

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

### TIS THE SEASON

**Sexy Santa Party at MS Rascal's Loony Bin** Live music from Storm Warning. Search "MS Rascal's Loony Bin" on Facebook or call 941.255.5999 for details. Dec. 23, 9:00 pm. 1182 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Tina's Christmas Experience by Southwest Florida Food Tours** Get dressed up and be a special guest at Bernhard and Martina's traditional Austrian Christmas meal at their café and celebrate Martina's birthday! Christmas music and a present is included! \$70 per person/only 24 spaces available. Visit facebook.com/southwestfloridafoodtours for details and tickets. Dec. 24, 2:00 pm. Tina's Café & Bakery Vienna, 315 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

**Christmas Day Buffet at the Captain's Table** Visit facebook.com/thecaptainstablepuntagorda for full menu. Adults: \$33; 12 and under: \$16; includes soda, coffee, and tee. Contact for reservations: 941.637.1177, ext. 200 or nate@smugglers.com. Dec. 25 and 26; seatings at 11:30 am, 2:00 pm, 4:30 pm, and 7:00 pm. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, #55, **Punta Gorda**

**Pictures and Visits with Santa at Fishermen's Village until Dec. 23;** visit facebook.com/fishermensvillage or fishville.com for times. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Christmas Card Lane** An amazing display by The Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda: many huge Christmas cards from local businesses, churches, associations, clubs, schools, individuals, museums and art centers, artists, and more! A tradition since 1999! Free and open to the public. **Runs until Jan. 7.** Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center Grounds, 75 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

**Christmas Lights Canal Cruises with Nav-a-Gator Grill** Special pricing for groups of 15 or more. Travels many of the decorated canals of Punta Gorda Isles. For pricing and more information, call 941.627.3474. **Runs until Dec. 30;** two tours nightly: 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Lashley Marina, 120 Lashley Ct., **Punta Gorda**

**Christmas Light Canal Cruises with King Fisher Fleet** A tradition in Punta Gorda for over 30 years! Popular, family-oriented one-hour cruises that out quickly, so **advance reservations are a must!** Adults: \$18, kids 3–11: \$9, kids under 3: free! Groups of 15+ adults: \$16.20 per person. **Runs until Dec. 31,** three cruises nightly: 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 9:00 pm. Book online at kingfisherfleet.com or call 941.639.0969. King Fisher Fleet, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Ste. 16A, **Punta Gorda**

**Christmas Waterway Cruises with Smoke and Roses** Private boat tours, includes Christmas music, snacks, and hot beverages. Maximum six people per tour. Two offerings: Christmas Tours run between 6:00 and 10:00 pm, last approximately 2 hours and are \$50 per person based on six people (\$300 total). Sunset and Waterway Cruise Combo tours depart at 4:30 pm, last approximately 3 hours and are \$65 per person based on six people (\$390 total). For more information visit smokeandroses.com; for reservations call 605.366.7673. **Runs until Dec. 30.** Launches from 140 Leland St. S.E., **Port Charlotte**

**Fishermen's Village Festival of Lights** Daily: over one million lights and tropical-themed decorations, holiday music, entertainment, and events. **Runs until Dec. 31.** Visit fishville.com for details. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Fishermen's Village Family-friendly New Year's** 941.639.8721 or fishville.com. Dec. 31, 5:00 pm–midnight. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Hurricane Charley's** 941.639.9695 or facebook.com/HurricaneCharleysRawBarandGrill. Dec. 31, 5:00 pm–1:00 am. 300 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**White Elephant Pub's Rockin' New Year's Eve Party with ECHO 80** 941.475.801 or whiteelephantpub.com. Dec. 31, 7:00–11:00 pm. 1855 Gulf Blvd., **Englewood Beach**

**Rotunda Elks 2017 New Year's Eve with Steve Milligan Band** 609.617.2123 or facebook.com/SteveMilliganBand. Dec. 31, 6:00 pm–1:00 am. 303 Rotunda Blvd., **East Rotunda**

**End Zone Sports Grille New Year's Eve Party** 941.473.9663 or facebook.com, search "The End Zone Sports Grille." Dec. 31, 7:00 pm–2:00 am. 2440 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

**Englewood Elks Lodge New Year's Countdown** 941.474.2378 or facebook.com/englewoodelkslodge. Dec. 31, 7:00 pm. 401 N. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**Charlotte Players present *Cheers to the New Year*** 941.625-4175 X220, or [charlotteplayers.org](http://charlotteplayers.org). Dec. 31, 7:30–9:30 pm. Cultural Center of Charlotte County, 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**Rotonda Golf & Country Club New Year's Rockin' Eve Party** *Reservations required:* 941.697.4880; [facebook.com/rotondagolf](http://facebook.com/rotondagolf) for details and tickets. Dec. 31, 7:30 pm–12:30 am. 100 Rotonda Cir., **Rotonda**

**Flounder's New Year's Eve Party: Let's Glow Crazy/I Love the '80s** *Reservations:* 941.460.8280 or [floundersonthebeach.com](http://floundersonthebeach.com). Dec. 31, 8:00 pm–1:00 am. 1975 Beach Rd., **Englewood Beach**

**Dean's South of the Border New Year's Eve** 941.575.6100 or [facebook.com/Deanstexmex](http://facebook.com/Deanstexmex). Dec. 31, 8:30 pm–1:00 am. 130 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

**Harpoon Harry's Great Gatsby-Themed New Year's Eve Party** 941.637.1177 or [facebook.com/harpoonharrys](http://facebook.com/harpoonharrys). Dec. 31, 8:30 pm. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Englewood Bowl New Year's Eve Celebration** 941.474.5400 or [facebook.com/englewoodbowling](http://facebook.com/englewoodbowling). Dec. 31, 9:00 pm–12:30 am. 299 S. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

**TT's New Year's Eve Party with Sowflow** Don't miss the hottest Reggae band, topping the charts and touring the country! 941.637.6770 or [facebook.com/thetikibargp](http://facebook.com/thetikibargp). Dec. 31, 9:00 pm–11:59 pm. 33 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

**The Turtle Club & Claw Bar New Year's Eve Bash** 941.637.9477 or [facebook.com/turtleclubpg](http://facebook.com/turtleclubpg). Dec. 31, 9:00 pm–1:00 am. 139 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**Celtic Ray New Year's Eve Party with Ellie Lee Band** 941.916.9115 or [celticray.net](http://celticray.net). Dec. 31, 9:00 pm–2:00 am. 145 E. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**4th Annual New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball at RIZE Nightclub & Terrace** 941.456.4153 or [facebook.com/Rizeclub](http://facebook.com/Rizeclub). Dec. 31, 9:00 pm–2:00 am. 4095 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Visani Restaurant and Comedy Theater** presents "New Jersey's Bad Boy of Comedy," Mike Marino. 941.629.9191 or [visani.net](http://visani.net). Dec. 31, 10:15 pm. 2400 Kings Hwy., **Port Charlotte**

## BOOMERANGS: EVENTS TO COME BACK FOR!

**Plein Air Painting Art Exhibit: *It's Just Plein Fun*** Jan. 5–Feb. 3: [peacriverpainters.com](http://peacriverpainters.com)

**Running Through the Decades 5K Dash, Jan. 14:** [bgcofcc.org](http://bgcofcc.org)

**Tennis Ball: Fête for Pets** by Suncoast Humane Society, Jan. 25: [humane.org](http://humane.org)

**Dreaded Legends Paintball Tournament** at Florida Tracks & Trails, Jan. 27 and 28: [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), search "Dreaded Legends II"

**2017 Hands Across the Harbor: Peace River 1/2 Marathon Run, Ride or Roll** Pre-registration discounts available until Jan. 13; race shirt not guaranteed after that date Jan. 28: [handsacrosstheharbor.org](http://handsacrosstheharbor.org)

