

# TEAM Punta Gorda

## *impulse newsletter*

**December  
2008**

**Happy  
Holidays!**

### Issue Highlights

- Annual Meeting recap
- Direct Air raffle winner announced
- *Destination Punta Gorda* coffee table book special offer
- Interactive fountain pavers order information
- Make an Investment letter from the CEO
- Bikes & Brunch ride on Saturday, December 13
- Bits of News

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### Editor's Computer Wins

I am sorry for the confusion with the IMPULSE e-newsletter for November. My computer and/or my server decided that anyone in cyberspace was destined to get the publication, but very few here in Punta Gorda would! Some received the email six times and most never received it. Hopefully, the December IMPULSE will arrive in its evolving format and everyone will be happy.

Dianne Sandler, Editor



We enjoyed the beautiful, new Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center with enough seating for all!

### Direct Air Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Carl Gettel, and his wife, for winning the Direct Air Raffle. They will be flying via Direct Air to Myrtle Beach, SC, play a round of golf, and stay in an oceanfront resort, and sightsee in a discounted rental car. Not bad for a \$10.00 donation!

### TEAM Punta Gorda Annual Meeting November 5, 2008

The Team Annual Meeting was held at the new Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. What a wonderful meeting! Over 450 people were in attendance.

The committees shared up-dates on TEAM activities and a Proclamation by Governor Charlie Crist was presented to our CEO, Nancy Prafke, by State Representative Paige Kreegel.

A slide presentation, prepared by Kyle Lynch and Kelsey Lynch, showed sites before and after Hurricane Charley. Kyle and Kelsey attend Charlotte High School and are interested in helping to start the new Jr. TEAM.

We'd like to thank Jennifer Byrd of Kinetico of Southwest Florida for the donation of the drinking water; John Zack of A Better Looking Garden, who made the stage look lovely; and Vernon Peeples for sharing his knowledge and photos about Punta Gorda.

## Interactive Fountain Pavers

Do you ever feel like people are walking all over you? You could donate a brick paver to be placed at the beautiful Interactive Fountain at Lashley Park and people will be walking all over you. Become a part of Punta Gorda's history!



The bricks start at \$100 each and will be personalized as you request. Construction of the fountain will begin shortly, so order your paver soon.

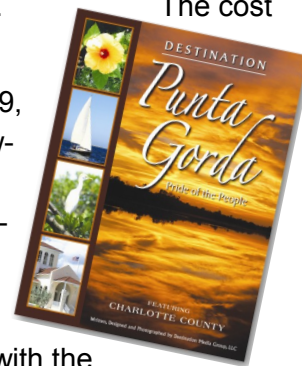
Please contact the TEAM office at 941-637-8326 or check the Website for an order form.

## Get a FREE Coffee Table Book

A beautiful book, *Destination Punta Gorda, Pride of the People*, is being published and everyone should have one on their coffee table. The cost is \$44.95 per copy.

If you order by January 6, 2009, you will be entered into a drawing giving away two copies of the book. Winners will be notified by telephone.

Contact TEAM by email at [TEAM@teampuntagorda.org](mailto:TEAM@teampuntagorda.org) with the following information. "I (your name) would like to order (number) copies of *Destination Punta Gorda, Pride of the People* at \$44.95 per copy, for a total cost of \$\_\_\_\_. Should I not be one of two lucky TEAM Members who will win a free copy of this book at the January 6 drawing, I agree to provide full payment by check or cash upon receipt."



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## Make an Investment: A Letter from Our CEO, Nancy Prafke

For many, the end of the year also means making tax-deductible contributions to organizations of choice. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TEAM Punta Gorda welcomes your year-end gift.

We detailed our 2008 accomplishments at the Annual Meeting on November 5. You'll also find the accomplishments detailed on this new website by selecting WHAT WE DO on the home page and WHAT WE'VE DONE. It has taken the efforts of many to achieve these results including TEAM Punta Gorda. Since 2004, when TEAM was founded, we've been diligently working on behalf of the citizens of our community to bring about the change envisioned in the Citizens' Master Plan 2005.

Yet, we've only just begun. TEAM's active committees are collaborating with many partners to achieve:

- An active waterfront with a promenade from Fishermen's Village to Charlotte Regional Medical Center that links with the linear parks to form a "ring around the city."
- A Rails-to-Trails program with bicycle, walking, and running paths around the city that links with Arcadia, Venice and Ft. Myers.
- A virtual artisan's district that brings together our existing arts community and an artisan's village for emerging artists.
- A community where additional higher education compliments existing educational opportunities and brings students from around the globe.

TEAM Punta Gorda is staffed by unpaid volunteers. We provide an office from which our non-profit operates and offers valuable meeting space for our committees to convene.

Your gift is an investment in our community. Thank you!



Don't miss the fun of bicycling around town and stopping for a complimentary breakfast snack at four locations. It's TEAM Punta Gorda's quar-

## **Bikes & Brunch — Saturday, December 13**

terly, no-spandex, Saturday morning Bikes & Brunch ride that promotes Punta Gorda as a "Bicycle Friendly Community." This Saturday, December 13, we'll be meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Acme Bicycle Shop and then depart for the History Park where volunteers will be serving up special holiday treats. Then, it's off to Pies & Plates, Burnt Store

Grille and Hendrick's Food Vault. Everyone must wear a helmet and children over 12 are welcome. It's a great way to spend a morning with fellow bicyclists and enjoy the refreshments for only a \$5 donation to help further TEAM's Rails-to-Trails program. Call Acme Bicycle Shop at 941-639-2263 to make your reservation.

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## **Bits of News**

### **Resolution**

The Punta Gorda City Council, at its November 19, 2008 meeting, made a Resolution recognizing the 2005 Citizens' Master Plan, gifted to the City by TEAM Punta Gorda, as a document of great significance.

### **Eagles**

Unfortunately, the eagle's nest that was in a pine tree at the corner of Maud Street and Olympia Avenue was blown down during the storm several weeks ago. Only time will tell if they return to rebuild their nest.

Maybe TEAM can help them with a new design and suggest a stronger tree.

### **Think Thursday**

Think Thursday is in full swing and is in need of volunteers to help with the weekly programs. Go to [www.thinkthursday.com](http://www.thinkthursday.com) to sign up. You will have fun knowing you're contributing to bringing visitors to our wonderful city.

### **Hands Across the Harbor**

A joint venture by the Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor CRAs is being held on January 24, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Contact [www.zoomersrun.com](http://www.zoomersrun.com) to get more information on the 15 mile bicycle ride, 5K run and 5K walk. Early registration is \$15.

### **Main Street Punta Gorda**

Wreaths Around Main Street, sponsored by Main Street Punta Gorda, is in full swing. Four dozen businesses will have holiday wreaths decorated and displayed around Historic Downtown. Location maps are available at the Main Street office, in City Hall. You can vote for your favorite wreath by making a donation giving you a chance to own the winning wreath.

### **Darkwood Center**

The Darkwood Center will be open soon. It is an artisans village and music studio with a 1,000 sq. ft. concert hall. The Darkwood Center is located at the corner of King and Charlotte Streets in Punta Gorda.

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Listen to Ken Lovejoy's "Charlotte Speaks" show on WCCF Radio Station 1580AM on the first Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to hear about TEAM's activities.