

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Commentator

October 2026

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Volunteer Recruitment

"From the BOD" by Mary Ann Kot

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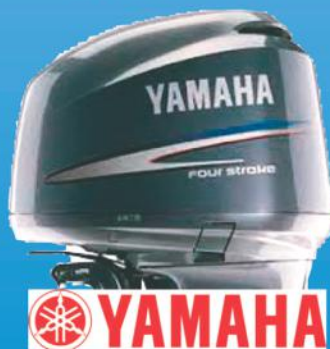
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2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-637-1655 | www.pgica.org

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The Commentator

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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 and a good option for people who enjoy upbeat music and an energetic group exercise environment. Instructor: Gigi Caceda. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



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



Yoga. Tuesdays. Through October 27. 10 to 11 a.m. \$10 per class. Enjoy a safe and playful mixed-level Yoga Flow class designed for beginners to intermediate-level practitioners. Join us and explore the awareness of the mind/body connection to inspire good posture, better breathing, movement, balance and relaxation. Instructor: Linda Haverlock. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Yoga. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday November 3. 10 to 11 a.m. \$10 per class. Enjoy a safe and playful mixed-level Yoga Flow class designed for beginners to intermediate-level practitioners. Join us and explore the awareness of the mind/body connection to inspire good posture, better breathing, movement, balance and relaxation. Instructor: Linda Haverlock. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Beginner Line Dancing: Wednesdays through October 28. 3 to 4 p.m. \$10 per class. This class will be beginner level line dancing to a variety of musical rhythms. You will be enhancing your physical and mental health as well as enjoying socializing with other dancers. Instructor: Vera Hendricks. Students register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



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 cowboy or cowgirl 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. Walk-ins 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. Walk-ins are welcome.



Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors. Mondays. October 5 through January 25. 11 to noon. \$12 per class. This is a senior fitness class designed with rhythmic movements using castanets (A Spanish percussion instrument) while seated, following Spanish music. In class, you'll improve hand coordination and dexterity and the class supports memory and concentration. Along with providing social interaction, you'll enjoy gentle exercise while being introduced to Spanish music and culture. Castanets will be provided in class. This class is suitable for all mobility levels. Your Instructor, Dr. Nery Roman, will guide you thru the dance moves. Participants will register and pay as they attend at the PGICA office: 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.

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 - 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 rehearsal, 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.



Beginner Ukulele Lessons. Thursdays. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Oct. 8 through Nov. 12. \$15 per class. Does the thought of hearing soft Ukulele music in a gentle breeze beneath the stars sound beautiful to you? We can help you achieve that!. In the Beginner Ukulele class you'll learn strumming technique, music keys and chords. You'll need to bring your Ukulele and purchase the yellow and blue "Daily Ukulele" books. ISBN numbers for books: 9-781423-477754, yellow book; 9-781458-482686, blue book. Instructor: Peter Coleson, is looking forward to sharing his talent so you too can be a Ukulele player. Advance registration is suggested. Participants 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 sales are final – No Refunds



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. New 2026/2027 Class Dates: Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 8, Jan. 22, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 21. 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.

WORKSHOPS



The Power of Punta Gorda Homeownership: Free Monthly Series. Friday, October 16, 2026 | 10 to 11 a.m. Protect What You've Built: Tax & Estate Planning for Homeowners. For many Punta Gorda homeowners, their home is their largest asset. How you own it, sell it and pass it on can mean a big difference in taxes and in how smoothly it reaches your heirs. This session gives you practical answers from an estate attorney and CPA, in one hour, at no cost. Instructors: Mark Martella, Martella Law Firm and Donald Coovert, CPA, Venture Management International. What you will learn: 1) How taxes affect selling, gifting or inheriting your home; 2) How titling and trusts can help your heirs avoid costly delays; and 3) Which questions to raise with your own advisors before you make a move. This free monthly homeowner education series is intended to benefit area residents. Hosted by Crystal Coovert, Realtor®, John R. Wood Properties I Christie's International Real Estate, the presentations include topics relevant to buying, selling and owning waterfront property. Register: www.pgica.org or at the PGICA office, 2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. Open to the public. Walk-ins welcome.



How to take better pictures with your Smart Phone camera. Tuesdays 9 to 10:30a.m. and Thursdays 5 to 6:30p.m. Starting Oct. 6 through Mar. 25. \$60 per class. This is the class for you to learn how to take better pictures with your Smart Phone camera! After taking the class, you'll enjoy taking pictures in nature and of your loved ones. Your instructor, James Austin, has taught this successful class at PGICA for three years. No experience is needed. Bring any phone or camera and you'll learn 'hands-on' steps for compelling images and sharing your best pictures on loved ones on social media. We meet at PGICA and will move on to the History Park where class is held. Before class, students will need to download and install the SNAPSEED app for Android and iPhones. 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 sales are final – No Refunds.



Beginner Mahjongg: Friday October 9 and 16. 1 to 4 p.m. \$50. 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 your 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 sales are final -No Refunds.



Crochet Class. 2, 3-class crocheting sessions. Tuesdays. First session October 13 through 27. Second session: November 3 through 17. \$8 for materials, \$45 for the 3 classes. Total: \$53 per person for each session. In this beginner class. In the first class series, participants will learn the basics of amigurumi while creating their own bee keychain/charm. You'll learn helpful crochet and designer tricks, including color changes, invisible decreases, attaching pieces while crocheting and more. Your project will look professional and you'll be working rounds versus working in rows. By the end of class, you will have a handmade bee to take home along with many new crochet skills you've learned. Students must register beforehand, online 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.



The Good Life Café: We welcome you to join us in this New and Exciting venture at PGICA. This is where friends meet together for conversation while learning new food ideas and experiences. This is a FREE class. Payment is required towards supplied beverages and breakfast items (including breakfast sandwiches and sweets). This takes place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning Monday Oct. 26 through January 29 in the PGICA kitchen. 8:30 a.m. through noon. We hope you'll come and be a part of the conversations! This is being held at the PGICA facility, 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, 941-637-1655. All PGICA classes are open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome.



Crews Bank & Trust. Monthly Friday Seminars 10 to 11 a.m. Please joins us for the following seminars regarding Estate Planning along with discussion on Funding Wills and Trusts. Nov. 6 – Building a Better Estate Plan, Dec. 4 – Advanced Estate Planning (with Celebrity Examples), Jan. 8, 2027 - Tips for Smooth Estate & Trust Administration, Feb. 5 – Proper Funding of Wills and Trusts. Interested participants can register 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.



Landsberg Bennett Wealth Management Monthly Wednesday 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: 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 - 5p.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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CONTACT INFORMATION

Tom Teubert: 201-960-5340
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Building on Success

Over the past month, I have continued discussions with members of the board and met with several of our clubs and groups. I am always amazed by the variety of activities, skills and experiences they offer. Their enthusiasm and commitment are a large part of what makes PGICA such a special place.

We would like to thank Allen and Frank for helping upgrade our computers. Allen has replaced several older systems, made our technology easier to use, and integrated the computers with our new copier and printer. Their work has already made a noticeable difference for our staff and daily operations.

Although an official announcement will be coming soon, it has been difficult to keep quiet about the new van parked outside. Thanks to the efforts of your board and the Isles Girls and Guys, PGICA now has a new electric van. It has already generated plenty of questions and interest, so take a moment to have a look the next time you visit.

We are also pleased that Tim will soon return to work part-time. When you see him, please congratulate him on the new addition to his family. We would also like to thank Sean for all his hard work while Tim was on leave. Some of you may even have spotted Sean joining the Zumba class from time to time. Thank you, Sean, for keeping things moving - and occasionally dancing.

Room rentals and bookings are continuing to increase. Much of this progress is due to the efforts of our Administrative Assistant Corrine at the front desk. Corrine has done an outstanding job organizing bookings and reaching out to companies and community groups planning workshops, information sessions, classes, events and activities at PGICA.

We are now booking rooms into January and February 2027. That is an encouraging sign of growing interest in our facilities and programs.

Well done Corrine, and thank you to everyone helping PGICA build on its success.

