

January 2009

TEAM Punta Gorda's Advisory Committee and Board of Directors extend a Happy New Year to everyone.

Make a decision to become active on a TEAM Punta Gorda committee as one of your New Year's resolutions for 2009.

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Dianne Sandler, Editor

Accomplishments thru Partnerships

Our CEO, Nancy Prafke, has a monthly article in *The Charlotte Sun* the last weekend of each month. This past month she elaborated on the accomplishments TEAM had made in 2008. The short list is:

The formation of a Maritime Committee who recommended a Waterfront Master Plan which includes Harborwalk.

The Artisans Village that brings arts enthusiasts from our community together.

The Rails To Trails Committee is working to make Punta Gorda a bicycle-friendly community.

The Higher Education Committee whose goal is to help to identify higher education potential for Punta Gorda.

The Beautification Committee helped lay bricks to beautify the downtown area around the Hector House Plaza.

The partnerships between TEAM and the City Council and County Commission.

The fund raising efforts of our Annual Golf Tournament.

The Hibiscus Bicycle Tour that brought riders from other Florida cities to Punta Gorda.

Please check our website for more details on the above projects.

KUDOS

To the TEAM Architectural Committee for being invited to partner with the City on the development of a new recreation and open space plan.

To Smuggler's Enterprises for establishing the Smuggler's Foundation to "address the many needs of the community."

Remember to support our local restaurants and merchants.

Remember to Think Thursday for a day of fun throughout the city.

Remember the Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings between Herald Court and the Old Courthouse.



Your Editor with neighbors who own the Sugar Island Cupcakes and Baked Occasions Wedding Cakes.

Update on Construction Downtown

The Sheraton is on schedule for a summer opening.



The parking garage is getting ready for cars.



The Crab House is growing taller and the Interactive Fountain is coming out of the ground. Don't forget to purchase your personalized paver. Visit the TEAM website for an order form.

Bits of News

In case you haven't heard, our eagles have decided to rebuild their nest in the History Park at the corner of Shreve and Henry Streets. It appears they have picked a sturdy tree and are conforming to the guidelines in the Citizens' Master Plan. If you do not disturb them, you can enjoy watching them from the parking lot at the History Park. And, while there, wander around the park and enjoy the historic buildings. We understand that the eagles wanted a condo, so they are building on Virginia Avenue also.



PONCE de LEON PARKWAY is the new name that has been given to the street off West Marion Avenue that takes you to Ponce Park, the boat ramp and fishing piers, and the Peace River Wildlife Center.

Upcoming Events around Town

The Benjamin J. Baker Neighborhood Improvement Association will sponsor the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and Rally on January 19. The parade begins at 11 a.m. at City Marketplace and ends at the New Operation Cooper Street building.

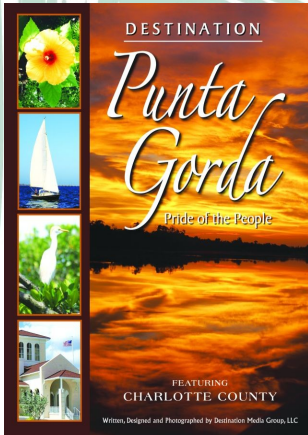
The PG Historical Society will be having a Chili Cook-off on January 23 at the Woman's Club.

Hands Across the Harbor, organized by the Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agencies, will be held on January 24 at 8 a.m. The deadline for pre-registration is January 20. Visit www.zoomersrun.com for details.

Main Street Punta Gorda is hosting a Coconut Craze Day kick-off party on February 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy a Coconut Cocktail at Herald Court and purchase your coconut for the 2009 Punta Gorda International Coconut Race.

The Wine and Jazz Festival will be held on February 21. Contact the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce for more information. If you purchase tickets before January 31 you will get a \$10 discount.

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association and the Gifted Gator Gift Shop will be having an Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday, March 14.



Two Winners will enjoy the Coffee Table Book

Congratulations to the winners of the free *Destination Punta Gorda: Pride of the People* coffee table book. Dotti Vaivoda and Sue Sleight will be enjoying the new book, which will be available soon. Pre-orders are still being accepted for the book. Please go to the TEAM website for more information and the order form.

FEMA has Asked for our Help

TEAM's community accomplishments haven't gone un-noticed. FEMA has asked TEAM Punta Gorda, along with City and County representatives, to participate in a disaster recovery lessons-learned activity with representatives from other cities throughout the United States. These are communities that have been impacted by natural disasters like floods, tornadoes and hurricanes. We are specifically discussing our success with people from the Texas coast ravaged by Hurricane Ike. FEMA is interested in hearing about the citizen's response to disasters and how TEAM has partnered with local governmental entities.

Put these dates on your calendar for TEAM Activities

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April 4, 2009—TEAM Punta Gorda Annual Golf Tourna-

at St. Andrews South

June 20, 2009 — Hibiscus Bicycle Tour



TBA — Volunteer Appreciation Event
(that's a hint to volunteer so you can