**C.A.R.E. Ball: Enchanted Garden** Jan. 28: [carefl.org/get-involved/events](http://carefl.org/get-involved/events)

**24th Annual Port Charlotte Greek Fest** Feb. 17–19: [greek-festportcharlotte.com](http://greek-festportcharlotte.com)

**9th Annual BaseBALL: An Evening with the Tampa Bay Rays** Dinner and Auction, Feb. 23: [bgcofcc.org](http://bgcofcc.org)

**12th Annual Wine & Jazz Festival** VIP tickets are already sold out, Feb. 25: [puntagordachamber.com](http://puntagordachamber.com)

**Funk Fest 8** Bigger and funkier than ever! Mar. 3 and 4: [funk-festpuntaorda.com](http://funk-festpuntaorda.com)

**Dancing with the Charlotte Stars, Mar. 10:** [dancingwith-thecharlottestars.com](http://dancingwith-thecharlottestars.com)

**Pedal and Play in Paradise, Mar. 24 and 25:** [facebook.com/TEAMPuntaGorda](http://facebook.com/TEAMPuntaGorda)

**Quick Tip: Easily navigate the PDF version of this newsletter using the bookmark feature in your browser!**

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### FESTIVALS • DANCES • PARTIES • GATHERINGS • ETC

**Big Dogs Live Trivia Reunion** Get together of Big Dogs Trivia players. Search "Big Dogs Live Trivia" on Facebook for details. Dec. 21, 6:00 pm. Chubbyz Tavern-Grill, 4109 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Surfing with Santa** Search "Surfing with Santa" on Facebook for information or call 941.621.8329. Dec. 21, 6:00 pm. Scotty's Brewhouse at Fishermen's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Friday Night Dance** Top local entertainers including Erich, Jay Smith, Mc2 and more. \$7 admission. Visit theculturalcenter.com for more information. **Fridays**, 7:00–10:00 pm. The Cultural Center, 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**Celtic Ray Public House** presents The Freecoasters, Dec. 23, 9:00 pm–1:30 am. 941.916.9115, facebook.com/celticray-publichouse or celticray.net. 145 E. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**Comedy Night at All-Star Sports Grill** Dinner and a show for \$20. Visit facebook.com/allstarsportsgrillpcf1 for details and updates or call 941.743.4140. Dec. 20: dinner seating: 6:30 pm; show: 8:00 pm. 2360 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Happenings Happenings**  
*Don't miss:* new-to-Happenings nightclub, **Liquid**, in **Get Out/About Town**; a **Barrier Island Ecology** outing in **Get Out/Nature Adventures**; **Tinker Lab Holiday Special** in **Kid Stuff/Featured**; and **Yoga By The Sea for Veterans and Caregivers** and **Holiday 5K Run & Bash** in **Movement**.

### ON STAGE

**The Cultural Center of Charlotte County** presents J3 Vocal Band. Visit theculturalcenter.com, call 941.625.4175, or stop by for the full schedule and ticket information. Dec. 23, 7:00 pm. 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**Visani Comedy Zone** presents nationally-recognized comedians, stellar tribute bands, and periodic "Visani Got Talent" amateur nights. For details and tickets to any show, visit visani.net. Call 941.629.9191 for more information. 2400 Kings Hwy., **Port Charlotte**

### LIVE MUSIC VENUES

All genres of live music thrive in Charlotte County! Visit individual websites and Facebook pages or call for line-ups.

**All-Star Sports Grill** • 941.743.4140 • facebook.com/allstarsportsgrillpcf1 • 2360 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**The Bean Depot Cafe** • 941.627.3344 • facebook.com/TheBeanDepot • 4370 Garden Rd., **Port Charlotte**

**Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson** • 941.883.8000 • blackwidowh-d.com • 2224 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

**Beyond the Sea Restaurant** • 941.474.1400 • beyondtheseafl.com • 3555 S. Access Rd., **Englewood**

**Carmelo's Italian Ristorante** • 941.621.4091 • carmelosristorante.com • 209 W. Olympia Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**Celtic Ray Irish Pub** • 941.916.9115 • celticray.net • 145 E. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**Common Grounds Meeting Hall** • 941.564.8739 • commongroundshall.com • 12735 S. Tamiami Tr., **North Port**

**The Cultural Center** • 941.629.4175 • theculturalcenter.com • 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**Dean's South of the Border** • 941.575.6100 • deanssouthoftheborder.com • 130 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

**Downtown Gatorz** • 941.347.7518 • facebook.com/DowntownGatorz • 502 King St., **Punta Gorda**

**D'Vines Wine Bar & Gift Emporium** • 941.627.9463 • dvineswineandgifts.com • 701 JC Center Ct., **Port Charlotte**

**Emil's DC** • 941.764.0640 • facebook.com/EmilsSports • 24901 Sandhill Blvd., #14, **Punta Gorda**

**The End Zone Sports Grille** • 941.473.9663 • facebook.com, search by name 2411 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

**Englewoods on Dearborn** • 941.475.7501 • Englewoods.tripod.com • 9362 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**Farlow's on the Water** • 941.474.5343 • farlowsonthewater.com • 2080 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

**Fishermen's Village** • 941.639.8721 • fishville.com • 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**The Fishery** • 941.697.2451 • thefisheryrestaurant.com • 13000 Fishery Rd., **Placida**

**Flounders Restaurant and Tiki Bar** • 941.460.8280 • floundersonthebeach.com • 1975 Beach Rd., **Englewood**

**Gilded Grape Winery & Wine Bar** • 941.235.9463 • gildedgrape.com • 4069 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Gilchrist Park** • facebook.com/groups/PuntaGordaGuitarArmy • 1000 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Gulf View Grill** • 941.475.3500 • thegulfviewgrill.com • 2095 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood**

**Harpoon Harry's** • 941.637.1177 • harpoonharrys.com • 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Hurricane Charley's** • 941.639.9695 • HurricaneCharleys.com • 300 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Jacks on Marion** • 941.637.8800 • jacksonmarion.com • 201 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**JD's Bistro** • 941.255.0994 • jdsbistroandgrill.com • 1951 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Lock 'N Key** • 941.474.1517 • lockandkeyrestaurant.com • 2045 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood**

**Mango Bistro** • 941.681.3500 • mangobistro.com • 301 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**MS Rascal's Loony Bin** • 941.255.5999 • msrascalsloonybin.com • 1182 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Nav-a-Gator Grill** • 941.627.3474 • nav-a-gator.com • 9700 S.W. Riverview Cir., **Lake Suzy**

**The Orange House Wine Bar** • 941.505.8233 • theorange-housewinebar.com • 320 Sullivan St., **Punta Gorda**

**Portside Tavern** • 941.629.3055 • theportside.com • 3636 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Ricaltini's Bar & Grille** • 941.828.1591 • ricaltinis.com • 1997 Kentucky Ave., **Englewood**

**The Rooftop Terrace/Wyvern Hotel** • 941.637.5858 • TheWyvernHotel.com • 101 E. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Sunset Grill on the Harbor** • 941.743.2800 • sunsetgrillloth.com • 23241 Bayshore Rd., **Port Charlotte**

**Trabue Restaurant** • 941.639.0900 • trabuerestaurant.com • 258 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**TT's Tiki Bar** • 941.637.6770 • docksideandtiki.com • 33 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

**Vino Loco** • 941.473.8466 • vinolocowine.com • 420 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**White Elephant Pub** • 941.475.6801 • whiteelephantpub.com • 855 Gulf Blvd., **Englewood**

**Will's Honky Tonk Englewood** • 941.474.8131 • willshonkytonk.com • 232 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

