

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Commentator

September 2026



Inside:

Golf Scramble
Volunteer Recruitment
Volunteer Recognition
Comedy Night
Civics, Conversation & Coffee

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KIM AMONTREE

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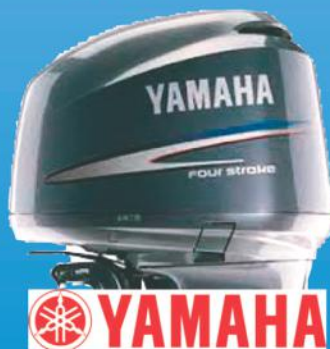
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2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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The Commentator

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Cover Photo by: Robin Austin



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

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“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. Walkins 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 Wetzberger. 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. Walkins 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. Walkins 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. Walkins are welcome.



Basic Beginner Line Dancing. Wednesdays Beginning November 4 through April 7, 3 to 4 p.m., \$10 per class. Have you ever wanted to join the other Boot Scootin' line dancers? This is your chance to learn Beginner Line Dancing. This is a repeating sequence of steps to a variety of musical rhythms. Dances are performed individually without a partner, in rows with other dancers. Not only is it fun, but line dancing also enhances physical and mental health as well providing the chance to get to know others while having fun!. Grab those hats and boots and join in on the fun! Instructor: Judy Barnhill. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walkins are welcome.



Advance Line Dancing. Wednesdays Beginning November 4 through April 7, 4 to 5 p.m., \$10 per class. This class is for students who took the basic class, along with dancers who have previous line dance experience. Instructor: Judy Barnhill. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walkins 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. Walkins are welcome.



Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons. Tues. 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. Walkins are welcome.

ART and MUSIC



Choir Play: Mondays, beginning January 11, 2027 through March 1. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$100 for course series which includes practice CD, sheet music, rehearsals, and concert. Concert to be held on Sunday, March 21. 3 to 5 p.m. Do you like to sing? Do you like to add to the beauty of combined voices? Come and join others who love to sing. You'll be adding your voice to 3-Part choral interpretations of classic, modern, pop, rock, country, Broadway and spiritual songs. After the first re-hearsal, if you decide it's not for you, you will receive a full refund. You'll be provided with practice CD's and sheet music, all available at the PGICA front desk. Directed by Cahal Dunne, B. Music, National University of Ireland. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. After the first rehearsal (January 11), ALL SALES ARE FINAL. NO RE-FUNDS.

WORKSHOPS



The Power of PGI Homeownership. Held once a month on Fridays, beginning September 18, 2026, 10 to 11a.m. FREE class. September 18 - The State of the PGI Waterfront Market. This twelve-month homeowner education series is intended to benefit PGI residents. The monthly one hour presentations are topics relevant to buying, selling and owning waterfront property. Each session features practical, waterfront specific content, presented by knowledgeable speakers with expertise in areas in important to local homeowners. Hosting the series through the community association provides residents with a valuable educational resource while further supporting the association's role as a hub for community engagement, information and homeowner enrichment. Crystal Coovert, Realtor-John R. Wood Properties is your instructor. Attendees can register online at www.pgica.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve St, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Beginner Mahjongg: Fridays, October 9 and 16. 1 to 4 p.m., \$50 for the two classes. This is a two-part class. Ever wonder why people get so excited about a bunch of tiles?!? Here's your chance to find out what it's all about! Come and join in on the fun. It doesn't matter if you're new to the game or improving you skills. This is the class for you! Instructor: Patty Albert. Tiles are provided - you just need to bring your desire to learn, have fun meeting people and your smile! Advance registration required. Participants can register online at www.PGICA.org or at PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. ALL PAYMENTS ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS ARE ALLOWED



Paper Quilling: Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon, \$35 per class. Please join us and learn this amazing art form. It doesn't matter if you're new or a seasoned Quillist – you'll learn new technique to create beautiful artwork you can take home and keep the tools to work on more items! Your Instructor is: Kathy Peters. 2026/2027 Class Dates: Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb.19, Mar.19, April 16, May21. Advance registration required. Students can register online at www.PGICA.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. ALL PAYMENTS ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS ARE ALLOWED.



Landsberg Bennett Wealth Management Seminars Monthly sessions. 10 to 11 a.m. We hope you'll join us for an opportunity to obtain information and insight into your finances. Seminar dates are Wednesday Sept. 2 - Avoiding Scams, Oct. 7 - Understanding the Retirement Tax Maze (How to strategize your withdrawals in retirement), Nov. 4 - Artificial Intelligence and Digital Wellness (How artificial intelligence is evolving and how we can protect our mental health). Landsberg Bennett Market Update Tuesday Nov. 17. 3 to 5 p.m. Interested participants can register at www.pgica.org or at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



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A busy first month and much more ahead - As I complete my first full month as Executive Director of PGICA, I want to begin with a sincere thank you.

One of the things that has impressed me most has been the commitment of your board. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand just how focused and hardworking these volunteers are. There is a great deal happening behind the scenes, and board members are giving considerable time and thought to the decisions, opportunities and responsibilities that come with serving an organization as active and diverse as PGICA.

I have also been warmly welcomed by so many of our clubs and groups. Thank you to those who have invited me in, introduced me to your members, shared your histories and explained what makes your group special. Every conversation helps me better understand PGICA, not simply as an organization, but as a community made up of thousands of individual interests, talents, friendships and experiences.

And to the many members who have simply stopped by the office, introduced themselves in the hallway or taken a few minutes to tell me a story, offer an idea or share some advice: thank you. Please keep doing it. I genuinely enjoy those conversations.

A busy month ahead - There is a tremendous amount happening at PGICA this month. Between our clubs, activities, classes, programs and special events, there are many opportunities to get involved.

One program I particularly want to recognize is our civics series. It is a wonderful example of PGICA providing members with opportunities to learn more about the community in which we live and to engage in thoughtful civic conversation.

A special thank you goes to Bill Abbatematteo for the considerable work he has put into organizing the series. Programs like this do not happen by themselves. They require planning, coordination and a willingness to take an idea and turn it into something the membership can enjoy. Bill's efforts are very much appreciated.

Are you getting everything you can from your membership? One question I would encourage every member to ask occasionally is: Am I getting everything I can from my PGICA membership?

There is an extraordinary amount happening here. Perhaps there is a club you have always wondered about but never visited. Maybe there is a class, game or activity you have never tried. You might be able to use something from our loaner program rather than purchasing an item you only need temporarily. There are educational programs, social opportunities, volunteer roles, community information, events and a building full of people with remarkably diverse interests and experiences.

Sometimes the value of membership is not found in one large benefit. It is found in all of the smaller opportunities we take advantage of throughout the year. Try something new. Walk into a different room. Introduce yourself to someone you do not know. You may discover another reason you are glad to be part of PGICA.

Looking ahead - We are also beginning to plan several fun opportunities for the months ahead.

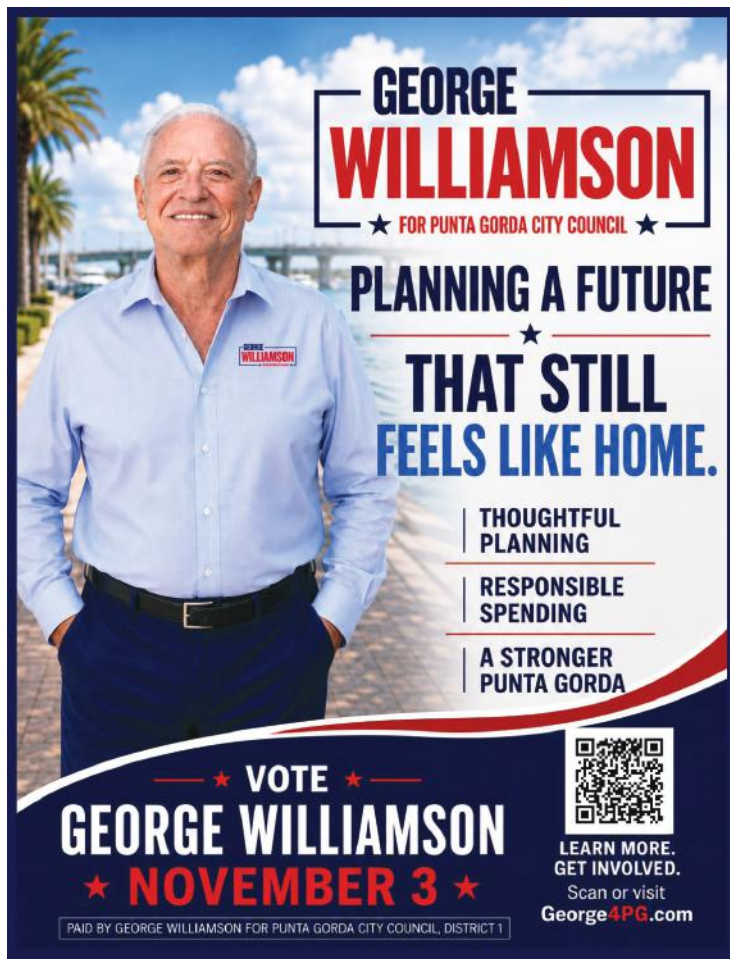
We are exploring ideas around the Saturday before Christmas Boat Parade, including the possibility of creating a special PGICA gathering or viewing opportunity. We would particularly like to hear from members who may have access to a suitable vacant waterfront lot along or near the parade route and would be willing to discuss its possible use.

Looking a little further ahead, planning is underway for a PGICA Nautical Flea Market in February. With boating, fishing and life on the water being such an important part of Punta Gorda, this has the potential to become a fun event for members and the wider community. There will be more information coming as we develop the details, vendor opportunities and volunteer needs.

The Commentator is your magazine - Finally, I would like to put out a challenge. The Commentator belongs to this membership. We have an enormous amount of knowledge, experience and talent within PGICA, and I would love to see more of it reflected in these pages. Perhaps one of our members would enjoy writing a regular technology column, simple tips about phones, computers, online safety or useful apps. Maybe someone has a passion for health and wellness, nutrition, fitness or healthy aging. Others may want to write about gardening, boating, local history, books, travel, photography, veterans' issues, cooking, home maintenance, financial literacy, arts and culture or something entirely different. It does not necessarily have to be a monthly commitment. If you have one good story or an idea you believe other members would enjoy, send it along. We can help turn good ideas into something that works for the magazine.

