

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Commentator

August 2026

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Blood Mobile
Golf Scramble
Volunteer Recruitment
Comedy Night
Civics, Conversation & Coffee
Ghostly Encounters

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KIM AMONTREE

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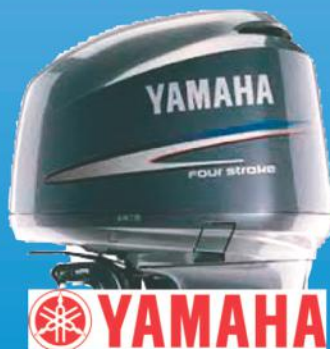
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941-637-1655 | www.pgica.org

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The Commentator

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PGICA Mission Statement

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

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PGICA Board Member: [Susie Krause, susiekrause@yahoo.com](mailto:susiekrause@yahoo.com)

PGICA Staff: [Corinne Carlson, corinnecarlson@pgica.org](mailto:corinnecarlson@pgica.org), 941-637-1655

All classes offered at the Punta Gorda Civic Association are open to the public.

FITNESS/DANCE



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



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



Yoga. Tuesdays. Through October 27. 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.



Beginner Line Dancing: Wednesdays through October 28. 3 to 4 p.m. \$10 per class. This class will be beginner level line dancing to a variety of musical rhythms. You will be enhancing your physical and mental health as well as enjoying socializing with other dancers. Instructor: Vera Hendricks. 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.



Rounds by Request Round Dancing. Tuesdays starting October 13 through April 20. 2:30 to 4 p.m. \$7 per person. We hope you'll come and Round Dance with us here at PGICA! Get to know new friends while dancing in the afternoon. Instructor (Cuer), Susan Wolford, will cue the different figures to go along with the music. Participants 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.



Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons. Tuesdays starting October 13, through April 20, 4 to 5 p.m. \$7 per person. This is an introduction class to learn Rumba Round Dance. Students will learn the various dance figures. Your instructor (Cuer), Susan Wolford, will guide and let dancers know which figure to execute to the beat of the music. Having a partner is preferred as this is partner dancing, but not required. 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.



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

Did You Know...



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Dear PGICA members,

We are having another great summer with plenty of activities. As you are aware, this is our 60th Year Diamond jubilee Anniversary. In 1966, our founding members and leadership incorporated our organization as a 501(c)(3) corporation and we have all been reaping the rewards from those bold actions ever since. Thank you to those of us who have stepped up to help us succeed.

Your current board has been very busy working on several initiatives to set the course for the next 60 years. It is our thinking that the bylaws be a pure statement of what our association stands for and its structure, whereas the rules and guidelines be the operational document that describes how we run the organization.

We have a committee who has been laser focused on combing through our bylaws to suggest the changes we would like to see made. This will be presented to you both prior to and during our annual meeting in November.

Another bylaw related topic is in the area of membership expansion. Last year in the survey that we sent out, there were many of you who said they would support "limited" expansion outside of PGI. We are continually asked by both existing and potential new members if we will consider opening our area of membership to include areas like Burnt Store Isles and/or the downtown historic district. We will be sending out a new survey focused solely on this topic. Again, we will be looking for your input as nothing has been decided or precast. Please help us make the right decision on this topic.

Thank you all for being the best civic association in all of Florida!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Matthew Baran, 941-637-1655, matthewbaran@pgica.org

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Executive Director of the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association and to become part of a community with such a strong tradition of volunteerism, fellowship and service.

My professional career has included more than 25 years of leadership in nonprofit organizations, community services, program development, fundraising, emergency response and organizational management. I have worked with programs supporting youth, seniors, families, people experiencing homelessness, indigenous communities and individuals facing significant life challenges.

Earlier in my career, I worked in youth justice and community-based services. I later served as the executive director of a community organization where I helped expand programs, strengthen financial stability, develop new partnerships and increase access to food, housing, wellness and cultural supports. More recently, I have worked in nonprofit development, consulting, grant writing, governance and operations.

Volunteer service has also been an important part of my life. I have served with search and rescue, emergency response teams, community boards, chambers of commerce, youth programs, faith communities and civic organizations. These experiences taught me that strong communities are built by people who are willing to share their time, knowledge and talents.

I believe leadership begins with listening. My goal is to learn from PGICA members, support our staff and volunteers, strengthen existing programs and help identify new opportunities for membership growth, community partnerships and long-term sustainability.

I am thankful for the warm welcome I have received and look forward to meeting more members in the months ahead. It is a privilege to serve PGICA and to help build upon the work of those who have contributed so much to this organization and community.



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.

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

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I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, especially Independence Day and our great nation's 250th birthday. Some of us are enjoying this time in Florida while some are enjoying their northern homes. As we are now in hurricane season we also pray for a quiet one. Just an update on the summer hiatus. We will not have any sales between June 1 and October 1.

If you think you might want to have an estate sale, do not wait. Please call Tom Teubert at 201-960-5340, or Karen Schwarck at 941-276-8593 so we can get you on the calendar. They will make sure it is possible and help schedule a sale. 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.

Have a blessed, happy and safe summer

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



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH AN ESTATE SALE?

ISLES GIRLS AND GUYS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
 A Club of the PGICA

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

WWW.ISLESGIRLSANDGUYS.COM

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Tom Teubert: 201-960-5340
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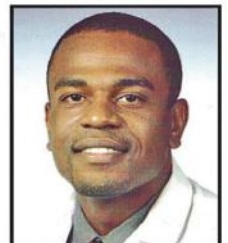
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WHEN:



TUESDAY - THURSDAY

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PRICING:

FREE

for PGICA Members

\$10

for Non-members



*Per document signature.



Contact the PGICA office to
schedule an appointment:

941-637-1655

**SCHEDULE
APPOINTMENT**

 Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda

 info@pgica.org

 PGICA.org

NEED MORE INFO? CALL:
 **941-637-1655**



GOLF *Scramble*

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Hosted by the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (PGICA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For Golfers

**All Welcome—teams, couples
singles—We will pair you up.**

- Four-Person Scramble
- 18 Holes of Golf
- Cart & Range Time
- Team Photo
- Longest Drive Contest
- Straightest Drive Contest
- Closest-to-the-Pin Contest
- \$10,000 Hole-in-One Challenge
- Continental Breakfast and Lunch
- Opportunity to participate in a Putting Contest; buy Mulligans, tickets for raffles & silent auctions
- Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm
- Guaranteed spot in next year's tournament
- Membership in the PGICA at a discounted rate



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PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Join us and our *2026 Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Sponsor* Landsberg Bennett for our inaugural Punta Gorda Isles Community Golf Outing as we celebrate 60 years of service to the community.

Golf the beautiful St Andrews South championship Golf Club in Punta Gorda Isles and enjoy a fun day with contests, raffles, prizes and much more.

Golfers are invited to a complimentary pre-tournament VIP Reception on Friday, Oct 2. All proceeds to benefit the PGICA and residents of our community.

\$125 per golfer / \$100 PGICA Members

**7:00-8:30 Registration, Break fast &
Putting Contest**

8:30 Shotgun Start



2001 Shreve St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**For more information or to register as a golfer or sponsor,
go to www.pgicagolf.com, scan QR Code or call 941-637-1665.**

Sponsorship Opportunities



TITLE SPONSOR: \$4,000 — Be the Face of the Tournament—~~TAKEN/NOT AVAILABLE~~

Entry of 8 golfers, exclusive sponsor banner at event check-in, Sponsor Plaque, Title status & logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, complimentary 2 Hole and 2 Golf Cart Sponsorships, full-page ad in our Tournament Program, Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, opportunity to speak at our Luncheon and VIP Reception, 3 months full-page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members.

VIP RECEPTION SPONSOR - \$2,500

Entry of 4 golfers, exclusive VIP Reception Sponsor banner at VIP event, Sponsor Plaque, logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, complimentary 2 Hole and 2 Golf Cart Sponsorships, Full-page ad in our Tournament Program, Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm,

Opportunity to speak at our VIP Reception, 3 months 1/2 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members.

