

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

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BOOMERANGS: EVENTS TO COME BACK FOR!

World's Richest Tarpon Tournament May 25 and 26: worlds-richesttarpon.com

Memorial Day Veterans Race 2017 May 28: facebook.com/MemorialDayRace

Peace River Freedom Swim Jul. 4: 941.661.5622

Wheels and Wings VIII Jul. 9: facebook.com/wheelsandwingsflorida

FESTIVALS • DANCES • PARTIES • GATHERINGS • ETC

Alive After Five Shops stay open late, local artists display their works, merchants offer giveaways, and live music is everywhere! Enjoy the art, music and fun, then have a bite at one of Punta Gorda's great restaurants. **May 18, 5:00–8:00 pm.** Downtown **Punta Gorda**

Artist's Village Shop original fine art and craft and maybe catch a demonstration! Downtown Punta Gorda

Indie Market Crafters and artisans will display original handmade wares. Downtown Punta Gorda

Food Trucks A great opportunity to try something new! Downtown Punta Gorda

Art with Wine: Gilded Grape and Sea Grape Gallery Wine tastings, refreshments, and art demonstrations! 113 W. Marion Ave.

The Renaissance Academy displays a local artists' work all month and hosts a reception during Gallery Walk. Call 941.505.0130 for details. 117 Herald Ct., #211

Edward Jones Open House Hors d' oeuvres and refreshments will be served; parking available at corner of Sullivan St. and W. Olympia Ave. Call 941.639.0233 for more information. 223 Taylor St., Ste. 1118

Babcock Ranch Inaugural Spring Picnic Live music, kite flying, fishing, food trucks, half-price rentals, pony rides, hay rides, dunk tank and more. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic and have fun! Visit facebook.com/babcockranch for more information. May 20, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. 42850 Crescent Lp., **Babcock Ranch**

2017 Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival Featuring food, live music from the Punta Gorda Guitar Army, crafts and exotic plants for sale, Clydesdale horses, and the Little Miss Hibiscus Pageant! Bring own chair or blanket. Visit thehibiscusfestival.com for details. May 19, 9:00 am–10:00 pm and May 20, 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Punta Gorda History Park, 501 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

Inaugural Iguanafest Fundraiser for iguana conservation, for all who share the love for all things lizards—especially iguanas. Admission: adults: \$25; children 6–12: \$15; 5 and under: free. Free parking, guided tours of the largest lizard breeding facility in the united states, refreshments, dinner, live entertainment and a grand finale fundraiser auction. Fundraiser auction will start immediately after dinner. Guided tours: 1:00–4:00 pm. May 20, noon. Ty Park's Reptile Farm, 33900 Bermont Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Bert's 2nd Annual Fallen First Responders Poker Run Run starts at Bert's. \$10 per rider and passenger. Pre-register to receive free breakfast and swag bag; day of: breakfast is \$5. All riders are welcome. Live music from Storm Warning, May 20, noon, and Memphis Rub, May 21, noon. Visit facebook.com/BlackWidowHarleyDavidson for updates. May 20, 9:00 am–5:00 pm. 2224 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

Denim & Diamonds Great BBQ, cash bar, and Nashville artist Logan Dressel in concert at 8:30 p.m. Sponsorships available. Individual tickets \$75; contact the Charlotte County Chamber at 941.627.2222 for information and visit facebook.com/LeadershipCharlotte17 for details and updates. May 20, 6:00 pm. Charlotte County Fairgrounds, 2325 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

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Placida Fish Market Customer Appreciation Day First 280 customers get a free gift bag. Live music by Tidal Wave Band, free taste testing, drawings for full day fishing charter for two with Paradise Charters, \$50 Visa gift card, and more! Throw a chicken for a chance to win discounts or a \$100 gift certificate from Placida Fish Market. Kids' Zone and a fire truck available noon–1:00 pm. Vendors in the center parking area featuring purses, paintings, jewelry, photography, dream catchers, seaglass and wood creations, local honey and honey products, an herbalist, reiki, and more. Bring your own chair. Visit facebook.com/thirtyonechaillettrd for more information. May 20, 11:00 am–3:00 pm. 31 Chaillett Rd., Ste. 5, corner of Gasparilla Rd. and Chaillett Rd., **Rotonda**

Drag Queen Bingo Pajama Party \$6 for ten games. Visit facebook.com/ninosbakery. May 20, 4:00–8:00 pm. Nino's Bakery and Restaurant, 3151 Cooper St., Ste. 52, **Punta Gorda**

Gallagher Live, Featuring Sledge-O-Matic The Legendary comedian is live and smashing for one night only at the Englewood Event Center! Visit facebook.com/GallagherShow for link to tickets. May 18, 7:30–9:30 pm. 3069 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

Dan Meadows: at Englewood Moose Lodge, 55 W. Dearborn St., Englewood, May 16, 6:00 pm and May 21, 1:00 pm; at Rotonda Elks, 303 Rotonda Blvd. E, Port Charlotte, May 20, 1:00 pm. Visit facebook.com/DanMeadowsMusicFlorida/ for details. **Englewood and Port Charlotte**