“Keep doing the good things!”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



It has been great seeing some of you returning to PGI, if even for a visit. We look forward to seeing all of our snowbird members back in your winter nests soon...we miss you!

This fall is rapidly ascending upon us and we have so many activities to invite you to.

Our Diamond Jubilee golf outing on Saturday, October 3 at St. Andrews South Golf Club.

PGICA Meet the Candidates Night on Tuesday, October 6 from 5 to 7

“Hold-the-Date”: for our annual meeting on Wednesday, November 4 from 6:30 to 8:30

Our Bylaws & Rules Committee has extremely busy revising and consolidating our bylaws and the operating rules & guideline documents with the purpose on making the bylaws as the sole Governance document and moving the Operations elements into the Rules & Guidelines document.

These changes will make everything more clear and concise, with the ultimate goal of managing and growing our organization easier for this and subsequent boards.

Another major reason for some of the bylaws changes is to make our 501(C)(3) eligible to apply for and potentially receive grants.

We will be posting the current bylaws and rules & guidelines document along with the red lined versions for your review, well in advance of the annual meeting. Our goal is that you review these documents and request any dialog or debates before the meeting, so that we don't degrade the meeting into a non-productive event.

As always, 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.

Best regards.

Gary Butler

for **Punta Gorda City Council**
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Bottom Row: Guy S. Emerich, Forrest J. Bass and Dorothy L. Korszen

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GOLF *Scramble*

Saturday, October 3, 2026

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

For Golfers

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

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



**Landsberg
Bennett**

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

\$125 per golfer / \$100 PGICA Members

7:00-8:30 Registration & Breakfast

8:30 Shotgun Start

12:30 Luncheon, Awards & Prizes



2001 Shreve St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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

Sponsorship Opportunities



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

Entry of 8 golfers, exclusive sponsor banner at event check-in, Sponsor Plaque, Title status & logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, complimentary 2 Hole and 2 Golf Cart Sponsorships, full-page ad in our Tournament Program, 2 invitations to our Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, opportunity to speak at our Luncheon and VIP Reception, 4 months full-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.

VIP RECEPTION SPONSOR - \$2,500

Entry of 4 golfers, exclusive VIP Reception Sponsor banner at VIP event, Sponsor Plaque, logo featured on all tournament ads, website, emails & social media, complimentary 2 Hole and 2 Golf Cart Sponsorships, Full-page ad in our Tournament Program, 2 invitations to our Pre-Tournament VIP Reception at the PGICA on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 5:30 pm—7:30 pm, opportunity to speak at our VIP Reception, 4 months 1/2 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.

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

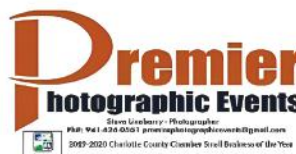
Company logo/name on signs at holes with contests for Longest drive, Straightest Drive and Closest to the Pin.

HOLE SPONSORS : \$100

Company logo/name on signs at a specific hole.

GOLF CART SPONSORS: \$75

Company logo/name on signs on a golf cart.



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.

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**

Euchre is back!

Our first play date of the season will be Thursday, November 5. Please join us on Thursday nights at 6:30 at the PGI Civic Association to play a friendly game of Euchre. Bring a snack to share and your own beverage of choice. Everyone is welcome. For more information and to get onto the email list, contact Marcia Ellis at ellism@wmich.edu.

CANASTA/HAND AND FOOT GROUP**Janet Lynn, jlynnpqi@hotmail.com**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Current high score: 666 Joanne Hyltin

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 weather here has been unseasonably hot this year but as you can see from our photos, our members are still getting out despite the hot weather. Outside dining in Punta Gorda is particularly nice in the evenings after sunset. Many places also feature live music on weekend nights. Cass Cay Restaurant at Burnt Store Marina deserves special notice. It is a great place to see the boats and listen to music while having dinner and drinks.

Downtown Punta Gorda on 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. If you decide to wear a costume downtown for Halloween (and be a kid again), wear something cool.

If you are planning ahead, FF&C is planning a cruise in 2027 which will also be available to friends and family of our members - we will be sailing aboard the Majestic Princess for 12 nights beginning on April 7, 2027. Ports of call: Southampton, Cornwall, Cork, Dublin, Liverpool, Belfast, Glasgow, Invergordon, Edinburgh and LeHavre (opportunity to visit Normandy or Paris). Please email Susie Krause, our cruise director at susiekrause@yahoo.com if interested. If you would like a peek at our August schedule reach out to our Social Director Betty Wilcocks at bhw613@gmail.com or 757-508-1070 and she can send you a link.

There is always something to see and/or do for FF&C members. Pay attention to the email reminders and be sure to use the website calendar to sign up. Remember, the reservation slots fill up quickly. Reservation cancellations are available up to 24 hours in advance directly on the calendar. For cancels inside the 24-hour window please reach out to Social Director Betty Wilcocks 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 check out, 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.



MonkeyBar



Out & About



Wine Tasting

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.

PGICA Ready: Hurricane season is not over yet

October can bring cooler mornings and a sense that the worst of hurricane season has passed. However, the Atlantic hurricane season continues through November 30. This is not the time to let preparedness plans gather dust.

Begin by refreshing your household supplies. Check food, water, batteries, flashlights, portable chargers and weather radios. Protect copies of identification, insurance information and important telephone numbers, and make sure everyone knows how your household will communicate or evacuate if necessary.

Medications deserve special attention. Know how much medicine you have available and speak with your pharmacist or healthcare provider before a storm threatens if refills may be needed. Keep an updated medication list, copies of prescriptions and essential medical information in a waterproof container. Anyone relying on refrigerated medication or electrically powered medical equipment should have a plan for a prolonged power outage.

Pets must also be included from the beginning. Prepare food, water, medications, veterinary records, identification, a current photograph, leashes and a secure carrier. Know where you can take your pets if you must evacuate and never assume every shelter or hotel will accept them.

If you use a portable generator, operate it outdoors at least 20 feet from doors, windows and vents. Use a battery-powered carbon monoxide detector inside your home.

A few minutes spent reviewing your household plan, medications and pet supplies today can prevent confusion and unnecessary risk when a storm is approaching.

From fun to focused with In Stitches

Some mornings begin with laughter, friendly conversation and the gentle click of knitting needles. Then, almost without notice, the room becomes quiet as everyone focuses on the project in their hands. This easy movement from fun to focused is part of what makes In Stitches a real gem of PGICA.

Newcomers can expect to be greeted with a smile. The group offers a relaxed environment that is as warm and welcoming as a wool sweater. Participants enjoy meeting visitors, seeing new projects and sharing their knowledge with anyone who would appreciate a little help learning a technique or solving a problem.

Each Christmas season, In Stitches presents its annual Yarn Bombing public art display. The group's colorful handmade creations are installed for residents and visitors throughout Punta Gorda to enjoy. It is a cheerful reminder of the creativity, community spirit and many hours of work contributed by the group.

In Stitches is also looking for a few extra hands to help install this year's artwork. Volunteers who are comfortable working safely on a ladder and getting up and down are especially needed.

Check the PGICA calendar for the group's meeting times. Stop in, introduce yourself, pull up a chair, bring your needles and treat yourself to an enjoyable morning with In Stitches.



ISLES GIRLS & GUYS CLUB

Dave Little, dblittle321@gmail.com

The Isles Girls and Guys do it all. We are a fun group that helps our community by assisting residents with a sale of their entire household contents. In doing this, we not only help the homeowner but also the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association with donations from the sale. We are the only club in PGICA that doesn't pay club dues.

Ever wonder how other homes are configured, decorated and what personal items have been collected over the years? You would be amazed at the unusual items for sale, e.g.: actual camel saddle chairs, snakeskin wall decorations, even elephant tables.

Our group gets to socialize and have fun while setting up sales as well as enjoying the camaraderie at our meetings and appreciation luncheons.

Don't have any expertise in pricing household items? Not to worry, we will work with you to identify an area you are most comfortable with. We have a lot of fun and it's a great way to meet people. In addition, we also provide time for our workers to shop as well!