EAGLE SPONSORS: \$2,000

Entry of 4 golfers, Sponsor Plaque, logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, complimentary Hole and Golf Cart Sponsorships, half-page ad in our Tournament Program, Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, recognition at our Luncheon and VIP Reception, 3 months 1/4 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members.

BIRDIE SPONSORS: \$1,000

Entry of 2 golfers, Sponsor Plaque, logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, quarter-page ad in our Tournament Program, Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, recognition at our Luncheon and VIP Reception, 3 months 1/4 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members.

PAR SPONSORS: \$500

Entry of 1 golfer, Sponsor Plaque, Logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, quarter-page ad in our Tournament Program, Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, recognition at our Luncheon and VIP Reception, 3 months 1/8 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members.

HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST SPONSOR: \$400

Company logo/name on sign at holes for the Hole-In-One contests.

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Company logo/name on signs at holes with contests for Longest Drive,

Straightest Drive, Closest to the Pin and the Putting Contests.

HOLE SPONSORS : \$100

Company logo/name on signs at a specific hole.

GOLF CART SPONSORS: \$75

Company logo/name on signs on a golf cart.

FRIENDS OF THE PGICA — Make a tax deductible donation in your name or in the memory of a loved one. Recognition on website. Make a donation of \$100 or more and receive a Complimentary Invite to our Pre-Tournament *VIP Reception* at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!

Title-VIP Reception, Eagle, Birdie & Par Sponsors
Pay for your sponsorship by July 14th and receive one extra month of advertising in *The Commentator*.



**For more information or to register as a golfer or sponsor, go to
www.pgicagolf.com, scan the QR Code or call 941-637-1665.**



August summer doldrums? Not if we can help it. Look forward to more activities indoors - check the JFF calendar and watch for Kevin's Flamingo Express every Sunday for updates. Spontaneous events may pop up anytime, so stay tuned. We need our full-time residents to help keep the summer social life thriving. Don't let the heat keep you isolated - enjoy the company of friends and make new connections. Your participation and volunteer spirit are what make JFF special. Let's support each other and build lasting memories together. Let's beat those summer doldrums.

Our regular calendar of events is still providing summer get-togethers. Thanks to Thomas Flynn for coordinating the Men's Lunch at the end of July at the Mainly Seafood Café. The Ladies' Lunch at Tamiami Tavern was also a cool respite during July. Our local restaurants are happy to see our summer people. You don't even need reservations at most eating establishments. Just walk in and enjoy dinner with friends.



Bite Night is scheduled for August 8 at the home of Karen and Frank Easby-Smith. It's the favorite celebration of National Rum Day. Attendance limited to 30 members. If you are wait-listed, don't give up, there are usually last-minute cancellations.

Sign up for the Ladies' and Men's Lunches. Check JFF calendar for latest updates.

Wherever you are spending the summer, enjoy.



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Bottom Row: Guy S. Emerich, Forrest J. Bass and Dorothy L. Korszen

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

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

If you wish to play and are not signed up, please contact Sharon Biernat. Contact information is shown above.

MONDAY AFTERNOON DUPLICATE BRIDGE**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.

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

Couples Bridge is taking the summer off and will resume in the fall. Stay tuned for updates. However, if you would like any information about our group, please feel free to email either one of us.

Our fun and friendly group usually meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 12:30. 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, having not played in years, we would love to have you join us. If you need a partner, we can help you find someone.

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.

THURSDAY EUCHRE CARD GROUP**Marcia Ellis, 269-760-2582, marcia.ellis@wmich.edu**

We will be starting back up again in November. 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. See you all next fall.

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: 718 Dolores Jaskoviak

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.

**PGICA Beautification Group****Julie Towers, julitowers@live.com**

The newly formed PGICA Beautification Group held its first meeting to outline plans for improving the five welcome signs. These signs have been maintained over the years by various volunteers, but it's time for a more coordinated and consistent approach.

Our plan is straightforward: clean, refresh and enhance each sign area with updated landscaping, improving visibility and a cohesive look that reflects the pride we have in our community. Work will be done in phases, tackling one sign at a time so residents can see steady progress.

Stay tuned - we think you'll like the results. If you are interested in helping, contact Julie Towers at julitowers@live.com.





Hi everyone, and welcome to our page. Our middle name is fun. While FF&C is a little less active in the summer months, we still do a number of recurring events due to their ongoing popularity such as Breakfast Belles ladies' breakfast at various restaurants and happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. If you have been with FF&C awhile you will find yourself making new friends and socializing with other members for activities outside of the club; Golf, mah jongg, dining out, concerts, etc. If you are reading our Commentator page for the first time, think about giving us a try.



Bocce ball



Four Points by Sheraton

Well, here we are in the dog days of summer. A trip to the beach at this time of year can be great. When the weather has been calm and the gulf is not stirred up the water can be absolutely beautiful. Below is a photo of me in the middle of August on Boca Grande. I titled it Best Beach Day Ever. My wife and I don't go to the beach often and it is usually only for an hour or so, then out for lunch at a restaurant on the beach if possible. Eating at outside venues in the evening during the summer is also a pleasure. The restaurants are not so crowded and many of them offer great specials. Happy summer everybody.

If you are planning ahead FF&C is planning a cruise in 2027 which will also be available to friends and family of our members - we will be sailing aboard the Majestic Princess for 12 nights beginning on April 7, 2027. Ports of call: Southampton, Cornwall, Cork, Dublin, Liverpool, Belfast, Glasgow, Invergordon, Edinburgh, and LeHavre (opportunity to visit Normandy or Paris). Please email Susie Krause, our cruise director at susiekrause@yahoo.com if interested. If you would like a peek at our August 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 so others on the waitlist can be accommodated.

As always, if you have a recommendation for a new restaurant to try or venue to checkout, please contact Betty. If you're outside of the club looking in and would like to join us for Friends, Fun and Community, please contact Membership Director Linda McMeans at lhmcmeans@aol.com or President Donna Cary at carydkc1@yahoo.com for membership information.



Best beach day ever



Tequila shots

PGICA ACOUSTIC MUSIC GROUP

Terry Dotson, terrywdotson@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.



August has arrived and the Newcomers Club has been as busy as ever, even though it's the off season in our area.

We have so many new members that we've welcomed into our fold and love seeing both new and familiar faces at our events. If you are new to Punta Gorda Isles and want to meet new friends, learn more about our area, or just want to get out and be a bit more social, we would love to have you join us. Even if you're not new, but have never been a member of the Newcomers Club, you are definitely still able to join. Our events are quite varied and geared toward trying to pique many interests in people's different likings. Check out our calendar on the PGICA website and see if anything piques your interest. If so, simply fill out an application form online or grab one from the front desk at PGICA. If you have any questions or just want to check us out in person, we always welcome prospective members at our monthly happy hour events, usually happening the first Wednesday of each month at various locations around town.

July kept us hopping with lots of social, active and educational gatherings. We always love starting the week off right with our Monday Morning Walks, leaving out of Fishermen's Village every Monday morning at 8. Our monthly Bring Your Lunch and Learn series welcomed the Animal Welfare League for an informative talk about all their organization does to help stray animals in our area. They even brought along a precious furry friend who needs a loving home and our members took full advantage of getting some puppy time in.

Our Ladies' Lunches and Men's Lunches are consistently well-attended and an excellent opportunity to try out new eating establishments around town. And always a fan-favorite event, Small-Group Appetizer night was a big success and we thank our monthly hosts for making their homes so welcoming and inviting. These nights are perfect for getting to know fellow members in a smaller, more intimate setting.



Lunch at Village Brewhouse after the Military Heritage Museum



Bowling night

We experienced a very fun and informative morning touring the Military Heritage Museum and even got to enjoy interactive activities such as virtual reality (jumping out of airplanes, walking on the moon, learning about aviation beginnings. Some members even honed their aviator skills in the flight simulators. We finished off the month with a fun pop-up happy hour at Downtown Gatorz Grill and Bar, then a Dine-Around event at River City Grill, taking advantage of their excellent food and awesome summer specials.