Portside Tavern presents Jimi B, May 16, 6:00 pm; Jason & Brett, May 19, 6:00 pm; and Tiki Tom & L.A., May 21, 2:00 pm. Visit facebook.com/PortsideEvents. 3636 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Relentless Fire at TT's Tiki Visit facebook.com/Relentless-FIRE. May 19, 6:00 pm. 33 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

Comedy Dinner with WIT Improv Visit facebook.com/CharlottePlayers and witimprov.com for details. May 20, 7:30–9:30 pm. Langdon Playhouse, 1182 Market Cir., **Port Charlotte**

Rock'in Days at Englewood Elks Visit facebook.com/rockindayz. May 20, 1:00–4:00 pm. Elks Lodge, 303 Rotonda Blvd. E, **Port Charlotte**

Trey Colton Music Video Concert Free! Show will be recorded; attendees may be in the music video for the new single, *Hell If I Know*. Visit facebook.com/TreyColtonMusic for link to purchase and enter to win two backstage passes. May 20,

Emil's DC presents *Trivia Night, Tuesdays*, 6:00–9:00 pm; *Beer, Burgers and Bingo, Wednesdays*, 8:00–11:00 pm; and *Karaoke Night with Wayne, Thursdays*, 6:00–9:00 pm. 941.764.0640 or facebook.com/EmilsSports. 24901 Sandhill Blvd., #14, **Punta Gorda**

Weekly Pasta, Karaoke & Mickey Mouse Club Party Dinner and drinks provided, BYOB if desired. Members: \$8, non-members: \$9. Call 941.764.9003 with red or white sauce preference. Search "Sons of Italy Lodge #2507" on Facebook for menu details. **Thursdays, 5:00–9:00 pm**. Sons Of Italy Lodge #2507, 3725 Easy St., **Port Charlotte**

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**

ON STAGE

9:15 pm–2:00 am. Englewood Event Center, 3069 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

Feast or Famine at Downtown Gatorz Visit facebook.com/feastorfaminepg for details. May 20, 7:00 pm. 502 King St., **Punta Gorda**

Rendezvous at Calico Jack's Visit facebook.com/RendezvousEnglewood. May 20, 9:30 pm–12:30 am. 1950 Beach Rd., **Englewood**

Jeff Vitolo & The Quarter Mile Rebels at The Celtic Ray Public House Visit facebook.com/JeffVitoloTheQuarterMileRebels for details. May 20, 9:00 pm–1:00 am. 145 E. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

Tropical Ave at TT's Tiki Visit facebook.com/tropicalaveband. May 20, 7:00–11:00 pm. 855 Gulf Blvd., **Englewood**

Emil's DC presents Jason Brownie & Travelin' Mike, May 20, 6:00–9:00 pm. Visit facebook.com/EmilsSports. 24901 Sandhill Blvd., #14, **Punta Gorda**

Jack Mosley Neil Diamond Tribute Show Visit facebook.com/JackMosleyMusic for details. May 21, 5:00–7:00 pm. Englewoods on Dearborn Restaurant & Bar, 362 W. Dearborn St., **Englewood**

The Turtle Club presents live jazz with Danny Sinoff, May 22, 8:00–11:00 pm and contemporary jazz with Tony Boffa and Doug Cassens, **Thursdays, 6:00–9:00 pm**. Visit facebook.com/turtleclubpg. 139 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

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Nav-a-Gator Grill presents Paul Roush, May 20, 2:00–5:00 pm. Cover charge: canned goods and non-perishable food items. 941.627.3474, facebook.com/navagator.grill, or nav-a-gator.com. 9700 S.W. Riverview Cir., **Lake Suzy**

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 and call 941.629.9191 for more information. 2400 Kings Hwy., **Port Charlotte**

Babcock Ranch Concert Series presents *Tuesday Night Live*, **Tuesdays**, 5:30 pm and *Saturday Concert Series*, **Saturdays**, 4:30 pm. Enjoy live music in the band shell. Visit facebook.com/babcockranch or babcockranch.com. 42850 Crescent Lp., **Babcock Ranch**

Bella's Bistro presents live music every Friday and Saturday, 5:00–9:00 pm and easy listening by Herb Geri, **Sundays**, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. 941.916.9786 or facebook.com/bellas-bistropuntagorda. 117 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

Fishermen's Village presents live entertainment up to six days a week! Facebook.com/fishermensvillage, fishville.com or 941.639.8721. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

Jam with Ambush Everyone is welcome to "Jambush"! Local musician or singer? Come on out to meet, greet, and jam. Visit facebook.com/ambushtheband for details. **Tuesdays**, 6:00–9:00 pm. Eagles Aerie 3296, 23111 Harborview Rd., **Punta Gorda**

The Bean Depot Cafe features live music most evenings and a bluegrass jam session every Wednesday. **Cash only**. 941.627.3344 or facebook.com/TheBeanDepot. 4370 Garden Rd., **Port Charlotte**