**Zydeco Grille** • 941.828.1472 • zydecogrille.com • 8501 Cape Haze Plaza, **Placida**

## GET OUT

### About Town

**Bar Bingo** at Emil's DC. facebook.com/EmilsSports. Dec. 21, 8:00–11:00 pm. 24901 Sandhill Blvd., #14, **Punta Gorda**

**New to Happenings! Liquid** is the new premier LGBT nightclub in Southwest Florida, offering a sensual yet sophisticated vibe atmosphere and featuring dance music from the '70s through 2000, spun by some of the hottest DJs in Florida. Visit liquidfl.com and facebook.com/pg/liquidfl for details and special events. 4300 Kings Highways, Ste. 415, **Charlotte Harbor**

**RIZE Nightclub & Terrace** A "real nightclub" atmosphere! Full bar, new music, three different DJs every night and lots of theme events. Visit facebook.com/Rizeclub for updated events listings. 4095 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Skydiving** For those who've always wanted to fly like a bird—to experience flight in its truest form—skydiving is it! Call 941-875-8554 or 1-888-447-JUMP(5867), email info@skydiveswflorida.com, or visit skydiveswflorida.com. Skydive Southwest Florida, Shell Creek Airport, 36886 Washington Loop Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Harley-Davidson® Riding Academy** Learn to ride on a genuine Harley-Davidson® motorcycle with in-class and on-range instruction from Motorcycle Safety Foundation® (MSF) and H-D® Certified Coaches; successful completion earns an MSF Basic RiderCourseSM Completion Card. Visit blackwidowh-d.com/~learn-to-ride for information and to sign up. \$169 per person. **Saturdays, various weekdays/nights.** Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson, 2224 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

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**Southwest Florida Food Tours** offers a variety of innovative, interesting, and delicious culinary adventures including *Tour d'Europe*; *Harbor Sights & Bites Tours*—boat rides with both lunch and dinner options; the original *Bites of Punta Gorda Culinary Walking Tour*; the decadent wine-and-chocolate experience of *The Austrian Temptation*, and the exclusive elegance of *A Taste of Austria*. Visit [swffoodtours.com](http://swffoodtours.com) for details, schedule, and to purchase tickets, or call 941.276.6384 for more information. Various times and locations, **Punta Gorda**

**Florida Tracks & Trails** Florida's biggest outdoor adventure park is open weekends! Overnight stays, ATV rentals, 22 miles of trails, five tracks, seven paintball fields, mudzone, pro shops, family-friendly lake with white-sand beach, general store and tiki bar with food and drinks. Adults: \$30, children: \$15. Call 1.844.RIDE.FTT(743.3388), or visit [## Nature Adventures](http://floridatrack-</a></p>
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**New! Barrier Island Ecology** Blind Pass Park (Middle Beach) is an unusually nice place to study the community ecology of Manasota Key. A short walk from the parking lot reveals very nice examples of natural coastal communities. Guided by Dave Clayton. Visit [facebook.com/pg/EcoVoice.org](http://facebook.com/pg/EcoVoice.org) for details on this, and many other, eco-ventures! Dec. 20, 9:00–11:00 am. Blind Pass Park and Beach, 6725 Manasota Key Rd., **Englewood**

**Kayak Tour of Shell Creek with Gaea Guides** For kayaking and nature enthusiasts, this three-hour tour of the undisturbed wilderness of Shell Creek and its surrounding areas is a wonder! A University of Florida-certified Master Naturalist guide will lead an exploration of cypress and oak trees, many fish species, and various birds, including the rare limpkin. You'll be on the water for about two hours; bring your own water, and lunch or a snack. Tickets: \$40 (gratuity not expected but appreciated), available at [gaeaguides.com](http://gaeaguides.com) or call 239.694.5513 for more information. Dec. 19, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. Hathaway Park, 35461 Washington Loop Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Parks That Teach Guided tour by the University of Florida's Master Gardeners. View the unique ecosystems of the mangroves, identify trees and shrubs, and learn how they can fit into your home landscape, while you experience the habitats that support many Florida creatures. First Saturdays and third Wednesdays. Tours depart from the Fishermen's Village parking lot, near the tennis courts, and last about 1.5 hours. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear, sunscreen, and/or a hat. Dec. 21, 9:30 am. Call 941.764.4340 for more information. 1200 W. **Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda**

[sandtrails.com](http://sandtrails.com) for more information. 39450 Bermont Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**History Quest: Historical Geocaching and Questing** Explore local historic sites using questing and geocaching! For details, contact the Historical Center at 941.629.PAST(7278) or visit [CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://CharlotteCountyFL.gov), and click the "Playing" tab. Check the site often for updated listing of quests and geocaches. Ongoing. 514 E. Grace St., **Punta Gorda**

**Englewood Drum Circle** Every Sunday, year-round (weather permitting), about one hour before sunset. Everyone is welcome to drum, hoola hoop, dance or just enjoy as the sun sets. You don't have to know the rhythm to drum along! 941.445.1365 or [danceenglewood.com](http://danceenglewood.com) for more information. Note: parking fee is .75 per hour. 2100 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood Beach**

**Peace River Weekly Paddle Group** Bring sun screen, hat, and two bottles of water per person; expect to get wet! Kayak and equipment rental with loading/launching service: \$20 per person; no charge if bringing own kayak. Online waiver required if renting; registration required for all. Visit [kayakecotours.com](http://kayakecotours.com) to complete waiver and sign up; call 941.249.4579 **with questions**. Tuesdays, 9:00–11:00 am. Kayak Eco Tours, Nav-A-Gator Grill & Marina, 9700 S.W. **Riverview Cir., Lake Suzy**

**Babcock Ranch Eco-Tours** New name, new owners, still the natural heart of Florida! Visit [babcockranchecotours.com](http://babcockranchecotours.com) for tour offerings and details; call 1.800.500.5583 for reservations, and find them at [facebook.com/babcockranchecotour](http://facebook.com/babcockranchecotour). 8000 State Rd. 31, **Punta Gorda**

**Barrier Island Park Society (BIPS)** offers a variety of outings and **special events; reservations** may be required: visit [barrierislandparksociety.org](http://barrierislandparksociety.org), call 941.964.0060, or email [infoat-bips@gmail.com](mailto:infoat-bips@gmail.com) for more information. Various locations, **Charlotte County**

**Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC)** Offers guided walks, wading trips, Mom-and-Tot educational events, lectures and exhibits, boat rides and more, all led by CHEC naturalists. **Registration required: call 941.475.0769**. Visit [checflorida.org](http://checflorida.org) or search "Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center" on Facebook for complete schedule, information, volunteer opportunities, and directions. Various locations, **Charlotte County**

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**Depthfinders Dive Center** provide everything required to explore diverse underwater environments. Friendly and knowledgeable staff, dive information, equipment sales and service, training, rental equipment, equipment repair, air or Nitrox refills, as well as training in PADI, and DAN certifications. 941.766.7565 and depthfinders.com. 1225 Tamiami Tr., Unit A-5, **Port Charlotte**

**Fantasea Scuba** offers quality education and customer service, dive equipment, dive training, tech training, snorkel equipment, rentals and service, spearfishing, local dive charters, and dive trips. 941.627.3888, fantaseascuba.com, and facebook.com/FantaseaScuba. 3781 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Lemon Bay Conservancy** offers nature outings and exciting volunteer opportunities; venues charging entry fee will be designated, most are free. **Volunteers:** contact the office at 941.830.8922 to get started. Visit lemonbayconservancy.org for details and full event calendar. **No pets or smoking.** For all outings and volunteering: bring water, lunch, and a shady hat and wear good shoes. Various locations, **Englewood**

**Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary** "The wildest retirement home in Punta Gorda," is a non-profit sanctuary for abused and unwanted exotic animals. Adults: \$10; seniors 55+ and kids 8–17: \$5; children 7 and under: free. **Cash or check only. No pets allowed. Saturdays and Sundays,** 11:00 am–4:00 pm; weekday visits by appointment only. 239.543.1130 or octagonwildlife.org. 41660 Horseshoe Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Peace River Wildlife Center** Permanent residents are available for viewing in attractive, spacious habitats based on their native environments. \$5 donation requested. **No pets allowed.** Call 941.637.3830 or visit peaceriverwildlifecenter.org for more information. Open seven days a week, 365 days a year, 11:00 am–4:00 pm. A great place for families! Peace River Wildlife Center, 3400 Ponce de Leon Pkwy., **Punta Gorda**

**Scuba Trek** offers classes and refreshers, scuba and snorkeling gear, snowbird specials, exciting day- and weekend trips, and more. 941.347.8454, scubatrekdivers.com, and face-

book.com/ScubaTrekPA. 1080 Taylor St., #111, **Punta Gorda**

**Three Suns Ranch Tours** Relaxing and educational tour exploring American Bison, their history, and their lives at the ranch, as well as cracker cattle, the descendants of the originals brought over by the Spanish Conquistadors. \$16.75 per person; visit threesunsranch.com for details and tickets or call 941.639.7070. **Saturdays,** 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. 2351 FL-31, **Punta Gorda**

Hooked on SUP Visit hookedonsup.com or call 941.504.1699 for details, tour times, and to book. **Must be able to swim.** 6950 Placida Rd., **Englewood**

**Stump Pass Beach Guided Adventure Tour** Dolphin, manatee, sea stars, birds of prey, and local fish are abundant and the water is usually crystal clear.

**Snorkel & Paddle Tour at Stump Pass Beach State Park** No live shelling, but bring a small net bag to collect empties. Must be 13 years or older.

**Boca Grande "Old Florida" Wildlife Tour** Grass flats and sand bars teem with fish, birds, manatee, dolphins and an occasional sea turtle. **Note: \$6 toll to cross the bridge.**

**Don Pedro Island Mangrove Tunnel and Beach Picnic Tour** Traverse a mangrove tunnel with starfish, seahorses, and more, to a quiet hidden lagoon.

**Palm Island/Coconut Canal Live Seashell Tour** Learn to identify local fish, sea creatures, and wading birds. Dolphin and manatee are regular sights!

**Woolverton Trail Mangrove Tunnel Guided Tour** Historic mangrove tunnels; wildlife includes migratory white pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, and often dolphin and manatee!

**Light Up the Night Kayak** or paddleboard will be lit from beneath, illuminating starfish, live shells, sponges, and tons of fish species!

**PaddleFit Technique—Paddle Training** Learn how proper technique increases speed and health. Weekly classes; distance and speed will accelerate.

**PaddleFit Basic Intro To SUP, aka "Virgin Hookers"** Learn basic strokes and turns, along with safety rules and etiquette.

## ART AND CRAFT

### Events and Exhibits

**Placida Art Market** A weekly art and craft show in historic, charming Placida. Visit facebook.com/placidaartmarket for

details and photo gallery. **Saturdays, 9:00–4:00 pm, runs until April 22.** 13020 Fishery Rd., **Placida**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**Visual Arts Center** presents *Three Guys and a Blonde*—work by photographer Mike Fortier, watercolorist Lind Lee Foster-Paul, painter Ron Gallo and potter Angelo Pescatore—in Goff Gallery **until Dec 29** and multimedia exhibit *Old Florida* in the First Federal Gallery **until Jan. 6**. Free and open to the public and much of the art is for sale! Visit [visualartcenter.org](http://visualartcenter.org) or call 941.639.8810 for details. Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

**The Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society** strives to preserve the area's rich history through mural art. With 28 so far, Punta Gorda is one of the leading mural towns in the country! Private Tours available for groups of 10–20. Visit [puntagordamurals.org](http://puntagordamurals.org) for more information. **Punta Gorda**

**Radio Show: Exposed: Behind the Doors** Inside the arts in Charlotte County! Hosted by Marie LaBrosse, Advanced Toastmaster: [marie@kdwradio.com](mailto:marie@kdwradio.com) or call 941.815.6230 or

941.624.2912. Listen online at [kdwradio.com](http://kdwradio.com). Wednesdays, noon–1:00 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

**Art in Public Places by Charlotte Arts** Nearly 100 free exhibits annually, in all 2D media; all pieces available for purchase. Visit [charlottearts.org](http://charlottearts.org) and email [info@charlottearts.org](mailto:info@charlottearts.org) for details on artists, exhibiting, or hosting.

**Englewood:** Englewood/Charlotte Library • Englewood Event Center • West Charlotte County Annex

**Port Charlotte:** Arts & Humanities Council of Charlotte County • Charlotte County Administration Center • Mid-County Regional Library • Port Charlotte Library

**Punta Gorda:** Bayfront Health • Campbell's Enrolled Agents Co. • Cayo Costa Dental • Charlotte County Justice Center • Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center • Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home • FGCU: Herald Center • Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Home

## Paint/Create Parties

**Art by the Glass** A creative evening out! No experience needed; all supplies included. Choice of premium wines, beer and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase. Visit [artbytheglassllc.com](http://artbytheglassllc.com), call 941.780.1743, or email [artbytheglassllc@gmail.com](mailto:artbytheglassllc@gmail.com) for details, party schedule, and upcoming paintings. 1700 Tamiami Tr., Unit F4, **Port Charlotte**

**Bisque IT Art Studio** Creativity unlocks as you're guided step-by-step through each project! Featuring *Creative Spirits Canvas Painting*, Dec. 21, 7:00 pm, \$32 plus tax, and Kid's Clay Tree Class, Dec. 22, 10:30 am, \$18 plus tax. Visit [bisqueitstudio.com](http://bisqueitstudio.com) for full schedule, to make reservations, and to view

the paintings and project. No experience needed, BYOB. Price includes all materials. **Registration and prepayment required:** 941.624.5955. 1931 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Painting with a Twist** "Uncork" your inner artist! Bring your own wine, beer, soda and snacks; everything else needed to complete your masterpiece—including a talented local artist to take you from blank canvas to finished artwork—will be provided. Visit [paintingwithatwist.com](http://paintingwithatwist.com) for schedule, details, to register, and to view upcoming paintings; call 941.764.3914 for more information. 18700 Veterans Blvd., Ste. 8, **Port Charlotte**

## Creative Classes

**The Arts & Humanities Council of Charlotte County (Charlotte Arts)** is the one-stop shop for creative classes and *all things art and culture* in the area! Visit [charlottearts.org](http://charlottearts.org), click "Events," then "Cultural Calendar."