The Commentator is your magazine. Share your gifts. There are nearly endless stories within PGICA, and I suspect we have only begun to discover them.

Thank you again for making my first full month such a welcoming and interesting one. I am learning a tremendous amount, and I look forward to continuing to meet more of you, hear your ideas and discover everything that makes PGICA such a remarkable community.



GEORGE WILLIAMSON
★ FOR PUNTA GORDA CITY COUNCIL ★

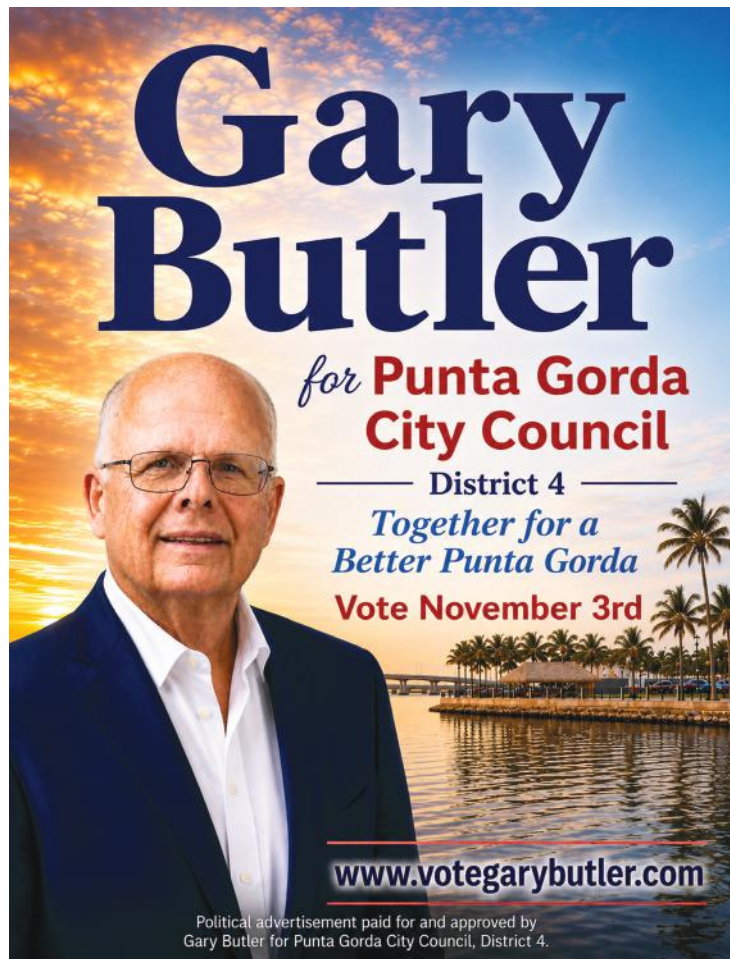
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Our summer has been wonderful but rapidly coming to a close. The best part of that is we are getting closer to welcoming many of our northern snowbird members back to PGI, we've missed you.

Our fall season is chock full of activities, including our Diamond Jubilee Golf outing on October 3. We are still looking to fill openings for golf foursomes, and we are looking for donations to help us meet our financial targets. In fact, we are offering free entry to the Friday Night Gala & cocktail event at our facility for any PGICA member that donates \$60 or more. Donate and fun,

what a concept!

Another activity that kicks off in the fall is the political elections. We are hosting a PGICA Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, October 6 from 5 to 7 in the auditorium. We have invited not just the City Council candidates, but some of the County & State level candidates. This should be an interesting, entertaining and informative evening. For the record, PGICA does not endorse any candidates, nor do we show favoritism to any political party.

I want to thank all the people that volunteer and give freely of their time and talents. Without your generosity we would not be able to make the progress we've made this year.

Thank you all for being the best civic association in Florida.

MEET THE CANDIDATES PGICA

**Invites you to save
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Saturday, October 3, 2026

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12:30 Luncheon, Awards & Prizes



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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, 2 invitations to our 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, 4 months 1/4 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members. Ad an extra foursome at the PGICA Discount rate of \$400.

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, 2 invitations to our 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, 4 months 1/4 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members. Complete your foursome by adding 2 more golfers at the PGICA Discount rate of \$100 per golfer.

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, 2 invitations 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, 4 months 1/8 page ad in our monthly magazine, *The Commentator*, with distribution to over 3,000 members. Complete your foursome by adding 3 more golfers at the PGICA Discount rate of \$100 per golfer.

HOLE-IN-ONE CONTEST SPONSOR: \$400

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

CONTEST SPONSORS: \$250

Company logo/name on signs at holes with contests for Longest drive, Straightest Drive and Closest to the Pin.

HOLE SPONSORS : \$100

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GOLF CART SPONSORS: \$75

Company logo/name on signs on a golf cart.



Steve Lineberry, Photographer
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Steve Lineberry,

Official Photographer of the PGICA Diamond Jubilee Golf Scramble

FRIENDS OF THE PGICA — Make a tax deductible donation to our **PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser** in your name or in the memory of a loved one. Recognition in program and on website. **Make a donation of \$60 or more and receive a Complimentary Invitation** to our Pre-Tournament *VIP Cocktail Reception* at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

**As a sponsor, you will be among friends and clients who support our cause,
and at the same time receive valuable publicity & exposure.**

**For more information or to register as a golfer or sponsor, go to
www.pgicagolf.com, scan the QR Code or call 941-941-1660.**



When I arrived at PGICA, one of the first things that struck me was just how much life exists behind the names on our calendar. There are clubs, groups, classes and activities representing an extraordinary range of interests, talents and traditions. Some are social. Some are creative. Some are active. Some are charitable. Some provide an opportunity to learn, while others simply give people a reason to gather, laugh and spend time together.

As a relative newcomer to PGICA, I have the advantage of seeing many of these groups with fresh eyes. Over the coming months, I would like to take readers behind the scenes and explore the clubs and groups that help make PGICA such a unique community.

The plan is simple. I want to find out what actually happens when you walk through the door. Who are the people involved? What brought them together? What keeps them coming back? Is it easy for someone new to join? And perhaps most importantly, what do people gain from being part of the group? Sometimes the answer may be friendship and social connection. Sometimes it may be the mental challenge of learning a new skill, the physical benefit of staying active, or the satisfaction that comes from creating something with your own hands.

Some groups give back through charitable work, volunteering and support for PGICA and the wider community. Others offer something that may be just as important: a sense of belonging, purpose and an opportunity to spend time doing something you genuinely enjoy.

That is where the title of this series comes from: E Pluribus Unum - "Out of Many, One."

PGICA is made up of many individuals, many interests and many groups, each with its own identity, traditions and personality. Yet together, those individual pieces create something much larger. And behind every club name on the calendar are real people with real stories.

These will not be formal profiles or advertisements. I want them to be stories about the personalities, friendships, traditions, talents and experiences that make each group unique. You may recognize a neighbor or an old friend. You may discover a group you never knew existed. You may even see a little of yourself in someone else's story.

I also hope the series helps answer a question that is important for every member: How can I get more from my PGICA membership? One of the greatest benefits of belonging to PGICA is the opportunity to participate. Your membership can open the door to new activities, new skills, new friendships and experiences you may never have considered before.

And sometimes joining something new does not require a grand commitment. It may begin with simply recognizing a familiar face, walking through a doorway and saying, "What are you doing in here?"

My hope is that these stories make PGICA feel a little smaller, a little friendlier and a little easier to explore. Over the months ahead, I look forward to introducing you to some of the people and groups that make this organization what it is, and perhaps encouraging a few of you to try something new along the way. Because after 60 years, PGICA's story is not simply the story of a building or an organization. It is the story of its people...You!

My goal is to bring your story forward. I have already met so many amazing clubs and groups...reach out if you want to be part of this series, share your club's history, story and gifts that make you...you!

Out of many, one. Coming next - Our first visit will take us behind the scenes with In Stitches, PGICA's knitting group, where we will meet some of the people behind the needles and discover what brings them together...one stitch at a time.



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

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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, jlynnpgi@hotmail.com**

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

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

MONDAY MORNING MAH JONGG**Donna Bernhardson, 732-713-3723**

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

PGICA PINOCHLE GROUP**Mary Ann Kot, 941-347-8582, mamkot@aol.com**

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

Current high score: 713 Janet Lynn

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. Fall is on the way. Hopefully it will bring some cooler weather. While we 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, the major holidays are coming up with special events both in our club and also in the City of Punta Gorda. 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.

The first big holiday coming down the pike is Halloween. Downtown Punta Gorda at Halloween is a very special place. It is a multi-block Halloween festival with thousands of people coming from Punta Gorda and the surrounding counties. It is fun to see the families coming through with their children. The parents are often in costumes along with their children. Many homes in the historic district have elaborate displays. Often these homes are passing out treats to the hundreds of children going by. There are usually one or two homes that have live bands in their driveway or yard for all to see. A few years ago, one of these bands was entirely dressed like the cast of Beetlejuice. It is amazing to see how creative adults get with their costumes. One man was walking around with a knife sticking through a box of Lucky Charms. Upon questioning he told us he was a cereal killer.



Happy guys

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 our Cruise Director Susie Krause 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 at bhw613@gmail.com or 757-508-1070 so others on the waitlist can be accommodated.

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



Donato's Italian



Out & about



We won

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.

Greetings from Bill Abbatematteo, External Relations Director

This year, we are celebrating our Diamond Jubilee Anniversary and have received a proclamation by the City of Punta Gorda in recognition of 60 years of continuous service to the residents of our community. In 2025, more than 26,000 people attended over 2,000 classes, seminars, meetings, community and other events, including over 1,000 PGICA club and group activities at the PGICA.

During the past 18 months, our clubs and members have raised over \$260,000 that has benefited residents and other local non-profits, with a significant amount of that money obtained by the efforts of the Beyond Ourselves and the Isles Girls & Guys clubs. A huge shout out to them and all the other clubs and groups that make our organization so unique. What an accomplishment!

As a charitable organization, a fair amount of our operation and our success also relies on the support and generosity of businesses and members of our community. Our Diamond Jubilee PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser is a wonderful way to celebrate our 60-year history while investing in its future. We have planned several outstanding events that you can participate in and make a meaningful impact.