Punta Gorda Guitar Army A great evening of music, weekly! Visit facebook.com/groups/PuntaGordaGuitarArmy for details. **Thursdays**, 6:00 pm. History Park, 501 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

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/allstarsportsgrillpcfll • 2360 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

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

Bella's Bistro • 941.916.9786 • facebook.com/bellasbistro-puntagorda • 117 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

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**

Charlie's Pub • 941.743.3788 • facebook.com, search by name • 3496 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Cold River Saloon • 941.505.0798 • facebook.com, search by name • 3149 Duncan Rd., **Punta Gorda**

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

The Cultural Center of Charlotte County • 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**

Diablo Creek • 240.394.0266 • facebook.com/diablocreek • 1430 San Jose Dr., **Englewood**

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 • 362 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**

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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**

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**

History Park • facebook.com/groups/PuntaGordaGuitarArmy • 501 Shreve St., **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**

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 • theorangehousewinebar.com • 320 Sullivan St., **Punta Gorda**

The Placida Pearl • 941.474.8730 • facebook.com/placida-pearl • 2643 Placida Rd., **Englewood**

Porky's Roadhouse • 941.629.2114 • facebook.com/porkys-roadhousepc • 4900 Kings Hwy., Ste. 412, **Port Charlotte**

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**

Snook's Bayside Bar & Grill • 941.475.3712 • facebook.com/SnooksBaysideBarandGrill • 779 W. Wentworth St., **Englewood**

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

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**

Visani Comedy Zone • 941.629.9191 • visani.net • 2400 Kings Hwy., **Port Charlotte**

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

Featured

Show Us Your Charlotte Calendar Contest The best 15 shots of Charlotte County will be featured in the calendar! Visit showusyourcharlotte.com and upload your photos and information about you and your subject. Winners will receive a calendar and have their photos featured on the county's website and social media pages. Enter as many photos as desired; only one will be eligible to appear. Winners will be notified by phone or email. Calendars will be available in late November

2017 at County facilities to be announced. **Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners employees are not eligible. Charlotte County**

Operation Gratitude Stop by the Punta Gorda Library and fill out a postcard that will be given to a veteran. Visit facebook.com/CCLibraries for details. Runs until May 30, open hours. Punta Gorda Library, 424 W. Henry St., **Punta Gorda**

Sporting

Flatsmasters 12th Annual Sweetheart Couples Tournament The social fishing event of the year! Visit facebook.com/Flatsmasters for details and link to register. May 19, 6:30 pm

to May 20, 4:00 pm. Laishley Crab House, 100 E. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

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Lemon Bay Touchdown Club Golf Tournament \$75 per player. Register online at lbtclub.com and visit facebook.com/LBTDClub. May 20; shotgun start: 8:30 am. Rotonda Golf & Country Club, 100 Rotonda Cir., **Rotonda**

DAARA SVS Event 1/3 mi clay track. DAARA drivers with car: free; all others: \$30. Pit in paved area: \$10 slab fee. Visit facebook.com/417SSE. May 20, 4:00 pm. 4-17 Southern Speedway and Events, 8655 Piper Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Destination Powersports Customer Appreciation Party Bike show, bikini bike wash, biker games. Free food and drinks and a live band (TBA). Visit facebook.com/DestinationPowersports. May 20, 11:00 am–5:00 pm. 1110 Tamiami Tr., **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. Tours depart from the Fishermen's Village parking lot and last about 1.5 hours. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear, sunscreen, and/or a hat. **First Saturdays** and **third Wednesdays**. May 17, 9:30 am. Call 941.764.4340 for more information. 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

Heavy Metal Keys Trip Tanks and air not included; advance and Nitrox certification required—available in conjunction with these dives. Visit facebook.com/FantaseaScuba for details. May 20 and 21, 8:00 am–1:00 pm. Meet at Fantasea SCUBA, 3781 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves (CHAP) presents Nature Boat Tours and Snorkeling Ecoventure No large coolers allowed; \$5 parking fee, payable to the Marina office prior to boarding the boat; each trip is limited to six people. \$30 per person, **must purchase tickets in advance**: visit facebook.com/CharlotteHarborAquaticPreserves for details and link to purchase. **Departure location**: Gasparilla Marina, 15001 Gasparilla Rd., **Placida**

- Nature Boat Tour, May 19, 12:30–1:30 pm
- Snorkeling Ecoventure, May 19, 10:00 am–noon

Kayak Tour of Shell Creek with Gaea Guides 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

EoS TBFT Paintball Event Fundraiser event: \$5 minimum donation requested (in addition to registration fee). Visit facebook.com/teamtbft for details. May 21, 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Florida Tracks & Trails, 39450 Bermont Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Charlotte Stone Crabs Baseball Box-level seats start at \$9.50; reserve-level: \$8.50 when purchased in advance. Visit facebook.com/charlottestonecrabs for details and link to purchase tickets, call 941-206-HITS, visit the FCB Box Office at Charlotte Sports Park or visit Stonecrabsbaseball.com. vs Jupiter: May 19, 6:35 pm; May 20, 3:05 pm; May 21, 12:35 pm vs. Daytona: May 22–25, 6:35 pm
Charlotte Sports Park, 2300 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

