



# CITY OF PUNTA GORDA

Annual CRA Report

Fiscal Year 2013

Submitted: March 31, 2014



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Auditor General's Office  
111 West Madison Street  
Claude Denso Pepper Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Annual Progress Status Report for the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (PGCRA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Section 163.356(3)(c) requires the City to file with its governing body, on or before March 31 each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the end of such fiscal year. It is the philosophy of the PGCRA to keep all interested parties informed with respect to the activities of the PGCRA and encourage active participation in the development of redevelopment programs benefiting the entire community. We believe the data, as presented, is accurate in all material respects and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader of this report to gain an understanding of PGCRA's operation and financial activity (included).

Respectfully submitted,

*David C. Hilston*

David C. Hilston, AICP  
Urban Design Manager

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# The Mission

The Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency's mission is to create an aesthetically unique environment with high quality character while maintaining small town charm.



# The Purpose

- Pursuant to Section 163.356(3)(c) of Florida Statutes, the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (the “Agency”) is required to:
- ...file with the governing body, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of the filing of the report, the “Agency” shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice of the effect that such report has been filed with the municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city and in the office of the “Agency”.
- The purpose of this Annual Report is to satisfy the requirements of Section 163.356(3)(C) and to provide the public with useful information concerning the Community Redevelopment Area and Agency.

# Public Notice

## **PUBLIC NOTICE PUNTA GORDA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

All interested parties are hereby notified that the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency has filed with the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, a copy of its Annual Project Status Report and Annual Financial Report highlighting the projects, programs and finances of the Agency for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Copies of these documents may be examined after March 31, 2014, in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, the Punta Gorda Urban Design Division, City Hall Annex, 126 Harvey Street, Third Floor, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may be accessed, after March 31, 2014 on the City's website at [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us).

This notice is being published in compliance with the requirements of Section 163.356(e)(c) of the Florida Statutes governing Community Redevelopment Agencies.

# What is the CRA?

A Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a dependent taxing district established by local government for the purpose of carrying out redevelopment activities that include reducing or eliminating blight, increasing the tax base, and encouraging public and private investments in the redevelopment area. The members of the City Council also serve as the Board members of the CRA along with 2 members at large and the City Manager, who serves as the CRA Executive Director.



# How is the CRA Funded?

Activities in the CRA are predominantly funded by tax increment. Tax increment is calculated based on the dollar value of all real property in the Community Redevelopment Area at the time the CRA district is created, also known as the “frozen value”. Taxing authorities who contribute to the tax increment continue to receive property tax revenues based on the frozen value. However, any tax revenues from increases in real property value, referred to as “increment”, are deposited into the Community Redevelopment Agency Trust Fund and dedicated to the redevelopment area. Tax increment revenues can be used immediately, saved for a particular project, or bonded to maximize the funds available. Any funds received from a tax increment financing area must be used in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan for specific redevelopment purposes within the targeted area, and not for general governmental purposes.

# The History of the CRA

In July 1985, City Councilwoman Phyllis Smith was named to head a group of local residents, business people, and community leaders with the express purpose of encouraging the revitalization of Punta Gorda's historic downtown area. The committee began with a community-wide citizen survey that said the downtown area needed conveniently located parking, a broader range of retail/service businesses, preservation of its rich history, and a stronger lineage of the central business district to the Charlotte Harbor waterfront. The Committee turned its efforts to downtown revitalization and in 1990 the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency with the aim of adopting a redevelopment plan for its downtown area and using tax increment financing to fund the projects and programs contained in the plan. The City of Punta Gorda has moved forward and has steadily implemented the projects and programs within the Redevelopment Plan (East Side and Downtown Planning Study) to achieve and realize the goals and objectives of the Plan.

# Community Redevelopment Area City of Punta Gorda, Florida



The CRA area is bounded on the North by the Peace River, on the West by Maud Street, on the South by Henry Street, and on the East by Cooper Street.

# CRA

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has focused its efforts on projects that rebuild public spaces. These efforts concentrated on several expansive projects which stressed the importance of maintaining a public waterfront and re-establishing the critical mass of structure and economic activity within the CRA. Publicly-financed projects within the CRA continue to re-establish the signature character and fabric of Punta Gorda. Projects accomplished within the CRA of Punta Gorda reflect the City's intent to rebuild public infrastructure necessary to encourage business and community development. The CRA has been dedicating existing revenues to pay down debt service and operational expenses on a major improvement: Herald Court Centre. The CRA continues to look for funding alternatives to leverage against existing amenities; new projects planned/constructed within the CRA have been and will continue to be funded through other sources.

# Economic Development

The mission of the Economic Development Task Force is to create and facilitate the development of business opportunity within the Punta Gorda environs, in order to enhance job creation, investment and diversification of the tax base.

- Participation in monthly meetings Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council
- Continued work with the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and partnering with the Chamber on various business communication, networking and resource based initiatives
- Gallery Walk Downtown
- Downtown Farmer's Market
- Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Show
- Lighted Boat Parade
- Punta Gorda Block Party
- Entrepreneurial Academy



# Economic Development

The Urban Design Studio continues to assist developers, business owners, engineers and citizens in identifying solutions to design challenges and to assist with site design. In 2013 Staff assisted developers, engineers and/or owners with more than 38 proposed projects.