If you want to learn more of what we are all about, you can visit our website www.islesgirlsandguys.com or just come to one of our sales.

Want to have an estate sale or join this prestigious group, please contact Tom Teubert at tb2@att.net.

Here is the list of estate sales as of today for publishing in The Commentator.

Oct 9-10	140 Bayshore Ct	Nov 20-21	3800 Bal Harbor Blvd unit 112
Oct 23-24	3779 Tripoli Blvd	Dec 4-5	476 Macedonia Dr
Nov 6-7	1311 Osprey Ct		



If willpower worked, we would all be at our goal weight

Debbie Krider, Ed.D.

"If I just had more willpower, I could pass on the chocolate cake and get myself to the gym." I hear some version of this from clients trying to lose weight or improve their health. It is usually followed by frustration, disappointment and sometimes shame.

But what if willpower is not the problem? Many of us imagine it as an inner strength that will suddenly appear, like a White Knight arriving to take the cake out of our hands. We promise to eat better, exercise more and finally stick with it.

For a while, perhaps we do. We pass on dessert, exercise and watch what we eat. Then life happens. We get tired or stressed, travel, eat out, celebrate a birthday or have a difficult day. Soon we are standing in the kitchen at 8 p.m. thinking, "I know I should not eat this, but I really want it." Eventually, many people return to old habits.

Then comes the self-blame: "I have no willpower. I need to try harder. Why can everyone else do this but me?" If your strategy requires constantly fighting yourself, it probably is not sustainable. In other parts of life, we create routines that make the desired behavior easier. Improving our health should be no different.

Sustainable health involves understanding your habits, environment, relationship with food, sleep, stress and routines. It also means planning for when life disrupts the plan. Stop asking, "What is wrong with me?" and start asking, "What is getting in the way of my good health?" The first question creates blame. The second creates possibilities.

You may not need more willpower; you may need better strategies. Instead of keeping high-sugar foods within easy reach, prepare satisfying choices such as salads, cut vegetables or hard-boiled eggs. Instead of demanding an hour of exercise, choose movement that fits your life. Walk the dog or meet a friend for 15 to 20 minutes, stretch at noon, or take an evening bike ride. Join a group built around an activity you enjoy. Someone is often ready to encourage you on the days your motivation stays in bed.

Personal responsibility still matters, but responsibility is not blame. There is a difference between saying, "I failed because I could not follow my plan," and saying, "My plan did not work for me, so I need another approach." Make the healthier choice easier and enjoyable. That encourages consistency, which supports health over time.

I do not believe willpower is the magic solution we were taught to expect. If it works for you without leaving you feeling deprived, congratulations. But if you have spent years starting diets, falling off them and blaming yourself, perhaps it is time to stop trying harder and start trying differently.

Think of willpower as a bad relationship. It does not show up when you need it, repeatedly lets you down and somehow convinces you to give it one more chance. Like any bad relationship, there comes a time to let it go. Today may be the day to break up with willpower and choose better strategies instead.

Debbie Krider, Ed.D.
Debbie.krider@gmail.com



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 the second Monday of the month at the PGICA or sometimes take field trips for other fun adventures. Seasonal Flockers meet beginning in October and ending in April each year. If this sounds like your kind of group, please email Danita or Glenice for information. Looking forward to meeting our fellow Flockers.



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WHEN:
FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 2026
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

WHERE:
PUNTA GORDA ISLES
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2001 SHREVE ST.
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

Open to PGICA
Members and
the General Public!



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



NEW MEMBER RECEPTION & Open House

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
5 TO 7 PM

PGICA HAS OVER 30 GROUPS AND CLUBS WHICH INCLUDE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS FISHING, BOATING, TABLE GAMES, CARS, MUSIC, PAINTING, TENNIS, KAYAKING, AND SOCIAL CLUBS.

COME MEET MEMBERS OF OUR GROUPS AND CLUBS, OUR INSTRUCTORS AND OTHER NEW MEMBERS. SEE ALL THE EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS THAT THE PGICA HAS TO OFFER!

5 TO 7 PM
PGICA AUDITORIUM

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION
2001 SHREVE STREET, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950

RSVP: 941-637-1655

LITE
REFRESHMENTS
• MEET CLUB MEMBERS

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PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT



With fall just around the corner, cooler weather is inspiring the Seafarers to plan more cruises and social activities for October. Along with new October events, the calendar will include several annual favorites.

Commodore Jeanne Myers led the Seafarers on a September 4 weekend overnight cruise to beautiful Marco Island. The group docked at Marco Island Marina, enjoyed its amenities, and sampled several of the excellent restaurants for which Marco Island is known. Cruise Leader Kathy Nelson organized a September 15 lunch cruise to TT's Tiki Bar, where participants enjoyed a tasty meal and spirited afternoon conversation. The Seafarers epic Poker Run started the morning of September 26 and concluded in the afternoon at Ron and Michelle's dock where the last card was drawn. Right after the last card drawing, there was a raftup and presentation of prizes. To close out the fun-filled Poker Run, Ron and Michelle hosted the Seafarers' Rock the Dock party, featuring great music, food and refreshments as participants enjoyed a memorable day of socializing and camaraderie.

The month of October would prove to be quite busy for the Seafarers as they started with their picnic on October 9 at Ponce de Leon Park. Our chefs will be demonstrating their exquisite grilling skills by serving hamburgers, brats and chicken. Attendees will also add to the picnic by bringing side dishes and desserts to be shared with everyone.



If the weather matches past picnics, the Seafarers will enjoy a picturesque sunset over Charlotte Harbor. The first lunch cruise was organized by Cruise Leader Kathy Nelson and led by Pat Weber on October 12 to the Green Flash Restaurant on beautiful Captiva Island. It is a little bit of a trip to get there, but the excursion is rewarding with good company on the boating trip and a wonderful venue with great food. Vice Commodore Ron Ellsworth put together an exciting agenda for the annual Seafarers Regatta at Burnt Store Marina for the weekend of October 23 through 25. Ron named the event Dancing Through the Decades, which began Friday evening with an elaborate dinner buffet at Cass Cay Restaurant, followed by the group dancing to Marker 5's live music spanning several eras. The next day began with the Poker Run on the docks. After a short break, participants enjoyed the always entertaining Blind Dinghy Races. Kevin and Dawn Smith then hosted Game Night, which consistently brings plenty of laughs. After all the Saturday fun activities, the Seafarers

returned to the Tiki Hut at Cass Cay Restaurant for a barbecue with all the signature side dishes that were favorites from last year's regatta. J.J. and the Bad Habits capped off the evening with another lively round of music, adding even more fun to the event. The last event scheduled in October was the Seafarers Chili Cook-Off and board member nomination on October 26. The Chili Cook-Off is so much fun, resulting in bragging rights for the most votes for best tasting chili.

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 add new members to our wonderful group of Seafarers each month. Our fun-loving group would like to invite 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 October 8 and 22 to your calendar and jump aboard one of our social events so you can meet our members and learn about all the fun we have together. There is no obligation - just stop by the 50/50 table in the foyer to let our greeting team know you are a new visitor interested in the Seafarers.

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





The PGI Car Club (PGICC) meets at Beef 'O' Brady's in Punta Gorda at 11:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. However, October's meeting will be held at the PGICA building as we have a CPR demonstration presented by the Punta Gorda Fire Department. Look for a reminder email a couple of days before the meeting. 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 Tuesday, October 20, at 9. Look for us at the Bal Harbor side of the parking lot. The Celtic Ray Public House 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. Scheduled outdoor events may be cancelled due to weather forecasts. Watch for email notifications.



This month we highlight Lynn and Scott Sacs' 1965 Ford Mustang convertible. In 2006, Scott Sacs drove past a used car lot and saw a white 1965 Mustang convertible. It needed body work and engine work, but it was still a worthwhile project. Over the next few months, Scott worked on the engine and decided it was time to pull the engine and start over. The straight-six had a broken manifold tab and they don't make replacements, so finding a used one seemed impossible. A rebuilt engine was found and installed. The Mustang ran okay but still had a stall issue. Several mechanics said it had a slight vacuum leak, but none could find it.

