Dancing 1:00p PGISland Let's Go
15	16 8:30a Cheeks - Make up and Skin Care 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 12:00p Duplicate Bridge 3:30p Friends, Fun, & Community Club Board 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	17 8:30a Zumba 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Morning Yoga 10:00a Pinochle 12:15p Acoustic Music Group 7:00p	8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:00a Beyond 9:30a In Stitches Couples 12:00p PGISland Beginner Dancing 1:00p Advance Dancing 4:00p Just For Newcomer Let's Mal 4:30p Let's Go
3:00p Cahal Dunne & Choir Play Concert	22 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Mariners Board Meeting 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 6:30p Mariners 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group 7:00p Texas Hold'em	23 8:30a Zumba 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Crews Bank Seminar 10:00a Proper Funding of Wills & Trusts 10:00a Morning Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:00p Seafarers General Mtg 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	24 8:00a Weekly-V Market 9:30a In Stitches Duplicate 12:30p PGISland Beginner Dancing 1:00p Advance Dancing 3:00p PGISland Let's Go
29	30 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 3:30p Paradise Friends Social 6:30p FF&C Ladies Games Night	31 8:30a Zumba 9:00a CCPU - Advanced PARR Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Morning Yoga 10:00a Pinochle 12:15p Acoustic Music Group 7:00p	

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Wednesday- es Bridge Love Tennis ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy. d-Improve Line with Judy ers Club ke Soap Fishing	5 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 Club Mah Jong 4:00p Creative Cellphone Photography PGIslanders Euchre Group 5:30p 6:30p	6 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Conversational French 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	7 11:00a Let's Go Fishing 6:00p Castaways Dance Party
11 Wednesday- Board Meeting es e Bridge Fun- Book Club ers- Mahjongg r-Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy ers Club Socia Fishing	12 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 Euchre Group 6:30p	13 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Conversational French 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	14 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
18 Wednesday- Ourselves es e Bridge ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy Fun Club ers Club ke Soap Fishing	19 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 Euchre Group 6:30p	20 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Conversational French 10:00a Paper Quilling Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	21 11:00a Let's Go Fishing
25 Wednesday- es e Bridge ers- Mahjongg -Basic Line with Judy d-Improve Line with Judy ers- Social Fishing!	26 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a PGIslanders- Board 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 4:30p Newcomers Club 6:30p Euchre Group	27 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Conversational French 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	28 11:00a Let's Go Fishing

jazzercise®

Heart & Sole Dance Center
 3280 Tamiami Trail #20-21
 Port Charlotte, FL
 9 a.m. Mon/Tues/Weds/Thurs/Fri

Cardio Strength Stretch

941.916.3271
puntagordajazz@embarqmail.com

Get \$20 Off Your Purchase!

*Valid on dock light systems only

Underwater Fish Light
 20400 Veterans Blvd
 Port Charlotte, FL 33954
 855-347-4544

RISK GUARANTEED
UNDERWATER FISHLIGHT

REACH YOUR TARGET MARKET

PGICA MONTHLY COMMENTATOR

advertise with us

941-637-1655

McCroory Law Firm

WILLS, TRUSTS, ESTATES,
 REAL ESTATE, BUSINESS,
 FAMILY LAW,
 CIVIL LITIGATION.

309 Tamiami Trail,
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950
 (941) 205-1122
 McCrooryLaw.com

Looking Ahead to April

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:00a Weekly-Wednesday-Market 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples Bridge 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner-Basic Line Dancing with Judy 4:00p Advanced-Improve Line Dancing with Judy 4:30p Newcomers Club 5:30p Let's Make Soap 6:00p Let's Go Fishing	2 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 PGIslander 6:30p Euchre Group	3 8:30am Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	5:30p N E
5 	6 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 12:00p Duplicate Bridge 6:00p Mariners - Game Night	7 8:00a Car Club Show & BBQ 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Morning Yoga 10:30a Landsberg Bennett Wealth Insight Seminar 11:30a Newcomers - Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	8 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 Club 6:00p Let's Go Fishing	9 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	10 8:30a Zumba 10:00a The ART of a Traditional French Dinner 10:00a Watercolor Painting Workshop 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	



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

Sandra Adomatis
 Gary Burgess
 Mary Jane Carroll
 Nancy & Bruce Carter
 John Cavanaugh
 Jennifer & Daniel Erickson
 Michelle & Chris Faychak
 Amy & Peter Fucini
 Kerry & Brad Goodballet
 Norm Gravelle
 Christine & Curt Hammond

Bob Heid
 Kendra & Jeff Johnson
 Julie & Pat McMullen
 Margaret & Patrick Molter
 Judy & Jerry Nelson
 Paige & Brian O'Mahoney
 Barbara Tortora & Vito Romano
 Donna Schwarz
 Jesse Tremain
 LeeAnn & Gary Was
 Laura & Alfred Williams

Thank You Volunteers for helping with the New Member Reception!

Amazing volunteers like you are what made this event truly special.

Julie Towers
 Bill Kowal
 Tom Mills
 Patty English

Bob Golden
 Rick Booth
 Mary Ann Kot

PGICA EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS



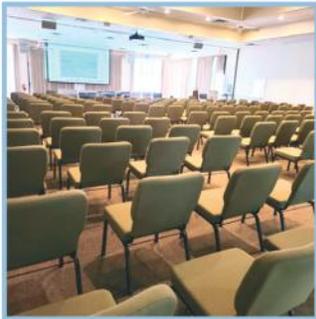
- ★ Substantial PGICA member discounts at more than 40 local shops and restaurants with the **Shop & Save Program**.
- ★ Free use of the PGICA **Loaner Program** to borrow items including car seats, wheelchairs, life jackets, walkers, kids bikes, foldable cribs, chairs, toys, and more.
- ★ Ability to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

You are supporting a reputable and valuable community asset which, with **over 3,100 members**, has existed for more than 60 years ... the PGICA.



Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
 2001 Shreve Street *Punta Gorda FL 33950
 941-637-1655 * info@pgica.org * pgica.org
 Follow Us on Facebook!

Keep the PGICA venue in mind for your next special occasion...



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

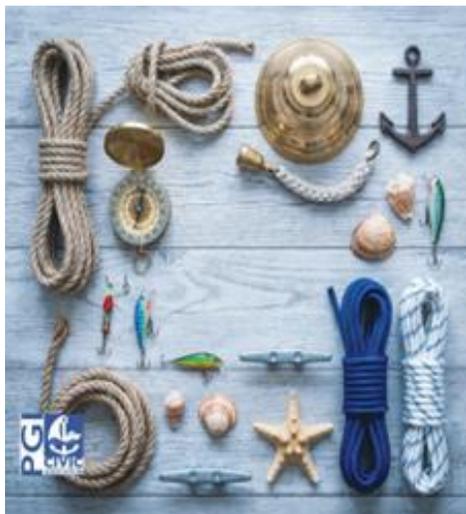
AMENITIES

- ◆ 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

THANK YOU TO OUR NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET VOLUNTEERS

Kay Abbs
 Jason Bennett
 Bruce Carter
 John Dauster
 Kendra Johnson

Jami Kirkwood
 Mary Ann Kot
 Janet Lynn
 Tom Rice



Thank you also to everyone who donated items to the PGICA Table and to all our vendors.