You can help us to continue our mission through your generosity. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

You can also attend our PGICA60 VIP Cocktail Reception on Friday, October 2 from 5:30 to 7:30. Complimentary beer, wine, food and music for golfers and sponsors, and for donors who make a contribution of \$60 or more to the PGICA.

On Saturday, October 3, we will hold our Diamond Jubilee Golf Scramble at St. Andrew's South Golf Club. Breakfast, lunch and green fees are included. The cost is \$125 for the general public and a discounted rate of \$100 for PGICA members. We still have openings for a few more foursomes and sponsors.

A major piece of our PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser will be our silent auction. We will hold auctions at the VIP Cocktail Reception on Friday, October 2 and at the Golf Scramble the next day. If you aren't coming to either event, there will be an early opportunity for you to view and bid on items on October 2 from 2 to 4.

Please check out the flyers for these events. You can find them in The Commentator and on the PGICA website. Please go to pgicagolf.com to register as a golfer, sponsor or to make a donation.

In closing, I invite each of you to reach out to me directly if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas on how I can better serve you, your club or your group. Your feedback and active participation are the lifeblood of our organization.

Thank you for your continued support and for being a valued member of the PGICA.

Warm regards,

Bill Abbatematteo

Director of External Relations

941-740-1660

wabbatematteo@yahoo.com





Is your partner having an affair with AI? By Staff writer

It may sound like science fiction, but local life and wellness coach Debbie Krider, Ed.D. says concerns about artificial intelligence are becoming surprisingly common in conversations with couples.

“What people are experiencing isn’t necessarily an affair with another person,” Krider said. “It’s an emotional connection with technology that can sometimes leave a spouse feeling neglected, frustrated or even replaced.”

Krider, founder of Dr. Deb’s Life & Wellness Coaching in Punta Gorda, says she has seen a growing number of clients express concerns about the amount of time their partners spend interacting with AI assistants.

“The questions have changed dramatically over the past year,” she said. “People ask me, ‘Why does my husband tell AI things he doesn’t tell me?’ or ‘Why does my wife spend more time talking to AI than talking to me?’ Some even ask, ‘Am I actually competing with a computer?’”

According to Krider, those concerns are understandable.

“AI responds immediately, remembers previous conversations, offers encouragement, and often communicates in ways that feel very empathetic,” she said. “For someone who feels lonely, overwhelmed or misunderstood, those conversations can become emotionally meaningful.”

Krider is quick to point out that artificial intelligence itself is not the problem.

“AI is an extraordinary tool,” she said. “It can help people learn new skills, improve their health, organize their lives, write more effectively, solve problems and become better informed. The issue isn’t technology, it’s whether it begins replacing the emotional connection people should be building with one another.”

She says many partners describe feeling hurt when they see their spouse spending significant time talking with AI instead of engaging in conversations at home.

“Sometimes one partner notices the other chatting with AI every evening instead of sitting together,” Krider explained. “Others discover their spouse is asking AI for relationship advice before talking with them. Even though everyone knows AI isn’t a real person, the emotional investment can still feel very real.” That emotional distance can develop gradually.

“If it’s easier to talk with AI than to work through a difficult conversation with your spouse, that’s something worth paying attention to,” she said. “Over time, that pattern can quietly weaken intimacy and communication.” Ironically, Krider says the person using AI often has no intention of hurting their partner.

“They usually see AI as just another tool,” she said. “They aren’t trying to replace the relationship. In many cases, they don’t realize how their partner is experiencing it.”

Rather than discouraging people from using artificial intelligence, Krider encourages couples to be intentional about how they incorporate it into their lives.

“If AI helps you become a better communicator, reduce stress, learn something new, or develop healthier habits that benefit your relationship, that’s wonderful,” she said. “But if it begins replacing meaningful conversations, shared decision-making, or emotional vulnerability with your partner, then it’s time to re-evaluate how you’re using it.”

Krider suggests couples periodically ask themselves several questions: Are we talking to each other as much as we used to? Do I share my successes and struggles with my partner before sharing them with AI? Is AI helping me become a better spouse, or helping me avoid being one? Have we established healthy boundaries around technology?

“As technology continues to evolve, our relationships have to evolve, too,” Krider said. “Nothing can replace eye contact, shared laughter, a comforting hug, or the trust that develops when two people choose to truly know and support one another.”

While artificial intelligence is likely to become an increasingly common part of everyday life, Krider believes its greatest value could be helping people strengthen their relationships with their family, friends and community.

Debbie Krider, Ed. D. can be contacted at 941-787-4234 or Debbie.krider@gmail.com for workshops and individual sessions.



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH AN ESTATE SALE?

ISLES GIRLS AND GUYS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
A Club of the PGICA

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

WWW.ISLESGIRLSANDGUYS.COM

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

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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WHEN:
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2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



WHERE:
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PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

*Open to PGICA
Members and
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The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.
All proceeds to be used to further the mission of the PGICA
by bringing additional services, classes, activities and
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NEW MEMBER RECEPTION & Open House

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
5 TO 7 PM

PGICA HAS OVER 30 GROUPS AND CLUBS WHICH INCLUDE
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COME MEET MEMBERS OF OUR GROUPS AND CLUBS, OUR
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5 TO 7 PM
PGICA AUDITORIUM

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
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RSVP: 941-637-1655

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Greetings from the Seafarers, as we look forward to cooler weather for outdoor activities. Despite above-normal temperatures, the Seafarers stayed on course, getting out on the water for cruises and gathering with members and friends for fun social events.

Higher-than-normal August temperatures prompted the Seafarers to reschedule their epic Poker Run to September 26 and the semi-annual picnic at Ponce de Leon Park for October 9.

Throughout August, Social Director Jane Orlin organized the twice-monthly meet and greet at St. Andrews South Golf Club, offering themed treats to complement each gathering.

On August 19, Cruise Leader Kathy Nelson led the Seafarers on a lunch cruise to Rumrunners in Cape Coral, where indoor seating was reserved for a cooler setting, a delicious meal and an afternoon of lively conversation. Education Director Jeff Critser organized the Seafarers Maritime Trivia for the evening of August 25 at the PGICA. He invited the Seafarers to prove their maritime mastery for a battle of high-seas wit. Jeff said that the intent of the event was to dive into local area knowledge and maritime trivia. There were some rewards - Loot and Booty! Big prizes were on the line that are worth fighting for. The crew that conquered the leaderboard walked away with the ultimate treasure - a brand-new MMSI VHF handheld radio. It was really all about having a good time, celebrating our local waters and enjoying some friendly competition.

Through the weekend of September 4 to 7 the Seafarers enjoyed an overnight cruise to Marco Island Marina. Commodore Jeanne Myers organized this cruise, and it promised to be a weekend of group fun and camaraderie. The first evening after the boats were secured in the marina, the group got together for the American-themed docktails. On the following evening on Saturday the Seafarers gathered for a relaxing evening of visiting and delicious food at CJ's on the Bay. To add one more evening of entertainment, the group chose to meet for dinner at the Snook Inn on the water and enjoy live music there. The epic Poker Run was rescheduled to September 26 and was held in conjunction with the Rock the Dock get together at Ron and Michele Olsen's dock. 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.



Ladies at Happy Hour

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 each month. As a friendly reminder, please add September 10 and 24 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.

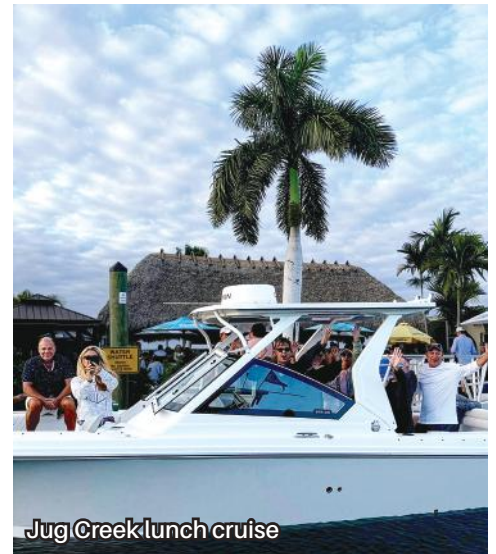


New members Shonna & Keith

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



Beach Party at Jug Creek



Jug Creek lunch cruise



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 September 8. 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 September 15 at 9. Look for us at the Bal Harbor side of the parking lot. The Celtic Ray hosts a car show every second Thursday from 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 at 501 Shreve Street. Join us on the third Sunday of each month at 9 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 Farlow's on the Water for a tasty meal and camaraderie at one of our favorite haunts. We also ran up to Anna Maria Oyster Bar in North Port and enjoyed a delicious lunch and on the way home, some of us stopped at Sweet Scoops Ice Cream, which features a drive through.

This month we highlight Brigitte Fash's and Patrick Gillespie's 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396. The 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle marked a defining moment in the muscle car era, introducing a complete, muscular redesign that popularized the iconic Coke bottle styling. This model year saw the famous SS 396 become its own distinct series, cementing the Chevelle as a high-performance legend.

This 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle SS-396 was built in Atlanta, Georgia, in the third week of June 1966. It features the original 396 block with aluminum heads and intake manifold. The rear mounted, slanted antenna and blacked out rear deck were unique to the Chevelles built in Atlanta. It is fueled by a 780CFM Holley carb, HEI Electronic distributor. Hooker headers and a full three-inch exhaust leading out the back through Magnaflow mufflers create the sound that excites.



SS396 Front

A McCleod clutch and M-22 Muncie rock crusher heavy-duty, close-ratio four-speed manual transmission transmit power to the 12-bolt Positraction rear axle, giving the Weld wheels and BF Goodrich tires gripping strength. Stopping is power supplied by Wilwood disc brakes.

Pat prides himself on keeping the Chevelle as close to stock as possible, but with any muscle car of this era, one must always personalize it to a point. This heavy Chevy went through a frame-off restoration in 1992 and then a light transformation in 2015.

Most of the hardware is stainless steel and the interior is completely stock. Pat and Brigitte are active PGICC members and attend many of our events and most of the local car club cruise-ins.

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.