Nature Adventures

(gratuity not expected but appreciated), available at gaeaguides.com or call 239.694.5513 for more information. May 15, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. Hathaway Park, 35461 Washington Loop Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Peace River Weekly Kayak Group Bring sunscreen, 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 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 Experience the natural heart of Florida! Visit facebook.com/babcockranchecotour and babcockranchecotours.com for details; call 1.800.500.5583 for reservations. 8000 State Rd. 31, **Punta Gorda**

Barrier Island Park Society (BIPS) offers a variety of outings and special events; **reservations may be required**: visit barrierislandparkssociety.org, call 941.964.0060, or email infoatbips@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. Call 941.475.0769 to register for events and for information; visit 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 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**

Horses for a Cure, Inc. Private and semi-private lessons, trail rides, birthday parties, weekend/summer kid's camps, corporate events, and overnight campouts in the Florida wilderness. Call 941.916.5712 or search "Horses for a Cure, Inc." on Facebook. 31600 Bermont Rd., **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.

Lemon Bay Conservancy Nature outings and exciting volunteer opportunities. **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: 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 Audubon Society Offers walkabouts, field trips, and volunteer opportunities. Visit peaceriveraudubon.org and facebook.com/PRASaudubon or email peaceriveraudubon@gmail.com for more information and full schedule of events. Various locations, **Charlotte County**

Peace River Wildlife Center Daily Pelican Feedings Come to the "pelican yard" **daily at 2:30 pm**, weather permitting, to learn about native Florida wildlife. Permanent residents are available for viewing in attractive, spacious habitats based on their native environments. \$5 donation requested. **No pets.** 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**

PG Farms and Horse Boarding, Inc. Child and adult lessons in English or Western, private or semi-private, covering basic horsemanship, grooming, tacking, and groundwork, as well as trail rides and training. Call 941.575.2756 or visit pgfarms.com or facebook.com/pgfarms for details. 31600 Bermont Rd., Punta Gorda

Riding Star Ranch Offers hand-led pony rides, \$30/pony, perfect for the little ones, and Saddle-Up Stroll, \$45/rider, for those who have never ridden or would like a refresher. Call 386.848.7953 or visit ridingstarranch.org. 7701 Cleveland Dr., **Punta Gorda**

Riding the Waves Tour local waterways driving your own fun, compact Personal Power Catamaran boat. Certified Florida Naturalist guides lead the way and share their expertise and insight on local history and valuable sea- and wildlife and habitat protection information while they take you on a fun-filled adventure along beautiful waterways. Visit facebook.com/RidingTheWavesFL and RidingTheWaves.COOL for details or call 941.460.358. Skip's Marina, 1990 Placida Rd., **Englewood**

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

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SW Florida Skydive Club For those who've always wanted 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. Shell Creek Airport, 36886 Washington Loop Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Three Suns Ranch Tours Relaxing and educational tour

Cornelius and Anthony Cigar Event Cigar specials and raffles! Visit facebook.com/fedorascigarbarpuntaforda. May 18, 5:00–8:00 pm. Fedora's Cigar Bar, 209 Wood St., **Punta Gorda**

Spa One Open House A night of hors d'oeuvres, drinks, demos, prizes, amazing promotions, and savings. Visit facebook.com/SpaOneDaySpaAndSalon. May 18, 3:00–7:00 pm. 115 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

Liquid The premiere LGBT nightclub in Southwest Florida present *Hot Body Contest*, May 20, 11:00 pm–2:00 am, and offers a sensual yet sophisticated atmosphere, 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 event schedule. 4300 Kings Highways, Ste. 415, **Charlotte Harbor**

Senior Game Club Enjoy Mahjong, Bridge, Scrabble, Checkers, Chess, and other board games in this new drop-in program. \$3 drop-in fee; \$10 punch-pass for four visits; \$30 punch-pass for 12 visits. **Tuesdays**, 10:00 am–1:00 pm. Tringali Park, 3460 N. Access Rd., **Englewood**

Englewood Drum Circle Sundays, 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

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**

About Town

don't have to know the rhythm to drum along! 941.445.1365 or danceenglewood.com for more information. Note: parking fee is .75 per hour. 2100 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood Beach**

History Quest: Historical Geocaching and Questing Explore local historic sites with questing and geocaching! Contact the Historical Center at 941.629.PAST(7278) or visit CharlotteCountyFL.gov, and click the "Playing" tab. Ongoing. 514 E. Grace St., **Punta Gorda**

Joshua Citrus A real Florida orange grove! Fresh-squeezed orange juice, strawberry orange juice and grapefruit juice. Free samples of juices, citrus and gourmet items, grove walks, and see the packinghouse in operation. Visit joshuacitrus.com or search "Joshua Citrus, Inc" on Facebook. Oct.–mid-May, Monday–Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm. 4135 SE County Road 760, **Arcadia**