We had a successful fundraising event!



Spring is in the air in Punta Gorda, and there's no better time to jump into the fun with JFF.

We kick off the month with our Host & Toast on March 1, followed by our ever-popular Mix & Mingle on March 2 at the Village Brewhouse (Sunset Beach Club) in Fishermen's Village from 5 to 7. There's something special about gathering with friends while enjoying waterfront views and lively conversation. Registration is required and limited

to 50, so don't wait. And remember, Mix & Mingle is the perfect event to bring a friend who might be curious about joining JFF.



Square dance

Our February Square Dance & BBQ social was a toe-tapping,

laugh-filled success. A heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers who planned, decorated, served, cleaned up and made it all happen. Events like this don't happen by magic - they happen because members step forward. The square dance lessons, the brave dancers and the great food made for a vibrant evening we won't soon forget. If you've ever thought about helping with an event, now is the perfect time to jump in as we make plans for our March Madness Party. Many hands make light work, and it's a wonderful way to meet new friends.



Mix & Mingle



Basketball fans, get ready. On March 18, we're hosting our JFF March Madness Party at the PGICA. Expect team spirit, friendly competition and lots of laughs. We'll have a contest for the coolest sneakers and for the best Harlem Globetrotter skills, along with our own version of a March Madness tournament. Registration is limited to 80 so we can plan for pizza. Sign up right away on the JFF website. This event will be a slam dunk.

Book lovers, mark your calendar for March 11 when our Seasonal Book Club meets (second Wednesday each month, January through April). It's a wonderful way to connect through conversation and shared stories. Check the website for details on this month's selection and how to join.

Looking for something relaxed and fun? Try Dinner & Darts at the Ice House Pub on Sunday, March 15. No pressure - just laughter, good food and maybe a few surprising bullseyes. The pub staff always makes us feel welcome and even helps beginners sharpen their aim. Sign up on the club website and give it a try,

Ladies, wear your green for our March 17 lunch at St. Andrews South Golf Club. Yes, it's St. Patrick's Day. The event is currently full, but cancellations do happen, so keep an eye on the calendar. Men's lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24. Check the website for updated details.

Interested in learning Mah jongg? March offers weekly opportunities to learn and play. It's easier than you think and a great way to expand your circle of friends. Check the JFF calendar for meeting times.

And don't forget the weekly Flamingo Express delivered to your inbox every Sunday and highlighting the week's activities. Sometimes surprise events pop up - and you won't want to miss them.

JFF thrives because of you - your energy, your ideas and your willingness to participate. If you'd like to volunteer for an upcoming event (big or small), please reach out. Helping for even one hour makes a difference and deepens the friendships that make this club so special.

If you're not yet a member and would like to join the fun, contact our Membership Director Nancy Keppel at 585-267-9272. There's always room for one more at JFF, and we'd love to welcome you.



Darts

Designed for Great Living



**BEST-IN-CLASS SUPPORTIVE INDEPENDENT LIVING,
ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE**



**SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!
(941) 800-2651**

2001 Aqui Esta Drive · Punta Gorda, FL
www.themeridianatpgi.com

M

THE MERIDIAN
— AT PUNTA GORDA ISLES —



A MERIDIAN SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY | ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY LIC # 13930





PGI's Most Transparent Realtor!

JerryHayes.com | 941-456-1155 | jerryhayes1950@gmail.com

**TOTAL
TRANSACTIONS
IN 2024:
5,181**

**#1 EXPERIENCE
DOES
MATTER**

**TOTAL VOLUME
IN 2024:
\$2.7
BILLION**



MONEY FOR THE PEOPLE



****Lifetime Achievement of over ONE BILLION DOLLARS****

**#1 INDIVIDUAL SELLING AGENT
in Charlotte County for the last
28 YEARS**

**#1 INDIVIDUAL AGENT
in Charlotte County
Listings Sold**



RE/MAX
AllianceGroup

3941 Tamiami Trail, Suite 3121
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Each office independently owned and operated.





JERRY HAYES
 RE/MAX Alliance Group
 JerryHayes.com
 941-456-1155
 JerryHayes1950@gmail.com



JUST SOLD PGI JANUARY 2026*

HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$275,000	\$281,000	1.02	1415 COLUMBIAN DR	1,680	1971	Private	3	2	0	4	01/22/2026	\$163.69	\$167.26
\$345,000	\$345,000	1.00	210 DELIDO CT	1,336	1969	None	3	2	0	92	01/14/2026	\$258.23	\$258.23
\$415,000	\$390,000	0.94	2160 AQUÍ ESTA DR	2,209	1981	Private	3	2	1	389	01/16/2026	\$187.87	\$176.55
\$479,000	\$535,000	1.12	711 BIMINI LN	2,401	1997	None	3	2	0	6	01/21/2026	\$199.50	\$222.82
\$495,000	\$470,000	0.95	936 LASSINO CT	1,872	1974	Private	3	2	0	288	01/06/2026	\$264.42	\$251.07
\$495,000	\$535,000	1.08	926 GENOA CT	2,123	1980	Private	3	2	0	4	01/08/2026	\$233.16	\$252.00
\$585,000	\$525,000	0.90	48 HIBISCUS DR	1,387	1970	Private	3	2	0	266	01/28/2026	\$421.77	\$378.51
\$590,000	\$530,000	0.90	65 OCEAN DR	2,325	1978	Private	3	2	0	68	01/15/2026	\$253.76	\$227.96
\$670,000	\$615,000	0.92	859 NAPOLI LN	2,068	1989	Private	4	2	0	218	01/19/2026	\$323.98	\$297.39
\$675,000	\$640,000	0.95	3612 WHIPPOORWILL BLVD	1,899	1998	Private	3	2	0	19	01/30/2026	\$355.45	\$337.02
\$700,000	\$625,000	0.89	3324 TRINIDAD CT	2,059	1987	Private	3	3	0	9	01/07/2026	\$339.97	\$303.55
\$725,000	\$680,000	0.94	2743 RYAN BLVD	2,160	1991	Private	3	2	0	90	01/26/2026	\$335.65	\$314.81
\$749,000	\$727,500	0.97	1411 THRASHER DR	2,495	1998	Private	3	2	1	16	01/20/2026	\$300.20	\$291.58
\$770,000	\$745,000	0.97	2817 LA MANCHA CT	2,671	1995	Private	4	2	1	254	01/02/2026	\$288.28	\$278.92
\$799,000	\$780,000	0.98	960 MESSINA DR	2,459	2006	Private	3	2	1	265	01/13/2026	\$324.93	\$317.20
\$849,000	\$817,500	0.96	1121 HAWKS NEST CT	2,777	1992	Private	3	2	1	5	01/29/2026	\$305.73	\$294.38
\$850,000	\$800,000	0.94	1637 SUZI ST	2,107	1989	Private	3	2	0	1	01/27/2026	\$403.42	\$379.69
\$1,290,000	\$1,230,000	0.95	1355 JACANA CT	2,765	1999	Private	3	2	0	15	01/13/2026	\$466.55	\$444.85
\$1,499,900	\$1,450,000	0.97	1735 BOCA RATON CT	2,480	2022	Private	3	3	0	163	01/30/2026	\$604.80	\$584.68