SS396 Front Quarter



SS396 interior



SS 396 rear

In Memoriam

William (Bill) Daly



Friday, September 11, 12:00 to 1:15 pm

Civics, Conversation & Coffee

Legislative Update

Thursday, September 24, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Ladies of Punta Gorda Social with

Libby Schaefer

Friday, September 25, 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Tag Team Artist Diamond Jubilee Show

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

1st Annual Punta Gorda Isles Community Golf Tourna-

**2026 Diamond Jubilee
Anniversary & Golf Title Sponsor**



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Debbie Krider, Ed. D.

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debbie.krider@gmail.com

September Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		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	9:30a In Stitches 10:00a Landsberg Bennett 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera
6	7 8:45a Monday Morning Men's 9:30a Social Bridge 10:00a Monday Morning Mahjongg 1:00p Tag Team - Artists 7:00p Duplicate Bridge 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	9:00a PGICA B 9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p Just For 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera 4:30p PGIsland
13	14 8:45a Monday Morning Men's 9:30a Social Bridge 10:00a Monday Morning Mahjongg 7:00p Tag Team - Artists Texas Hold'em	15 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:00a Beyond 9:30a In Stitches 12:00p Couples 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera
20	21 8:45a Monday Morning Men's 9:30a Social Bridge 10:00a Monday Morning Mahjongg 12:00p Tag Team - Artists 3:30p Duplicate Bridge Friends, Fun, & Community Board Meeting 5:00p Friends, Fun & Community 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	22 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 5:00p Seafarers 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera 3:30p Paradise 4:00p City Court 4:30p Q & A PGIsland
27 6:00p DIAMOND JUBILEE Sunday Funday Comedy Night	28 8:45a Monday Morning Men's 9:30a Social Bridge 9:30a Mariners Board Meeting 10:00a Monday Morning Mahjongg 6:30p Tag Team - Artists 7:00p Mariners 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group 7:00p Texas Hold'em	29 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:30a In Stitches 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera 6:30p FF&C LAC

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 es rg Bennett Seminar lers- Mahjongg Line Dancing	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 5:30p Newcomers Special Events
9 Board Meeting es e Bridge Fun Board Mtg lers - Mahjongg Line Dancing a lers Social	10 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 11:00a Newcomers Monthly Mtg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong	11 8:30a Zumba 12:00p Civics, Conversation & Coffee: Legislative Update 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	12
16 Ourselfes es Bridge lers- Mahjongg Line Dancing	17 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong	18 8:30a Zumba 10:00a The Power of PGI Homeownership Series 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	19
23 s Bridge lers - Mahjongg Line Dancing Friends ncil Candidate ers	24 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a PGIslanders - Board Meeting 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:00p Ladies of Punta Gorda Social with Libby Schaefer 4:30p Newcomers	25 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 4:00p Tag-Team Artist Diamond Jubilee Show	26
30 s lers- Mahjongg Line Dancing dies Game Night			

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Looking Ahead to October

CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 6:30p PGIslanders	2 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 5:30p PGICA Diamond Jubilee VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION Golf Tournament	7:00a P J T A N E
4 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00p Duplicate Bridge	5 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	6 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	7 9:30a In Stitches 10:00a Landsberg Bennett Finance Seminar 12:00p Couples Bridge 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner Line Dancing with Vera	8 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong	9 8:30a Zumba 11:00a Civics Conversation and Coffee 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginner Mahjongg	



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

Robin & Robert Coffey
 Steve Cohen
 Marie & Scott Colville
 Thomas Cypher
 Lorraine & Dennis Hernandez
 Sally Malone-Szeredy
 Connie & David Romano

Dawn & Timothy Rose
 Tracey & Scott Ruble
 Sandra Schwabenbauer
 Kristin & Trent Smith
 Steve Szeredy
 Janine & Stephen Triano
 Lidia Young-Cohen

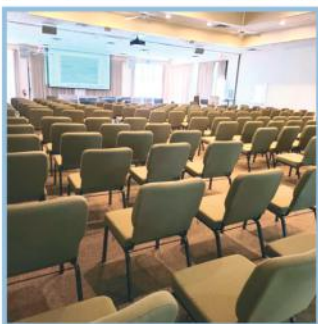
PGICA EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS



- 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.





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JUST SOLD PGI JULY 2026*

HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$465,000	\$425,000	0.91	2241 GULFVIEW RD	1,720	1961	Private	3	2	0	47	07/28/2026	\$270.35	\$247.09
\$485,000	\$464,500	0.96	1521 SAN MARINO CT	1,538	1978	Private	2	2	0	330	07/17/2026	\$315.34	\$302.02
\$499,000	\$485,000	0.97	1732 BOCA RATON CT	1,995	1961	Private	3	2	0	121	07/20/2026	\$250.13	\$243.11
\$550,000	\$537,500	0.98	2839 VIA PALOMA DR	1,468	1977	Private	2	2	0	88	07/16/2026	\$374.66	\$366.14
\$575,000	\$575,000	1.00	1401 KITTIWAKE DR	2,434	2000	Private	3	2	0	2	07/17/2026	\$236.24	\$236.24
\$575,500	\$575,000	1.00	280 BELVEDERE CT	1,439	1969	Private	3	2	0	415	07/07/2026	\$399.93	\$399.58
\$629,000	\$690,150	1.10	2539 BRAZILIA CT	2,258	1985	Private	3	3	0	43	07/10/2026	\$278.57	\$305.65
\$649,000	\$610,000	0.94	1346 OSPREY DR	2,276	1999	Private	3	2	1	188	07/30/2026	\$285.15	\$268.01
\$650,000	\$625,000	0.96	2174 BAYOU RD	2,217	1985	Private	3	3	0	150	07/10/2026	\$293.19	\$281.91
\$667,400	\$647,000	0.97	1122 MINEO DR	2,111	1999	Private	3	2	0	37	07/07/2026	\$316.15	\$306.49
\$699,000	\$665,000	0.95	2801 RYAN BLVD	2,610	2003	Private	3	2	1	119	07/29/2026	\$267.82	\$254.79
\$709,000	\$680,000	0.96	155 DONNA CT	2,791	1972	None	3	2	0	389	07/21/2026	\$254.03	\$243.64
\$724,900	\$725,000	1.00	1320 APPIAN DR	2,367	1996	Private	3	3	0	218	07/10/2026	\$306.25	\$306.29
\$745,000	\$675,000	0.91	5023 KEY LARGO DR	3,023	1988	Private	4	2	0	384	07/15/2026	\$246.44	\$223.29
\$749,000	\$749,000	1.00	1359 PINE SISKIN DR	2,008	1999	Private	3	2	0	131	07/09/2026	\$373.01	\$373.01
\$750,000	\$705,000	0.94	1418 GREBE DR	3,054	1987	Private	5	3	0	321	07/01/2026	\$245.58	\$230.84
\$799,000	\$776,000	0.97	3324 BRENTWOOD CT	2,255	1985	Private	3	3	0	6	07/08/2026	\$354.32	\$344.12
\$799,999	\$730,000	0.91	100 COLONY POINT DR	2,538	1989	Private	3	2	1	180	07/10/2026	\$315.21	\$287.63
\$865,000	\$865,000	1.00	2260 PALM TREE DR	2,479	2004	Private	3	3	0	10	07/20/2026	\$348.93	\$348.93
\$899,000	\$866,000	0.96	3360 BAL HARBOR BLVD	2,215	1988	Private	4	2	0	41	07/14/2026	\$405.87	\$390.97
\$899,900	\$825,000	0.92	185 COLONY POINT DR	2,562	2017	Private	3	3	0	188	07/13/2026	\$351.25	\$322.01
\$899,900	\$899,900	1.00	1711 LOS ALAMOS DR	2,368	2002	Private	3	3	0	2	07/16/2026	\$380.03	\$380.03
\$975,000	\$935,000	0.96	43 TROPICANA DR	2,114	2006	Private	3	2	1	168	07/07/2026	\$461.21	\$442.29
\$1,035,000	\$990,000	0.96	3972 LA COSTA ISLAND CT	2,442	2000	Private	3	2	0	90	07/08/2026	\$423.83	\$405.41
\$1,049,750	\$1,049,750	1.00	184 COLONY POINT DR	2,568	1988	Private	3	2	0	139	07/17/2026	\$408.78	\$408.78
\$1,075,000	\$1,150,000	1.07	1312 SEA HORSE CT	2,761	1999	Private	3	3	0	70	07/10/2026	\$389.35	\$416.52
\$1,139,000	\$1,100,000	0.97	490 SORRENTO CT	2,525	2021	Private	4	2	0	499	07/10/2026	\$451.09	\$435.64
\$1,150,000	\$1,172,000	1.02	1220 SPANISH CAY LN	2,511	2016	Private	3	3	0	3	07/10/2026	\$457.98	\$466.75
\$1,249,999	\$1,100,000	0.88	2172 DEBORAH DR	3,092	2007	Private	5	3	1	154	07/29/2026	\$404.27	\$355.76
\$1,250,000	\$1,150,000	0.92	5000 CAPTIVA CT	2,891	2017	Private	4	3	0	159	07/30/2026	\$432.38	\$397.79
\$2,950,000	\$2,850,000	0.97	2795 BAY CT	3,628	2021	Private	4	3	1	15	07/29/2026	\$813.12	\$785.56

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$129,000	\$115,000	0.89	2801 MAGDALINA DR Unit#1D	999	1980	None	2	2	0	58	07/10/2026	\$129.13	\$115.12
\$179,900	\$160,000	0.89	99 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#404	1,485	2007	Community	2	2	0	176	07/28/2026	\$121.14	\$107.74
\$195,000	\$194,000	0.99	220 COLDEWAY DR Unit#124	1,120	1988	Community	2	2	0	4	07/29/2026	\$174.11	\$173.21
\$198,000	\$185,000	0.93	255 W END DR Unit#1302	1,351	2005	Community	2	2	0	9	07/01/2026	\$146.56	\$136.94
\$225,000	\$205,000	0.91	99 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#412	1,915	2007	Community	3	2	0	194	07/06/2026	\$117.49	\$107.05
\$260,000	\$225,000	0.87	2645 W MARION AVE Unit#114	1,921	1990	Community	3	2	0	487	07/31/2026	\$135.35	\$117.13
\$274,900	\$260,100	0.95	220 COLDEWAY DR Unit#214	1,120	1988	Community	2	2	0	4	07/15/2026	\$245.45	\$232.23
\$299,000	\$290,000	0.97	3830 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#9	1,441	1986	Community	3	2	0	228	07/22/2026	\$207.49	\$201.25
\$325,000	\$315,000	0.97	3239 PURPLE MARTIN DR Unit#112	1,430	2007	Community	2	2	0	33	07/10/2026	\$227.27	\$220.28
\$334,900	\$320,000	0.96	1323 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#222	1,484	2006	Community	2	2	0	136	07/13/2026	\$225.67	\$215.63
\$362,000	\$350,000	0.97	3334 PURPLE MARTIN DR Unit#215	1,477	2004	Community	2	2	0	121	07/13/2026	\$245.09	\$236.97
\$389,500	\$370,000	0.95	220 COLDEWAY DR Unit#211	1,682	1988	Community	3	2	0	145	07/15/2026	\$231.57	\$219.98
\$449,900	\$440,000	0.98	1600 W MARION AVE Unit#221	2,280	1990	Community	3	2	0	8	07/10/2026	\$197.32	\$192.98

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



The thunder is rumbling and the rain is pelting as I write this. My thoughts are with a mini-flotilla of Mariners in-transit to one of our favorite spots, 'Tween Waters Marina, for a three-night stay. With a very capable marina staff, two pools, and a variety of on-site dining options, what's not to love? To avoid generating galley heat onboard, folks are planning a couple off-campus meals as well...perhaps to Green Flash or Mucky Duck, where one can enjoy the view of the dune barrier as an accompaniment to the great food. As the photo shows, the boats made it safely to 'Tween Waters.