As we look ahead to August, there will be lots of opportunities to gather together and enjoy our lovely city and all it has to offer. We'll start the month out with a competitive spirit with Newcomers' Game Night at PGICA, so get registered now so you don't miss out. Jane Connors will be hosting one of her Bring Your Lunch and Learn series on the first Tuesday of the month, with our guest speaker coming from the largest watermelon growing, packing and distributing plant in the entire country. As always, our Lunch and Learn series is open to all PGICA members, whether you're a Newcomer or not. Our monthly happy hour will be held at the ever-popular Celtic Ray Public House on the first Wednesday of the month, so make sure to mark that on your calendars.

Stay tuned for location of our August Ladies' Lunch and Men's Lunch, as well as who will be hosting the monthly Appetizer Night. A summer movie event is planned mid-month as well as a show and tell event - a twist on the Antiques Roadshow where our members bring their own interesting and unusual items to show and share with other members. And don't forget to sign up now for our August Dine-Around, scheduled at the quintessential and quaint Pizza Gorda. Let's look forward to an amazing August together.



Happy Hour at Beef O'Brady's



Animal Welfare League visitor

Summer Sizzles with the PGI Castaways! Who says summer is the slow season? The PGI Castaways have been on the move, packing the past month with rooftop happy hours, baseball, poolside fun and even a private movie screening. One thing remains constant - wherever the Castaways go, laughter and friendships follow.

We kicked things off with happy hour at Perch 360 atop the Wyvern Hotel, where spectacular views of Charlotte Harbor provided the perfect backdrop for an evening of great conversation, delicious food and handcrafted cocktails. As the sun dipped toward the horizon, members relaxed, caught up with old friends and welcomed new ones - proof that sometimes the best entertainment is simply enjoying each other's company.

Next, it was time to Play Ball. Our group headed to the Mighty Mussels game and settled into our private air-conditioned suite for an evening filled with pizza, hot dogs, Cracker Jack, snacks, beverage service and plenty of cheering. The highlight came after the final out, when an incredible fireworks display lit up the night sky. Naturally, we claimed they were all for Stacy's birthday. A surprise visit from the Mighty Mussels mascot made a great night at the ballpark even more memorable.

Then came one of the month's biggest crowd-pleasers - our July Float & Feast, graciously hosted by Sandy Bequette and Rich Cornell. Mother Nature teased us with morning thunderstorms, but by afternoon the skies cleared, the sun made a welcome appearance, and the pool was calling.

Hurricanes were flowing, appetizers disappeared quickly and friendly competition broke out during an impromptu pool game to see how long we could keep the ball in the air. The grand finale? Sandy and Rich's incredible traditional shrimp boil featuring perfectly seasoned shrimp, savory sausage, corn

and potatoes served family-style with warm cornbread. Members added an irresistible assortment of homemade desserts, including peanut butter pie cups and key lime pie cups. It was the kind of afternoon that reminds us why summer gatherings with friends are so special.

We closed out the month with a private screening of Disclosure Day, another chance to enjoy an afternoon together. Whether it was the movie, the popcorn or the lively conversations afterward, it was the perfect finale to another month of Castaways fun.

The excitement continues on Wednesday, August 12 when the Castaways host Music Bingo at the PGICA auditorium. For just \$10 per person, you'll enjoy an evening of music, laughter, friendly competition and prizes. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and neighbors. Please note that cash only will be accepted at the door.

If this month proved anything, it's that the PGI Castaways know how to turn ordinary days into unforgettable memories. None of it would be possible without our amazing hosts, volunteers and members whose enthusiasm keeps our club thriving. We can't wait to see everyone at Music Bingo and the many adventures still to come.



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.

SEASONAL FLOCKERS

Glenice Verhoff, glenicev@gmail.com and Danita Stone, astone4879@aol.com



Seasonal Flockers

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

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The Seafarers are celebrating summer in full swing. With the abundance of warmer weather, the Seafarers were looking to get out on the water for some relaxing, cruising and meeting members for some fun social events.

July's heat didn't slow the Seafarers down as they made the most of the month with a lunch cruise and several lively social gatherings.

During the month of July, Social Director Jane Orlin had scheduled and organized the twice a month meet and greet at St. Andrews South Golf Club.



Laishley's Lunch Cruise

On July 16, John Koch led the Seafarers on a lunch cruise to Laishley Crab House, where the group chose indoor seating for a cooler setting, a delicious meal and an afternoon of lively conversation.



Tween Waters

The Seafarers were led by Nancy Houghtaling for a pop-up lunch cruise on July 19 to a great venue at the Jug Creek Marina and Fish House in Bokeelia. After a delicious lunch, the group relaxed in the sun and sand where Clive Live played a lively mix of music that put everyone in a beach-party mood.

Social Director Jane Orlin organized two events for the evening of July 28. The Seafarers women enjoyed a Beauty in a Box event at the PGICA, where everyone shared in an evening of beauty, glamour and friendship. The men were not forgotten as Jane arranged the Maritime Men Liquidity Event that was held the same night at the Ice House Pub. The Seafarer guys met for a relaxed evening of camaraderie, ice cold refreshments and great conversations - crafted for the guys who live and

breathe life on the water.

Even with the heat of the summer, the Seafarers will be looking forward to cruising and social activities during the month of August. Social Director Jane Orlin continued to consistently organize the Seafarers meet and greets for the second and fourth Thursday in August. Commodore Jeanne Myers has slated the Seafarers epic Poker Run for August 29. Members and friends looked forward to a fun afternoon on the water, ending with a raftup at Ron and Michele Olsen's dock for prizes and socializing.

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

We encourage you to visit and get to know us at one of our meet and greets at St. Andrews South Golf Club from 5 to 7 on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. As a friendly reminder, please add August 13 and 27 to your calendar and jump aboard one of our social events so you can meet our members and learn about all the fun we have together. There is no obligation - just stop by the 50/50 table in the foyer to let our greeting team know you are a new visitor interested in the Seafarers.

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



Happy Hour at St. Andrews



The PGI Car Club (PGICC) meets at Beef 'O' Brady's in Punta Gorda at 11:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next general meeting is on August 11. Look for a reminder email a couple days before. The club will continue to offer educational presentations during or in addition to our monthly meetings.

Cars and Coffee at Bal Harbor Plaza is open to all automobile enthusiasts and continues to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next Cars and Coffee is August 18 at 8. Look for us at the Bal Harbor side of the parking lot. The Celtic Ray hosts a car show every second Thursday from 3 to 5. They offer discounts on food and drink for participants. It's a great way to spend an afternoon. The Car Club also participates in the Punta Gorda History Park Sunday Market. Join us on the third Sunday of each month as we showcase some of our members' special vehicles. Scheduled outdoor events may be cancelled due to weather forecasts. Watch for email notifications.

Last month the PGICC cruised to Arcadia for a delicious lunch at Giuseppe's Brooklyn Oven.



Morgan front



Morgan side



Morgan front quarter

This month we highlight Robert and Susan Engelhart's 2026 Classic Blue Morgan Plus Four. Morgan? Oh, a kit car? No, a British car. A British kit car? No, it's hand built by Morgan Motor Company in England. So, it's an antique? Nope, brand new. It sure looks like an old car. Yep.

Morgan has been building cars since 1909 in Malvern, England. It started out building three wheelers (and still builds them) and eventually started building four wheelers in 1935. The +Four was introduced in 1950 and continued production until the mid to late 1960s. It was discontinued due to competition from other British sports cars, namely Triumph and Jaguar. The Morgan was reintroduced in 1984. The official designation has been changed from +Four to Plus Four.