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$119,000	\$115,000	0.97	3221 WHITE IBIS CT Unit#D1	826	1987	Community	2	1	0	175	01/22/2026	\$144.07	\$139.23
\$162,900	\$155,000	0.95	1080 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#10C	1,114	1974	Community	2	2	0	264	01/26/2026	\$146.23	\$139.14
\$179,000	\$162,000	0.91	311 GARVIN ST Unit#405A	1,114	1973	Community	2	2	0	260	01/30/2026	\$160.68	\$145.42
\$179,900	\$170,000	0.94	255 WEST END DR Unit#1412	1,351	2005	Community	2	2	0	879	01/26/2026	\$133.16	\$125.83
\$189,500	\$189,500	1.00	3256 WHITE IBIS CT Unit#37	1,138	1990	Community	2	2	0	1	01/12/2026	\$166.52	\$166.52
\$195,000	\$184,250	0.94	255 W END DR Unit#3302	1,351	2003	Community	2	2	0	12	01/09/2026	\$144.34	\$136.38
\$210,000	\$180,000	0.86	311 GARVIN ST Unit#405B	1,114	1973	Community	2	2	0	219	01/23/2026	\$188.51	\$161.58
\$274,900	\$250,000	0.91	1 COLONY POINT DR Unit#3C	1,741	1972	Community	2	2	0	55	01/27/2026	\$157.90	\$143.60
\$275,000	\$265,000	0.96	1605 ATARES DR Unit#112	1,622	2003	Community	3	2	0	23	01/13/2026	\$169.54	\$163.38
\$299,000	\$285,000	0.95	2000 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#422	1,517	1999	Community	3	2	0	120	01/26/2026	\$197.10	\$187.87
\$299,990	\$300,000	1.00	1780 DEBORAH DR Unit#5	2,582	1987	Community	3	2	0	127	01/29/2026	\$116.19	\$116.19
\$325,000	\$306,700	0.94	1 COLONY POINT DR Unit#A20	1,751	1972	Community	2	2	0	46	01/23/2026	\$185.61	\$175.16
\$365,000	\$345,000	0.95	290 LEWIS CIR Unit#121	1,872	2005	Community	3	2	0	39	01/22/2026	\$194.98	\$184.29
\$399,000	\$325,000	0.81	2601 W MARION AVE Unit#44C	1,180	1986	Community	2	2	0	119	01/06/2026	\$338.14	\$275.42
\$475,000	\$455,000	0.96	2630 TARPON COVE DR Unit#211	2,330	2002	Community	2	2	0	331	01/30/2026	\$203.86	\$195.28
\$510,000	\$495,000	0.97	95 N MARION CT Unit#233	2,225	2006	Private, Com	3	2	0	301	01/27/2026	\$229.21	\$222.47

****CLICK ON THE PLUS SIGN BELOW THIS PAGE TO ENLARGE THE PRINT****



3941 Tamiami Trail, Suite 3121
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950
 Each office independently owned and operated.



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



Spring is in the air, and the Newcomers Club is already gearing up for another season full of fun, friendship and discovery. After a slightly chillier winter than usual, we are more than ready to welcome the sunshine and all the activity that comes with it.

February kept us busy with a full calendar of events. While we always enjoy socializing, our club is equally focused on staying active and continuing to learn. Each month begins with our Bring Your Lunch and Learn gathering, and February's session drew a packed house. Members Niamh McAnally and Gary Krieger shared their picks for the five best travel apps, offering practical tips and plenty of inspiration. This dynamic duo also leads our pop up bike rides, guiding both experienced cyclists and beginners along local trails. We are grateful to Niamh and Gary for keeping us moving, curious and connected.



Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium

Many members stepped right up to the excitement at Laishley Park, where we gathered under the big top for Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium. The show delivered plenty of gasps, laughter and wide eyed amazement. Football fans also came together at PGICA for a lively Super Bowl party with the Castaways Club, cheering on their favorite teams in great company. The ladies of our group enjoyed a lovely breakfast at the newly opened Steph's Bakery and came back with rave reviews for the new establishment located in our downtown area. Our Dine Around at Ortigia, the new bingo event named Sip Sip Bingo (thanks for this one, Donna Culver), and a trip to see the Tampa Bay Rays take on the Toronto Blue Jays rounded out the month full of activities.

Valentine's Day brought a sparkling highlight to the month. Our resident bubbles expert Helen Hyatt, joined by Jane Connors, hosted a wonderful evening devoted to sparkling wines. Members sampled a variety of selections paired with sweet treats contributed by attendees. It was a warm, festive night filled with laughter, learning and plenty of appreciation for our talented hosts.

Many of our Newcomers were delighted to lend a hand to a fellow PGICA club during the annual Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour fundraiser. This meaningful event, organized by the Beyond Ourselves Club, raises funds for several children's charities throughout our area. Our members assisted with welcoming guests inside the homes and helping with parking outside, ensuring the day ran smoothly for everyone involved. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday, supporting fellow clubs while helping raise money for such important causes.

We also introduced a new initiative aimed at our male members, led by John Crawford. His men's Exclusive Sporting Clays event was a big success, and he is continuing the momentum with a hockey outing this month as the group heads out to cheer on our local team. Gentlemen should keep an eye out for more adventures John is planning.

March promises to be just as engaging. Jeff Critser, known to many as The Gin Gent, will team up with Nan Erb for an evening of gin cocktails and education. Jeff will share several of his favorite recipes, and it would not be surprising if a Negroni makes an appearance. Members can also look forward to touring the Punta Gorda and Burnt Store Water Treatment and Reclamation facility, trying their hand at flower arranging and attending another

informative Lunch & Learn session. We will also gather for our semi-annual general meeting, so be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend.



Dishing out dinner at Happy Hour

Life in Punta Gorda offers so many opportunities to explore, and the Newcomers Club is a wonderful way to get involved, stay active, and learn more about your community. We strive to keep our calendar fresh and varied while continuing the traditions members love. Small group appetizer nights, monthly happy hours, ladies' and men's lunches and other casual gatherings help members build friendships and welcome newcomers in a relaxed setting. Whether you are new to Punta Gorda Isles, new to PGICA, or simply looking to meet more neighbors, we would love to have you join us.