A Mariner snowbird friend and I spoke last week; one of the topics was the dearth of summer cruise opportunities here due to iffy weather. She noted many of our members enjoy waterside living and boating up north, and suggested we might highlight some of those



East Harbor - Fisher's Island, NY

locations for our readers. Although Peter and I are no longer snowbirds, given the short time between the conversation and this article's due date, I'll go first. We were blessed to live on the southeast coast of Connecticut with interesting and often challenging cruising from Long Island Sound to the Maine coast. The photo was taken from our Nonsuch 33 (Wiggers Custom hull #6) and is of East Harbor, Fisher's Island, New York, less than

three miles (and yet a world away) from the Connecticut shore. The red-roofed and turreted structure peeking out behind the foliage on the right side of the photo was originally Coast Guard Life Saving Station #59, and is now a private residence. Next month's "shore of the month" might be lakeside somewhere in Minnesota; stay tuned.

On the social side of things, Mariners gather the first Sunday of each month to enjoy delicious breakfast fare and relaxed and friendly conversation at Tamiami Tavern. We had a good turnout for our August 2 outing and are looking forward to the next on September 6. Many thanks to Peggy Northrup for organizing these monthly events. Other recurring activities include pickleball each Tuesday and Thursday starting 8 at South County Park, and Bullets and Brunch the second Wednesday of each month.

In season, Mariners gather weekly for happy hour at the outdoor bar of Village Brewhouse. In summer, with fewer members in town, and often iffy and icky weather, Mariners may volunteer to open their homes as an alternate site. Many thanks to the Dehmels for hosting the August 12 happy hour, where we enjoyed good food, great conversation and gregarious Mariner friends.



Lunch with the Ladies at Jelly Bird Cafe

Your author hosted the August Lunch with the Ladies (LWL) at PGI's own Jelly Bird Cafe and Bakery, where everything is fresh and scratch-made. This is a favorite summer LWL destination as they don't take reservations and seating a large group is difficult in season. They accommodated us nicely and the service was excellent. Not sure where we're going for September, but I know it will be fun and full of friendship.

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.



Happy Hour at Dehmels



'Tween Waters cruise

Building on Success By Matthew Baran



Honoring the past, preparing for what comes next

PGICA did not arrive at its 60th year by accident. It was built through decades of leadership, volunteerism, practical wisdom and a deep commitment to community. Past presidents, board members, executive directors, staff, volunteers, clubs, groups and members have each added something to the organization we enjoy today.

As I continue learning PGICA, I am increasingly reminded that much of the work ahead is not about replacing what came before. It is about understanding why things worked, preserving what remains valuable and building thoughtfully upon that foundation.

That is the idea behind this new column, Building on Success. From time to time, I will use this space to share some of the things we are looking at behind the scenes: membership, our facilities, programs, rentals, partnerships, grants, communications and the many systems that allow an organization like PGICA to function every day. Some ideas may eventually become recommendations. Others may simply help us better understand what we already have. And, of course, where board decisions are required, those decisions remain with the board. I am very grateful to have been blessed with such a strong board.

My goal is not change for the sake of change. Instead, I hope we can retain as much as possible of the genius and ethos of those who came before us while recognizing that the environment around PGICA continues to evolve. Technology changes. Costs change. Expectations change. Our community changes. The ways people communicate, volunteer, participate and choose how to spend their time continue to change as well. The challenge is to adapt where necessary without losing the characteristics that have made PGICA special for six decades.

Sometimes that means improving something. Sometimes it means documenting a process so valuable institutional knowledge is not lost when a volunteer, staff member or leader eventually moves on. Sometimes it means discovering that what we already have is working very well, and making sure we protect it. And sometimes it simply means helping members better understand the resources already available to them.

Getting more from your membership

One thing that has become increasingly clear to me is that a PGICA membership represents much more than access to a building. There are clubs and groups, classes and activities, community events, educational opportunities, friendships, volunteer experiences and practical member services available throughout the year.

Our loaner program for example provides useful items that members may need only temporarily. Our facilities provide spaces for activities, meetings and celebrations. Members can participate in an extraordinary variety of clubs and groups representing interests ranging from recreation and wellness to games, crafts, education and community service. We are also looking at ways to make the financial value of membership easier to recognize, including reduced member costs for eligible events, activities and facility rentals and greater awareness of discounts or benefits that may be available through community partners. A membership provides its greatest value when it is used.

Sometimes getting more from PGICA may be as simple as attending a program you have never tried, visiting a club you have wondered about, borrowing something from the loaner room rather than purchasing it, or discovering a member benefit you did not know existed.

Building carefully

Over the coming months, I will continue meeting with members, staff, volunteers, clubs, groups and community partners while studying our operations and opportunities. You may hear about work involving our rental spaces, technology, facility improvements, membership, community partnerships, grants and other areas. Not every idea will become a project.

The important part is that we ask good questions: What do we already do well? What should we preserve? Where could we improve? What will something cost? And increasingly, what value will our members and PGICA receive in return?

Those questions will help us distinguish between simply spending money and making thoughtful investments in the future of the Association. Sixty years gives PGICA something extraordinarily valuable - a foundation.

Our responsibility now is to respect that foundation, learn from it and continue building upon it so that future members inherit an organization that is every bit as welcoming, useful, active and community-minded as the one previous generations created for us. That is what Building on Success will be about. And I look forward to sharing the journey with you.

I love the sand and sea in PGI. My feet sink in it, oh me, oh my. I love to watch the birds and sun. Living here is so much fun. Come join in the fun this September. We will have fun together and drink a beer. And you will believe this - You will have nothing to fear. So come join us in all our glory, and we can continue on with our story.

Sips and Dips will take place on Thursday, September 3 at 6 to 8 at the home of Laurie and Jay Brewer. We ask that you bring a yummy appetizer or dessert and of course your preferred BYOB. It's great to eat a variety of food that different people bring. You won't go home hungry. There is a limit of 26 people, so please sign up on our website. If you need to get in touch with Laurie or Jay, contact them by phone at 831-223-5950 or by email at lbddivergirl@gmail.com.



Enjoying some sips

Chow Hounds Men's Lunch will be held on Thursday, September 10 at 11:30 at Kings Roadhouse Bar & Grill at 2200 Kings Highway 3N, Port Charlotte. Please come and join in on the fun at this lively, casual American comfort food restaurant known for slow-cooked ribs, smash burgers and an outdoor patio. For more information, contact Mike Dougherty at 314-220-7940 or CaptMikeD@gmail.com.

Ladies Lunch is on Thursday, September 10 at noon until 2 at the Family Grill located on 2705 South Tamiami Trail. This restaurant is a very friendly place with a great staff. They serve classic comfort food



Claudia & Jack Chopp hosting Sips & Dips

in generous portions. We will be sure to hear about all of your summer activities that kept you busy and out of trouble. Please register so we know how many will be coming. Contact Linda Porten at 413-563-8285 or lporten23@comcast.net for more information.

Our Paradise Friends mixer is going to be held on Thursday, September 17 from 5 to 7 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in the Palm Room. We hope you all can join us for this very fun event. It's great to be there by the water to relax and enjoy our food, drinks and all of our friends. Jack Gardner is the event contact, so if you need to contact him, you can call him at 941-457-0233 or email him at 4jackgardner@gmail.com.

Our Choice Event will be at Blossom & Brie located at 8250 Nalle Grade Road, North Fort Myers on Thursday, September 24 at 5. This is a farm to table restaurant in a unique setting. Chef Kelly creates his dishes from scratch using the finest and freshest ingredients in our area. Come a little early (and wear closed toe walking shoes) if you wish to tour and see Blossom, the donkey Brie, the dairy cow and the other animals at the farm. You can also tour after dinner. Please sign up for this dinner on our website. Registration is required for this event before Friday, September 18 at 6. No shows or cancellations less than 24 hours before the event will be responsible for a \$25 charge. You can contact Vicki Britton at 704-293-9201 or 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 who will answer your questions about our wonderful club.

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



Our pretty ladies



We eat well

From the board of directors

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

There are two important items for you. The first is the Volunteer Recognition and the second is the changes in the bylaws that will be coming up for vote in November.

The form to recognize volunteers can be found on the PGICA website under Members at the top. Under that you will see a Recognition tab and the form is in that article. Please download it and return it to the office for the President Elect Mary Ann Kot. These are due by September 15.

A critically important topic at the annual meeting will be the updates to the PGICA Bylaws. These changes may seem daunting, but they are being made to keep our documents and processes current, practical and aligned with Florida law while making it easier for more members to get involved. Many hours of research and discussion have been spent in this process.

As an example, our current bylaws contain detailed and fixed descriptions of committees and their structure. Removing some of these details and moving them to policies will provide flexibility, open up more committee participation by the membership and allow us to utilize the skills needed in our operations. This supports greater member engagement by allowing others to contribute their talents to the association while strengthening our programs, outreach and overall effectiveness.