In 2015, Scott shipped the car to Punta Gorda and had the body work done by Rollin-Glow Auto Body in Port Charlotte. After the work was done and a new vinyl top was put on the car, it looked like new but still would hesitate at a red light. No one could find the vacuum leak.

Scott took the car to Anthony at Iron City Rods and Customs in Punta Gorda and he too couldn't find the issue. Anthony ran a smoke test, but no leak showed up. Finally, he ran the smoke test using ten pounds of pressure (like they do for superchargers) and they found a slight warp in the intake manifold under the carburetor. They tried to double up on a gasket and that did not

work, so they took off the intake manifold and put it on the lathe and took out the warp. At the same time, they converted the single barrel



carburetor to a two-barrel. Now the car has get up and go, something it never really had. It's so much fun to drive, and so far Scott has had no speeding tickets.

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.



In Memoriam

Richard Cotten

Dale Rist



Friday, October 2, 12:00 to 1:00 pm
60yrs Diamond Jubilee Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, October 3, 7:00 to 2:30 pm
Jubilee Golf Tournament

Tuesday, October 9, 9:30 to 12:00 pm
Civic Conversation and Coffee

Wednesday, October 14, 10:00 to 2:30
Afternoon Social Boat Parade

Thursday, October 22, 5:00 to 7:00 pm
New Member Reception

Friday, October 30, 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Halloween (Costume) Bingo

2026 Diamond Jubilee
Anniversary & Golf Title Sponsor



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October Activities

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
4	5 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 1:00p Duplicate Bridge	6 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Crochet Class 10:00a Yoga 11:30a Newcomers- Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 4:00p Meet the Candidate 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:30a In Stitch 10:00a Landsberg Finance 10:00a Newcomers 12:00p Couples 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera
11	12 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 5:00p Friends, Fun & Community 7:00p Texas Hold'em	13 8:30a Fishing Club Board Meeting 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Crochet Class 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 2:30p Rounds by Request 4:00p Round Dance 5:00p Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons 5:30p Car Club 7:00p Fishing Club Acoustic Music Group	9:00a PGICA B 9:30a In Stitch 10:00a Afternoon Paade 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera 4:30p PGIsland
18	19 9:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 1:00p Duplicate Bridge 3:30p Friends, Fun & Community Club Board Meeting 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group	20 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Crochet Class 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 2:30p Rounds by Request 4:00p Round Dance 5:00p Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	9:00a Beyond C 9:30a In Stitche 12:00p Couples 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera
25 4:00p PGI Cruising Club	26 8:00a The Good Life Cafe 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Mariners Board Meeting 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 6:30p Mariners Social 7:00p Texas Hold'em	27 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Crochet Class 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 2:30p Rounds by Request 4:00p Round Dance 5:00p Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons 7:00p Seafarers Acoustic Music Group	8:30a The Good 9:30a In Stitche 12:30p Duplicate 1:00p PGIsland 3:00p Beginner with Vera 4:30p PGIsland 6:30p FF&C La

CALENDAR

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 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone 6:30p PGIslanders	2 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 2:00p Diamond Jubilee Silent Auction Early Opportunity 5:30p PGICA Diamond Jubilee VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION Golf Tournament	3 7:00a PGICA Diamond Jubilee GOLF TOURNAMENT ST ANDREWS5 5:30p Newcomers Special Events
7 es rg Bennett Seminar ers Board Mtg. Bridge ers- Mahjongg r Line Dancing a	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 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone	9 8:30a Zumba 12:00p Civics Conversation and Coffee Guest Speaker Roger Eaton 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginner Mahjongg	10
14 oard Meeting es n Social - Boat	15 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone	16 8:30a Zumba 9:30a CPR-AED Stop the Bleed Class 10:00a Paper Quilling Workshop 10:00a The Power of PGI Homeownership Series 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge 1:00p Beginner Mahjongg	17
21 Ourselfes s Bridge ers- Mahjongg Line Dancing	22 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone 5:00p PGICA New Member Reception	23 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	24 3:30p Paradise Friends
28 d Life Cafe s Bridge ers- Mahjongg Line Dancing ers dies Game Night	29 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 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 4:30p Newcomers 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone	30 8:30a The Good Life Cafe 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	31

JAZZERCISE

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Looking Ahead to November CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  8 3:30p PGI Cruising Club Dinner & Poker	2 8:00a The Good Life Cafe 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:00a PGICA Board Meeting 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a PGI Cruising Club Captain's Meeting 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 1:00p Duplicate Bridge 5:00p Friends, Fun & Community	3 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Car Club Board Meeting 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 10:00a Yoga 11:30a Newcomers - Lunch & Learn 12:15p Pinochle 2:30p Rounds by Request Round Dance 4:00p Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons 6:30p Bunco Buddies 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	4 8:30a The Good Life Cafe 9:30a In Stitches 10:00a Landsberg Bennett Finance Seminar 11:00a Civics Conversation & Coffee Spkr: Judge Sean Lux 12:00p Couples Bridge 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner Line Dancing with Judy 4:00p Advanced Line Dancing with Judy	5 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone 6:30p Euchre 6:30p PGIslanders	6 8:30a The Good Life Cafe 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	
	9 8:00a The Good Life Cafe 8:45a Monday Morning Men's Social Bridge 9:30a Monday Morning Mahjongg 10:00a Tag Team - Artists 11:00a Castanets Dance & Gentle Sitting Dance for Seniors 7:00p Aardvarks Outdoor Group 7:00p Texas Hold'em	10 8:30a Fishing Club Board Meeting 8:30a Zumba 9:00a Better Pictures with your Smartphone 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:00a Member Shred Event 10:00a Yoga 12:15p Pinochle 2:30p Rounds by Request Round Dance 4:00p Beginner Rumba Round Dance Lessons 5:30p Fishing 7:00p Acoustic Music Group	11 8:30a The Good Life Cafe 9:30a In Stitches 12:30p Duplicate Bridge 1:00p PGIslanders- Mahjongg 3:00p Beginner Line Dancing with Judy 4:00p Advanced Line Dancing with Judy 4:30p PGIslanders	12 9:00a Chair-a-Cise 9:30a Just For Fun Mah Jongg 10:00a Yoga 12:00p Hand & Foot Card/ Canasta Game 12:30p Mariners Mah Jong 1:30p Beginner Ukulele 5:00p Better Pictures with your Smartphone 6:30p Euchre	13 8:30a The Good Life Cafe 8:30a Zumba 12:30p PGICA Friday Bridge	14 9:00a PGI Cruising Club Dinner & Poker



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

David & Renee Schilling
 Steve & Carol Hoffman
 Eric & Rhonda Nash
 Tom & Debbie Stewart
 Rosemarie Moore
 Mark & Lynda Zietlow
 Rich and Susan Rose

Patty Houser
 David & Dawn Mattoon
 Rob Biondo
 Barbara Karry
 Heidi Warnke
 Christopher Blauner
 Melissa Kennison

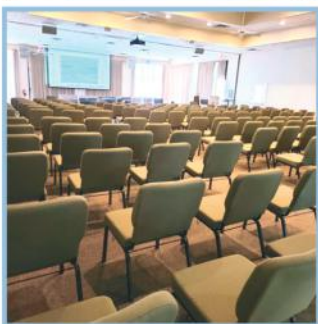
PGICA EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS



- 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 SEPTEMBER 2026*

HOMES

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$350,000	\$350,000	1.00	2401 W MARION AVE	1,726	1970	Private	3	2	0	2	08/05/2026	\$202.78	\$202.78
\$509,000	\$480,000	0.94	1212 PARTRIDGE DR	1,668	1985	Private	3	2	0	21	08/21/2026	\$305.16	\$287.77
\$550,000	\$530,000	0.96	840 VIA TUNIS	1,621	1989	Private	3	2	1	162	08/13/2026	\$339.30	\$326.96
\$574,900	\$545,000	0.95	200 BELAIRE CT	1,808	1984	Private	3	2	0	106	08/31/2026	\$317.98	\$301.44
\$599,000	\$550,000	0.92	1368 WILLET CT	2,090	1987	Private	3	2	0	12	08/10/2026	\$286.60	\$263.16
\$599,000	\$589,000	0.98	586 BAL HARBOR BLVD	1,849	1970	Private	3	3	0	11	08/03/2026	\$323.96	\$318.55
\$672,500	\$653,000	0.97	857 BAL HARBOR BLVD	2,671	1984	Private	3	2	1	77	08/28/2026	\$251.78	\$244.48
\$674,900	\$685,000	1.01	2358 EL CERITO CT	1,904	1974	Private	3	3	0	62	08/31/2026	\$354.46	\$359.77
\$725,000	\$710,000	0.98	2829 LA MANCHA CT	2,215	1990	Private	3	2	1	21	08/31/2026	\$327.31	\$320.54
\$774,000	\$735,000	0.95	1801 MAGDALINA DR	2,105	1998	Private	3	2	0	58	08/17/2026	\$367.70	\$349.17
\$780,000	\$755,000	0.97	2719 MAYAGUANA CT	2,441	1998	Private	3	2	0	4	08/11/2026	\$319.54	\$309.03
\$800,000	\$805,000	1.01	1362 PINE SISKIN DR	2,016	2012	Private	3	3	0	246	08/11/2026	\$396.83	\$399.31
\$825,000	\$790,000	0.96	3529 WHIPPOORWILL BLVD	2,255	1999	Private	3	2	0	8	08/20/2026	\$365.85	\$350.33
\$874,900	\$825,000	0.94	1233 SEA BREEZE CT	2,520	2007	Private	3	3	0	18	08/28/2026	\$402.27	\$374.38
\$885,000	\$845,000	0.95	4074 LA COSTA ISLAND CT	2,200	2011	Private	3	2	1	10	08/14/2026	\$463.79	\$465.09
\$1,095,000	\$1,100,000	1.00	1435 RAVEN CT	2,361	2010	Private	3	3	0	43	08/14/2026	\$536.10	\$497.56
\$1,099,000	\$1,020,000	0.93	1322 MONTE CARLO CT	2,050	2024	Private	3	2	0	556	08/03/2026	\$553.79	\$553.79
\$1,220,000	\$1,220,000	1.00	2511 RIO LARGO CT	2,203	2019	Private	3	2	1	27	08/18/2026	\$422.40	\$416.05
\$1,290,000	\$1,272,000	0.99	3366 TRINIDAD CT	3,054	1999	Private	3	4	1	140	08/11/2026	\$315.25	\$293.79
\$1,395,000	\$1,300,000	0.93	1030 CONECTA DR	4,425	2000	Private	5	4	0	196	08/17/2026	\$438.01	\$378.84
\$1,399,000	\$1,210,000	0.86	3691 WHIPPOORWILL BLVD	3,194	2001	Private	4	3	1	4	08/07/2026	\$632.21	\$632.21
\$1,590,000	\$1,590,000	1.00	1418 KINGLET DR	2,515	2017	Private	3						

CONDOS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP Ratio	Address	HTD	Built	Pool	BE	FB	HB	CDOM	Sold Date	LP/SqFt	SP/SqFt
\$189,999	\$170,000	0.89	1640 ATARES Unit#23	1,837	1989	Community	3	2	0	405	08/26/2026	\$103.43	\$92.54
\$199,900	\$192,000	0.96	601 SHREVE ST Unit#66A	1,394	1981	Community	2	2	0	137	08/14/2026	\$143.40	\$137.73
\$274,000	\$255,000	0.93	255 WEST END DR Unit#4205	1,498	2005	Community	3	2	0	66	08/24/2026	\$182.91	\$170.23
\$299,999	\$275,000	0.92	2002 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#1822	1,517	2002	Community	3	2	0	282	08/17/2026	\$197.76	\$181.28
\$310,000	\$250,000	0.81	3640 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#112	1,405	1992	Community	2	2	0	78	08/20/2026	\$220.64	\$177.94
\$325,000	\$290,000	0.89	1780 DEBORAH DR Unit#27	2,582	1989	Community	3	2	1	55	08/28/2026	\$125.87	\$112.32
\$327,000	\$320,000	0.98	1323 MEDITERRANEAN DR Unit#122	1,484	2006	Community	2	2	0	4	08/27/2026	\$220.35	\$215.63
\$335,000	\$312,500	0.93	3830 BAL HARBOR BLVD Unit#15	1,441	1986	Community	3	2	0	51	08/20/2026	\$232.48	\$216.86
\$399,900	\$390,000	0.98	1 COLONY POINT DR Unit#A7	1,751	1972	Community	3	2	0	76	08/17/2026	\$228.38	\$222.73
\$449,000	\$454,000	1.01	93 VIVANTE BLVD Unit#9321	2,398	2005	Community	3	2	1	12	08/10/2026	\$187.24	\$189.32
\$524,900	\$490,000	0.93	1601 PARK BEACH CIR Unit#6/116	2,462	1988	None	4	2	0	122	08/06/2026	\$213.20	\$199.03

LOTS

List Price	Sold Price	SP/LP	Address	Lot Size SqFt	Lot Size Acres	Water Access Y/N	CDOM	Sold Date
\$320,000	\$307,500	0.96	2846 DON QUIXOTE DR	9,600	0.22	Yes	259	08/24/2026

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The recently opened restaurants in Fishermen's Village provide many enticing lunch cruise opportunities. Michael and Crystal Mankin are hosting a cruise to Castaways on Sunday, September 27, which we'll be reporting on in next month's Commentator article. June Toothaker is leading a cruise to Latitude 26 on Tuesday, November 10.

With our scheduled overnight cruise opportunities curtailed due to iffy weather, we've taken a different tack, with member snowbirds sharing photos and descriptions of their northern summertime waterfront settings. This month's installment comes from Mariner Laurie Betting who writes below of Maple Lake, located in Polk County, Minnesota. Laurie's Maple Lake is one of five so-named in the state.

"We likely have all subscribed to and received the marine warnings informing us that one has been issued for our area with a link to follow for additional information. Well, some of us northerners fortunate enough to have a place on the water in the summer also get the additional blessing of big blows with little warning. No marine warning. In fact, it seems to be at least an annual occurrence for those with lake property in Minnesota. We had just such a storm a few days before Labor Day. I was at my oldest son's log lake home helping with outdoor landscaping when his phone starting beeping to take cover, 75 mph straight on across a wide expanse of water. Pretty epic watching the waves build. But then my phone rang with my neighbor's name popping up. Not a good sign. Sure enough, that same storm had run through my lake and was on round two. All they could confirm was one dock gone and likely another dock and lift. I have been through so many of these that I've learned that there is no sense in getting worked up. It is what it is. I placed a call to my Dock Pro (Put In & Take Out guys) and got on the growing list. It pales in comparison to our hurricanes. So marine warnings here I come. Minnesota, I've almost got you packed away and winterized. Let it blow (and snow!)" The photo Laurie provided, showing a tranquil sunset scene, is quite a contrast with a big blow. I'll take tranquility over tempest every time.



Maple Lake, Polk County, MN



Sunday breakfast

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 an excellent turnout for our September 6 outing with more than 20 Mariners attending. The weather was very pleasant so we gathered in the covered, open-air seating area. The next gathering will be October 4. Many thanks to Peggy Northrup for organizing these monthly events. Peggy also has started another monthly event that is sure to be popular: Ladies' Coffee Break.



First Coffee Club



Lunch with the Ladies at Ginger Dim Sum

The inaugural gathering at Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea, located at 1107 W. Marion Ave. was pronounced a resounding success by the six participants. Locations and monthly timing will vary, so be sure to check the calendar. Julie Conte hosted the September Lunch with the Ladies September 18 at Ginger Dim Sum in Port Charlotte. The round tables available for seating are especially conducive to easy and enjoyable conversation. 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.

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.



If you thought we had a great September, wait until you see what October has in store.

September was another busy month for the Newcomers Club, with plenty of opportunities to get together, try something new, and of course have a little fun along the way.