Full house for Lunch & Learn



One of Nan's many tasting events



Tier 1 ranking for outstanding work in Trusts and Estates and Real Estate Law in the Fort Myers metro area.

Big City Solutions. Small Town Values.

Providing a wide array of trust and estate planning services to the communities of Southwest Florida.

- Transferring Wealth Between Generations
- Estate & Gift Tax Planning
- Establishing Trusts
- Trust Administration
- Asset Protection Planning
- Durable Powers of Attorney
- Advance Medical Directives
- Preparing Wills
- Probate



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

An Experienced Trusts and Estates Team

Wills | Estate Planning | Trust Administration | Probate | Tax Law

At the Farr Law Firm, we strive to help clients achieve their personal vision for their family's financial future. Our knowledgeable and experienced team, including three who are Florida Bar Board Certified in Trusts and Estates, will make recommendations and implement strategies to advance each client's unique wealth preservation and wealth transfer goals.



FARR LAW FIRM

FARR, FARR, EMERICH, HACKETT,
CARR & HOLMES, P.A. | 1924

Charlotte & Sarasota Counties | 941.639.1158 | farr.com



Wills, Trusts & Estates | Real Estate & Title Insurance | Business & Corporate | Personal Injury & Wrongful Death | Litigation | Asset Protection
Elder Law | Guardianship | Defective Drugs & Devices | Mediation | Physician Services | Local Government | Tax Law



Thank you to all who supported the 2026 Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, ticket buyers and volunteers whose contributions help uplift local kids and families. All the money raised from this event stays local, benefitting eight children's charities within Charlotte County. We look forward to sharing the fundraising totals and photos from the event in next month's article.

2026 Platinum Sponsors (\$5,000 & up) are: Harbor Home Builders (including the Rest & Refresh home) and Mike Riley.

2026 Gold Sponsors (\$2,500 & up) are: Vicki & Tom Britton, Jan & Craig Esterly, First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte, Debra & Jeff Griffith, Jo Ann Gulvezan, Marlene Hofer and West Coast Builders.

2026 Silver Sponsors (\$1,000 & up) are: Kathy & Jim Ashen, Cheryl Berlon & Mike Darcey, Calenda Real Estate Group, CKB Creations LLC, Hometown Title & Closing Services LLC, Miller's Murphy Beds & Home Offices, Morgan Stanley's Peace River Team, Sharon & Kevin Mulligan, Carol & Chris Nasby, Lynn & Richard Pitz, Nancy Sharpless, Struss & Bob Shirk, Eileen & Andy Templeman, The Andrea Group at RE/MAX Harbor Realty, Dianne Tufts & Kendall Ellingson and Marcia Vorhees.

Please visit the Beyond Ourselves website to view the complete lists of 2026 Bronze Sponsors (\$300 & up) and Friends of the Kids (\$25 & up).

The PGICA Member Shred Event, a drive-through event, will be held on Tuesday, April 21 from 9 to 11. Beyond Ourselves members will be on hand to help with the event and to collect donations for the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) and the Charlotte CARE Center (CCC, formerly the Homeless Coalition).

We invite you to visit PRWC's website at prwildlife.org/support-prwc/stock-our-wish-list/ to view their donation wish list, particularly the items in red, which are needed now. These items include tissues (unscented, non-lotion), bleach (unscented), bug spray, parrot spiral ropes, bendable perches and more.

We also invite you to visit CCC's website at svdpsp.org/programs/homeless-services/charlotte-care-center/ to view their donation wish list. Donations of toiletry items and cleaning supplies are needed for the shelter.

The Fabulous Finds truck will be at the shred event to support CCC's mission. The resale store accepts donations of clean, new, and gently used clothing, shoes, books, linens, kitchen items, furniture, small electronics and appliances, decorative items, lamps, artwork, household goods and much more.



Ambassador Luna



Helping at the Shred Event



Super Seller Cindy

Beyond Ourselves members will attend the PGICA's New Member Reception on Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 7. If you have neighbors or friends that are PGICA members, be sure to tell them about our club; we would love to meet them and let them know how they can get involved in giving back to their community.

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 earthlyynn25@yahoo.com.

Every Wednesday, Beyond Ourselves members pick up donations of perishable food and deliver it to the Peace River Wildlife Center. Nancy Sharpless coordinates these volunteers to ensure the wildlife receives

much-needed food that might otherwise be thrown away. Volunteers in March will be Debbie Ford and Linda Taylor.

Beyond Ourselves is a community service club that meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 at the PGICA. We hope to see you there.

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

**During the PGICA's Drive-Through Shred Event
Tuesday, April 21 from 9 to 11 AM**

Join us in support of

Peace River Wildlife Center
Charlotte CARE Center

Volunteers will be on hand accepting:

- Monetary donations (cash or check)
- Wishlist items for both charities
- Household donations to the Fabulous Finds Resale Store

March is an exciting month to look forward to many wonderful events to share with our friends. This is the last month to share our lives with the snowbirds, as they begin to fly to other parts of our country near the end of this month. So take the time to come and join us for fun and frolic. There is a popular Irish drinking saying as we venture forward; “Let the winds of fortune sail you, and may you sail a gentle sea. And let it always be the other fella who says, Lads-this drink’s on me.”

Our gatherings are always fun and people mingle with everyone. For example, at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, we gathered for drinks, food and visit with one another. It was a beautiful evening and we sat outside. While the sun was bright, I wanted to be in the shade. The only table that had shade was far back in the corner. Several people came over to talk. I watched others walking around the entire group making certain that everyone was included. This club is a very welcoming group, so do not be afraid to join us.



Four Points by Sheraton

Ladies Lunch is on Thursday, March 12, 11:30 to 2 at The Islands Kitchen & Cocktail House at Fishermen’s Village. Their advertising says it is inspired by flavors, colors and spirit of the tropics. Let’s wear what we want, but it would be loads of fun if we wish to dress with some St. Patrick’s Day festive attire or tropical attire. Please register so we know how many will be coming. Contact Lois Benven at lbenvin@gmail.com for information.

Chowhounds Men’s Lunch will be held on Thursday, March 12, 11:30 to 1 at the Texas Best Barbeque in Englewood. They offer a wide range of ribs, briskets, sliders, etc. The food choices sound like you will leave feeling like a very satisfied cowboy. Men, you don’t have to miss out by what you wear. You, too, can wear your green, or if you prefer, a cowboy hat, or just your jeans and a t shirt. Mike Dougherty is organizing this event. Please register for this event. For more information, contact Mike Dougherty at CaptnMikeD@gmail.com.