Other modifications are to recognize the changes in the current House Bill 797 statute that came into effect on July 1, 2026 and modernized the current law that governs not-for-profit institutions. These changes update rules on governance, meetings, membership rights and procedures, officer and director standards of conduct and related issues.

You will be provided with these changes prior to the November meeting. Please read the materials carefully when you receive them and ask any questions. You are the organization and your participation in this process is important.

PGI KAYAK GROUP

Miriam Taylor, miriamktay@gmail.com, 317-716-4430

On July 4, five members including trip leader Kathy Leitsch, Kathy and Rolf Simonson, Mark Janus and Bob Mueller gathered for a patriotic paddle from the west side of Charlotte Harbor to follow Kathy Leitsch's sister who swam. They often connect with swimmers following the same route and offer help and encouragement to them wherever needed. This paddle ended at Fishermen's Village for lunch.

Plan to join us when we begin the new season at 5:30 on Monday, October 5 for our happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in their Library room. At these monthly gatherings, PGI Paddlers plan two kayak trips per month. After our paddles we follow up with lunch together, either a picnic or at a restaurant. The schedule is emailed to members.

We look forward to exciting adventures, starting in October. For more information about our group, please send an email to pgikayakers@gmail.com or visit the PGI Paddlers website www.pgikayakers.org.



Tennis is booming in Florida. If you are just moving here or are looking for ways to stay active and make connections, our tennis club is a terrific choice. The PGICA Charlotte County league teams help maintain our courts and sponsor our monthly social mixers from October to May. The captains are a great first point of contact for new members and are a wealth of information about finding local play. Year-round residents practice through the summer heat with player numbers increasing as the winter residents come back. You don't have to join a team to play with the club. Captains and club members will help you connect either way.

Women's leagues

Captain for Double Trouble, Friday 50+ League, 3.0 division - Mitzie Kohrman 703-268-8841
 Captain for Suncatchers, Friday 50+ League, 3.5B division - Cindy Simoni 919-632-8688
 Captain for Sunhitters, Friday 50+ League, 3.5A division - Jackie Rahsaz 704-746-2064
 Captain for Happy Returns, Monday County League - Susan Armo 508-361-8528
 Captain for Aqua Aces, Monday County League B-2 - Kim Bennett 612-581-4735

Men's leagues

Captain for Sea Raptors, Thursday Men's League A3 division - Tony Rahsaz 704-746-5298
 Captain for Ospreys, Thursday Men's League B3 division - Joe Kohrman 941-889-8671
 Captain for Arthritic Aces, Monday Men's League B73 division - Ron Moore 618-580-0478



Tennis club social



February social

Membership dues keep our courts in great shape. It's \$75 a year, plus a one-time \$100 fee for new members. Everyone who joins also needs to be a PGICA member, just like with all the other clubs. The membership comes with the gate code and unlimited use of the ball machine. We have three hard courts with shade structures and no pickleball lines.

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.



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AED

Call office at 941-637-1655 to register. Limited Class Size.



Well, we are officially in the dog days of summer here in Southwest Florida. With the influx of fresh water, the high water temperatures and the threat of thunderstorms, fishing can be challenging; catching even more challenging. For anyone looking for guidance, joining the PGI Fishing Club can give you the edge you need to keep catching.

Our membership includes fishermen who are experienced in catching all kinds of fish including inshore and offshore species. By joining, you not only gain access to the expertise of 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 an additional 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



Lawrence Kissner - Red Grouper

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. Our meetings feature experts on various topics related to fishing. 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 - Goliath Grouper



Greg Widney - Crevalle Jack



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Be sure to attend the PGICA Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, October 6 from 5 to 7 in the auditorium. Each candidate will briefly introduce themselves, then will be available for questions and comments at their respective tables. Please support those individuals who are willing to serve our community by attending this event. They want to meet the residents and personally talk with you.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. Vote by mail ballots will be sent out starting in mid to late September. The last day to register to vote is October 3. Please educate yourself on the candidates and the issues so you can make smart choices.

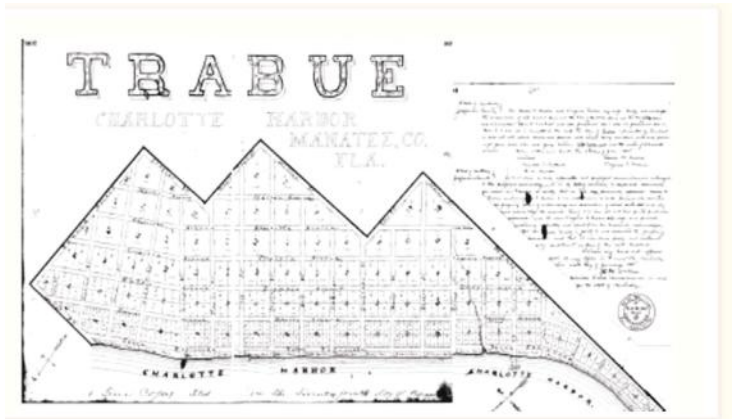
You will get to decide the fate of Amendment 3, the homestead tax exemptions, property assessments and spending restrictions amendment, as it is on the ballot in Florida as a legislatively referred constitutional amendment on November 3. Per Ballotpedia.org:

A “yes” vote supports this constitutional amendment to:

- Increase the homestead tax exemption for non-school taxes to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, with the amount indexed to inflation starting in 2029.
- Provide that new residents receive a smaller exemption until they’ve lived in the state for five years.
- Decrease the cap on how much the assessed value of non-homestead properties, such as rentals and commercial buildings, can increase each year from 10% to 5%, except for school district taxes.
- Limit how counties and municipalities can spend property tax revenue on public safety, education, infrastructure, natural resource projects and flood control, local bonds, employee retirement benefits and government operations; and other changes.

A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment to increase the homestead tax exemption; decrease the cap on how much the assessed value of non-homestead properties can increase; and limit how counties and municipalities can spend property tax revenue.

The City is currently working on a resolution for the Maud City Park and Cosby City Park that were dedicated as public waterfront parks for the enjoyment of the residents. These parcels were noted as the “Reverter Parcels” in the contract with Jon Larmore’s company in 2015. The pier that extended out past the park was changed to Fishermen’s Village in the late 1970s. The appraised value of the two parks was approximately \$3.6 million in 2025. The city has hired an outside attorney to ensure that the city is properly paid for the property.



The Maud Street Dock





As promised last month, the PGI Cruising Club article for The Commentator will complete the cruise journal written by Richard (Dick) Shelton. The trip was taken in February of 2003 and included Dick, his wife Mary and several other past and present couples in the club.

In Dick's words. Around the Horn of Florida (Part II)

Day 5 - Wednesday, February 12 Stuart to Delray Beach Yacht Club (55 miles)

"Slow going today with lots of manatee zones, no wake zones and unbelievably expensive development along the east coast of the Intercoastal Waterway. We were all in awe and are still asking each other on the radio as to what kind of income does it take to support this type of lifestyle. We docked about 4 in Delray Beach and took a short walk and prepared dinner on our boats rather than going out to a restaurant. Besides, we weren't sure if there was a restaurant in the area we could afford!"

Day 6 - Thursday, February 13 Delray Beach to Jewfish Creek (100 miles)

"The first sixty miles through Boca Raton, Ft. Lauderdale and Miami was again slow going as the ICW in this area is populated with many no wake zones, bridges, and of course more uber expensive residential development. We passed through Miami when the boat show was on opening day but had no problems. Our little flotilla of gypsies broke into Biscayne Bay at about 2 and we were finally able to spool up the engines and make good time at our respective cruising speeds. We arrived in Jewfish about 4:30 and were proud of the 100 nautical miles we had put behind us. The dockmaster was very helpful, but the current through the marina docks was strong and the adjacent steel bridge deck was extremely loud most of the night. There was a German restaurant at the marina that served excellent food. For those who may repeat our journey at some point in the future...reserve docks at another marina and walk to the German restaurant."

Day 7 - Friday, February 14 Jewfish Creek to Marathon (60 miles)

"This was a nice trip southwesterly on the north side of U.S. 1 through the upper Keys. Skies were crystal clear and the water was flat with beautiful scenery. It is a good idea to have paper charts of this area since the navigation markers are sometimes a long distance apart and there is a LOT of shallow water just outside of the marked channel. We reached Faro Blanco Bayside around 12:30 and we all took advantage of the bargain fuel price of \$2.29/gallon so we would be ready to roll early the next morning. We had planned to waste a day in Marathon, but unfortunately the marina could not accommodate us the extra day. We all enjoyed a great meal and celebrated Valentine's Day at the Castaways restaurant."

Day 8 - Saturday, February 15 Marathon to Naples (105 miles)

"This was another uneventful day. Aquamarine flat water and clear skies. We hit the Gordon River Marker, also known as Naples Inlet, about 1. We got to our slips and tied up by 2 at the Naples City Docks. This was a really nice municipal facility but they didn't have dockhands to help you with lines so we had to be ready to fend for ourselves. We enjoyed a great early dinner at the restaurant right at the City Docks facility."

Day 9 - Sunday, February 16 Naples to PGI (72 miles)

"Since time was running out for some of us, the Fachathalers and the Sheltons left for PGI today. This was a nice ride home with the exception of a refreshing swim for me in San Carlos Bay to remove the remains of a crab pot from the running gear on Viva. This should be a rule: Do not mow down crab pot buoys! In cold, rough water it takes too much time underwater trying to cut the nylon crab pot rope from the propeller shafts. When we reached Charlotte Harbor later in the morning, it was about as rough as I had ever seen it except during storms. Today it was just wind associated with a passing front which resulted in a progressive wind shift and washing machine chop. We were at our home dock by 1:30.

All in all, a great trip with memories to last a lifetime shared with wonderful people. We all learned a lot about extended cruising and we wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

Obsession and Sunshine returned the following day with no problems, as the wind had subsided by Monday morning. As near as I can figure we traveled about 600 nautical miles in nine days. I was asked at a PGICC happy hour about the fuel cost. I told them I didn't keep track of it on purpose but I was sure that Mastercard would let me know around the first of March!"

As recorded by Dick & Mary Shelton aboard Viva.