The Placida Pearl Bar & Nightclub Clean, smoke-free environment, cocktails, variety of craft beers, dancing, open mic nights, and more. The only nightclub in town! Visit facebook.com/placidapearl, placidapearl.com, or call 941.474.8730. 2643 Placida Rd., **Placida**

RIZE Nightclub & Terrace Port Charlotte's only nightclub dedicated to nothing but dance music! Visit facebook.com/Rizeclub for details. 4095 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

CRAFTY BREWS AND BEVERAGES

Alligator Bay Distillers Craft distillery, producing quality, handcrafted, "cane-to-bottle" rum. Offers tours and tastings. Call 941.347.8419 and visit alligatorbaydistillers.com and facebook.com/alligatorbayrum for more information. 25522 Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

Catania's Winery Award-winning custom-blended and red and white wines, full line of winery equipment for home and commercial use, gourmet coffees, first cold press extra virgin olive oil from Italy, gift baskets made to order, espresso and cappuccino machines for sale, and wine making classes and tastings. Call 941.475.7553 and visit cataniaswinery.com and search "Catania's Winery" on Facebook for more information. 524 Paul Morris Dr., Ste. B, **Englewood**

Fat Point Brewing Produces fresh, local, hand-crafted beers and features live music, bar bingo, open mic nights, and other special events. Call 800.380.7405 and visit fatpoint.com and facebook.com/FatPointBrewing for details. 611 Charlotte St., **Punta Gorda**

Gilded Grape Winery & Wine Bar Boutique wine shop, wine hobby shop, wine cellar, and wine bar. Features *Art with Wine* event at Seagrape Gallery during *Alive After Five*, third Thursday of every month, make-your-own wine classes, craft beers, snacks, live music, and tastings. Available for event rental. Call 941.235.9463 and visit gildedgrape.com and facebook.com/gildedgrapewinery for more information. 4069 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Southwest Florida Food Tours offers *A Taste of Austria Food & Wine Tasting*, May 19, 7:00–8:30 pm, \$20 per person, and a variety of innovative, interesting, and delicious culinary adventures. Visit swffoodtours.com or facebook.com/southwestfloridafoodtours for details, schedule, and to purchase

tickets, or call 941.276.6384 for more information. 315 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

Visit pureflorida.com/restaurants to browse and search for great new culinary experiences! **Charlotte County**

ART AND CRAFT

Events and Exhibits

Visual Arts Center First Federal Gallery: *Water, Water, Everywhere*, **May 20–June 15**. Free and open to the public and much of the art is for sale! Visit visualartcenter.org or call 941.639.8810 for details. Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

Emerging Artisans Program Venue and support for emerging artisans, musicians, and craftspeople to display, sell, and demonstrate their hand-crafted art and wares—as wide a range of styles and techniques as possible! Visit facebook.com/EmergingArtisansProgram for details. **Sundays**, 10:00 am–2:00 pm. The Open Studio Gardens, 380 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

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 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 or call 941.815.6230 or 941.624.2912. Listen online at 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 and email 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 Court Centre • Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Home

Paint/Create Parties

Art by the Glass presents *Paint Party at Scotty's Brewhouse*, May 17, 7:30–9:30 pm. No experience needed; all supplies included. Choice of premium wines, beer and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase. Visit artbytheglassllc.com or facebook.com/artbytheglassllc, call 941.780.1743, or email artbytheglassllc@gmail.com for details, party schedule, and upcoming paintings. 1700 Tamiami Tr., Unit F4, **Port Charlotte**

Bisque IT Art Studio presents *Glass Fusing Intro Class*, May 16, 7:00 pm; *Pineapple Door Hanger*, May 17, 7:00 pm; *Sunflower Door Hanger*, May 19, 7:00 pm; *Painting for the Fight*, May 20, 7:00 pm; and paint nights, glass fusing classes, wine glass painting, and much more! Visit bisqueitstudio.com and facebook.com/bisqueitstudiofun for pricing, full schedule, to make reservations, and to view paintings and projects.

No experience needed, BYOB. Price includes all materials.

Registration and prepayment required: 941.624.5955. 1931 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Painting with a Twist 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. **Registration required:** visit facebook.com/PWATPortCharlotteFL and paintingwithatwist.com for full schedule, to register, and to view upcoming paintings; call 941.764.3914 for more information. 18700 Veterans Blvd., Ste. 8, **Port Charlotte**

Artists in Action Work on whatever you want in a collaborative environment! \$2 donation requested. Visit visualartcenter.org or call 941.639.8810 for details. **Saturdays**, 9:00–noon. Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

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, click "Events," then "Cultural Calendar." **Charlotte County**

Arts Alliance of Lemon Bay Visit 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 or call 941.964.1700. **Note: there is a \$6 toll to cross the bridge.** 236 Banyan St. **Boca Grande**

Charlotte County Cultural Center Sewing, lapidary, jewelry/silversmithing, pottery, and more! Visit 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**