Four Points by Sheraton

Here is an exciting opportunity to go on a Sarasota Trolley Tour with not only our club friends, but it is open to bring any friends and family you wish. It takes place on Wednesday, March 18 at 10. It’s an air-conditioned vehicle with a guide giving us a vibrant history tour of the city, including the Ringling Museum and College, Selby Library and the Sarasota Opera House. We have rented the entire trolley, so it is not the usual \$85 but instead you pay \$57 per person. Payment for the event needs to be paid no later than March 11. You can drop off an envelope marked PF Trolley Tour to the PGICA office. Or mail it to Dennis Barkow. On March 18 you must arrive at 1826 4th Street in Sarasota by 10. The tour begins at 10:30. There are restrooms and a gift shop at the site. Afterwards, you are welcome to join us at Marina Jack for food after the tour, and you don’t have to decide until you register if you want to eat with the group. For more information, contact Lois Benven at lbenvin@gmail.com.



Gathering at a home

Come join us for a Chili Cook-Off and Game Night at the PGICA auditorium on Monday, March 30, from 5 to 9, to taste and judge the best chili recipe. Participate in the cook-off or simply show up for food and good times. When you register you will be asked about participating in the contest and/or bringing other food. This is a BYOB event. See the website for more details. The club will provide cornbread, chips and condiments. If you are not entering the competition, according to your last name, please bring the following: A-F dessert, G-M salad or side dish, N-Z appetizer to feed 12. There will be games provided, or you can bring your own game to play. Our event contacts are Debi Dougherty at dldocpg@gmail.com and Mike Dougherty at CaptnMikeD@gmail.com.

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 writes this article at skelley180@aol.com. By the way, one of the photos attached is what I have in my hallway at home. It’s an art print of the Ringling Circus that I bought at the Ringling Museum some time ago. I also made a fun saying for my wall. Everyday, I think of that museum when I see that print. I also think back to fun times going to a Ringling Circus with my family. They have started doing a circus today in various cities. You can purchase prints and other art pieces at the Ringling Museum.



Photo for Sarasota Tour



Hi everybody - welcome to our page. Our middle name is fun. Despite an ongoing cold snap through January and on into February our members got out to eat, drink and be merry.

January and February in review: 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



Ladies lunch

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

February began with a large group our members for dinner at Italia, our hometown Italian restaurant right in the middle of old town Punta Gorda. The group was so large we filled up the banquet room and three large tables in the main restaurant. The food and service were great. Then there is the ever popular Breakfast Belles ladies breakfast at various restaurants. A special treat was happy hour at Sunset Beach in Fishermen's Village. It was karaoke night. There was a large crowd besides our group; some could sing, some could not, or should not (haha). Everyone was having a great time. The ladies also have their own special game nights. Since men are not invited I don't know exactly what games they are playing...hmm.



Gameshow hosts

We are looking forward to March as I write this. Many of the events noted above are done monthly due to their ongoing popularity, others are one of a kind special events. If you would like a peek at the March schedule reach out to our Social Director Betty Wilcocks at bhw613@gmail.com or 757-508-1070 and she can send you a link.

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 lhmcmmeans@aol.com, or President Donna Cary at carydkc1@yahoo.com for membership information.

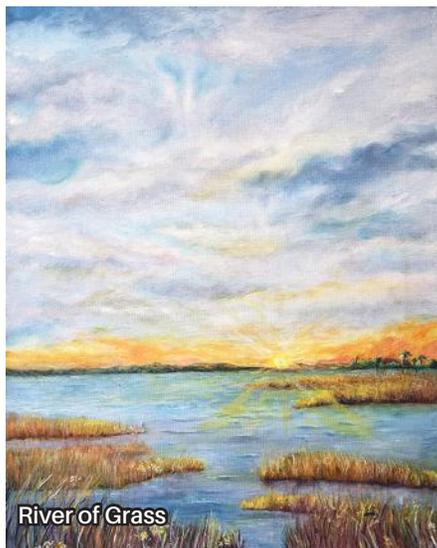


Sunset Beach

March's feature artist is Jane Kirschling. She retired in New Jersey after a thirty-four year career in education (the last twenty-six years in administration). She and her husband Tom came to Florida in search of a beautiful small town. They found it and a love for the boating, fishing and arts in Punta Gorda.



Jane Kirschling



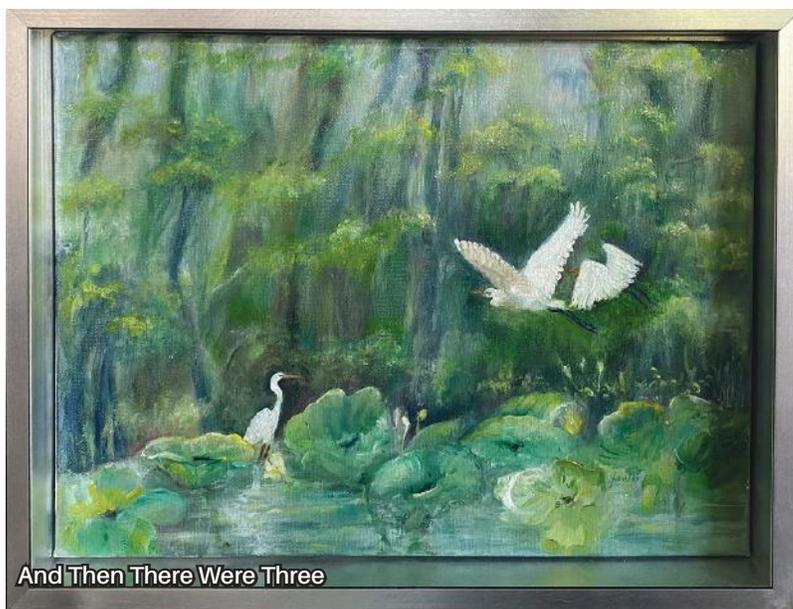
River of Grass

Painting has been a part of Janie's life since she was young and won an art scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University's Saturday Student Art program. She went on to earn both a Bachelor of Science and a master's in art education, with a concentration in textiles. Her painterly style earned her a one-woman batik show at the University of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, her alma mater.