**Go With the FLOW Expressive Arts Classes** Like summer camp for adults! \$20/class or four classes for \$75. Visit [theopenstudio.org](http://theopenstudio.org) for details on this and many, many more classes and workshops. **Mondays**, 10:00 am–noon. The Open Studio, Expressive Arts Building, 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**Abstract Painting for Beginners with Rita Schwab** Practice painting freely and colorfully using intuition and your own sense of balance and harmony! The class will study color

relationships, composition, movement and more. Bring two 16" x 20" canvasses to every class, along with acrylic paints and basic brushes. **Preregistration required:** sign up at [RitaSchwabFineArts.com](http://RitaSchwabFineArts.com), e-mail [earthelements01@gmail.com](mailto:earthelements01@gmail.com), or call Rita at 845.667.0166. \$35 per class or \$125 per month. Note: no classes in January. **Thursdays**, 10:00 am–1:00 pm, ongoing until May 2017. The Open Studio, 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay** Visit [artsallianceoflemonbay.org](http://artsallianceoflemonbay.org) or call 941.475.7141. 452 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**The Boca Grande Art Center** Everything from drawing to beading, ceramics to photography, and more! Visit [bocagrandeartcenter.org](http://bocagrandeartcenter.org) or call 941.964.1700. **Note: there is a \$6 toll to cross the bridge.** 236 Banyan St. **Boca Grande**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**Charlotte County Cultural Center** Sewing, lapidary, jewelry/silversmithing, pottery, and more Visit [theculturalcenter.com](http://theculturalcenter.com); register by phone at 941.625.4175 ext. 223, or in person Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm. 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**The Craftin' Cow** A lounge for socializing, creating, and learning, with classes, clubs, and special events. Call 941.505.0155 or search "The Craftin' Cow" on Facebook. 29291 Tribune Blvd., **Punta Gorda**

**Englewood Art Center** All media, exhibitions and events; four galleries, two well-equipped 2D studio classrooms, pottery studio, a digital media studio, lending library. Visit [ringling.edu/EAC](http://ringling.edu/EAC) or contact at 941.474.5548 or [eac@ringling.edu](mailto:eac@ringling.edu). 350 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

**Inspiration Studio** Fine art, jewelry making, healing arts and more, and a wide variety of unique jewelry, art and gift items. and paint and birthday parties! Call 941.321.8585 or visit [inspirationstudiofl.com](http://inspirationstudiofl.com) for a full class schedule. On the grounds of Pottery Express Bamboo Farm, 25370 Zemel Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**The Albritton Gallery** Working gallery and studio, home to original work by Margaret and Garry Albritton. Margaret runs the store and works on her art in public view. She's always happy to discuss her process and answer any questions, so don't be shy. Call before you go: 941.698.0603 to be sure they're open; they may be on island time! Visit [thealbrittongallery.com](http://thealbrittongallery.com) for details. 13020 Fishery Rd., **Placida**

**Artisans Atelier** In-house artisans work right before your eyes! All will answer questions as well as sell their works. Monday–Saturday, 11:00 am–5:00 pm. Call 941.637.8484 or email [artisansatelier@yahoo.com](mailto:artisansatelier@yahoo.com) for more information. 117 Herald Court Centre, Unit #113, **Punta Gorda**

**The Artists' Gallery at The Open Studio** Find unique hand-made items. You may even encounter an artist or two in their natural habitat! Visit [theopenstudio.org](http://theopenstudio.org) or call 941.474.4060 for details. 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**The Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay** Jewelry, bags, paintings, more! Visit [artsallianceoflemonbay.org](http://artsallianceoflemonbay.org) for details. Monday–Saturday, 10:00 am–5:00 pm, Sunday, 11:00 am–3:00 pm. 452 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**Creations at the Village** Seaside Art Gallery Fine, fun and functional art local artists: paintings, gifts, jewelry, pottery, glass, fiber art, much more. Call 941.639.6363 for details. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit C46, **Punta Gorda**

**Old Florida Outdoor Center and Gallery** Classes, paint/create parties, and much more! Contact at 941.460.1561 or [oldfloridaoutdoorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:oldfloridaoutdoorcenter@gmail.com) and visit [facebook.com/oldfloridaoutdoorcenter](http://facebook.com/oldfloridaoutdoorcenter) for upcoming classes and parties. 463 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**The Open Studio** Art, craft, healing and fitness. Visit [theopenstudio.org](http://theopenstudio.org) for class schedules or call 941.681.2782. 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**The Painted Cabana** Fine art to scarf painting, jewelry making, and more. Full class schedule available at [thepaintedcabana.com](http://thepaintedcabana.com). Turtle Crossing Plaza, 16500 Burnt Store Rd, Suite 110, **Punta Gorda**

**The Visual Arts Center** Creative workshops and classes in fine art, craft, and technology. Visit [visualartcenter.org](http://visualartcenter.org) or call 941.639.8810 or stop by for more information. 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

## Galleries

**Erlenbach Modern Art Gallery & Studio** Paintings and prints, fused glass and pottery, artisan jewelry, and natural bath and body products. Call 941.227.4335 or visit [erlenbach-modern.com](http://erlenbach-modern.com) or [Facebook.com/ErlenbachModernArtGallery](http://Facebook.com/ErlenbachModernArtGallery) for details. 612 N. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

**Gabriele Childs Studio & Gallery** Contemporary art gallery and working studio. Search "Gabriele Childs" and click "Gabriele Childs Studio & Gallery" under "Intro" on Facebook. 251 E. Olympia Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**The Hatch Gallery** Once a clam shack, now an art gallery, filled with whimsical wildlife driftwood art, antiques, and more. Call 941.697.9531, email [HATCH\\_JON@hotmail.com](mailto:HATCH_JON@hotmail.com), or visit [jon-hatch-originales.com](http://jon-hatch-originales.com). 13060 Fishery Rd., **Placida**

**Old Florida Outdoor Center and Gallery** 941.460.1561 or [oldfloridaoutdoorcenter@gmail.com](mailto:oldfloridaoutdoorcenter@gmail.com). Visit [facebook.com/oldfloridaoutdoorcenter](http://facebook.com/oldfloridaoutdoorcenter) for details. 463 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**The Potter's Studio and Gallery** An inspiring working pottery studio complimented by a unique gallery. Browse innovative and contemporary pieces in every form and style, from functional to whimsical. Visit [thepotterstudio.com](http://thepotterstudio.com) or [Facebook.com/ThePottersStudio](http://Facebook.com/ThePottersStudio) for details or call 941.661.8925. 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Ste. 1151, **Punta Gorda**



## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**Sea Grape Gallery Artists of the Month, Dec. 1–Jan. 5: Cheryl McClure**, photographer, and **Barbara Simmons**, silver jewelry artist. • **Cheryl's** underwater photography and her eagles and egrets with baby chicks are must-sees. • **Barbara** loves using Larimar, a rare mineral found only in the Dominican Republic, in her designs. Call 941.575.1718 or visit [seagrapegallery.com](http://seagrapegallery.com) for details about the gallery, the artists, and about Sea Grape's Guest Artist Program, or just stop by to enjoy and explore the art! 113 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

**Stoneware Pottery by Jack Vartanian & Friends Art Gallery** Browse functional and decorative pottery and fused glass home decor by Jack—who has been teaching pottery for the last seven years at the Visual Art Center in Punta Gorda—and a creative group of his former pottery students. Visit [cargocollective.com/stonewarepottery](http://cargocollective.com/stonewarepottery) for details. 1080 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

**Sunart Gallery & Framing** is a unique family-owned shop offering a fine art gallery, custom framing and handcrafted gifts. Stop in and browse, enjoy the gallery openings and other events, have that precious artwork framed, or just say hello! Call 941.639.3956 or visit [sunartgallery.net](http://sunartgallery.net) for more information. 307 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

**The Visual Arts Center** features art and craft in three exhibition spaces: First Federal Gallery, Goff Gallery, and Rebecca Hall. All exhibits are free and open to the public. Visit [visualartcenter.org](http://visualartcenter.org) or call 941.639.8810 or stop by for more information. 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

## KID STUFF

### Featured

**New! Tinker Lab Holiday Special** Celebrate science, technology, engineering, art, and math at the library; get engaged in experiments that encourage tinkering, curiosity, and creative thinking. For children 4–7 and their caregivers. Limited space, **registration required**: call 941.613.3170 or visit [youseemore.com/charlottecounty/calendar.asp](http://youseemore.com/charlottecounty/calendar.asp) to sign up and [facebook.com/CCLibraries](http://facebook.com/CCLibraries) for details. Dec. 21, 2:30 pm. Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

**Story Times | Read with Dogs | Various Programs** **Charlotte County Library System** Visit [youseemore.com/charlottecounty](http://youseemore.com/charlottecounty), click "Calendar" for full schedule.