We continued accumulating our steps together every Monday morning with our Monday Morning Walks, meeting at Fishermen's Village before heading out for a walk and some good conversation. Our September Lunch & Learn featured the Military Heritage Museum, giving us a fascinating look at one of Punta Gorda's wonderful local treasures. As always, Lunch & Learns are open to all PGICA members and take place on the first Tuesday of each month. A special thank you to Jane Connors for creating and coordinating this wonderful monthly event.



Men's lunch at Leroy's Southern Kitchen

September also brought a little friendly competition between the guys and gals. For the first time this year, our Men's Lunch at Leroy's Southern Kitchen had more participants than the Ladies' Lunch at Village Brewhouse. The score may be tied again next month, but for now, the guys get bragging rights. We can't thank Deb and Dave Horney enough for all the work they put into organizing these monthly lunches.

Small Group Appetizer Night was another big success, with a wonderful turnout at Wendy and George Panourgias' beautiful home. In true Newcomer spirit, Wendy has been our faithful organizer, and when needed, host of these special evenings. It is a great way to meet new people and enjoy a more relaxed evening with fellow members.

September's Dine Around brought out everyone's competitive side. Donna Culver planned a fun evening of dinner and darts at the Ice House Pub,

where good food and a little friendly competition made for a memorable night. The guys got their own chance to compete with another fun night of bowling at Treasure Lanes, organized by our men's activities guru, John Crawford.



Dinner & Darts at Ice House

And then there are our social hours. Each month, our Social Director Alison O'Brien brings everyone together at a different Punta Gorda venue. Our social hours are also open to prospective members, so if you've been wondering what Newcomers is all about, come join us on the first Wednesday of the month and see for yourself.

October is always a fun time in Punta Gorda. The snowbirds begin making their way back, Halloween decorations start popping up around town and the weather finally begins to give us a little taste of cooler days. Newcomers has plenty planned to add to the October fun.

We'll welcome the wonderful people behind Team Punta Gorda and learn more about how their dedicated volunteers help shape and improve our city. We'll also head to Village Brewhouse for our monthly social hour, where we're hoping for another beautiful Punta Gorda sunset to go along with the good food and company.

Our Dine Around will come with a side of optional line dancing at Burg'r Bar. Later in the month, we'll head south for a day exploring the Ford and Edison Estates, followed by lunch down the road at Ford's Garage.

And then we'll wrap up the month with one of our biggest events of the year, our annual membership meeting and Halloween party. Costumes are optional, but a good time is highly encouraged. We'll hear some spooky local lore from our guest speaker, take care of a little Newcomers business, and then get right to the fun.

Think of it as a little business-in-the-front, party-in-the-back. That's October at Newcomers. We hope you'll join us.



Dine Around at Pizza Gorda



Small Group Appetizer Night

October is such an exciting month to look forward to in Punta Gorda. Our weather begins to get cooler. We celebrate Columbus Day and enjoy a holiday at home or out and about. At the month's end we enjoy Halloween, which requires us eating more candy and treats than our doctor recommends. Obviously, we buy bags of candy thinking hundreds of kids will come to our door like they did in the days when we lived in another state far away. We also experience a few more tricks than usual, like wearing a few costumes to greet our alleged hundreds of kids. Let's carry this theme of fun and games throughout the month as we gather together in our future activities. Downtown Punta Gorda features a variety of special events that you can go enjoy, along with a variety of planned activities and celebrations all over the area. Be sweet this month.

Sips and Dips will take place on Thursday, October 1 from 6 to 8 at the home of Debbie and Fred Eickhoff. We ask that you bring a yummy appetizer or dessert and of course your preferred BYOB. It's also International Coffee Day, so a few of you could bring your favorite Starbucks coffee. These home parties are so much fun because you eat more than you need, the friendships formed are fabulous, and you leave the house very content and so glad you went. There is a limit of 40 people, so please sign up on our website. If you need to get in touch with Debbie or Fred contact Debbie at 317-752-2110 or by email at debbie12153@gmail.com. You can also contact Fred at 239-994-4339 or by email at fre41@aol.com.



Having a joy filled day

until 2, also at Castaways in Fishermen's Village. What a coincidence both the men and women of this club will be at the same restaurant. There is a lot of shopping that the women could do before or after. Or you could possibly get together with your spouse or good friend and enjoy browsing through some of the shops together. There are quite a few shops that offer great ideas for gifts that include Punta Gorda's name on them. If a friend is moving back to Michigan, a hooded sweatshirt with Punta Gorda's name on it would be a wonderful gift. As an added feature, as you walk inside this village, a candy store is right there. You can load up with all kinds of candies for this very sweet month. Please register so we know how many will be coming. Contact Josephine Ortiz at 561-371-1307 or josephinertz@gmail.com for more information.

Our Paradise Friends Mixer is going to be held on Thursday, October 15 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. The next day is World Food Day, which we can justify celebrating early by eating more than usual or ordering some food to take home so we celebrate World Food Day. Jack Gardner is the event contact. If you need to contact him, you can call him at 941-457-0233 or email at 4jackgardner@gmail.com.



We are enjoying gathering together



Our ladies have fun

ChowHounds Men's Lunch will be held on Thursday, October 8 at 11:30 at Castaways in Fishermen's Village. This restaurant is a casual open-air dockside bar and grill located at the end of Fishermen's Village. They have lots of varieties for food and beverages. They offer golf-cart transport for those of you that don't want to walk to the end. For more information, contact Mike Dougherty at 314-220-7940 or CaptnMikeD@gmail.com.

PF Ladies Lunch is on Thursday, October 8 at noon



Come eat with us

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

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



Fitness and tennis go hand and hand. One of the best ways to avoid injury is to stay strong. Some of our PGICA tennis members are taking advantage of a local program called Court Ready at the YMCA. Michelle Rickert looks like she is already acing the class from the first day. If you are interested in joining her to get fit for the start of the local league season, or just to get fit to play with your friends, contact Tabitha Stepensky at 860-798-3531. Bring your tennis partner so they won't be left behind.



Lateral movement drill

High season is coming and Jackie (our president) and Janet (our treasurer) are working with our teams' captains to sponsor our first tennis round robin and social for the fall. We are planning on October for the kickoff, so keep checking our webpage for the date. Come out and greet old friends and meet new ones.

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.



Michelle court ready

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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The calendar changes to September, but the dog days seem to go on here in Southwest Florida. High temperatures and the threat of thunderstorms can make fishing challenging; catching even more so. 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.



Fred DeMella - Shark



Bob Bretts - Black Drum Fish

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. One can move up the ladder; bronze, silver, gold and beyond to the ultimate goal of Grand Master Angler. With guidance and

perseverance, earning a GMA status is within reach.

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

If any of this piques your interest, please join us. We meet the second Tuesday of the month (except July and December) at the PGI Civic Association at 6; all are welcome to attend a meeting. 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 to make plans to fish.



Rick Booth - Sea Trout



FREE HANDS ONLY CPR/AED/STOP THE BLEED TRAINING CLASS

Friday, October 16, 2026 - 9:30 to Noon

Instructors: **Punta Gorda Fire Department**

Class includes

- Infant, Child & Adult CPR
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Call office at 941-637-1655 to register. Limited Class Size.



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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

Would you like to see yourself in one of these photos? Our new season is just beginning, and members of the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association are welcome to join our group. Our first happy hour gathering of the season will be Monday, October 5 at 5:30 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in their library room. Come on over and we will add your name to our email list.

Storm season is drawing to a close, snowbirds are returning and our new paddling season is about to begin on Florida's skinny waters. If you have a kayak and a way to transport it and are comfortable in calm to moderate conditions, we'd love to share our adventures with you this 2026-2027 season. Our kayak time on the water is about an hour and a half, and we generally stay within 25 miles of PGI, although occasionally we make longer trips to interesting locations. We depend on our members to lead the twice per month kayak outings. If you have questions about our group, please send an email to pgikayakers@gmail.com or visit our website - www.pgikayakers.org.



All smiles



Perfect day on Shell Creek

Castaways adventures near and far

The Castaways have been on the move during the past thirty days, enjoying everything from rooftop celebrations and tropical cruising to an unforgettable adventure at Walt Disney World. As always, good friends, plenty of laughter and a willingness to try something new turned every outing into a memorable occasion.