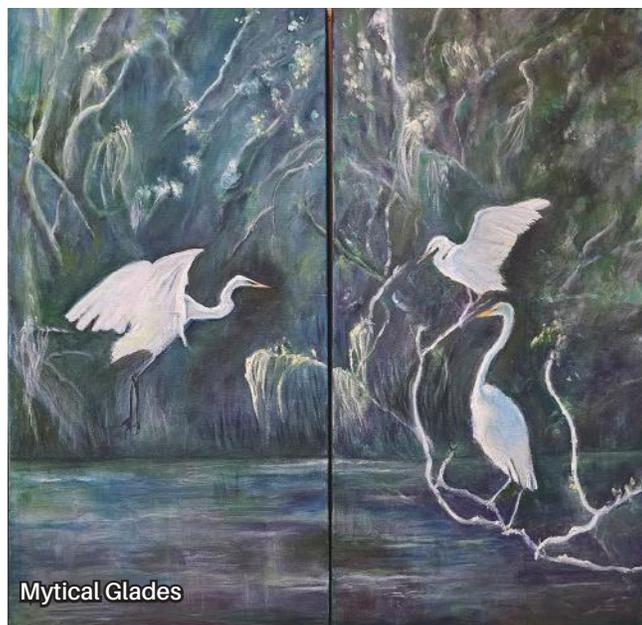
Teaching art in the public schools of Pennsylvania and New Jersey was a wonderful and fulfilling experience. During her educational career, Janie continued to paint in acrylics, watercolor and mixed media, showing and selling her work. She also gave private lessons at her studio in New Jersey.

Janie studied with Mary Taglieri at PGI Civic Association. She believed in Mary's natural teaching ability and her love of painting nature with oils. Because of Mary, Janie embraced oil painting and the love of following your own inner spirit and heart. Mary taught that, "Art is the dance of creativity swirled into the physical realm. That creativity is spirit." Janie is thankful for the Tag Team members and their joy in helping

each other create in the spirit of Mary Taglieri.



And Then There Were Three



Mytical Glades

Tech Trouble?
Call your helpful neighbor...

Matt 'Fix-IT' Faust

Your PGI Resource for Professional...

- In-Home IT Computer & Smartphone support
- Smart Home setup
- Furniture assembly, wall mounting and more!

In-Home Services start at \$25 an hour!

Call 708-296-3558

VOLUNTEER

WE NEED YOUR HELP

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

We could use your help with various events and tasks!

Call the office to inquire: 941-637-1655

As we welcome in March, we are reminded of the Ides of March, the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC, which changed the course of Roman history. This was actually highlighted by William Shakespeare in his play, Julius Caesar. We now remember March more for ushering in celebrations of St. Patrick's Day, the start of spring and Women's History Month.

The cancellation of a sale last month emphasizes how important it is 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 and 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 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

PGISLANDERS

Mark Janus, Vice-Commodore, 217-741-6332, mjanus449@gmail.com



Who says you can't eat dessert first? On a recent cruise to both 'Tween Waters Marina (Captiva Island) and Pelican Bay, the desserts were flowing. Throw in a bourbon tasting and you have one heck of a great couple of cruises. More on that later.

As usual, the marina and harbor were packed with eight boats, a mixture of sail and power.

Our February meeting featured U.S. Coast Guard BM Jeffrey Slinger for a return engagement. BM Slinger gave us a great presentation on the differences between pyrotechnic flares and electronic, battery-operated flares or electronic visual distress signals (EVDS). Based on new rules in 2025, electronic flares are now approved and encouraged. They last longer; you do not have to worry about disposal and many models will last at least two hours of continuous use, some more. A few models even have infrared capability which helps first responders find you at night. EVDS operate even if wet, and some float if you are forced to abandon your craft. Worth checking out next time you need to replace those old expired pyrotechnic flares. By the way, good luck finding a disposal site. Disposal of pyrotechnic flares is difficult at best.

A cruise to 'Tween Waters Marina on Captiva Island held our first ever bourbon tasting along with a chocolate only dessert contest. I'm not sure which was more popular. Not to be sexist but I think the men enjoyed the bourbon more, while the women preferred the chocolate. Regardless, each offering was enjoyed to the max.



The girls ready for Valentine's Dinner

Highlights on our cruise to Captiva was a visit to the now open Bubble Room. An eclectic dining experience that must be experienced. Words leave a bit to desire to describe the décor. And you can't visit Captiva without a stop at the Green Flash Restaurant. We had secured a great outdoor location when mother nature decided to visit us with that cold front and some gusts to 30 mph. A waterspout was also sighted as we made our way indoors. The walk back to the marina was also interesting as the sand from the beach was blowing across the road and gave everyone an exfoliation they were not sure they really wanted.



Our Commodore walking his pet shark

Our most recent cruise to Pelican Bay had terrible fog on Friday afternoon that was a navigational challenge. With visuals down to about 20 to 25 yards, finding markers along the way such as Marker 5 and ICW markers left us all straining our eyes with a firm need for our chart plotters. The next day was bright and sunny as it was Valentine's Day. Kite flying on the sand spit was enjoyed by all with six kites of various designs decorating the sky. Prizes for the kite flying and dessert contest (no chocolate) were awarded after a great dinner at Cabbage Key and desert on Abracadabra, an Aquila catamaran.

If you want to join in on our fun visit our website, www.pgislanders.org. We have more cruises coming up including a raftup off Gilchrist Park and Yellow Tail Lagoon, and a southbound cruise to the Dry Tortugas in April. I almost forgot, we also have a tour scheduled of the new Island Packet factory. We will be the first group to see their newly enlarged facilities.



RED MANGROVE REALTY

Traditional full-service real estate, without the traditional costs.

Why pay more for the same service?

\$10,000 fixed listing fee — homes listed up to \$1.5 million.

Call Justin Davoult & Dylan Renz for details

941-559-5005

*Applies only to residential improved properties.
Listing fee does not include buyer-agent compensation. Additional terms apply.*

TENNIS CLUB

Jackie Rahsaz, President, jackiesemail@me.com



Tennis is a great way to boost your health. Some studies say it can add nearly ten years to your life. The PGICA Tennis Club is friendly and inviting, perfect for anyone wanting to play again or try something new.

During the winter months our club hosts a round robin social event every month. The February round robin offered great weather, fun tennis, food and plenty of laughs.

Many members join county tennis leagues from November through March. This year, we have three men's teams: A2, B3, and B73, plus women's teams at the 3.0 and 3.5 levels. Matches are on weekdays. If you want to join, we'll connect you with a captain. Prefer casual play? Drop-in play days are open to everyone and posted on the schedule. Members get the gate code, court scheduler and use of the ball machine.

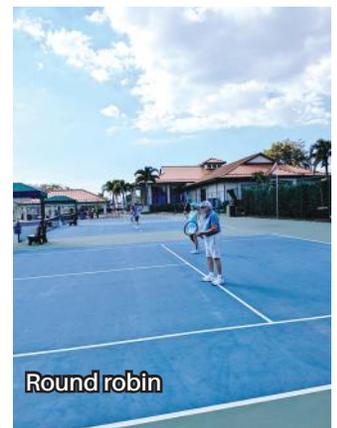
Our club members are ambassadors for the PGICA Love to Learn program. The class is a great way to start again after time away or to learn tennis from scratch. Friendly faces will help connect you to the club. Contact PGICA to join.



Tennis social

Membership dues keep our courts in great shape. It's \$75 a year, plus a one-time \$100 fee for new members. Everyone who joins also needs to be a PGICA member, just like with all the other clubs. Want more info? Check out our Tennis Club page on the PGICA site.