Yes, Morgans are handmade in England. No, they aren't made of wood, but there is plenty of wood in the body. The chassis and body are aluminum, and the car is very light, about 2,364 pounds. An old saw in British car circles: A British car that doesn't leak oil doesn't have oil. Well, this British car doesn't leak oil (but it does have oil) because it has a BMW drive train, namely a BMW 2.0 litre, B48 twin turbo inline 4-cylinder engine matched to a BMW ZF automatic 8-speed transmission, with 260hp and 295 pound/foot torque. Tell me it ain't so...a sports car...a British sports car...and it's an automatic. Sorry, it is so. United States regulations limit imports of Morgans to 350 (and the Plus Four is the only model allowed) and they must be automatics, although, as of July 14, 2026, Morgan is now allowed to export the Supersport to the U.S.

The Morgan is a bare-bones roadster, with only five inches of ground clearance, 4-wheel disc brakes, two airbags, and power steering and brakes. A/C is an option, as are a spare tire, cup holder and carpeting. Cruise control, navigation, cameras and radio are among many other amenities and features of contemporary cars that are not available on Morgans. It does have a sound system that can Bluetooth to a phone or tablet, but who can hear a radio in a roadster at highway speeds? If you see this Morgan on the road, give a wave.

We encourage new and current members to visit the club's Facebook page under PGI Car Club. It features members' postings, what's happening, photos of impressive automobiles and more. Check it out and post your favorite vehicle images.

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



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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 12, 12:00 to 1:00 pm
Civics, Conversation & Coffee

Friday, August 21, 8:30 to 2:30 pm
Blood Drive

Friday, August 28, 2:00 to 3:30 pm
Afternoon Social Ghostly Encounters

Friday, September 25, 4:00 to 7:00 pm
Tag Team Artist Diamond Jubilee Show

Sunday, September 27, 6:00 to 7:30 pm
Sunday Funday Comedy Night

**** Saturday, October 3, 7:00 am to 2:00 pm ****
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August Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
2	3 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 1:00p Duplicate Bridge	4 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 11:30a Newcomers - Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	1:00p PGIsland Newcomer Meeting 1:30p Beginner with Vera 3:00p
9	10 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 5:00p Friends, Fun & Community 7:00p Texas Hold'em	11 8:30a Fishing Club Board Meeting 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:30p Fishing Club 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:00a PGICA B Civics, C 12:00p Coffee 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland Beginner with Vera 3:00p PGIsland Castaway 4:30p 5:00p
16	17 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 Board Meeting 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	18 8:30a Zumba 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	1:00p PGIsland Beginner with Vera 3:00p Just For 4:00p
23	24 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 Texas Hold'em	25 8:30a Zumba 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:00p Seafarers 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland Beginner with Vera 3:00p PGIsland FF&C Lac 4:30p 6:30p
30	31 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 5:00p Friends, Fun & Community		

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
5 Seniors - Mahjongg Seniors Board Line Dancing		6 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ 12:30p Canasta Game Mariners Mah Jong		7 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge		1 5:30p Newcomers Special Events	
12 Board Meeting Conversation & e Bridge Seniors - Mahjongg r Line Dancing a Seniors y Music Bingo		13 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ 12:30p Canasta Game Mariners Mah Jong		14 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge		8 15	
19 Seniors - Mahjongg r Line Dancing a Fun		20 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ 12:30p Canasta Game Mariners Mah Jong		21 8:30a Blood Drive 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge		22	
26 e Bridge Seniors - Mahjongg Line Dancing Seniors dies Game Night		27 9:00a PGIslanders- Board 9:30a Meeting 12:00p Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:30p Hand & Foot Card/ 4:30p Canasta Game Mariners Mah Jong Newcomers		28 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 2:00p DIAMOND JUBILEE Afternoon Social		29	

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Looking Ahead to September CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 10:00a Yoga 11:30a Newcomers - Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	2 9:30a In Stitches 10:00a Landsberg Bennett Finance Seminar 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner Line Dancing with Vera	3 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 6:30p PGIslanders	4 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	5:30p N E
6	7 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 1:00p Duplicate Bridge 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	8 8:30a Fishing Club Board Meeting 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:30p Fishing Club 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9 9:00a PGICA Board Meeting 9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate Bridge 1:00p Just For Fun Board Meeting 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner Line Dancing with Vera 4:30p PGIslanders	10 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong	11 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	



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

Clinton Binley
 Greg & Tracy Call
 Kit Campbell Klemm
 Joseph Champagne
 Rikki Lackey
 Alisa & John Lapide
 Karin Mauer

Heyoung & Jon McBride
 Carlton & Mandy Pearsall
 Andrew & Elina Pfaffenbach
 John Roche
 Robert & Theresa Zavadi
 Loreen Zink

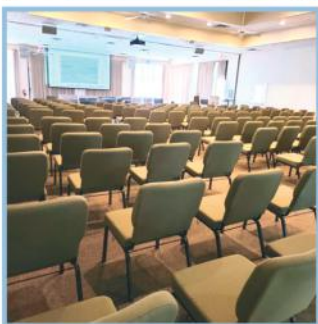
PGICA EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS



- Substantial PGICA member discounts at more than 40 local shops and restaurants with the PGICA **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 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.
- Free **Notary Public** services to notarize documents.
- Participate in the **Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, Annual Nautical Flea Market, and other periodic Markets**.
- 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 **nearly 3,000 members**, has existed for more than 60 years ... the **PGICA**.

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



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.

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.

To be added to the volunteer list for any of these categories, please contact the PGICA office 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.





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JUST SOLD PGI JUNE 2026*

HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$359,000	\$359,900	1.00	1610 APPIAN DR	1,396	1978	None	3	2	0	157	06/30/2026	\$257.16	\$257.81
\$425,000	\$418,000	0.98	120 DONNA CT	1,026	1959	Private	3	2	0	72	06/25/2026	\$414.23	\$407.41
\$450,000	\$435,000	0.97	944 GENOA CT	1,699	1978	Private	2	2	0	85	06/10/2026	\$264.86	\$256.03
\$499,000	\$461,000	0.92	3762 WHIPPOORWILL CT	1,615	1998	None	3	2	0	19	06/08/2026	\$308.98	\$285.45
\$500,000	\$500,000	1.00	1128 RUM CAY CT	2,071	1994	Private	3	2	0	8	06/17/2026	\$241.43	\$241.43
\$545,000	\$531,000	0.97	1112 MUSCOVIE CT	1,867	1999	Private	3	2	0	7	06/01/2026	\$291.91	\$284.41
\$550,000	\$522,000	0.95	2140 VIA SEVILLE	1,612	1973	Private	2	2	0	215	06/25/2026	\$341.19	\$323.82
\$550,000	\$535,000	0.97	390 CAPRI ISLES CT	1,955	1970	None	3	2	0	81	06/26/2026	\$281.33	\$273.66
\$570,000	\$570,000	1.00	1330 APPIAN DR	2,090	1979	None	3	2	0	187	06/10/2026	\$272.73	\$272.73
\$599,000	\$584,000	0.97	918 MESSINA DR	1,755	1970	Private	3	2	0	57	06/03/2026	\$341.31	\$332.76
\$599,000	\$595,000	0.99	1241 ROYAL TERN DR	1,849	1993	Private	3	2	0	27	06/11/2026	\$323.96	\$321.8
\$599,900	\$500,000	0.83	4075 TURTLE DOVE CIR	2,327	1986	Private	3	3	0	93	06/05/2026	\$257.80	\$214.87
\$675,000	\$655,000	0.97	5430 ALMAR DR	2,009	2001	Private	3	2	1	165	06/16/2026	\$335.99	\$326.03
\$699,000	\$699,000	1.00	471 CAPRI ISLES CT	1,974	1974	Private	3	3	0	64	06/11/2026	\$354.10	\$354.1
\$714,888	\$694,000	0.97	825 VIA FORMIA	2,295	1979	Private	3	2	0	68	06/22/2026	\$311.50	\$302.4
\$725,000	\$725,000	1.00	1620 ALBATROSS DR	2,033	1989	Private	3	2	0	11	06/15/2026	\$356.62	\$356.62
\$739,900	\$739,900	1.00	1880 AQUI ESTA DR	2,246	2022	Private	3	3	1	7	06/30/2026	\$329.43	\$329.43
\$740,000	\$730,000	0.99	2611 RYAN BLVD	2,033	1984	Private	3	2	1	149	06/30/2026	\$363.99	\$359.08
\$764,000	\$755,000	0.99	3225 ANTIGUA DR	2,235	1990	Private	3	2	0	32	06/19/2026	\$341.83	\$337.81
\$775,000	\$790,000	1.02	420 GARVIN ST	2,290	1993	Private	4	2	0	28	06/15/2026	\$338.43	\$344.98
\$840,950	\$830,000	0.99	1110 MINEO DR	2,338	2000	Private	3	2	0	4	06/09/2026	\$359.69	\$355
\$849,900	\$810,000	0.95	803 LUCIA DR	1,986	1990	Private	3	2	1	37	06/10/2026	\$427.95	\$407.85
\$850,000	\$790,000	0.93	435 CAICOS DR	2,085	1980	Private	3	3	0	72	06/30/2026	\$407.67	\$378.9
\$885,000	\$856,000	0.97	2144 CHARLOTTE AMALIE CT	2,872	2000	Private	4	3	1	167	06/25/2026	\$308.15	\$298.05
\$945,000	\$900,000	0.95	1355 REDBIRD CT	2,373	1988	Private	3	2	0	26	06/29/2026	\$398.23	\$379.27
\$995,000	\$950,000	0.95	48 TROPICANA DR	2,527	2011	Private	3	3	0	274	06/23/2026	\$393.75	\$375.94
\$1,050,000	\$975,000	0.93	198 GULFVIEW RD	2,228	2024	Private	4	3	0	521	06/23/2026	\$471.27	\$437.61
\$1,065,000	\$1,015,000	0.95	3307 DOMINICA CT	2,308	2022	Private	3	2	1	441	06/15/2026	\$461.44	\$439.77
\$1,190,000	\$950,000	0.80	1210 MINEO DR	2,704	2016	Private	3	3	0	51	06/23/2026	\$440.09	\$351.33
\$1,199,000	\$1,160,000	0.97	849 NAPOLI LN	2,613	2014	Private	4	3	0	17	06/05/2026	\$458.86	\$443.93
\$1,200,000	\$1,100,000	0.92	1339 CASEY KEY DR	2,680	1984	Private	3	3	0	167	06/26/2026	\$447.76	\$410.45
\$1,549,000	\$1,485,000	0.96	238 LIDO DR	2,948	2015	Private	3	3	0	209	06/15/2026	\$525.44	\$503.73
\$1,595,000	\$1,550,000	0.97	183 MARIA CT	2,741	2024	Private	4	3	1	445	06/02/2026	\$581.90	\$565.49