Charlotte Players offers *acting classes for all ages*. Visit facebook.com/pg/CharlottePlayers/services or charlotteplayers.org for details. Langdon Playhouse, 1182 Market Cir., **Port Charlotte**

Charlotte Sewing Studio Large selection of sewing accessories, notions, quilting and garment fabric, and extensive guide classes and creative project classes. Visit facebook.com/pg/CharlotteSewingStudio or call 941.235.3555. 1109 Tamiami Tr., **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 or contact at 941.474.5548 or eac@ringling.edu. 350 S. McCall Rd., **Englewood**

Expert Sewing Center Inc. Fabric, notions and more, and lessons and classes! Visit facebook.com/ExpertSewingCenter or call 941.766.7118. 3846 Tamiami Trail Unit D, **Port Charlotte**

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 for a full class schedule. On the grounds of Pottery Express Bamboo Farm, 25370 Zemel Rd., **Punta Gorda**

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

The Open Studio Art, craft, healing and fitness. Visit 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. 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. Cork N Canvas Feb. 9, 6:00–8:30 pm, \$40; Visit visualartcenter.org or call 941.639.8810 or stop by for more information. 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

Galleries

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 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 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 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 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**

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

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 or [Facebook.com/ErlenbachModernArtGallery](https://www.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, or visit jon-hatch-originals.com. 13060 Fishery Rd., **Placida**

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

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

Sea Grape Gallery features Artists of the Month and various guest artists. Call 941.575.1718 or visit seagrapegallery.com or [facebook.com/SeaGrapeGallery](https://www.facebook.com/SeaGrapeGallery) for details and to see a lot

of great art, or just stop by to enjoy and explore! The Gallery is always open until 8:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month for *Alive After Five*. 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 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 for more information. 307 Taylor St., **Punta Gorda**

Tamiami Art & Frame Offers award-winning photo restoration and custom framing of all types of memorabilia including sports jerseys, diplomas, 3D objects, prints, photographs, and fine art. Serving the Charlotte County area for over 30 years! Visit tamiamiartandframe.com or call 941.629.8888. 21234 Olean Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

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 or call 941.639.8810 or stop by for more information. 210 Maud St., **Punta Gorda**

KID STUFF

Story Times

Copperfish Books • copperfishbooks.com • 941.205.2560 • 103 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

Sandman Books • sandmanbooks.com • 941.505.1624 • 16480 Burnt Store Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Sporting

Bowland • bowlandcenters.com • 941.625.4794 • 3192 Harbor Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

Englewood Bowl • englewoodbowl.net • 941.474.5400 • 299 S. Indiana Ave., **Englewood**

Treasure Lanes • treasurelanes.com • 941.625.3930 • 1059 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Fish Cove Adventure Golf • coralcaygolf.com/fishcove • 941.627.5393 • 4949 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Library Programs

Charlotte County Library System Visit 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.

Exploration

Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) • checcflorida.org • 941.575.5435 or 941.475.0769

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

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary • octagonwildlife.org • 239.543.1130 • 41660 Horseshoe Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Peace River Wildlife Center • peacriverwildlifecenter.org • 941.637.3830 • 3400 W. Marion Ave., **Punta Gorda**

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Riding Star Ranch • ridingstarranch.org. 386.848.7953 • 7701 Cleveland Dr., **Punta Gorda**

Pools

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

Playgrounds

Gilchrist Park* • 400 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**
Laishley Park Fountain* • 120 Laishley Ct., **Punta Gorda**
Kidstar Park • kidstarpark.com • 941.235.3131

*Details: ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors

Featured

Muttini Mingle, The Pawtastic Yappy Hour Drinks, snacks, a raffle, and live music, Donations to local animal rescues gratefully accepted. Visit saltypaws.com for more information. **First Thursdays:** May 4, 5:30–8:00 pm. Salty Paws Pet Supplies, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

Dog-Friendly Restaurants

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

Shopping

Leashed, under-control dogs are welcome at notable shop-

Parks: Complete list and details: charlottecountyfl.gov, "Playing

Creativity

Art by the Glass • Birthday parties • artbytheglassllc.com • 941.780.1743 • 1700 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

Bisque IT Art Studio • Pottery painting, kid's classes, mom-and-kid events, more • bisqueitstudio.com • 941.624.5955 • 1931 Tamiami Tr., #3, **Port Charlotte**

Painting with a Twist • Kid's events/theme paintings • paintingwithatwist.com 941.787.2443 • 18700 Veterans Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

DOG DAYS

ping venues **Fishermen's Village** in Punta Gorda (fishville.com) and **West Dearborn Street** in Historic Old Englewood (oldeenglewood.com), as well as at the various Farmers Markets in the area.

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 for more information.