- **Englewood-Charlotte** (Englewood) • 941.681.3736 • 3450 N. Access Rd.
- **Mid-County** (Port Charlotte) • 941.613.3160 • 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd.
- **Port Charlotte** (Port Charlotte) • 941.764.5562 • 2280 Aaron St.
- **Punta Gorda** (Punta Gorda) • 941.833.5460 • 424 W. Henry St.

### Themed Story Times

- **Copperfish Books** • [copperfishbooks.com](http://copperfishbooks.com) • 941.205.2560 • 103 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**
- **Sandman Books** • [sandmanbooks.com](http://sandmanbooks.com) • 941.505.1624 • 16480 Burnt Store Rd., **Punta Gorda**

### Sporting

**Bowland** • [bowlandcenters.com](http://bowlandcenters.com) • 941.625.4794 • 3192 Harbor Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

**Englewood Bowl** • [englewoodbowl.net](http://englewoodbowl.net) • 941.474.5400 • 299 S. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

**Treasure Lanes** • [treasurelanes.com](http://treasurelanes.com) • 941.625.3930 • 1059 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Fish Cove Adventure Golf** • [coralcaygolf.com/fishcove](http://coralcaygolf.com/fishcove) • 941.627.5393 • 4949 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

### Creativity

**It's Back! Kid's Clay Coil Tree Class at Bisque IT Studio** \$18 plus tax, ages 6 and up. Visit [bisqueitstudio.com](http://bisqueitstudio.com) for details. **Registration and prepayment required**: 941.624.5955. Dec. 22, 10:30 am–noon. 1931 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Art by the Glass** • Birthday parties • [artbytheglassllc.com](http://artbytheglassllc.com) • 941.780.1743 • 1700 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

**Painting with a Twist** • Kid's events/theme paintings • [paintingwithatwist.com](http://paintingwithatwist.com) 941.787.2443 • 18700 Veterans Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

### Exploration

**Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC)** • [checflorida.org](http://checflorida.org) • 941.575.5435 or 941.475.0769

**Horses for a Cure** • [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), search "Horses for a Cure, Inc." • 941.916.5712 • 31600 Bermont Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary** • [octagonwildlife.org](http://octagonwildlife.org) • 239.543.1130 • 41660 Horseshoe Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Peace River Wildlife Center** • [peacriverwildlifecenter.org](http://peacriverwildlifecenter.org) • 941.637.3830 • 3400 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

### Pools

**Ann Dever** • 7001 San Casa Dr., **Englewood**  
**Port Charlotte Beach** • 4500 Harbor Blvd., **Port Charlotte**  
**South County** • 670 Cooper St., **Punta Gorda**

### Parks

**Complete list and details:** [charlottecountyfl.gov](http://charlottecountyfl.gov), "Playing"

### Off-Leash Parks

**Edgewater Paw Park** • 22410 Glass Ln., **Port Charlotte**  
**Ann Dever Paw Park** • 6791 San Casa Dr., **Englewood**  
**Hounds of Henry Street** • 557 W. Henry St. (W. Henry St. and Shreve St.), **Punta Gorda**

**Brohard Paw Park/Dog Beach** • 1600 Harbor Dr. S., **Venice**  
 (Dogs are not allowed on Charlotte County Beaches)

**Leashed dogs** are welcome at most Charlotte County parks. Visit [charlottecountyfl.gov/services/parksrecs](http://charlottecountyfl.gov/services/parksrecs) for more information.

**Radio Show: Solo Travel Girl's Adventures Near and Far**, hosted by Jennifer Huber, will share the all fabulous things to do in Southwest Florida and beyond! Contact Jennifer at [solotravelgirl@kdwradio.com](mailto:solotravelgirl@kdwradio.com). If you can't pick up the station, listen online at [kdwradio.com](http://kdwradio.com). Thursdays, noon–12:30 pm.  
**WKDW 97.5 FM**

**Radio Show: I'm Me**, hosted by artist Gina Battle, will inspire, motivate, and empower women. Contact Gina at [Gina@kdwradio.com](mailto:Gina@kdwradio.com) with topic ideas. If you can't pick up the station, listen online at [kdwradio.com](http://kdwradio.com). Mondays, 1:00 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

**The Lifelong Learning Institute** Offers great new lectures, classes, film series, outings, and more! Visit [lifelonglearning-charlotte.org](http://lifelonglearning-charlotte.org) for full class schedule, or call LLI at 941.637.3533, email [charlotte.lli@fsw.edu](mailto:charlotte.lli@fsw.edu), or drop by Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10:00 am–noon or 1:00–3:00 pm, at the Peoples Learning Resources Center Building (Building B), Room #114, Charlotte Campus of Florida South-Western State College, 26300 Airport Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center, Inc.** Regattas, sailing camps, classes, and open sailing. Visit [charlotteharborcommunitysailingcenter.com](http://charlotteharborcommunitysailingcenter.com) or call 941.773.6326 or 941.456.8542 or email [thesailingcenter.org@gmail.com](mailto:thesailingcenter.org@gmail.com) for details. 19246 Palmdale Ct., **Port Charlotte**

### Playgrounds

**Gilchrist Park\*** • 400 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**  
**Laishley Park Fountain\*** • 120 Laishley Ct., **Punta Gorda**  
**Kidstar Park** • [kidstartpark.com](http://kidstartpark.com) • 941.235.3131

\*Details: [ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors](http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors)

## DOG DAYS

### Shopping

Leashed, under-control dogs are welcome at notable shopping venues **Fishermen's Village** in Punta Gorda ([fishville.com](http://fishville.com)) and **West Dearborn Street** in Historic Old Englewood ([oldeenglewood.com](http://oldeenglewood.com)), as well as at the various Farmers Markets in the area.

### Dog-Friendly Restaurants

Many Charlotte County restaurants allow leashed dogs on their patios and outdoor spaces. Call first: [pureflorida.com/restaurants](http://pureflorida.com/restaurants) is a good place to start!

## LECTURE AND LEARNING

**Florida Gulf Coast University at the Herald Court Centre**  
 Lectures, short courses, film series, and enrichment and overseas travel programs. Visit [registerra.fgcu.edu](http://registerra.fgcu.edu) to browse the Charlotte County Course Catalog or call 941.505.0130 for details. 117 Herald Ct., Ste. 211, **Punta Gorda**

**The Learning Place at the Charlotte County Cultural Center**  
 Classes and social opportunities year-round in art, dance, technology, and more! Visit [theculturalcenter.com](http://theculturalcenter.com) for schedule. Register at 941.625.4175 ext. 223, or in person Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm. 2280 Aaron St., **Port Charlotte**

**Radio Show: Sleuthing: Eye-Opening Tales of the Past**  
 Discover the interesting history of the area! Hosted by Marie LaBrosse, Advanced Toastmaster: [marie@kdwradio.com](mailto:marie@kdwradio.com) or call 941.815.6230 or 941.624.2912. If you can't pick up the station, listen online at [kdwradio.com](http://kdwradio.com). Fridays, noon–1:00 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

**Trabue Restaurant** offers private cooking classes! Enjoy some wine while Chef Keith whips up some of his favorites and answers questions about preparing meals at home. Visit [trabuerestaurant.com](http://trabuerestaurant.com) for details; call 941.639.0900 to book. 258 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

### FILM

**Monday Night Movies** Free movies on the big screen, popcorn provided! Call 941.861.1207 for details. Mondays, 5:00–8:00 pm, excepting major holidays. Elsie Quirk Public Library, 100 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**Classic Foreign Film Series** An introduction precedes each film and a brief discussion follows. \$5 per; **check or credit card only**, includes refreshments. Call 941.505.0130 or stop by, Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm for more information or visit [registerra.fgc.edu](http://registerra.fgc.edu). **Tuesdays, 1:00–3:00 pm**, FGCU's