I hope you enjoyed reading Dick's cruise journal as much as I enjoyed publishing it. Dick and Mary have both passed but hopefully their account of "Around the Horn of Florida" will someday be repeated by other groups of PGI Cruising Club members. Fair winds and following seas to all of my boating friends.



Richard (Dick) Shelton

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PGICA ASSOCIATION Loaner Program

The **PGICA Loaner Program** has equipment needed while recuperating from an illness or injury such as wheelchairs, knee scooters, shower seats, bedside commodes, crutches and walkers.

Also available are items for visiting family members including Pack-n-Play cribs, strollers, car seats, highchairs, life jackets, toys, bikes, booster seats and more.

Oh, and yes, tables and chairs. (This free lending program is exclusive to PGICA members only.)

Illustrations of loaner equipment: wheelchair, crutches, high chair, scooter, life jacket, and stroller.

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, coffee will be available when the doors open, but you are welcome to bring your own favorite cup of coffee, tea or beverage to enjoy while connecting with others. Our speakers will share their expertise about important issues to you and our community. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and have interactive discussions with our speakers. Stay afterwards for a Meet & Greet where you can mingle and chat with our guests and other attendees.

Guest Speaker: Vanessa Oliver, State Representative - District 76

This Month's Program:

- Celebrating Constitution Week: The Three Miracles of the U.S. Constitution,
- Update on the 2026 Florida Legislative Session and how it impacts us - Vanessa Oliver, and
- 25th Anniversary of the 9-11 Attacks on America: A Memorial Video "Let Us Never Forget"

☑ Friday, September 11, 2026

☑ 12:00 – 1:15 PM

THIS EVENT AT THE PGICA IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
THERE IS NO FEE TO ATTEND, BUT WE DO ENCOURAGE YOU TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE AS SPACE IS LIMITED

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

NEED MORE INFO? CALL:
941-637-1655



Summer is beginning to close. But alas, the heat advisories continue. Mother nature just doesn't want to give up. Our almost daily rains and storms have kept the year rounders from venturing far. Who likes to be caught in a downpour or a fierce lighting storm? Not me!

Our southbound cruise to the Dry Tortugas was a success. We had six boats cruising. Three made it all the way to Key West and the Dry Tortugas. The DT's as they are sometimes called offered great anchorage and fantastic snorkeling. And the sailing wasn't bad either.

On the return, two of our sailors, Commodore Dave Porter and Cruise Captain Mark Snyder decided to make a non-stop return sail direct to Punta Gorda. Following winds were a blessing although at times the seas were confused.

To celebrate the July fourth America 250, we enjoyed a cookout and party at the PGICA. It was well attended with games, historical trivia and of course lots of food. The bean bag tournament was a definite hit. Competition was fierce. In the end, one of our guests, Jaime Garcia from Hialeah won the grand prize. I think he was a ringer, but we didn't know about.

We are beginning to put together our cruise schedule for the coming months. As we welcome back our snowbird members, the events will multiply as well as the social gatherings. Our famous "Dinner for Eight" will start up, along with monthly meetings the first Thursday of each month. The twice monthly socials on the second and fourth Wednesday have been kept alive all summer and will continue unabated.

Come check out our meetings, socials, and cruises. We would love to have you join us. Oh, by the way, you don't have to own a boat to be a PGIslander. There are plenty of opportunities to join as a crew and enjoy the water.

How many of us have heard over the years, man overboard? The term man overboard is the universal shout whenever someone on a boating vessel falls off a vessel into the water. It has been used for many decades to alert crew that someone is in trouble and a rescue needs to be implemented immediately. The shout of "man overboard" is as universal to boating as rum.

But recently the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) now finds the term offensive. Really? How can it be offensive? Oh, I guess if you are female, it might. I've been sailing or boating for over 60 years and I find this change to be a tempest in a teapot. The new term as suggested by the RYA is "person in the water." Let that roll off your tongue quickly in a situation where an alert is needed for an overboard situation.

In man overboard situations, which I have experienced, time is critical. Fast response can mean the difference between recovery of the crew mate, or starting the search for the recovery of a body. In this sense changing the long-established culture of boating does not belong here.

If a gay, female, or transgender crewmate falls overboard, do you really think the person will be offended if someone yells "man overboard?" I really



Dry Tortugas from Fort Jefferson



4th of July Party

doubt it. The main concern is being rescued to live and sail another day.

So, with all due respect to the Royal Yachting Association, I'll stay with "man overboard." It is ingrained in my training since first learning to sail when I was ten years old. I'm not about to change now.



The Punta Gorda Police Department is always receiving reports of scams, and we do not expect that to change anytime soon. There is little anyone can do to stop these scams from being attempted, but by continuing to discuss and educate people on these issues, we hope to minimize the number of people who fall victim to these awful crimes. Here are a few of the most common types of scams we see and ways to avoid them. Please read and share them with your neighbors.

Gift card scams

While there are many different backstories used by scammers in gift card scams, the end result is always to instruct the victim to go to a store and purchase gift cards and then provide the scammer with the gift card numbers as a form of payment. Often, they claim that there is an unpaid debt that must be resolved. Once the scammer has the gift card number, they will wipe out the card balance, leaving the victim with nothing. This tactic is used so often because online purchases made with gift cards can be made practically anonymously and are therefore nearly impossible to track.

To avoid this scam: Remember that legitimate businesses and organizations will never ask you to purchase gift cards to pay a debt. If a caller asks you to purchase gift cards, just hang up or contact the police department.

Information gathering scams

Many phone and email scams involve the victim being contacted by someone claiming to be from a legitimate organization or business, such as the Social Security Administration, the electric company, a credit card company or a bank. Because phone numbers and email addresses can be faked, the call or email may even appear to come from these organizations. The victim is then asked to provide personal information, such as their Social Security number, date of birth, credit card number or bank account information.

To avoid this scam: Remember that legitimate institutions will never call you to ask for personal information. If you are still unsure, hang up and call them back using a phone number from their website or the phone book. This way, you can be sure that you are talking to the right person.

Family member or friend scams

In these scams, the victim receives an email or phone call from someone claiming that a family member or friend is in trouble. The stories vary, but often involve the person being arrested, in a car accident, or having been robbed while traveling. The caller may claim to be the person themselves or to be someone else involved in the situation, such as an attorney, police officer or insurance adjuster. They may also have the correct name and information for the person supposedly in trouble and use fake caller ID numbers and email addresses. The victim will be told that their family member or friend is in urgent need of money for bail, vehicle repairs, return travel, attorney fees, etc.

To avoid this scam: Never send money to anyone unless you have contacted them yourself. If you believe that your family member or friend is in legitimate need, contact them using a phone number or email address that you know is valid. Never send money by purchasing gift cards and providing the numbers over the phone or by email.

Sheriff & Police Department scams

In these scams, the victim receives a phone call from someone claiming to be a deputy or officer with a local agency. The caller tells the victim there is a warrant for their arrest and that, to clear it, they must make a payment. This payment may be in the form of gift cards, or the victim may be directed to deposit money using a Bitcoin machine. The caller often uses scare tactics, such as telling the victim that officers are on the way to their house to make an arrest.

To avoid this scam: Law enforcement agencies will never call to inform you that you have an active warrant. If you receive a suspicious call from someone claiming to work for the police department or the sheriff's office, hang up and call the non-emergency number to confirm. The non-emergency number for the Punta Gorda Police Department is 941-639-4111, and for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is 941-639-2101.



My goodness! It has been a hot summer (and it will continue for another month or two here in Florida). Don't put your whites away yet. We don't end summer on Labor Day down here in Florida.

Mah jongg continued to provide cool entertainment and social fun throughout August at the PGICA. The August lunches included Ladies Lunch at Monty's, and Men's Lunch at Outback Steakhouse. Bite Night was a special treat as Karen and Frank Easby-Smith celebrated National Rum Day.



There were various rum punches and sipping rums. Attendees provided us with so much food, from appetizers to various protein choices and a delicious dessert selection. A fun evening for all.

Coming up in September, we bring back Mix & Mingle. Check the social calendar for location and sign up on the website. Our snowbirds are slowly making their way back to us. Ladies Lunch on September 15 will be at the newly

opened Latitude 26 at Fishermen's Village (formerly The Captain's Table). Sign up on the website soon, as there are only 20 slots available. Men's lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22. Check JFF website for time and location and to add your name to the list.

September 19 Bite Night will actually be a breakfast-brunch event for 30 people. Lynn and Ron Marcuse are hosting this middle of the day treat from 11:30 to 1:30. Attendees bring a breakfast or brunch type dish to share (egg dishes, waffles, etc.) and BYOB. Check out the JFF website for further information and sign up.



JFFers, it is also time to start thinking about how you can contribute to keeping our club the friendly, popular, social, energetic community it is. We all love to attend our fun-filled activities, but we need people to plan and lead. There is much creativity and many, many willing helpers. Several of our leaders will be resigning next year. We know there is officer and committee leader material out there. These responsibilities are very doable, especially with eager helpers. Way easier than CEO of any corporation. Those interested only need to let our president know as she begins forming the nominating committee for next year's officers. Positions run from January to December.

For those who would like to join our club, you are encouraged to contact our president (see name, email above) or go to the JFF page of the PGICA website to see what our club is doing. Mix & Mingle is a good event to attend to get to know about us. We look forward to the fall seasonal events.



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PGICA Ready Preparedness starts before the emergency by Matthew Baran



One of the things I have learned over the years is that emergencies rarely happen at a convenient time. Before coming to PGICA, I spent many years volunteering in Search and Rescue, mountain rescue and first response. I have also been involved in developing safety plans, Emergency Management plans and emergency-response procedures for large events. Those experiences taught me that when something goes wrong, the people who are prepared are often in the best position not only to protect themselves, but also to help the people around them.

That is one of the reasons I wanted to introduce a new occasional feature in The Commentator called PGICA Ready.

The goal is simple; to share practical information, resources and ideas that may help our members, families and neighbors be a little better prepared.

CERT - A resource worth knowing about

I would especially like to thank John C. Grady and Mary Jo Frey for bringing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program to my attention and recommending that we share it with our membership. CERT provides residents with training in emergency preparedness and basic response skills. The idea is not that everyone needs to become a professional responder. Rather, it is about knowing what to do when an emergency occurs and understanding how you may be able to safely help yourself, your family and your neighbors until professional assistance is available.