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$194,000	\$183,000	0.94	255 W END DR Unit#4201	1,351	2005	Community	2	2	0	55	06/30/2026	\$143.60	\$135.46
\$198,000	\$185,000	0.93	3251 WHITE IBIS CT Unit#A2	1,025	1980	Community	2	2	0	144	06/25/2026	\$193.17	\$180.49
\$219,000	\$209,000	0.95	220 COLDEWAY DR Unit#123	1,120	1988	Community	2	2	0	373	06/01/2026	\$195.54	\$186.61
\$225,000	\$216,700	0.96	2001 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#2304	1,497	2011	Community	3	2	0	15	06/01/2026	\$150.30	\$144.76
\$265,000	\$252,000	0.95	2000 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#321	1,517	2000	Community	3	2	0	253	06/16/2026	\$174.69	\$166.12
\$269,000	\$245,000	0.91	255 WEST END BLVD Unit#4306	1,498	2005	Community	3	2	0	81	06/22/2026	\$179.57	\$163.55
\$270,000	\$270,000	1.00	601 SHREVE ST Unit#53C	1,398	1981	Community	2	2	0	485	06/19/2026	\$193.13	\$193.13
\$270,000	\$270,000	1.00	240 W END DR Unit#311	1,306	2006	Community	2	2	0	27	06/15/2026	\$206.74	\$206.74
\$270,000	\$270,000	1.00	1431 AQUI ESTA DR Unit#111	1,556	2005	Community	3	2	0	2	06/05/2026	\$173.52	\$173.52
\$279,900	\$279,900	1.00	273 COLDEWAY DR Unit#D10	1,111	1985	Community	2	2	0	7	06/08/2026	\$251.94	\$251.94
\$289,900	\$272,000	0.94	1500 PARK BEACH CIR Unit#2F	988	1975	Community	2	2	0	554	06/23/2026	\$293.42	\$275.3
\$309,000	\$300,000	0.97	3239 PURPLE MARTIN DR Unit#122	1,430	2007	Community	2	2	0	48	06/11/2026	\$216.08	\$209.79
\$315,000	\$310,000	0.98	2002 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#1022	1,517	2003	Community	3	2	0	35	06/08/2026	\$207.65	\$204.35
\$315,000	\$300,000	0.95	3314 WOOD THRUSH DR Unit#111	1,563	2006	Community	2	2	0	6	06/08/2026	\$201.54	\$191.94
\$325,000	\$310,000	0.95	3329 PURPLE MARTIN DR Unit#113	1,467	2007	Community	2	2	0	135	06/16/2026	\$221.54	\$211.32
\$325,000	\$312,500	0.96	240 W END DR Unit#1123	1,586	2006	Community	3	2	0	56	06/02/2026	\$204.92	\$197.04
\$339,900	\$330,000	0.97	1323 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#212	1,586	2006	Community	3	2	0	9	06/22/2026	\$214.31	\$208.07
\$399,000	\$376,000	0.94	1344 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#121	2,034	2003	Community	3	2	0	176	06/10/2026	\$196.17	\$184.86
\$400,000	\$390,000	0.98	87 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#403	2,338	2006	Community	3	3	0	395	06/11/2026	\$171.09	\$166.81
\$549,000	\$530,000	0.97	1750 JAMAICA WAY Unit#311	1,916	1990	Community	3	2	0	90	06/30/2026	\$286.53	\$276.62
\$549,000	\$525,000	0.96	1250 W MARION AVE Unit#341	1,838	1997	Community	3	2	0	243	06/01/2026	\$298.69	\$285.64
\$589,990	\$589,999	1.00	1623 SEA HAVEN DR Unit#301	1,912	2025	Community	4	3	0	227	06/30/2026	\$308.57	\$308.58

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



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



Punta Gorda in the summer surely is different from Punta Gorda in season. I can hear the snowbirds reading this ask, "How so?" As an example, my partner Peter and I were returning from dinner downtown on a recent Friday evening. Traveling southbound on Bal Harbor Boulevard, we came to the Aqui Esta intersection. I dutifully stopped and checked for oncoming and intersecting traffic; there was none. There was not another moving vehicle visible as far as the eye could see, and this was at 7:15, well before sunset. This is quite a contrast with mid-season, when, if traveling west on Aqui Esta Boulevard at the same intersection, traffic may be backed up to Guadalupe Drive or beyond; contrast, indeed.

With rainy season upon us, albeit sporadically, it is difficult to plan anything other than lunch cruises. Fortunately, the area offers many opportunities, including some new venues. Gary Burgess organized and led a cruise to the recently opened Latitude 26 restaurant, located in Fishermen's Village at the former site of the Captain's Table. Five boats with a total of 11 Mariners onboard participated in the July 7 cruise. He reported good fun, great food, and spectacular views of the harbor. The group was attended by two servers with backup staff who "couldn't do enough for us to make our trip successful." Gary took many photos of the docked boats and views from the newly finished restaurant. Unfortunately, when tucking his boat away after

returning to home base, he suffered a misstep and lost his phone, and thus the cruise photos, to the briny deep. The accompanying

photo is one Gary took during a pre-cruise reconnoiter and posted on our Mariner Facebook page. High winds and heavy, but much-needed rainfall led to cancellation of the July 18 lunch cruise to Riviera Bar and Grill. I'm sure another will be scheduled to this favorite Mariner lunch cruise destination.