The fun began at Perch 360 with a special happy hour celebrating the August birthdays of President Tom Hyatt and Social Director Dan Avenancio. With sweeping rooftop views and a colorful Punta Gorda sunset as the backdrop, members raised their glasses to two people who give so much of their time and energy to the club. Drinks flowed, laughter carried across the rooftop, and giveaways added another layer of fun. Lucky members went home with Mighty Mussels tickets and Castaways hats, while everyone left with great memories.

September began with another spirited happy hour at Beef O'Brady's. The tables quickly filled with familiar faces, friendly teasing and the steady buzz of Castaways swapping stories about summer travels and upcoming adventures. These relaxed gatherings remain one of the best ways to catch up with longtime friends, welcome newer members and enjoy an evening where the conversation is always lively and the company is even better.

Next, the Castaways traded dry land for open water during a Jimmy Buffett-themed sunset cruise aboard the Kingfisher Fleet. Members arrived ready to show off their best Parrot Head style and laid-back island attitudes. Bright tropical shirts, colorful accessories, Florida breezes, beautiful harbor views and a glowing sunset created the feeling of a floating Margaritaville celebration. With music, laughter and great friends all aboard, it truly was five o'clock somewhere.

The biggest adventure of the month was our first annual Castaways trip to the EPCOT International Food and Wine Festival. Members spent several fun-filled days exploring Walt Disney World and sampling their way around the world. EPCOT offered an incredible variety of international dishes, creative beverages, live entertainment and plenty of opportunities to discover new favorites. From the first festival booth to the last, members compared dishes, shared small plates and occasionally returned for seconds. Experiencing Disney as adults allowed everyone to move at their own pace, follow their appetites and enjoy every delicious detour.

The group also ventured to Animal Kingdom for the safari, the bird show, Festival of the Lion King, tastes of African cuisine and a cocktail or two. After an action-packed day in the park, the Castaways still had enough energy for one final adventure - a Monorail Pub Crawl.



Buffet cruise

Disney's Contemporary Resort. By that point, everyone was full, exhausted and completely happy. It was the best kind of tired, the kind that comes from filling a day with great experiences, nonstop laughter and even better company.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the past month so memorable. Our first EPCOT adventure was different from our usual outings, but its success proved once again that the Castaways are ready to go almost anywhere in search of good food, new experiences and another great story to tell.



Cruise pre-party



Epcot

The evening began at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, where refreshing drinks came with plenty of entertainment. Our server had everyone laughing with his Pumbaa voice, hearty laugh and unmistakable resemblance to Seth Rogen.

From there, we climbed aboard the monorail and headed to Disney's Grand Floridian Resort. The Enchanted Rose delivered elegant cocktails and shared bites that did not disappoint. The trout and crab dip earned rave reviews, although everyone was so eager to start tasting that photographs of the food were temporarily forgotten.

Our final stop was Steakhouse 71 Lounge at



Disney Pub Crawl



It appears that the exceptionally strong Super El Niño has been our friend so far this year. As I pen this article in mid-September, the Atlantic and Caribbean waters have been void of tropical activity and we have passed the historical peak of hurricane season with only heat, humidity and afternoon thunderstorms. The area drought appears to be easing a bit and with any luck we might be able to get our boats safely up the Peace River to the Nav-a-Gator Restaurant for one of our lunch cruises this fall. Always a popular dock and dine destination with the PGI Cruising Club, the Nav-a-Gator has become a land cruise in recent years because of low water as you head northeast up river towards Arcadia.

I'm an Ohio guy in the summer, and by early August I start thinking about my boat that is resting on an indoor dry rack at Gasparilla Marina in Placida. Like most summers, I needed my boating fix so I jumped on an airplane and flew up



to Prior Lake, Minnesota again to visit Don Bergman who is also a member of the PGI Cruising Club. Don's lakefront home affords ample opportunities for me to enjoy summer boating, including a pair of wave runners, a ski boat, kayaks and a canoe. Thanks, Don for hosting a great visit to the Land of a Thousand Lakes. Have a safe trip back to PGI in mid-October.

Cruising Club off-season happy hours were suspended in mid-June because of low turn-out but we are looking forward to ramping them back up beginning in mid-October. Again this year, our host will be the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel with the meeting location alternating between the outside patio and the inside library. Be sure to

check the official PGI Cruising Club calendar for the Tuesday afternoon start date in October and RSVP the Evite invitation we will again be sending out each week to confirm the event head count required by the Four Points Food & Beverage Manager.

Coming events:

Happy hour - Tuesday Nights, 5 to 7 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel starting October 27.

Dart Night - First Thursday of the month at the Ice House Pub. Watch for start date.

Ladies & Men's Luncheons - start date to be determined. Watch for an email with details.

Welcome Back Pizza Party and general membership meeting October 25 at PGICA at 5.

Fall Poker Run - Sunday, November 8

Christmas Party, General membership meeting & election of officers – December 6 at PGICA at 5.

PGICC Anniversary Dance – January 26, 2027 at Isles Yacht Club from 5 till ?

Monthly lunch cruises - To be announced

Tampa Bay Rays day at Charlotte Park - Spring 2027, date to be determined

Be sure to check www.pgicruisingclub.org for event updates and signups.

Other activities we are investigating include a Murder Mystery Dinner Train and day trips to Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota and to Clewiston for a ride on the Sugar Train.

The many activities of the PGI Cruising Club provide great opportunities to participate. None of the events shown above plus others we will add during the year can happen without the generous contribution and talents of our club committees and their volunteers. As we begin a new season, I challenge each of us to find a way to participate, to become a committee chair or committee member or to serve in some other way including a club officer position. At the general membership meeting in October we will be forming a search committee to fill important leadership positions to lead our club in 2027. At a minimum we will need to fill the position of vice president, treasurer and social chair. Bottom line: We need your support in 2027.

If you are new to PGI and looking for a boating club to join please contact our Membership Chair Marsha Ling at membership@pgicruisingclub.org or join us for happy hour at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel on Tuesday afternoons. You do not have to own a boat to join the PGI Cruising Club. We are more than just a boating club.





Hi there fellow PGICAers (PGICAans?) it's Robin, your PGIslanders Communications Director pinch-hitting for Mark Janus, our Vice Commodore for this month's Commentator. Mark is enjoying letting someone else helm the boat somewhere on a lovely river in Europe, and we're looking forward to his return and the accompanying pictures.

That said, the PGIslanders have a literal tidal wave of events that have washed up on the calendar. By the way, if you haven't looked at the PGIslanders-specific calendar, you can find it by going to PGICA.org, logging in, clicking on Groups/Clubs, then clicking Clubs and scrolling down to our beautiful burgee. Click on PGIslanders Calendar and you'll see all of the adventures, big and small, that we have planned for the upcoming months.

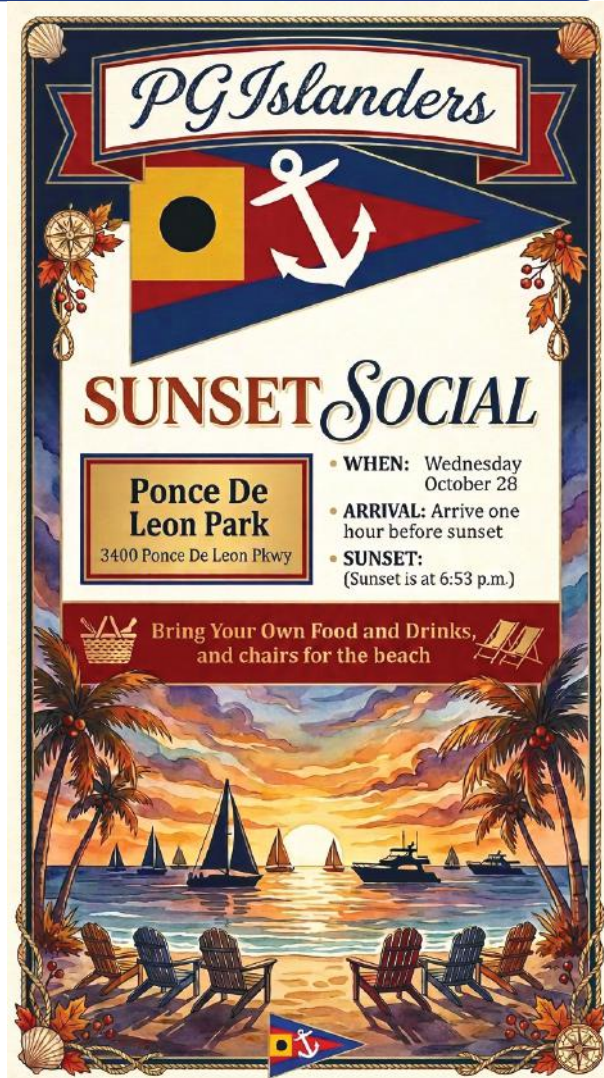
Just in October, we have three cruises, two of which are easy breezy land/sea lunch cruises. The third is a weekend cruise, which is great for those of us who are still tied to our desks and haven't bit the bullet and installed Starlink (and can pretend our background is an office for Teams meetings when it's really paradise).