LECTURE AND LEARNING

Fantasea Scuba offers *Nitrox Class*, May 16, 6:00–9:00 pm; *NAUI Advance Scuba Diver Course*, May 18–21 (in conjunction with the trip to the Keys; details above, in Get Out/Nature Adventures); and 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**

Book Discussion: How to Survive Spiritually in Our Times Free and open to the public. Visit facebook.com/EckankarinSarasota for details. May 20, 3:30–4:30 pm. Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., **Port Charlotte**

The Soul's Journey presents *Meditation for the Soul*, **Wednesdays**, 6:00–7:00 pm. Visit lorenzomarion.com for details. 4456 Tamiami Tr., Ste. A-9, **Charlotte Harbor**

Web Series: Adventure and Wildlife Hosted by the Shark Brothers Get the inside scoop on The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast, its natural environments, outdoor recreational opportunities, its people, communities, and quality of life in this unique web series! Visit pureflorida.com/adventure-series to watch. **Charlotte County**

Friends of Boca Grande Community Center presents a wide variety of lectures, discussions, workshops, social activities, and art and literature events. Visit friendsofbocagrande.org or search "Friends of Boca Grande Community Center" on Facebook for a full schedule. **Note: \$6 toll to cross the bridge.** 131 First St. W., **Boca Grande**

Motorcycle Riding Academy Learn to ride on a Harley-Davidson®; in-class and on-range instruction from Motorcycle Safety Foundation® (MSF) and H-D® Certified coaches. Suc-

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Successful riding evaluation earns an MSF Basic Rider Course SM Completion Card. Visit blackwidowh-d.com/~learn-to-ride for details and sign up. \$169 per person. **Saturdays and various weekdays/nights.** Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson®, 2224 El Jobean Rd., **Port Charlotte**

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. If you can't pick up the station, listen online at kdwradio.com. Thursdays, noon–12:30 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

Radio Show: Tropical Tarot and Beyond, hosted by Pamela Jones, certified by the Tarot Certification Board of America and the Tarot Guild Endorsed Readers program. Listen and be uplifted! Contact Pamela at tropicaltarot@kdwradio.com. Listen online at kdwradio.com. Thursdays, 12:30–1:00 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

The Lifelong Learning Institute Lectures, classes, film, outings, and more! lifelonglearning-charlotte.org, 941.637.3533, email 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 SouthWestern State College, 26300 Airport Rd., **Punta Gorda**

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 Each film is introduced and briefly discussed. \$5 per; **check or credit card only**, includes

Englewood Farmers Market Fresh and organic produce, baked goods, beef, BBQ, wild salmon, olive oil, herbs, honey and so much more! Visit 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**

Babcock Ranch Farmers Market Local growers selling fresh vegetables and fruit! Visit facebook.com/babcockranch. **Thursdays**, 3:00–7:00 pm. Babcock Ranch, 42850 Crescent Ln., **Babcock Ranch**

Burnt Store Marina Farmers Market Fresh produce, pea-

Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing Center, Inc. Regattas, camps, classes, more. Visit charlotteharborcommunitysailingcenter.com or call 941.773.6326 or 941.456.8542 or email thesailingcenter.org@gmail.com for details. 19246 Palmdale Ct., **Port Charlotte**

Florida Gulf Coast University at the Herald Court Centre Lectures, short courses, film series, more! Visit 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 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 or call 941.815.6230 or 941.624.2912. Listen online at kdwradio.com. Fridays, noon–1:00 pm. **WKDW 97.5 FM**

FILM

refreshments. Call 941.505.0130 or stop by, Monday–Friday, 8:00 am–5:00 pm for more information or visit registerra.fgcu.edu. **Tuesdays, 1:00–3:00 pm**, FGCU's Renaissance Academy, 117 Herald Ct. Sq., **Punta Gorda**

Regal Town Center Stadium 16: Visit regmovies.com. Regal Town Center, 1441 Tamiami Tr., **Port Charlotte**

MARKETS

nut butter, dog treats, jam/jelly, mushrooms, microgreens, flavored vinegar, soap, olive oils, and 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 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. 310 Old Englewood Rd., **Englewood**

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

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

Couples Latin Dance Challenge: #RelationshipGoals Learn the benefits of dancing in partnership like flexibility, strength, endurance, mental health and more, by challenging and helping each other all while having fun dancing. A pattern of steps will be put together from the basics to intermediate to create your perfect couples dance masterpiece. \$25 per couple. Visit facebook.com/FuzionDanze for details. May 19, 7:45–9:00 pm. Studio 4 U, 24150 Tiseo Blvd., Unit 4, **Punta Gorda**

2:00–5:00 pm. Visit usadance6049.org for details. PGHS Women's Club Ballroom, 118 Sullivan St., **Punta Gorda**

Community Yoga at Punta Gorda History Park by Botanica Belize Multi-level classes for ages 12 and up; \$5 per person/per session. For more information visit botanicabelize.com or facebook.com/botanicabelize. **Sundays**, 1:00–2:00 pm (weather permitting), through March. 22801 Bayshore Rd., **Punta Gorda**

Ashtanga with Cassandra Nichole Introduction to The Primary Series. Visit facebook.com/PalmPowerYoga. May 20, noon–2:00 pm. Palm Power Yoga, 1205 Elizabethe St., Ste. A, **Punta Gorda**

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 or 941.877.2277. **Tuesdays**, 11:00 am. Laishley Park, 100 Nesbit St., **Punta Gorda**