Landside, the Mariners social calendar is cruising right along. In season, Mariners gather weekly for happy hour at the Village Brewhouse. In summer, with fewer members in town,



and hot and rainy weather making the outdoor Village Brewhouse venue a bit uncomfortable, Mariners often volunteer to host the gathering at their homes. Richard and Peggy Northrup hosted July 8 happy hour. Approximately 20 Mariners attended, each bringing a yummy appetizer to share. Eric and Debby Dehmel have volunteered to host the August 12 happy hour. Mariners can check the social sign-ups page on the Mariner website to confirm the location of upcoming happy hours. Debby is a

busy lady; she also hosted the July Lunch with the Ladies (LWL) Wednesday, July 15 at The Perfect Caper. As a special touch, Debby gifted each attendee with a cleaning "scrubbie" (see photo). She discovered these at a craft fair several years ago and liked them so much, she tracked down the vendor and bought many more, and she doesn't even earn a commission.

Lunch with the Ladies
"scrubbie"



Mariners gather the first Sunday of each month to enjoy delicious breakfast fare and relaxed and friendly conversation at Tamiami Tavern; the next date is August 2. Other recurring activities include pickleball each Tuesday and Thursday morning starting at 8 at South County Park, and Bullets and Brunch the second Wednesday of the month.

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



While Beyond Ourselves remains on hiatus (we do not meet during the summer months), our members are still finding ways to give back to their community and are hard at work planning upcoming fundraisers. Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16 at 10 a.m. at the PGICA.

Beyond Ourselves' golf event planning team continues to meet and is finalizing all the details for Chip In For Charity. All proceeds from this inaugural golf event, to be held on Saturday, October 17 at St. Andrew's South Golf Club in Punta Gorda, will benefit the Charlotte CARE Center and the Peace River Wildlife Center.

Please consider supporting our golf event, Chip In For Charity, by registering as a golfer or becoming a sponsor today. Scan the QR codes on the flyer or visit our website at www.PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves to sign up.

Chip In For Charity will kick off with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Your \$125 per person entrance fee will include continental breakfast, your greens fee and golf cart, giveaways, fun contests, and lunch. On the day of the golf event, golfers can purchase mulligan, move-up hole and 50/25/25 raffle tickets. Cash prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and top scoring teams.

Beyond Ourselves is offering many sponsorship opportunities at our Chip In For Charity Golf Event. This is a wonderful way to promote your business or group while also supporting a great cause. Additional information about sponsorship can be found on the Beyond Ourselves website or by visiting www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/chip-in-for-charity-a-beyond-ourselves-golf-event.

Donated items are always needed for both the Charlotte CARE Center and the Peace River Wildlife Center, especially through the summer months when our population decreases. Please consider helping these organizations by utilizing the donation bins located in the lobby of the PGICA. Wish lists for each organization are attached to the bins. Member volunteers will collect any donated items and make sure they are distributed to those in need.

Also continuing through the summer months, Beyond Ourselves member volunteers pick up donations of perishable food and deliver it to the Peace River Wildlife Center. Every week, member volunteers help to ensure the wildlife receives much-needed food that might otherwise be thrown away.

The three missions of the Beyond Ourselves club are to help children's charities, aid the homeless, and protect the wildlife in Charlotte County. Our fall fundraiser supports both the homeless and wildlife in our community, with funds raised benefitting the Charlotte CARE Center (formerly the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition) and the Peace River Wildlife Center. Funds raised from our annual spring home tour, Share the Love for the Kids, benefit eight local children's charities.

Remember to put the next Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour on your calendar. Would you like to have your home featured on our tour? Or do you know someone with a spectacular home that we should feature? Send an email to BeyondOurselvesPuntaGorda@gmail.com to submit a home for consideration. We will be showcasing an all-new group of local homes for you to tour and enjoy on Saturday, February 27, 2027.

Beyond Ourselves is a community service club that meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. We invite you join us at our meeting in September.

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



Janine makes a birdie



Marlene & Peter ready for the golf event



Linda practices chipping in for charity

August is a great month to relax and enjoy the last full month of summer. If you live in PGI year-round, you have probably done your share of sitting in air conditioning and staying out of the heat. However, you have also enjoyed lots of opportunities to go to the beach and swim or do other fun activities in the area. I live near the water. A few weeks ago, we had an alligator at our water's edge. It was pretty exciting and scary at the same time. Eventually a local trapper came and took it away to a different location. I have a neighbor with young kids, so I made sure to let them know not to go near the site where the alligator was lurking. That was quite an experience. Not something that would happen in Minnesota or Wisconsin, that's for sure.



Having a wonderful time

August is a time kids are starting back to school. We know the drill. If we have kids or grandkids, they are buying supplies and new clothes for school. Here in Charlotte County schools are starting on August 11, so this is a big deal to get them ready. If you have kids or grandkids, you are probably already helping to get them ready. If you don't, you can donate to a variety of sources to help those who need help get ready. We are Paradise Friends after all, and that's what friends do. By the time we meet for lunch this month, they will be in school. We will enjoy our lunch with our friends and be thankful we already were in school for years and don't have to go ourselves. I especially don't want to go back to high school and take geometry or physics. Start watching out for those

school busses.

Sips and Dips will take place on Thursday, August 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the home of Claudia and Jack Chopp. Please bring a yummy appetizer or dessert, and of course your preferred BYOB. There is a limit of 30 people, so please sign up on our website. If you need to get in touch with Claudia or Jack, contact them by phone at 941-637-0331 or by email at cbchopp@yahoo.com or jlchopp@yahoo.com.

ChowHounds Men's Lunch will be held on Thursday, August 13 at 11:30 at the Village Brewhouse. They have a casual American menu and offer pub-style food, so we won't go hungry. If you enjoy hanging out with some new and not so new men, perhaps sipping a beer or two and eating a fun lunch, come join us. An added bonus is that it is located on Charlotte Harbor, so it has beautiful views. The early season of NFL football begins this month, so you will have plenty to talk about. If you are planning to join us, please sign up on our website so we have enough spots for us. For more information, contact Mike Dougherty at 314-220-7940 or CaptMikeD@gmail.com.

PF Ladies Lunch is on Thursday, August 13 at noon at the Burg'r Bar. This restaurant is a popular downtown Punta Gorda restaurant that offers a variety of many entrees. We won't have to drive very far to get to this site. We will enjoy each other, spend time talking about our plans for the fall, or whatever it is you want to talk about. We can actually share some insights regarding the new school year for our kids and grandkids. Or perhaps we can share a great story about each of us being in school. Some of us might have to order a glass of wine about our story. Please register so we know how many will be coming. Contact Joan Erickson at 512-789-1191 or joanpe524@yahoo.com for more information.



We gather together

Our Paradise Friends mixer is going to be held on Thursday, August 20 at 5 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in the Library Room. Come enjoy one another and you won't have to cook dinner. Registration is recommended for this event. This event is being hosted by Jack Gardner at 941-457-0233 or 4jackgardner@gmail.com.

Our Choice event this month will be at F.M. Dons on Thursday, August 27 at 5:30. We all enjoy this event because we can order what we want, talk about what we want, and enjoy all of our friends. Please sign

up for this dinner on our website. You can contact Vicki Britton at her email which is tomandvickibritton@hotmail.com if you need to change plans.

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. He will be happy to answer your questions about our wonderful club.

Please submit any photos to Sue Kelley who will write this article at skelley180@aol.com.



Struss & Bob started Paradise Friends

Tag Team artist Margaret Whitney joined us this year. She shared a bit of her story for our August Commentator check in and is just in time for our Diamond Jubilee Show on September 25 where she will show her wonderful watercolors.

In her words: About seven years ago, my husband and I visited our dear friends who had recently purchased a home in Punta Gorda. We fell in love with the charm, amenities and abundance of activities available in this unique coastal town and within our three-day trip we decided to make this place our home too.

The arts have always been important to our family but I preferred visual arts and loved keeping my hands busy with sewing, knitting, cross-stitch, whatever caught my interest. Most projects needed to be picked up and put down and worked into pockets of free time in an otherwise busy life. I've always held a special interest in watercolor and now that I'm

retired, I decided to dedicate time to learning if I have an aptitude for it.