2026 officers: President Jackie Rahsaz, Vice President Tony Rahsaz, Treasurer Janet Lynn, Secretary Janelle Anthonie, Social Director Mitzie Kahrman, Webmaster Bill Hogue.



Round robin



Love to Learn class



From the helm - Well it seems the wind and cold have abated. The days are getting longer and that means more time for fishing. Warming water temperatures create more fishing opportunities. Even if you are an experienced angler, joining the PGI Fishing Club (PGIFC) will help you catch more by learning from local fishermen how to exploit these

opportunities.

The variety of species available in this area means that no matter the season, something is always biting. Learning the various methods of catching these species is why joining the PGI Fishing Club is a great option. Our membership includes fishermen who are experienced in catching all kinds of fish including inshore and offshore species. By joining, you not only gain access to the expertise of many anglers but can enjoy the fun and camaraderie of fishing with other members. Don't have a boat? Many members have boats

to get you there and the knowledge to help target species to make your angling experience great.

The Fishing Club's Ladder of Achievement is a great way to challenge yourself. The ladder is a prescribed goal to catch the many different species available in the area along with points for notable size fish. It is a fun way to track your development towards the goal of Grand Master Angler and meet new friends.

When PGIFC members aren't fishing, preparing for fishing, or cleaning up from fishing, we enjoy a variety of social activities. We have monthly meetings to explore various topics and fishing news. Fish of the month contest



is a fun way to target species you may not have fished for before and prizes are awarded. There are friendly fishing contests with prizes for designated catches. We also have special events like holiday parties, picnics, weekly happy hours and other fun gatherings. Some club members actually go on fishing trips outside the area. Trips planned this year include the Florida Keys and Venice, Louisiana.

If any of this piques your interest, please join us. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month (except January, July and December in 2026) at the PGI Civic Association at 6; all are welcome to attend a meeting. Another way to familiarize yourself with the PGI Fishing Club is to attend our weekly happy hour, currently at the Elks Lodge Tiki on Wednesdays at 5 to hear about all the fishing stories and make plans to fish.



IN STITCHES

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



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





It's almost March as I sit here pounding out this month's Commentator article. It feels like we just arrived from Ohio for our annual trip to PGI to escape the cold and snow of the midwest. So far, it's been a great winter and early spring, filled with activities despite an unusually cool January.

We've enjoyed lunch cruises to Boca Grande and Burnt Store Isles, with another yet-to-be-announced destination planned for March. Stay tuned for more details on that boating excursion. We're also gearing up for our annual club picnic, spring poker run, and our ever-popular dart night on the first Thursday of each month at the Ice House Pub.

Before long, many of our members (the Admiral and me included) will be migrating north in time for late spring as we spread out across the country. I used to refer to this as going



Burnt Store

home for the summer, but more and more I consider PGI home - and Ohio simply our summer retreat without the extreme heat and humidity of Southwest Florida. Even so, we'll miss the club boat trips, social events and happy hours that bring our PGI friends together.

Speaking of happy hours, the PGI Cruising Club will be moving to a new venue effective March 3. After many wonderful years of enjoying the hospitality of St. Andrews South Golf Club, we were recently advised that their growing membership no longer allows them to reserve the clubhouse for our Tuesday gatherings.

We're excited to announce that beginning March 3, we'll be meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. Doors open at 5 sharp. Members and their guests can order appetizers or full dinners, along with their favorite beverages from the bar.



Cass Kay lunch

During March and April, we'll rotate between The Library (an indoor event room) and The Patio (an outdoor space adjacent to the main dining room). After that, we'll determine which location works best for us as the seasons change.

Looking ahead, our social committee continues to explore additional non-boating activities, including a daytime field trip to a Tampa Bay Rays spring training game at Charlotte County Sports Park, and an overnight trip to either the Seminole Resort and Casino in Immokalee or the Miccosukee Casino in the heart of the Everglades.

If boating and socializing with fellow boating enthusiasts past and present sounds appealing to you, visit our website at www.pgicruisingclub.org and click on the Events tab, or contact our membership chair, Marcia Ling, at mjling28@gmail.com. Better yet, make plans to join us at one of our happy hours.



Dart-Night

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FOR SALE / WANTED

ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN ESTATE SALE ~ Reduce stress, save time, make some money and help the PGICA. The volunteer club, Isles Girls and Guys, will plan, organize, price, conduct the sale, and help with disposition of leftover items. All for a tax-deductible donation of 30% to the PGICA. Call Tom Teubert at 201-960-5340.

AIR CONDITIONING

AIR CONDITIONING ~ Repair for all brands of central air. Seasonal maintenance and high efficiency replacement systems w/major brands. Free second opinions. Available rebates and PGI discounts. Licensed and insured. Punta Gorda based Bohall's Total Comfort. Call us any time at 941-623-0451.

APPLIANCE REPAIR

APPLIANCE WORKS ~ We repair washers, dryers, refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers and disposers. Dryer vent cleaning also available. Over 28 years' experience. Licensed and insured. Owners: David and Virginia Lassey. Phone 941-575-9460.

BOAT REPAIR & BOAT CLEANING

PORT CHARLOTTE MARINE REPAIR ~ www.portcharlottemarinerepair.com. Mobile marine with full-service van, will come to you. Contact Captain Hayes at 360-378-7678. Fifteen 5-Star reviews from your Punta Gorda Isles neighbors!

SEA TIME MARINE SERVICE ~ Scheduled boat cleaning, full detail service, new boater orientation support, as well as other marine services to be discussed. Call Dave 774-521-4319 or 508-524-7466.

CLEANING SERVICES

BLESSINGS CLEANING SERVICE ~ Free Estimate -Trusted and references available upon request. 941-763-4798, 941-763-4591.

CARPET and TILE CLEANING ~ Fresh-N-Up Carpet & Tile Cleaning, 10% off for all PGICA members. 941-255-9722.

DON'T LET JUST ANYONE CLEAN YOUR DRYER VENT! ~ Call Appliance Works. 941-575-9460.

DRIVEWAY and POOL DECK RESTORATION BY

STARSHINE INC ~ Brick pavers, travertine, cool deck, cleaning and sealing and repairs and restoration of all surfaces. We are Florida Surface Experts! Call us for your free surface estimate. Licensed and insured. Cell 941-585-1608. "LET US GIVE YOUR HOME A STARSHINE"

FORCE CLEAN - Pressure Washing & Handyman Services

~ Commercial and residential soft wash, window wash, and pressure washing, including boats and RVs. Handyman services -professional and reliable - no job too small. licensed and insured. Call Blake at 941-310-5005.

VICKY'S CLEANING, INC. ~ Offers Commercial and Residential Cleaning, weekly or bi-weekly. Free estimates! Call: 941-276-0700. References available.

COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICES

KESSELRING COMPUTER SERVICES ~ 941-661-5378. Mobile computer repair (hardware and software) Also virus removal, setups, and other services. Serving PGI for over 20 years.

FLORIDA TECH JUNKIE ~ All around Tech Needs call Florida Tech Junkie - Security cameras, IT consulting, structured cabling, (Cat5/6), home & business network. Wi-Fi solutions, VoIP phone systems, and more! Free estimates. Call 941-413-0248 or visit us at FloridaTechJunkie.com.

DRIVING SERVICES

AIRPORT/LOCAL DRIVING SERVICES ~ Sarasota, Ft. Myers, Punta Gorda and Tampa Airports. Local doctor appointments. Clean. Smoke free. Safe courteous driver. By appointment only. Call 941-889-8243 or email at Angelwingservicesofswfla@gmail.com. Proudly serving Charlotte County since 2009.

HANDYMAN SERVICES

HANDYMAN/HOME WATCH/REMODELING SERVICES - SANDSTAR REMODELING ~ Bringing 40+ years trusted experience, craftsmanship, reliability to every project, big or small. Leaky faucets to dream kitchens, handyman fixes to full remodels, even home watch while you're away. Licensed (CGC013881) / insured FOR ALL CONST SVCS. 941-637-8080.

HOME REPAIR/REMODELING SERVICES

STARSHINE PAVERS PLUS ~ Specializing in custom paver pool decks, patios, sidewalks and driveway installations & restorations, repairs and maintenance, sanding and sealing of them as well. We do free estimates. Fully licensed and insured. Call to book your free estimate appointment today. 941-585-1608. LET US GIVE YOUR HOME A STARSHINE!

FIRE PREVENTION ~ Increase energy efficiency! Dryer vent cleaning. Appliance Works: 941-575-9460. Licensed and insured.

GARY DRAKE DRYER VENT CLEANING ~ Prevent Fires! Go Green! Licensed and insured, 30+ years' experience. 941-204-6468. gdrakedryerventcleaning@comcast.net.

PAINTING SERVICES

A PAINTING SPECIALIST ~ Over 35 years' experience painting interior and exterior homes - extremely meticulous. I also power wash driveways and pool decks. I have been background checked and screened for your safety and trust. References available from your PGI neighbors. Call Kevin at 941-268-1637.

ERNEST AARNAES PAINTING INC. - PAINTING and ECO-FRIENDLY POWER WASHING ~ 25 years in PGI. Meticulous custom painting of your PGI home. Power wash roofs, docks, lanai decks, cages, walkways and driveways. Call 941-505-8627 or Cell: 941-626-4542 for a free estimate. Licensed and insured Oct.15,1999.

PAINTING and PRESSURE CLEANING by STARSHINE INC

~ Specializing in painting of pool decks, driveways, lanais, sidewalks, wood decks, pavers, exterior siding, and interior/exterior walls. We are River Rock - clean and seal experts. Tile roof chemical cleaning. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. Cell 941-585-1608.

TOP-TO-BOTTOM PAINTING, INC. ~ Vernon Foulk, owner since 1997. Interior & exterior house painting & pool deck painting. Pressure clean homes, pool decks, walkways & driveways. Handyman services. Licensed and insured and all work guaranteed. References available. Call 941-766-9892 or 941-743-6209 for free estimate.

PERSONAL SERVICES

SEWING ~ Carolyn's Sew New: Custom made Draperies, Cushions, Valances, Slipcovers, Cornices, Apparel, Alterations. 228-342-4601, 941-347-8119, camsewnew@gmail.com.

PET SERVICES

PET SITTING ~ Fur to Feathers, certified, licensed, insured and bonded. Your kennel alternative, in your home, less stress on you, less stress on your animal. Daily visits to overnight stays. Call Lesley at 941-661-2476, www.fur-to-feathers.com.

PLUMBING SERVICES

PLUMBING ~ Water heater repair and replacement. Comfort height toilets. Faucets, disposal and pool heater repair. Whole house re-pipes and dryer vent cleaning. Licensed and insured. Punta Gorda based Bohall's Total Comfort. Call us at 941-623-0451. PGI discount applies.

POOL SERVICES

POOL REPAIRS ~ by Paragon Pools of SWFL Serving PGI since 1974. Repair and replacement pumps, filters, chlorinators, saltwater systems, automation controls, tile, coping, rails, heaters, floor systems, plumbing repairs, pool construction and repair consultation. Call 941-627-2001.

SCREENING

CV SCREENING ~ www.cvscreeningllc.com From full rescreens to single panel repairs - we are the company to do it! Every panel is guaranteed. BBB Accredited. Licensed and insured. Contact 941-539-6868 info@cvscreeningllc.com.

WINDOW WASHING

PROFESSIONAL WINDOW WASHING ~ Please don't let your windows of opportunity pass you by. Call Dave for squeaky clean windows. 941-661-5378.



Loaner Program

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

FAMILY ITEMS:

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

MEDICAL:

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

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




Linda Swanson
REALTOR® PA

I'm here to guide you with local market expertise and a passion for helping clients succeed in buying or selling.

MRP
SRES
ABR

Linda.Swanson@CBRealty
P: 732-691-2791

Flood Protection in 20 Seconds
No planks • No bolts • No Tools Required
The Only Easy-Install Flood Barrier Available



Watertite Sales, LLC bill@watertitesales.com 941.875.3747 acquastop.it/en Giordano Institute Tested Certified for Performance

Mr. Sprinkler of SWFL



(239)-237-7061

mrsprinklerswfl@gmail.com

Local, family-owned,
irrigation and landscape
lighting specialists.

- Repairs
- New Installation
- Maintenance
- Landscape Lighting

Visit our website! www.mrsprinklerswfl.com

In Memoriam

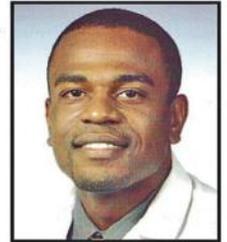
Jack Wolf
Paul Shattuck
Brad Betting
Roy Finney

We listen so you can hear.



Services include:

- Diagnostic Hearing Testing
- Tinnitus Evaluation & Treatment
- Hearing Aid- Dispensing & Repair
- T.V. Ears
- Batteries & Supplies



Dr. Ricardo
Gauthier



Harbor Audiology

PERSONAL SERVICE (941) 505-0400

100 Madrid Blvd., Suite 214, Punta Gorda

www.harboraudiology.net

SP30713

be a volunteer



**PGICA
needs you!**

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

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

Volunteering is good for your health!

You can:

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

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

MARINE TRADING POST

**SW Florida's Boating
SUPERSTORE!**

**4694 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte
(941) 766-1044**



3 SW Florida Locations

**Naples
N. Ft. Myers
Port Charlotte**

www.MarineTradingPost.com