Garage Circuit Training Raising money for United States Veterans with Semper Fi Fund. \$10 minimum donation. Visit facebook.com/erikascircuit for details. May 21, 8:30 am. Herald Court Center Parking Garage, 117 Herald Ct., **Punta Gorda**

Townie Tuesday by Acme Bicycle Shop Bring a helmet, lights, and a friend for this no-drop, family-friendly, cruiser-style ride around 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**, 6:00–8:00 pm. 615 Cross St., **Punta Gorda**

Dance Etc, Englewood presents *Zumba*, May 16, 12:30 pm and a plethora of dance and movement classes and social gatherings. Search "Dance Etc, Englewood" on Facebook for details and pricing, call 941.270.4599, email DanceEnglewood@gmail.com or visit danceenglewood.com. 3372 N. Access Rd., **Englewood**

Aqua Zumba 18 or over. \$8 per class or 5-class punch card for \$32. Call 941.505.8686 or visit charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityServices. **Saturdays**, 10:00–11:00 am year-round. South County Regional Recreation Center & Pool, 670 Cooper St., **Punta Gorda**

Babcock Ranch Fitness Series features **weekly** Cardio Jazz, Strength & Conditioning, Bootcamp, and Paddleboard Yoga, Visit facebook.com/babcockranch for details and full schedule. 42850 Crescent Ln., **Babcock Ranch**

Dance Etc, Englewood presents a wide variety of movement classes and social events. Search "Dance Etc, Englewood" on Facebook, call 941.270.4599, email DanceEnglewood@gmail.com or visit danceenglewood.com. 3372 N. Access Rd., **Englewood**

Isles Fitness presents RockN'Cycle Class, **Mondays**, 9:15–10:15 am, \$5 per class. Visit facebook.com/RockNCycleFitnessCycling. Isles Fitness, 1133 Bal Harbor Plaza, Ste. 1111, **Punta Gorda**

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**

Ballroom Dancing Education by Southwest Florida Chapter 6049 of USA Dance Inc. Ballroom dancing for beginners/intermediate and experienced dancers. **Wednesdays**, 7:00–8:00 pm (practice 8:00–8:30 pm); social dance third **Sundays**,

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

Indoor Pickleball Ages 15 to senior. For more details call 941.681.3742. Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Rd., Unit 4. **Englewood**

Free Ride! Find loaner bicycles at 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. peacerridersbicycleclub.com **Punta Gorda**

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 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 facebook.com/pg/TheFootLanding for details of each week's run. 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!** Free, donations accepted and appreciated. Sunset Yoga 6:00–7:00 pm every **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Bring a blanket or sheet. **Note: parking is .75 per hour.** 941.474.5511 or englewoodchamber.com for details. 2100 N. Beach Rd., **Englewood Beach**

SEA TO SHORE

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. **New this season:** 90-minute Harbor Tour out of **Burnt Store Marina**—3192 Matecumbe Key Rd., Punta Gorda—Fridays, Feb. 17–Apr. 7, departing 11:15 am. 941.639.0969, facebook.com/kingfisherfleet, or kingfisherfleet.com. Fishermen's Village Marina, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Ste. 16A, **Punta Gorda**

Smoke and Roses Sunset cruises, full-day island sails, overnight charters. Includes 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**

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 and lunch for one low price! 941.627.3474 or nav-a-gator.com. 9700 SW Riverview Cir., **Lake Suzy**

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. Puntagorda-history.com. 311 West Retta Esplanade, **Punta Gorda**

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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.org 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 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 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 for more information. 501 Shreve St., **Punta Gorda**

Port Boca Grande Lighthouse & Museum The oldest struc-

ture 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 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 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 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. Muscle Car City, 3811 Tamiami Tr., **Punta Gorda**

COMING ATTRACTIONS

May

Bark in the Park at Charlotte Sports Park, May 22: facebook.com/animalwelfareleague.org

Virtual Memorial Day Veterans 5K Run, May 24: facebook.com/TheFootLanding

Lucky Peterson Live, May 25: facebook.com/2brotherspg

Fairy Tale Story Time at Sandman Book Company, May 27: facebook.com/sandmanbooks

Downtown Punta Gorda Annual Spring Bash, May 27: visit facebook.com/dawghousedogs1

Fattest Bagger Build-Off at Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson, May 27 and 28: facebook.com/BlackWidowHarleyDavidson

Memorial Day West Indian Carnival & Festival, May 29 and 30: facebook.com/dawghousedogs1



This Week's Happenings

Week of May 15–21, 2017

The Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast

Quilt Sample Sale at Expert Sewing Center, Jun. 1–14: facebook.com/ExpertSewingCenter

Born Country, Jun. 2: facebook.com/JackMichaelMusic

Peace River Freedom Swim, Jul. 4: 941.661.5622

June

Sand Drags at Florida Tracks and Trails, Jun. 3: facebook.com/FLTracksAndTrails

July

Wheels and Wings VIII, Jul. 9: facebook.com/wheelsandwingsflorida

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