After just a couple watercolor

classes at

the Visual Arts Center I was hooked. Watercolor offers me the perfect balance of challenge and serenity.

A few months ago, my friend Ann invited me to paint with her at the PGICA. Their group calls themselves Tag Team Artists and they are an expressive and vibrant group who mutually appreciate a dedicated time during the week to paint and collaborate. I love everything about this group. They

are welcoming, encouraging and are happy to share their knowledge and experience. Once we settle in, we get down to the business of painting. With a backdrop of instrumental music paired with the sound of brushes on canvas we each drift into our creative zones. The three hours pass too quickly. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of this wonderful group.



Margaret Whitney at work



Blanket Flower



Country House



Blanket Flower Garden

Tennis is a sport for a lifetime. The PGICA Tennis Club is a great place to start again if you want to return to the game. Becky & Jerry Justin joined the PGICA tennis club in 2022. Becky plays on multiple teams, but Jerry (68) had not played tennis since the 1980s. In early 2026 Jerry decided to take the plunge. He took a refresher course of Love to Learn tennis hosted at PGICA and is now back on the courts playing mixed doubles with his wife and dropping into local practice games. Joining a men's team for the upcoming winter season is next on the agenda.



June Welch at PGICA courts



June Welch with her tennis gear

Marti & Harold Welch have been PGICA tennis members for over ten years. Marti has played off and on for over 55 years. She grew up playing with her parents and introduced her children to tennis at a young age. When their 3½ year old granddaughter June came to visit, going to the tennis courts to play was a fun way to spend some time together and their family now has four generations of players.

The PGICA tennis club teams have multiple players in their 80s. At least one is approaching 90 and still playing at a very competitive level. If you ask them why they still play, the answer is, "Why wouldn't you?" It is the perfect sport to maintain your mental and physical well-being. If you start as a young child or as an older adult, the benefits are there either way. It is never too late or too early to start your tennis journey.

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 website.

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



Becky & Jerry Justin



Marty & Harold & June Welch

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PUNTA GORDA CITY COUNCIL

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MUSIC BINGO
Castaways PGICA SOCIAL CLUB
ALL PGICA MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS
ARE INVITED!
Everyone is welcome—bring your friends and neighbors!

JOIN THE CASTAWAYS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 AT THE PGICA

DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM
PLAY STARTS 7:00 PM
OPEN TO ALL PGICA MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS!

\$10 TO PLAY INCLUDES 2 CARDS 4 GAMES
CASH PRIZES BASED ON ATTENDANCE
50/50 DRAWING AFTER THE 2ND GAME

HOSTED BY DJ TIM

BYOB BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE

Don't need to know music to play—JUST LISTEN, MARK, AND HAVE FUN!
BRING A FAVORITE MUNCHIE TO SHARE!
PLAY THE HITS YOU KNOW AND LOVE! ★ MUSIC, LAUGHS, PRIZES & GOOD TIMES!
SIGN UP TODAY ON CLUBEXPRESS—WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!



Wow! What a celebration for our 250th Independence Day! I'm sure many of you were able to catch the perfect trifecta of fireworks in our own Peace River. Laishley, Sunseeker Resort and Fishermen's Village combined for a rare treat of three professional fireworks displays. The weather cooperated, and despite the heat, many boats enjoyed a close up view from the water.

Many of those boats were skippered by fishing club members. Their knowledge of boating and the local waters is not only a valuable asset for navigation, but also for finding fish. During the dog days of summer it can be a challenge, but joining the Fishing Club can give you the edge you need to keep catching.

Tarpon are a favorite during the hot months in the deeper holes of Charlotte Harbor. Longer daylight hours will open more fishing opportunities. The action can be outstanding. Remember to give wide berth to those angling for these big fish.

Learning techniques for catching the many species including tarpon is why joining the PGI Fishing Club is a great option for anglers or soon to be anglers. Our membership includes fishermen who are experienced in catching all kinds of fish,



Elaine Bretts - Shark

including inshore and offshore species. By joining, you not only gain access to the expertise of our 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. Joining and participating in the PGI Fishing club will make for some memorable trips and lasting friendships.

Looking for a challenge? The Fishing Club's Ladder of Achievement is a fun 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. With guidance and perseverance, the goal of Grand Master Angler is within reach.

PGI Fishing Club members also enjoy a variety of social activities. Monthly meetings exploring various topics and fishing news, Fish of the Month contest, friendly fishing tournaments with prizes for designated catches. We also have special events like holiday parties, picnics, weekly happy hours and other fun gatherings.

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



Donna Sullivan - Snook



Jeff Wilson - Black Drum

Bring Your Lunch & Learn
Open to the Entire PGICA Membership
Go to the Newcomers Club Calendar to Register.
If you have problems registering, contact Jane Connors
jane.connors40@gmail.com

MELON 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH
12:30 - 1:30 PM

PGICA AUDITORIUM
THE LARGEST WATERMELON GROWER, PACKER AND DISTRIBUTOR IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

PROUDLY BASED IN PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA

GUEST SPEAKER:
RACHEL SYNGO
CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER FOR MELON 1
8TH GENERATION FARMING FAMILY

- Learn how watermelons go from field preparation to harvest.
- Discover packing, shipping and nationwide distribution.
- FREE** fresh watermelon samples for everyone!
- Hear about Florida agriculture and our local farming community.

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Southwest Florida Walking Tours
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It is Primary Election time. Election Day is August 18. Early Voting is August 8 to 15. Vote By Mail ballots have already started to go out in the mail. Please check your voting location as it may have changed from the last time you voted.

The election for the County Commissioner from our district, District 2 could be decided in the primary. There are only two candidates and since they are both from the same party, the primary will determine which one will go on to the November ballot. The candidates are Christopher Constance (R) and John Fleming (R). We have asked both candidates a list of questions. Only one responded. His answers are listed below.

A. Do you think infrastructure has kept pace with development?

John Fleming - No, I do not. Growth in Charlotte County has far outpaced infrastructure due to the County's policy of allowing development in areas that do not already have the infrastructure necessary to support that development. As a result, our residents experience greater congestion on our roads, utilities are reaching their capacity before new facilities can be built and our emergency services cannot keep pace with the population growth. More and more neighborhoods are experiencing flooding as developers are being allowed to build on environmental sensitive land. I am deeply concerned over the lack of quality medical facilities for our growing population.

B. Why do you agree or disagree with using a 20-year extension for the 1% sales tax vs the current six years?

John Fleming - I believe the one percent sales tax provided the County with funding for important projects but a 20-year extension is a significant commitment. Residents deserve transparency in how their money is spent. When the tax was first proposed, it was supposed to reduce the budget by having an additional revenue source for infrastructure projects. That has not been the case as our budget has gone up 113% in the past six years and our infrastructure has not kept pace with development.

C. If elected, how much time are you willing to spend on this county position for which you would be paid over \$90,000 per year?

John Fleming - The job of County Commissioner demands a full-time commitment. I am fortunate to have a pension from the New York City Police Department, so I will be able to have ample time for constituents serves and public outreach. My opponent no longer has time to meet with constituents as he divides his time as County Commissioner with two jobs in the medical field. I am prepared to devote all my time to the job not just in my district but the entire County.

D. Mr. Constance recommended that City of Punta Gorda residents double pay for a proposed \$1.3 million animal control contract. They already pay the same amount as the other county taxpayers, why should they pay again as city taxpayers? They don't receive twice the services. Do you agree or disagree?

John Fleming - Residents in Punta Gorda should not pay twice for the same level of service. Any funding agreement between the County and the City of Punta Gorda should be equitable, transparent, and based on the actual cost of the providing services. Taxpayers deserve a fair arrangement that avoids unnecessary duplication of costs.

