



## TEAM Punta Gorda Newsletter

Joanne and Richard Collins, Editors

October 2016

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## Giving Challenge nets TEAM \$15 K

For our fourth year participating in the Giving Challenge, in addition to asking people to go on line and make a donation, TEAM member, Diane Becker, organized a lovely and innovative party where we all learned more about PAINT YOUR HEART OUT (PYHO) PUNTA GORDA. Diane exhibited her unbelievable creativity by organizing *Paint With a Purpose*, an instructor-led activity on how to paint a beautiful work of art. And there was more! One could even *Paint a TEE for a Dignitary*.

All of these efforts were successful and we are proud to announce that we netted \$15,000 that will be used for PYHO. This community annual service project is done in collaboration with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity and heavily supported by local contractors, tradesmen, businesses and service clubs.

Each year, a number of houses are painted by volunteers for homeowners who need a helping hand. It was initiated in the spring of 2014, designed to help elderly, disabled, and needy residents while beautifying Punta Gorda. PYHO does more than paint homes. It sends a message of pride and builds a sense of community spirit and unity that lasts long after this day of service is over.

Thank you for your generosity to TEAM Punta Gorda!

## Developing Community Solutions

A SEMINAR ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

This is a great opportunity to hear a remarkable speaker who is an experienced and successful practitioner in the field of providing sustainable affordable housing.

Our speaker, Anthony Jones, is CEO of Bright Community Trust, a nonprofit based in Clearwater, Florida that has been instrumental in building stronger communities across Florida. According to their website, Bright Community "partners with governments, for-profits and nonprofit entities to create healthy and sustainable neighborhoods so that hardworking families can thrive and achieve their goals."

### Bright Community's mission is as follows:

- Keeping homes affordable
- Helping a greater number of people own their own homes
- Keeping people in their homes, creating stable communities
- Reducing rates of foreclosure
- Using public dollars more efficiently

### Bio of Anthony Jones:

In addition to serving on the board, Anthony is the Bright Community Trust, Inc. CEO and President and a tireless advocate for public policy in conjunction with community revitalization through affordable housing and land stewardship. Previously, Anthony served in dual roles as the Director of Community Development for Pinellas County, Florida and the Executive Director of the Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County where he managed housing and neighborhood initiatives. As a public policy advocate, Anthony's department planned, developed, and implemented neighborhood revitalization, community improvement and housing policy strategies as well as activities that promoted home ownership and rental housing opportunities.

With speaker

Anthony Jones, CEO  
Bright Community Trust

Isles Yacht Club

1780 W Marion Ave  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

OCTOBER 12, 2016

9—11:30 AM

RSVP:

Merritt Brown at  
862-684-2000 or  
merrittbrown@hotmail.com

TEAM Punta Gorda

227 Sullivan St  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
TEAM@Teampuntagorda.org



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## Dragon Boats Festival

Have you heard about the unique Suncoast  
Credit Union's **War on the**

## Peace Dragon Boats Festival?

The Dragon Boat Races benefit "Take Stock in Children", the Charlotte Local Education mentoring and scholarship program. Mark your calendar for **October 29** at Lashley Park.

We are in need of volunteers to serve as **Dock Marshalls** who oversee the safe loading of paddlers in and out of boats. Or, be a **Festival Marshall!** You will collect voluntary entry donations, assist teams in getting to the marshalling area on time, renew restroom supplies, see that trash cans are emptied and changed with clean bags and communicate any issues that need attention to the festival directors. Or, learn to be a **Marshalling Area Assistant.**

You will see that paddlers are lined up properly in the area, have their wrist bands, paddles and vests and get to the docks on time in an orderly fashion. Another opportunity is a **Results Runner.** These volunteers will carry race results from the officials to the announcer and maintain the results on the scoreboard. You can receive the info and training needed to perform any of these tasks at our volunteer meeting at the **Isles Yacht Club, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25.**

We are also looking for someone to captain the pontoon boat being provided by Holiday Boat Rentals that will serve as the starter boat for High Five's officials, and we'd like another chase boat and captain to ensure the safety of paddlers during the races. Volunteers receive a T-shirt, a lunch ticket redeemable at any of our food vendors and water throughout the day. Please check out the Volunteer Application Form on our website at <http://www.waronthepace.com> and join us on race day for a great time!

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Races coming Oct 29!

## TEAM Mixer



Hope to see you at the Ice House

# *Come and join us for a night at the Ice House Outdoor Patio Pub*

**Learn about our organization. Enjoy spending time with  
TEAM Punta Gorda volunteers and members.**

*Date: October 25th, 2016, Tuesday  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Location: 408 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda*

**Refreshments will be provided. Cash Bar.  
Drawing for door Prizes.**

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## **Did you know?**

TEAM Punta Gorda's Maritime Committee, partnering with Keep Charlotte Beautiful, recruited and orchestrated approximately 200 volunteers to **clean up over 3 miles of Punta Gorda waterfront** as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday, September 17. Areas worked included the entire length of Harborwalk, Gilchrist Park, Linear Park and Ponce Park by land. Kayakers worked the coastline from Fisherman's Village to the I-75 Bridge.



*Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty Group participates in the clean up*

The Punta Gorda volunteer effort was part of the greater Charlotte Country Coastal Cleanup Campaign, which included over 800 volunteers. Items collected included

cigarette butts, beverage bottles and cans, bottle caps, cup lids, plastic straws, food wrappers, plastic bags, old tires, rotting wood, rusting abandoned crab pots and more.

TEAM's Maritime co-chair Ann Taylor was thrilled. "Our intention was to try and boost Punta Gorda's community participation in this important clean-up effort," explained Ann, "Keep Charlotte Beautiful has always had excellent participation among Port Charlotte groups. We wanted to play our part." Keep Charlotte Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization.

Thanks go to volunteers from these local groups: PG Garden Club, Peace River Picklers and Gilchrist Park Pickle ball payers, Burnt Store Isles Boat Club, Punta Gorda Rotary Club, Chapman Insurance Group, Coldwell Bankers, Sunstar and the PG Islanders Boat Club, the Isles Yacht Club, Windmill Village Paddlers, PG Boat Club, Sailing Club and the Interact Club of Charlotte High School, Cub Scout Pack 351 and the Port Charlotte High School Student Government Association.

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## Let's Paddle Punta Gorda!



# TOUR OUR SCENIC WATERS

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

Pre-Registration Only • Site sign-in at 7-9 a.m.

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

## \$25 Registration Fee Includes

- Guided Trail Tours
- Trail Maps & Directions
- Box Lunch

**Registrations received by October 15th will get a free Event T-shirt**

Entries are limited to 100 kayakers • Five Trails on a first-come-first-serve basis  
This is a BYO Kayak event • Approved PFDs are required to be worn • Adults only  
**PLEASE PRINT & SIGN THE ACA WAIVER**

## PAYMENT

\$25.00 per person. Make checks payable to "Team Punta Gorda/Paddle Event"

Mail check, registration form and signed waiver to:

Team Punta Gorda, 227 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

For more information, call 941-637-8326 or email: [team@teampuntagorda.org](mailto:team@teampuntagorda.org)



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## Trails that Teach Interpretive Signs



*Harborwalk Sign Dedication*

Maritime Co-Chair **Ann Taylor** played a key role in our Trails that Teach Interpretive Signs project. She explained, "The objective is to educate local residents and visitors on the importance of Charlotte Harbor's estuaries. One sign explains the importance of an estuary and provides information specific to the Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries study area. Another sign explains the characteristics and importance of our mangroves."

The Estuary display is located adjacent to Punta Gorda's Harborwalk in Laishley Park. The Mangrove display is located further east along Harborwalk. Both signs feature photos donated by Steven Scott, a local photo naturalist. To further re-enforce the message of the Harborwalk signs, volunteers from Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) will lead free monthly educational seminars to provide more in depth information and discuss how citizens and visitors can help to preserve these important natural resources.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program (CHNEP), the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), and TEAM Punta Gorda's Maritime Committee. The design and installation of the signs by TEAM was funded by a grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

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## Paint Your Heart Out - Will you get involved?

Paint Your Heart Out (PYHO) is an annual service project done in collaboration with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity and heavily supported by local contractors, tradesmen, businesses and service clubs. Each year houses are painted by volunteers for homeowners who need a helping hand. It was initiated in the spring of 2014, designed to help elderly, disabled, and needy residents while beautifying Punta Gorda. PYHO does more than paint homes. It sends a message of pride

and builds a sense of community spirit and unity that lasts long after this day of service is over.

Make it a priority to be part of next year's effort! Volunteers and sponsors are needed. Save the date of February 18, 2017 and be part of it by contacting Peter Krumsiek or Sue Carmen at [pyhoteampg@aol.com](mailto:pyhoteampg@aol.com)



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## Welcome to new TEAM Volunteers

TEAM welcomes the following community members to its ranks:

*Diane Welsh,*  
CFO

*John Welsh,*  
Board Member

*Bill Wood,*  
Maritime Co-Chair

*Edd Weiner,* Government Relations Chair

*Linda McGreevy,* School Garden Co-Chair

*Diane Becker,* Annual Committee Meeting Chair

*Thomas Hecker,* Beautification Chair

*Sharon Fultz,* Office Volunteer



Thanks so much for helping TEAM in its mission, *to make greater Punta Gorda a better place to live, work and play*

## ***Do you have time to help TEAM?***

Here's just a sampling of some of the fun things you can do with just a little bit of your time:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- TEAM Talk Editor
- Beautification Co-Chair
- Fund Raiser Coordinator