For those interested in taking the next step, CERT is currently accepting applicants for its December training program.

Even if joining the team is not for you, I encourage members to learn more about CERT and the preparedness information it provides. Sometimes simply knowing what to do and what not to do during the first few minutes of an emergency can make a significant difference.

Help me build PGICA Ready

I would also like this feature to be shaped by our members. If you know about a useful local program, have an idea for a preparedness topic, or come across information that you believe could benefit other PGICA members, please send it to me. It might involve hurricane preparation, home safety, fraud and scams, travel, health and wellness, emergency communications, pets, technology, first aid or simply a practical tip that has served you well. I will do my best to follow up, verify the information and share those ideas when appropriate.

PGICA has an extraordinary amount of knowledge and experience within its membership. PGICA Ready gives us another opportunity to share some of that knowledge with one another. Because being prepared does not mean expecting something bad to happen. It simply means being a little more ready if it does.





Members of Beyond Ourselves are excited to resume our regular meetings this month. We would love to have you join us; our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16 at 10 at the PGICA. Beyond Ourselves is a community service club that meets the third Wednesday of the month, September through May.

In addition to planning our two annual fundraisers, Beyond Ourselves members give back to their community in various ways throughout the year.

Every Wednesday, Beyond Ourselves member volunteers pick up donations of perishable food from Publix and deliver it to the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC), ensuring the wildlife receives much-needed food that might otherwise be thrown away. Nancy Klaren coordinates these volunteers. During the summer months, Susan Hills helped PRWC in June and Jill Okray helped in July. Both Debbie Ford and Linda Taylor helped in June, July and August. Nancy Sharpless volunteered in both June and August. In September, Debbie Ford, Linda Taylor, Nancy Sharpless and Nancy Haines are scheduled to help with collecting and delivering produce to PRWC. A huge thank you to all of these volunteers.



On the first Saturday of every month, Beyond Ourselves member volunteers serve dinner at the Charlotte CARE Center (CCC). Volunteers in June and July were Janet Creed and Nancy Sharpless. CCC volunteers in August were Janet Creed, Lynn Rogers and John Moore. And the CCC volunteers in September will be Janet Creed and Linda Alexander. You don't have to be a member of Beyond Ourselves in order to help; If you wish to volunteer to serve dinner at CCC, contact Lynn Rogers directly via email at earthlynn25@yahoo.com.

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

Please support our fall fundraiser, Chip In For Charity, by registering your golf foursome or by becoming a sponsor today. Scan the QR codes on the flyer or visit our website at PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves to sign up.

Chip In For Charity will kick off with a shotgun start at 8:30. 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. Numerous raffle items will be up for grabs. 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.

As a reminder, the next Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2027. We will be showcasing an all-new group of local homes for the public to tour and enjoy. 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.

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

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.

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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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PGICA 60
Celebrating 60 years
of charity and services to Punta Gorda

There's no place like our place, where people come together to make a meaningful impact on our community

JOIN US IN OUR FALL FUNDRAISER
Diamond Jubilee
Community Golf Scramble
Saturday, October 3, 2026

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT NOW AS A

GOLFER **SPONSOR**

Go to www.pgicagolf.com to register as a golfer or sponsor.

Scan the QR code to make a tax-deductible donation to our PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser.

For a donation of \$60 or more to our PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser, you will receive one Complimentary Invitation to our VIP Cocktail Reception on Friday, October 2, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the PGICA. Doors open at 5:00 PM.

Mingle with friends and enjoy beer & wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, silent auction and much more!

We are also accepting items for door prizes. Please drop off your items at our office by September 30.

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

All proceeds to be used to further the mission of the PGICA by bringing additional services, classes, activities and programs to our members and residents of our community.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SPONSOR
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PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT



PGICA 60
Celebrating 60 years
of charity and service to our community.

PGICA DIAMOND JUBILEE
VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Friday, October 2, 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Doors open at 5:00 PM

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association
2001 Shreve St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION
for Golf Scramble Golfers and Sponsors

For a donation of \$60 or more to our PGICA60 Fall Fundraiser, you will receive one Complimentary Invitation to our VIP Cocktail Reception. Mingle with friends and enjoy beer & wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, silent auction and much more!

Don't wait, there are only a limited number of Complimentary Invitations available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Go to pgicagolf.com to donate, or scan the QR code.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SPONSOR
Landsberg Bennett
PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

All proceeds to be used to further the mission of the PGICA by bringing additional services, classes, activities and programs to our members and residents of our community.

It's a bird!... It's a frame?

No! It's the Diamond Jubilee Tag Team Artist's Show

Join Us to kick-off your weekend!
Friday, 9/25/26
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be a volunteer

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

Volunteering is good for your health!

You can:

- 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

PGICA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Afternoon Social

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS DIAMOND JUBILEE 1966-2026

THE LADIES OF PUNTA GORDA

Guest Speaker Libby Schaefer
Author of The Ladies of Punta Gorda

Join us as we learn about the influential women who helped shape the history of Punta Gorda.

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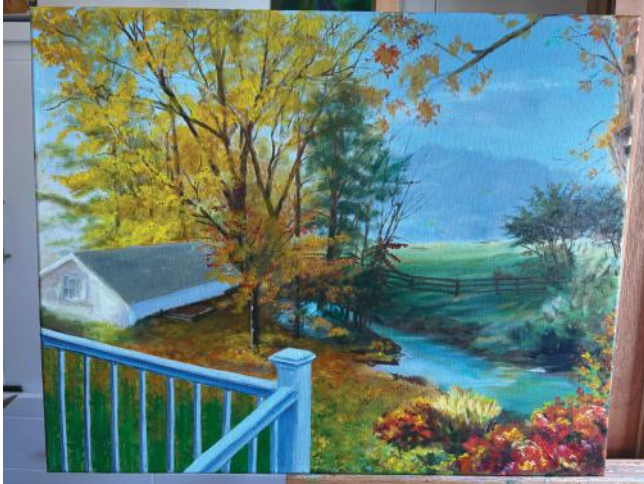
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CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY • 1966-2026

Friends and Neighbors, summer greetings to you as the end of our steaming hot days wind down and a few degrees are the difference between miserable and tolerable, especially with a breeze.

This is our last chance to invite you to come out for a snack, a glass of wine to share with us and to see some beautiful art on your way to a great Friday night out. We are hosting the Tag Team Artist's Show (our first) event on Friday, September 25th from 4 pm to 7 pm at the PGICA as part of the Diamond Jubilee and graciously sponsored by Landsberg Bennett. Several of us have painted all our lives and dedicate time together to get feedback, learn and share techniques, tools and the love of painting/art.

You could win a painting by artist Mary Taglieri in a raffle and meet us (some of her students) or find something that fits perfectly into that space you've thought could use something colorful or beautiful. We are residents of Punta Gorda Isles that are inspired by our beautiful hometown and our community. Please join us to celebrate the 60th Diamond Jubilee and say hello.



ISLES GIRLS & GUYS CLUB

Dave Little, dblittle321@gmail.com

With the return of college football and the NFL, we know summer is on the way out and fall will soon be arriving. Along with that, the return of the estate sales conducted by Isles Girls & Guys. We're also looking forward to the return of the snowbirds. Make sure you monitor our website, <https://islesgirlsandguys.com> for upcoming sales. Remember we will start sales after October 1. You can also go to <https://islesgirlsandguys.com/contact-us> and fill out the form and be added to our email alert list.

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

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

The PGI Castaways have been making the most of summer with good friends, new adventures and plenty of laughter. Our crew embraced its inner pirate for an unforgettable evening aboard Salty Sam's Adults-Only Pirate Cruise from Fort Myers Beach. The adventure began at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, where we gathered for dinner, drinks and a little pre-cruise fun.



The Castaways certainly dressed for the occasion. Our swashbuckling crew arrived decked out in pirate hats, eye patches, bandanas, boots and plenty of pirate flair. We even had a few colorful parrots along for the voyage. Once aboard, the pirates took over the ship for an evening filled with music, dancing, laughter and high-seas mischief.

As we sailed through the waters around Fort Myers Beach, we enjoyed a spectacular Southwest Florida sunset. Whether dancing on deck, posing for pirate photos or relaxing with friends, everyone got into the spirit of the evening. Rich Cornell even had the unique experience of "walking the plank." It was the perfect combination of tropical scenery, pirate fun and the camaraderie that makes every Castaways adventure special.



We kept the good times rolling with a casual happy hour at Beef O'Brady's. Although the skies may have been gray, the Castaways brought plenty of sunshine to the patio. Familiar faces, new friends, cold drinks, good food and nonstop conversation made it a wonderful evening. Sometimes the simplest gatherings turn out to be some of the best.

Next came Music Bingo at PGICA. DJ Tim kept the music playing while our members and guests sang along, danced in their seats and competed for cash prizes. The tables were filled with delicious munchies to share, and the room was filled with laughter and friendly competition. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a success.



A group of Castaways also traveled to Ybor City for the Jury Experience. While the production wasn't quite what we had hoped it would be, the day certainly wasn't a loss. The company was wonderful, the food was great, and as Castaways always do, we made our own fun. Even when an outing doesn't go exactly as expected, spending time with good friends can still make it a day worth remembering.

We're now looking forward to breaking out our best island attire for a Jimmy Buffett-inspired sunset cruise aboard the Kingfisher Fleet. With tropical shirts, hats, flip-flops and plenty of laid-back Buffett spirit, it promises to be another colorful evening on the water.

Later in September, the Castaways are heading to Walt Disney World for the EPCOT International Food & Wine Festival. From September 16 to 19, members will have the opportunity to eat and drink their way around the world while enjoying the festival's international marketplaces, entertainment and Disney magic.

We'll gather for a Castaways group photo in front of Spaceship Earth and spend time exploring EPCOT together. On Friday, September 18 the adventure will continue with our Monorail Pub Crawl, stopping at Disney's monorail resorts for drinks, food and plenty of Castaways fun. Members are responsible for arranging their own lodging and park admission, allowing everyone to create the getaway that works best for them.

Plans are also underway for a September Sand Bar Day. We're gathering our boat captains and working to find seats so as many Castaways as possible can join the flotilla.

Whether we're cruising, singing, dancing, dining or traveling together, it's the people who make every Castaways event special. The calendar is filling up, and there are many more adventures ahead.