Renaissance Academy, 117 Herald Ct. Sq., **Punta Gorda**

**Regal Town Center Stadium 16:** *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (also 3D), *Miss Sloane*, *Office Christmas Party*, *Believe* (2016), *Allied*, *Bad Santa 2*, *Moana*, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, (also 3D), *Nocturnal Animals*, *Almost Christmas*, *Arrival*, *Doctor Strange*, *Hacksaw Ridge*, *Trolls*. 941.623.0114 or [regmovies.com](http://regmovies.com). Regal Town Center, 1441 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

### MARKETS

**Englewood Farmers Market** Fresh and organic produce, baked goods, beef, BBQ, wild salmon, olive oil, herbs, honey and so much more! Visit [englewoodfarmersmarket.org](http://englewoodfarmersmarket.org) for details and free healthy recipes. Thursdays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm, Oct.–May. Old Englewood Village, 300 Block of W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

**Burnt Store Marina Farmers Market** Fresh produce, peanut butter, dog treats, jam/jelly, mushrooms, microgreens, flavored vinegar, natural homemade soap, and olive oils, with more to come. A great way to support local businesses and have fun at the same time! Receive \$1 off every \$10 purchase. Visit [Facebook.com/BurntStoreMarina](https://www.facebook.com/BurntStoreMarina) for details. Fridays, year-round, 9:00 am–1:00 pm. Cass Cay Parking lot, 3200 Matecumbe Key Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**The Saturday Veggie Stand** Fresh organic fruits, veggies, juices, smoothies, microgreens, soups, salads, and more, in front of The Real Juice Bar. Saturdays, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Visit [theopenstudio.org](http://theopenstudio.org). 310 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**Punta Gorda Downtown Farmers Market** Voted the best small market in Florida and 15th in the US! Fruits, vegetables, pickles, jams, German bakery goods, fresh pasta, kitchenware, cupcakes, beef, fresh seafood, jewelry, candles, soaps, dip mixes, cheese, olives, orchids, kettle corn, coffee beans, exotic plants, natural facial products, smoothies, and much more, plus live entertainment! EBT/SNAP accepted and the Market gives \$2 for \$1 on purchase of Florida-grown produce, citrus, or honey! Call Jerry Presseller, Manager, at 941.391.4856 for details. Saturdays, 8:00 am–noon. Taylor St. and Herald Ct., next to the historic courthouse, **Punta Gorda**

**History Park Farmers Market** Most Sundays feature live music by local musicians. Guided garden tours available after the market closes; a \$5 suggested donation includes a plant to take home! For more information call 941.639.1887. Sundays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm. 501 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

### MOVEMENT

**New! Yoga By The Sea for Veterans and Caregivers** Yoga gathering; an enlightening morning of relaxation and healing from within. Bring a mat or towel. For more information contact Deborah: [Deb@Hlah.org](mailto:Deb@Hlah.org) or 941.877.2277. Tuesdays, 11:00 am. Laishley Park, 100 Nesbit St., **Punta Gorda**

**New! Holiday 5K Run & Bash by Anytime Fitness Port Charlotte** Free! Run, walk, or jog, then enjoy a holiday party with a raffle and food and drinks. Registration required: 941.426.9017 or [northportfl@anytimefitness.com](mailto:northportfl@anytimefitness.com). Visit [facebook.com/AnytimeFitnessPortCharlotte](https://www.facebook.com/AnytimeFitnessPortCharlotte) for details. Dec. 19, 5:00 pm. Buffalo Wings & Rings, 1081 W. Price Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

**Townie Tuesday** by Acme Bicycle Shop Bring a helmet, lights, and a friend for this no-drop, family-friendly, cruiser-style ride around beautiful Punta Gorda. After-ride festivities include either ice cream or an adult beverage! Be at the shop by 6:00 pm. Call 941.639.2263 for details. **Second and fourth Tuesdays: Dec. 13**, 6:00–8:00 pm. 615 Cross St., **Punta Gorda**

**Aqua Zumba** So much fun, you'll hardly notice you're improving your fitness! Must be 18 or over. \$8 per class or purchase a 5-class punch card for \$32. Call 941.505.8686 or visit [charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices](http://charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices). Saturdays, 10:00–11:00 am year-round. South County Regional Recreation Center & Pool, 670 Cooper St., **Punta Gorda**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

**Dao Yin Sheng Gong** Gentle twisting motions, breath control and acupressure point stimulation. Wednesdays, 10:00 am, \$8 per lesson. Richard Curtis: 407.923.8310. Register at the PGICA office or call 941.637.1655. 2001 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

**Dance Etc.** offers a plethora of dance and movement classes and social gatherings. Call 941.270.4599, email DanceEnglewood@gmail.com or visit danceenglewood.com. 3372 N. Access Rd., **Englewood**

**Higher Ground Performing Arts** Dance, voice, music and theater lessons, as well as Zumba fitness. Visit highergroundperformingarts.net for details; call 941.625.3622 with questions. 17353 Geddes Ave., **Port Charlotte**

**Indoor Pickleball** For ages 15 to seniors. Drop in for some fun competition and make new friends. For more details call 941.681.3742. Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Rd., Unit 4. **Englewood**

**It's a Free Ride!** Loaner bicycles can be found at a number of locations including the Bayfront Health's Wellness Center, Laishley Municipal Marina, Four Points by Sheraton, Fishermen's Village Marina, Isles Yacht Club Marina and The Wyvern Hotel. Details: 941.637.8326 or teampuntagorda.org. **Punta Gorda**

**Line Dancing** 'Improver' and intermediate; the public is welcome! Contact Nancy at 941.474.6027 or nvargo@verizon.net. Thursdays, 9:30–11:30am. Christ Lutheran Church, 701 N. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

**Peace River Riders** Regularly scheduled rides: Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, Thursday–Sunday mornings. peacerriveridersbicycleclub.com **Punta Gorda**

**King Fisher Fleet** Deep sea/back bay fishing; eco-tours; full- and half-day, sunset, harbor, and sightseeing cruises. Annual Cruise Pass: unlimited free admission on all regularly scheduled sightseeing cruises for one year; park fees, special events, Christmas Light Canal Cruises not included. 941.639.0969 or kingfisherfleet.com. Fishermen's Village Marina, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Ste. 16A, **Punta Gorda**

**Smoke and Roses** Sunset cruises, full-day sails to an island, and overnight charters available. Includes a captain and first mate. Private parties only, up to six passengers, start at \$45 per person. Agnes Long at 605.366.7673, email info@smokeandroses.com, or smokeandroses.com. 140 Leland St. S.E., **Port Charlotte**

**Qi Gong/Tai Chi** Free workshop, come join in! Saturdays, rain or shine, 9:30–10:30 am. Gilchrist Park, by the statue of Ponce de Leon. 400 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Saturday Morning Bike Ride** Coffee at 8:00 am, roll promptly at 8:30 am. Leisure, medium and fast are no-drop; unlimited is until you can't hang on! No ride when it's raining or really foggy. Helmets are required. 941.639.2263 or acmebicycleshop.com. 615 Cross St., #1116, **Punta Gorda**

**Sunday Morning Wake Up Run** No set route or pace! Arrive by 6:50 am; begin running at 7:00 am. Visit thefootlanding.com for details. Gilchrist Park Pavilion, 400 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**Tai Chi at the Open Studio** Yang Style. Free class; donations accepted. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays, 5:30–6:00 pm. 941.474.4060 or visit theopenstudio.org for details. 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**Wednesday Night Pub Run, Walk or Stroll 3.0-ish** Route is approximately 2.1 to 3.1 miles. All are welcome. Walkers/strollers start at 6:15 pm, runners at 6:30 pm. Call 941.347.7751 or visit thefootlanding.com for details. Wednesday evenings. Free registration and free parking in the parking garage above The Foot Landing, 117 Herald Ct., Ste. 1112, **Punta Gorda**