E. Do you favor higher impact fees vs. the bill being paid by existing residents?

John Fleming - Impact fees should reflect the true cost of growth. When impact fees are too low existing residents end up subsidizing development through higher taxes, utility rates or reduced public services. Growth should pay for new roads, parks, public safety and infrastructure upgrades - not the families who already live here.

F. Are you for or against the state proposed increase in the homestead exemption?

John Fleming - I fully support any legislation designed to lower property taxes in this State. Charlotte County residents have the ninth highest overall property tax burden in the State. During the last budget cycle, the County was fully aware of pending legislation and could have taken steps to reduce spending, instead the chose to increase the budget for the sixth straight year.

G. Are you for or against proposed extra oversight on county spending?

John Fleming - Taxpayers deserve full transparency when it comes to how the County spends their money. I believe we do not have the proper level of oversight in this area. Strict oversight in this area must be a top priority for any elected official. I believe in limited government, fiscal responsibility and complete transparency in spending.

Educate yourself and get out and VOTE for the person that you think will best represent you!

For more information, see soecharlottecountyfl.gov.



PGI Cruising Club activities typically slow down in the summer months as many of our members migrate northward to visit friends and family. As a example, the Admiral and I just completed a ten-day trip to Michigan that included stops in St. Ignace, Sault St. Marie, Mackinaw Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Manistee. Our trip further down the west coast of Michigan was cut short due to the smoke and ash from the Canadian wild fires. Next year we'll try to visit Grand Haven, Saugatuck and Holland.

I thought this month would be a good time to share portions of a personal cruise diary kept by one of our founding members. Richard (Dick) Shelton was both a good friend and an accomplished powerboater and this month's Commentator article is in memory of his many contributions to the PGI Cruising Club. For those of you who recently moved to PGI, I hope this article illustrates to you what excitement lies ahead of you if you choose to join a local boating club. For our Cruising Club members, you will recognize names of members both past and present.

In Dick's words: Around the Horn of Florida (Part I)

Day 1 - Friday morning, February 7, 2003 PGI to Ft. Myers (45 miles)

"Ten boats from the PGI Cruising Club left for our "Around the horn of Florida" cruise. This particular morning Charlotte Harbor and most of Southwest Florida was blanketed in pea soup thick fog. When we left the rim canal and reached Ponce Inlet, not only could you not see Marker 1, Ponce Inlet markers were hardly visible. Since I had already entered Marker 1 as a waypoint on my GPS, I put down an anchor at exactly 10. We had two more boats rafted off to us by 10:45, and by 11:30 two more boats joined us. By 1:30, the fog lifted enough for us to locate the rest of our group. After some discussion, we decided that the fog would probably continue to lift and we determined that we had sufficient time (and daylight) to make Ft. Myers. We left Marker 1 but by the time we approached Marker 5 we could not see each other again.

At that point we decided to return to PGI and the safety of the canals. The Floating Doc (Jay and Pam Fredrickson) invited us all over to their boat for some much-needed liquid refreshments and hors d'oeuvres that we had planned to consume on the city docks in Ft. Myers. Bim and Posy Platt on The Sand Man had left a day early and were already anchored near Useppa Island, unable to move because of the heavy fog."



Richard (Dick) Shelton

Day 1 again - Saturday morning, February 8 Another attempt at PGI to Ft. Myers

"We are off again but now down to only eight boats. The Fords and the Recines dropped out due to scheduling conflicts that a one day delay had caused. The Viva (Dick & Mary Shelton), The Miss Dee (Ron & Dee Farkas), Obsession (Del and Gloria Weeden), Serenade (Don & Linda Irgens), and the Floating Dock (Jay and Pam Fredrickson) were on our way again. The Sand Man joined us in the harbor and we all arrived at our destination around 2. That evening we found several nice restaurants within an easy walk from the city docks."

Day 2 - Sunday morning, February 9 Ft. Myers to Clewiston (58.5 miles)

"Eastbound to Clewiston on the Caloosahatchee River at 9. We had three locks to pass through on this leg of the journey and since many in our group were inexperienced with lock travel it was pretty exciting. Some members of our flotilla (no names please) were even awarded the appropriate scratches and gouges in their gelcoat to prove that they now had lock experience. Since we were a day late, the Clewiston Inn was closed on Sunday we had dinner at the marina restaurant. The food was good, very greasy with enough fat and cholesterol to last us until the Fourth of July!"

Day 3 - Monday, February 10 Clewiston to Stuart (79 miles)

"Since many of cruising group had other commitments and our start was delayed, we are now down to four boats going on to Stuart and around the Cape of Florida. Our departure from Clewiston was again delayed by fog until around 10:15. Since we were not sure how much fog was on Lake Okeechobee, we opted to take the rim route around the lake instead of across it, adding about 12 miles to the trip. We had two lengthy lock delays with over 90 minutes to clear the St. Lucie lock. This resulted in a very late arrival at the Marriott marina on Hutchinson Island around 6. The dockmaster stayed late and was very helpful getting us into the slips that were far too large for our boats. We celebrated our success and had a wonderful meal at the hotel restaurant. We all decided to stay and rest for an additional day at this full-service marina."

Day 4 - Tuesday, February 12

"We enjoyed a day relaxing with tennis and shopping on the agenda. The four couples voted to continue on with the trip. Stan Krichilsky (Sunshine) categorically stated he would go anywhere as long as there were no more locks to deal with. Cheers Stan, we're with you!"

Stay tuned. Next month I will wrap up Dick's account of the nine-day trip Around the horn of Florida. In the meantime, enjoy summer boating in Southwest Florida or wherever you happen to be.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Contact Pat Schaber at patschaber@pgica.org or via phone at 941-637-1655

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FOR SALE / WANTED

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

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APPLIANCE WORKS ~ We repair washers, dryers, refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers and disposers. Dryer vent cleaning also available. Over 30 years' experience. Licensed and insured. Owners: David and Virginia Lassey. Phone 941-575-9460.

BOAT REPAIR & BOAT CLEANING

PORT CHARLOTTE MARINE REPAIR ~

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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.

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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

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be a volunteer



**PGICA
needs you!**

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

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

Volunteering is good for your health!

You can:

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

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

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Sunday Funday

COMEDY NIGHT

★ CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ★

RESERVED SEATING NEAR STAGE WHEN YOU PURCHASE A TABLE OF 8

WINNER OF SEINFELD CHALLENGE

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Special Performances by
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\$30
PGICA MEMBER DISCOUNT

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GENERAL PUBLIC

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

SHOWTIME 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

2001 SHREVE ST., PUNTA GORDA, FL

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE AT **PGICA.ORG**
GO TO CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS FOR SEPT 27
CALL 941-637-1655 FOR INFO

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PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Afternoon (Social) Event

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GHOSTLY ENCOUNTERS

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Discover the dark secrets and the haunted past of Punta Gorda!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WALKING TOURS

All attendees will be given
\$5 OFF
the price of any walking tour that they book while at this event!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
\$5 for the General Public -
Complimentary admission for PGICA Members

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2001 Shreve St.,
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
This will not be an actual walking tour around the city, but a picture/narration presentation in our Auditorium.

HOW TO REGISTER
Space is limited.
Go to pgica.org and look under "Calendar" -
Special Events to register in advance.

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Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy light snacks!

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CIVICS, CONVERSATION & COFFEE

You are cordially invited to join us for an insightful hour of civic awareness and engagement in a non-partisan setting. To keep the atmosphere casual, relaxed and engaging, please bring your favorite cup of coffee, tea or beverage to enjoy during the session.

Our speakers will share their expertise about important issues and what they mean for our community. Topics may include talks on local government, legislative updates, public policy, U.S. History and other interesting subjects that matter to you. Presentations will be followed with a Q & A session where you will have the opportunity to have interactive discussions with our guest speakers and each other. This is a great opportunity to get informed on the issues shaping our world today while connecting with others over a morning brew.

Guest Speaker: State Attorney Amira Fox
Topic of Discussion: Drug Trafficking and Human Trafficking

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

12:00 - 1:00 PM

THIS EVENT AT THE PGICA IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda
info@pgica.org
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