We've also scored a private tour of a local yacht manufacturing facility, and the lucky few that jumped in on that before it sold out will be hard-hatting and safety-glassing their way through a really cool experience.

Of course, our monthly member meeting is always on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30, and prospective members are always welcome. We typically have an education segment, since that's a core strength of the PGIslanders. Last month we brought in the Air Services Development Director of the Punta Gorda Airport, and it was a very enlightening segment. You'll have to come see who we've lined up for October - I guarantee it'll be worth it.

Crowds not your thing? Come to one of our socials on the second Wednesday of each month at the PGICA at 4:30 and meet a few of our core members in a relaxed, low-key setting. Typically, our second social of the month on the fourth Wednesday is also at PGICA, but we're experimenting now in response to member requests for later, off-site meetups that recognize the changing demographic of the PGICA who may not have retired yet. This month our second social is our Sunset Social at Ponce de Leon Park, and it's always fun, especially when Mother Nature decides to put on a show for us.

We're also super excited to bring our wildly successful, all-day Bahamas Bound seminar back to the PGICA in January of 2027. If you've ever wondered how to get your boat all the way from here to the Bahamas, we show you, step-by-step, how to do it. This is a bring your boating friends and neighbors type of event, especially if they haven't stepped foot in the PGICA before. Watch this space for more information to come, including dates and how to register. Even if the Bahamas is just a dream, find out how to make it a reality with us.





Can you believe we are in the autumn of our year? Our full timers with life experiences up north are feeling nostalgic about those fall colors and cool, crisp mornings. And we are ecstatic that the season (that shall not be named) has been so mild and looks to continue that way. We will soon be enjoying life outdoors with leisurely meals or happy hours on the lanai. That's the weather our snowbirds are returning to. We welcome you back. We missed you.

The September lunches included Ladies Lunch at the newly opened



JFF Brunch hosts



Ladies lunch

Latitude 26 at Fishermen's Village and Men's lunch at the Outback. Our September Bite Night was a delightfully different twist as we were treated to a brunch, hosted by Lynn and Ron Marcuse. We enjoyed a variety of breakfast casseroles, quiche, sweet breads, coffee and even mimosas. It broke tradition and everyone really enjoyed it. "We should try this again," was heard by several guests during the event.

Coming up in October, we bring back Dinner and Darts at the Ice House Pub on October 18, then Ladies Lunch on October 20 at Rossini by Chef Rocco, 1441 Tamiami Trail (the location of the former Ruby Tuesday). Sign up on the website soon, as there are only 20 slots available. Men's lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27. Check JFF website for time and location. October 24 Bite Night, hosted by Marie Knipe is just days away from Halloween. Imagine what fun you could have naming some ghoulishly pleasing appetizers.

JFFers, we need you. Several leaders are stepping down next year. We need new officers and committee leaders to plan and lead our many social activities, and willing helpers are available to share the work. These positions run from January through

December. If interested, tell our president, as she forms the nominating committee. Elections are at the November 18 general meeting.

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. We are always ready to meet new friends.



JFF Wants You



September brunch food

CLASSIFIED ADS

Contact MATTHEW BARAN at matthewbaran@pgica.org or via phone at 941-637-1655

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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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APPLIANCE REPAIR

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

BOAT REPAIR & BOAT CLEANING

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

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

CLEANING SERVICES

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

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

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

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

DRIVING SERVICES

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

HANDYMAN SERVICES

SANDSTAR: 45+ YEARS TRUSTED EXPERIENCE ~ Craftsmanship, reliability, and local care for every project!
· **Remodeling** - Full kitchen, bath and home upgrades
· **Handyman Fixes** - Leaky faucets, quick repairs and odd jobs
· **Home Watch+** - Peace of mind while you're away
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED (CGC013881)
CONTACT US: 941-637-8080.

CHADS HANDYMAN SERVICE LLC ~ Home improvements, repair and maintenance. Licensed and insured. Free estimates. Call 941-759-0496 or email MyHandyman@HireChadPicard.com.

HOME REPAIR/REMODELING SERVICES

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

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

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

PAINTING SERVICES

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

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

EARNST AARNAES PAINTING, INC. ~ Punta Gorda's premier painting service. When quality matters, call Earnst at 941-626-4542. Check out our Google reviews.

PERSONAL SERVICES

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

PET SERVICES

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

PLUMBING SERVICES

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

POOL SERVICES

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

SCREENING

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

WINDOW TREATMENTS

CREATIVE WINDOW TREATMENTS ~ The leading local supplier of Hunter Douglas Shades, Blinds and locally manufactured Custom Plantation Shutters. We produce Draperies, Roman Shades, Valances and more, designed by our talented Interior Decorators. We offer expertise in all categories including motorization. 941-637-0015.

WINDOW WASHING

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



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
Landsberg Bennett
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.



Fall is upon us, and while our Florida temperatures aren't dropping yet, change is in the air - our snowbird friends are returning and the Beyond Ourselves club is back to regular meetings. Are you community service-minded? Looking for ways to give back to your community? Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 21 at 10 at the PGICA to find more opportunities. We welcome guests to any of our regular meetings.

On Saturday, October 17, Beyond Ourselves will hold its inaugural golf event, Chip In For Charity, benefiting both the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) and the Charlotte CARE Center (CCC), two charities doing important work in our community. Consider supporting our fundraising efforts by registering to golf with us or by becoming a sponsor today. Scan the QR codes on the flyer or visit our website at www.PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves to sign up. You won't want to miss out on the fabulous swag bags and raffle prizes. Cash prizes will be awarded for longest drive, closest to the pin, and top scoring teams. And prizes will also be awarded for best dressed, so be sure to come join the fun.

On Thursday, October 22, Beyond Ourselves members will be attending the PGICA New Member Reception from 5 to 7. We look forward to introducing our group to any new PGICA members.

On Tuesday, November 10, Beyond Ourselves members will be assisting at the PGICA Shred Event from 9 to 11. At this drive-through event, volunteers will be collecting donations for the Peace River Wildlife Center and the Charlotte CARE Center. We invite you to go to the Beyond Ourselves website to view the wish lists

for each of these deserving charities. Of course, cash donations are always needed and welcomed.

On Saturday, February 27, 2027, Beyond Ourselves will hold its annual Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour. We will be showcasing an all-new group of local homes for ticketholders to tour at their leisure between 10 and 4. Proceeds from our home tour benefit eight local children's charities in Charlotte County. 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. Home tour ticket sales will begin on Monday, January 25.

On the first Saturday of every month, Beyond Ourselves member volunteers serve dinner at the Charlotte CARE Center. You don't have to be a member of Beyond Ourselves in order to help. If you wish to volunteer to serve dinner at the CCC, contact Lynn Rogers directly via email at earthlynn25@yahoo.com.

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. In October and November, Debbie Ford, Laura Hart, Nancy Sharpless and Linda Taylor are scheduled to help by collecting and delivering produce to PRWC.

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



BOS board members