**One day opportunities to help us:**

- Paint Your Heart Out, 2/18
- Paddle Punta Gorda, 11/12
- Dragon Boat Festival, 10/29

Interested? contact TEAM Punta Gorda at [team@teampuntagorda.org](mailto:team@teampuntagorda.org) or 941-637-8326

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## **Save the DATES for TEAM**



*Don't forget to put these dates  
in your smartphone or paper calendar!*

*October 12, 2016*

*Seminar on Affordable Housing*

*October 25, 2016*

*TEAM Mixer, Ice House*

*October 29, 2016*

*Dragon Boat Festival  
(Cheer on our boat, Dream TEAM)*

*November 12, 2016*

*Paddle Punta Gorda*

*December 7, 2016*

*Historical Poker Fun  
(Founder's Day Week Event)*

*January 26, 2017  
TEAM's Annual Community Meeting*

*February 18, 2017  
Paint Your Heart Out*

*February 18 & 19, 2017  
Golf Tournament at Twin Isles  
& St. Andrew's South*

*March 24 & 25, 2017  
Pedal 'n Play in Paradise*

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## **HAPPENINGS ON THE HARBOR!**

We invite you to visit the community calendars below for more information about upcoming events in OCTOBER:

**October 12, Affordable Housing Seminar, Isles Yacht Club, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**October 25, TEAM Mixer, Ice House (see above article)**

**October 29, Dragon Boat Festival, Laishley Park (see above article)**

[Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Calendar](#)

[Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce](#)

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**Message from TEAM CEO**



I like to ride my bicycle. I'm not a spandex sort of a girl, so I don't ride all that fast, but I really do like to ride my bike. Sometimes I ride on the sidewalk, and sometimes I ride on the street. I always stop at stop signs and signal when turning. I stay to the right when on the street and use my rear-view mirror. I greet every person I see, on foot, in yards or on bicycles. I thank motorists when they wait for me to cross an intersection.

Still, it's not easy to Share the Lane in this lovely town of ours.

When I ride on the sidewalk, there are often many pedestrians, some with their pets, so I must ride at a snail's pace to avoid hitting or inconveniencing them. I use my bell and say "on your left" when I pass, and most respond well to a cheery greeting, but lots of them don't hear me coming. Some really can't hear and others are wearing ear buds in both ears.

I love the few parts of town where we have the Punta Gorda Pathways and the Harborwalk available. I wish we had lots more beautiful trails like this, but I understand that they are very expensive to build. Maybe we should consider painting lanes for bikes and pedestrians on the Pathways and even on the roads so that we could each have our own space.

I really crave better bicycle infrastructure in this town. Lack of separation between motorists and bicyclists is a major safety issue. We have a small town, with many narrow roadways. However, as I did some traveling this summer, I noted that bike lanes and other complete streets initiatives existed in rural New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Surely we can find some solutions here that would provide a compromise between cost and safety.

In October, City Council will consider a bicycle infrastructure proposal that will align with the policy recommendations in the updated comprehensive plan. We'd like to see pilot projects in our community that involve striping for bike lanes so that we can evaluate them and see if it is helpful. It's only paint.

This fall we will join together with the Punta Gorda Police Department to push bicycle, pedestrian, and yes, motorist safety education. If you want a speaker to come to your club or business just send an e-mail to TEAM Punta Gorda. If you want to help improve the situation without spending a nickel, here are some safety tips to add to your daily travels.

These are not just suggestions. Each one represents a Florida statute:

### **CYCLISTS:**

- Wear a helmet. Helmet head beats smashed head! It's required for those 16 and under.
- Be aware. Use listening devices in one ear only.
- When riding on sidewalks, yield to pedestrians and warn them by calling, "on your left" when passing.
- Be bright at night with bike lights. Ride with white lights on the front and red on the back.
- Bicycles must follow the motor vehicle rules when riding on the road. Ride with traffic, use hand signals and obey stop lights and signs.

### **MOTORISTS:**

- Patience, not patients. Your patience will save lives.
- R-e-s-p-e-c-t! Cyclists have a rightful spot on the road.
- Different but equal. Expect cyclists on the road and treat them as a slow moving vehicle.
- To the left, to the right, to the rear! Always look for cyclists when turning and getting out of your vehicle.
- Hold off on the horn unless it's done at a respectful distance before passing.
- Leave three feet when passing a bicycle.

You can visit our all things biking web-site, [www.sharethelaneputagorda.com](http://www.sharethelaneputagorda.com) for tips on safe co-existence regardless of your mode of transportation.

Nancy Johnson  
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## Parting Shot



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*Beautiful Night Shot of Punta Gorda*

## Thanks to our "year-round" sponsors

OUR 2016 PLATINUM CONTINUE THE JOURNEY SPONSORS



CPA



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DON'T GET CAUGHT WITHOUT TIME!