**Yoga on Englewood Beach** Yoga for Every Body, 8:30–9:30 am every day—holidays included! Class is free, donations accepted and appreciated. Sunset Yoga 6:00–7:00 pm every Monday and Wednesday. Bring a blanket or sheet and plan to have fun! Note: parking is .75 per hour. 941.474.5511 or englewoodchamber.com for details. 2100 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood Beach**

## SEA TO SHORE

**Captiva Cruises** Don Pedro State Park Island Shuttle; full- and half-day excursions, sunset cruises, lunch and beach/shelling trips, dolphin watch/wildlife adventure cruises. 941.889.8000, captivacruises.com, or facebook.com, search "Captiva Cruises." Cape Haze Marina, 6950 Placida Rd., **Cape Haze**

**Diamond Charter Cruises** Private luxury yacht cruises for up to six people. 941.639.0969 or diamondchartercruise.com. Fishermen's Village Marina, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda

**Nav-A-Gator** Narrated eco-tours along the calm Peace River and lunch for one low price! 941.627.3474 or nav-a-gator.com. 9700 SW Riverview Cir., **Lake Suzy**

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

### MUSEUMS

**The A.C. Freeman House** Built in 1903 for less than \$900. Open Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Guided tours: Monday and Thursday only, 11:00 am–3:00 pm. [Puntagordahistory.com](http://Puntagordahistory.com). 311 West Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

**The Blanchard House Museum of African American History and Culture of Charlotte County** Open-access, educational institution devoted to the procurement, preservation, study and display of historical and cultural materials related to the contributions of African Americans in the settlement of Charlotte County and Southwest Florida. Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Call 941.575.7518 or visit [blanchardhousemuseum.us](http://blanchardhousemuseum.us) for more information. 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., **Punta Gorda**

**Boca Grande Historical Society and Museum** is committed to preserving and enhancing the history of Gasparilla Island and its surrounding area and providing rewarding opportunities to learn about the remarkable people and events that shaped the past. Visit [bocagrandehistoricalsociety.com](http://bocagrandehistoricalsociety.com) for more information. Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. 170 Park Ave., **Boca Grande**

**El Jobean Post Office and General Store** Designated local historic landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, reveals the history of Southwest Florida and the community. A book about the area, *The History of Early El Jobean*, is available in the Charlotte County public library system. Call 941.766.1117 for more information. 4370 Garden Rd., **Port Charlotte**

**Englewood Area Historical Museum** Features books by local authors and Pioneer Crafting Kits for sale. Free admission! Visit [eahmuseum.org](http://eahmuseum.org) or call 941.208.5942 for details and hours. 1394 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

**The History Park** Four fascinating historic buildings: The Cigar Cottage, The Trabue Land Sales Office, The Price House/Gilchrist Inn, and The Calaboose. Tours given Sundays after the Park's Farmer's Market—1:00 pm. Visit [puntagordahistory.com](http://puntagordahistory.com) for more information. 501 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

**Port Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum** The oldest structure on the island has been a comprehensive museum since 1999. Three rooms cover cultural and social history dating from 12,000 BC–present; a fourth contains a “please touch” area. Features a gift shop offering souvenirs, local artwork and jewelry. Call 941.964.0060 and visit [barrierislandparksociety.org](http://barrierislandparksociety.org) for open hours and details. Note: there is a \$6 toll to cross the bridge. 880 Belcher Rd., **Boca Grande**

**The Punta Gorda Train Depot** Sole surviving depot of the six built by the Atlantic Coast Line in Mediterranean revival style. Over 20 independent booths comprise The Antique Mall, which occupies the large freight room, and the ticket office houses three exhibits: The History of the Railroad, The Fishing Industry, and the Punta Gorda Army Air Field. Sept.–June: Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Call 941.639.6774 or visit [puntagordahistory.com](http://puntagordahistory.com) for more information. 1009 Taylor Rd., **Punta Gorda**

**Military Heritage Museum** strives to promote understanding and respect for the rich military heritage of the United States and the sacrifices made by America's veterans, living and dead. Monday–Saturday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm; Sunday, noon–6:00 pm; closed on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Call 941.575.9002 (admin) or 941.347.7941 (museum) or visit [freedomisntfree.org](http://freedomisntfree.org) for more information. Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Unit 48, **Punta Gorda**

**Rick Treworgy's Muscle Car City** features nearly 200 automobiles of every era, dating back to the 1920s, with a major focus is on GM “muscle cars.” Work up an appetite then enjoy the best omelets, biscuits and gravy, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and cheesesteak sandwiches in the area, as well as old-fashioned floats, sodas, shakes and homemade ice cream at the '60s-themed Muscle Car City Diner, open Tuesday–Sunday for breakfast and lunch. Call 941.575.5959 or visit [musclecarcity.net](http://musclecarcity.net). Muscle Car City, 3811 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

#### December

Chanukah Celebration at Fishermen's Village, Dec. 28: [facebook.com/fishermensvillage](http://facebook.com/fishermensvillage) or [fishville.com](http://fishville.com)

Holiday Drum Circle & Pot Luck at Dance Etc., Dec. 30: [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), search “dance etc, Englewood”

TT's New Year's Eve Party with Sowflo, Dec. 31: [facebook.com/thetikibarp](http://facebook.com/thetikibarp)



# This Week's Happenings

Week of Dec. 19–25, 2016

## The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

### January

Plein Air Painting Art Exhibit, It's Just Plein Fun, Jan. 5–Feb. 3: [peacriverpainters.com](http://peacriverpainters.com)

Stage Play: Weekend Comedy, Charlotte Players, Jan. 6–15: [charlotteplayers.org](http://charlotteplayers.org)

Turtle Club Blues Night, Jan. 11: [facebook.com/turtleclubpg](http://facebook.com/turtleclubpg)

Running Through the Decades 5K Dash, Jan. 14: [bgcofcc.org](http://bgcofcc.org)

Stage Play: Office Hours, Lemon Bay Playhouse, Jan. 18–29: [lemonbayplayhouse.com](http://lemonbayplayhouse.com)

Sunset Celebration at Peace River Wildlife Center, Jan. 20: [peacriverwildlifecenter.org](http://peacriverwildlifecenter.org)

Stage Play: Not Now, Darling, Charlotte Players, Jan. 20–28: [charlotteplayers.org](http://charlotteplayers.org)

Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area 75th Anniversary, Jan. 21: [babcockranchecotours.com](http://babcockranchecotours.com)

Forced Records Presents: *EDM Evolution* at RIZE Nightclub & Terrace, Jan. 21: [facebook.com/Rizeclub](http://facebook.com/Rizeclub)

Tennis Ball: Fête for Pets by Suncoast Humane Society, Jan. 25: [humane.org](http://humane.org)

Puddles Pity Party at The Cultural Center, Dec. 26: [thecultural-center.com](http://thecultural-center.com), click "Buy Tickets"

Dreaded Legends Paintball Tournament at Florida Tracks & Trails, Jan. 27 and 28: [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), search "Dreaded Legends II"

'Tis the Season Fashion Show Luncheon by Business & Professional Women of Charlotte County, Jan. 29: [bpwccfl.org](http://bpwccfl.org)

### February

Sunset Celebration at Peace River Wildlife Center, Feb. 17: [peacriverwildlifecenter.org](http://peacriverwildlifecenter.org)

Florida Tracks & Trails Invitational, Feb. 26: [facebook.com/FLTracksAndTrails](http://facebook.com/FLTracksAndTrails)

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Performs, Feb. 26: [charlottesymphony.com](http://charlottesymphony.com)

**Information provided, while considered reliable, is not guaranteed.  
Contact individual businesses to verify specifics.**