# Herald Court Centre Retail Space



Herald Court Centre, a mixed-use parking garage, is the most ambitious CRA project ever. The facility provides “free” parking for downtown shopping and events, and houses retail/restaurants such as Subway Restaurant; Artisan’s Atelier; JRA Bicycle Company; the Foot Landing; Otherside Ink; the on-site campus for Florida Gulf Coast University. The CRA and CRA Staff continue to work to retain and recruit new business to develop the Downtown/CRA District.

# Welcome ... New Businesses

“THE GREENER CLEANER ”



“DEENA’S ”







"DOWNTOWN GATORZ"



"the Orange House"



"Otherside Ink"



"PUNTA GORDA BOAT RENTALS"

# 2013 Activities

- Linear Park – Phase II
- ADA Enhancements  
Citywide
- Harborwalk @ Punta Gorda  
Waterfront Hotel
- US 17 Marion  
Avenue/Taylor  
Intersection Improvements
- Gilchrist Landing  
Community Park
- Laishley Park Irrigation  
and Drainage (electrical)
- Community Garden
- Laishley Park Municipal  
Marina Pumpout Boat



# Linear Park Phase II





# Harborwalk at the Waterfront Hotel

# Gilchrist Landing





# Laishley Park Municipal Marina Pumpout Boat

# Who's that in your rear-view?

Santa traded in his sleigh for a patrol car as he hit the streets with Punta Gorda Police in December to visit local day care facilities and parks while keeping an eye on local residents to see who was being naughty and who was being nice!



## Santa takes to the street

# Special Events

Downtown Punta Gorda is also a place for numerous events. The scenic waterfront open space hosts public festivals, concerts, and fishing tournaments.

These events bring a steady stream of people to the downtown area and generate interest in the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Area (PGCRA).







- AAWW Women's Walk for Votes
- Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk
- Animal Welfare League - Party in the Park
- Annual Candy Card Lane
- Annual Christmas Parade
- Annual Wine & Jazz Festival
- Antique Shows of Florida
- Area 9 Cycling Competition for Special Olympics
- Artsensation
- Block Party Fundraising Event
- Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest
- Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade
- CHS Basketball Community Yard Sale
- Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
- Charlotte Warrior Family Hog Roast & Fishing Tournament
- Community Affairs Art & Craft Show
- Conquistadors Yard Sale/Mini Festival
- Downtown Event Jim Morris

# ARBOR DAY IN LAISHLEY PARK

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day Celebration was held in Laishley Park on April 26, 2013, hosting over 300 First Grade Students from local elementary schools. The City's Arbor Day Celebration won the National Arbor Day Celebration Award; as a result of partnerships cultivated by the CRA, City Staff, and Community Organizations.





- Dragon Boat Festival
- First Baptist Church Historic District Arts & Craft Fair
- Fishermen's Village Fall Boat Show
- Fishermen's Village Festival of Lights
- Flat Master Series
- Florida International Air show
- Golden Gloves Boxing Championship
- Good Shepherd Canterbury Faire
- Guitar Army
- Harbor Happening PGICA
- Habitat for Humanity World Habitat Day
- Hogies on the Harbor
- Hot August Nights 8K
- IFDS World Sailing Championship
- Jim Morris Octoberfish Concert
- Just Against Children Drowning 5K Walk

# Pedal and Play in Paradise



- Pedal and Play is 5 exciting bicycle that includes:
- 62 mile Metric Century Tour
- 30 mile Tour
- 15 mile Tour
- 10 mile Mystery Tour
- City Manager's/History Tour

The Third Annual Pedal and Play in Paradise benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma society and Team Punta Gorda's Bicycle-friendly Community Initiatives. .

- Kids' Safety Play Day
- Main Street Punta Gorda Harbor Run/Walk
- My Promotions Spring Arts & Craft Show
- Nature Fest & Outdoor Recreation Festival
- Nazarene Church Fall Festival
- Octoberfeast Fall Festival
- Peace River National Air Show
- Peace River Seafood Festival
- Pedal and Plan in Paradise
- Pirates' Fest Fishermen's Village
- PGCC Family Style Picnic & Mural Run
- Ponce de Leon Festival – 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Punta Gorda Chambers Holly Days
- Punta Gorda Bike Night
- Punta Gorda Days Block Party
- Relay for Life Car & Bike Show
- Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda
- Rudolph's Chase 5K
- ShamRock in the Courtyard





- Smuggler's Chili Fest & Beer Tasting
- Smuggler's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- Smuggler's Halloween Scream
- Southeast Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) Conference
- Strides for Scholarship 5K
- Sullivan St. Arts & Craft Fair
- Sunset Promotion Arts & Craft Fair
- Sunset Stampede 5K Run
- The Boogiemens "Playin' for the Playground"
- Mistletoe Ball
- USPCA K-9 Trails
- Veteran's Parade
- Wheels & Wings Bicycle Event
- Wood Street Jam
- Y Fish Youth Fishing Tournament
- YMCA Zombie 5K Obstacle Run
- YMCA Craft Fair
- Zombie U at the Office



*Most Beautiful*  
2013 ★ FINALIST

# Most Beautiful Small Town in America

Punta Gorda was selected as one of five finalists in the 2013 Best of the Road Contest – Most Beautiful Category. This year's annual contest, sponsored by the well-known travel publishing company, Rand McNally, in partnership with Good Sam RV Club and Geocaching, sought to find the Best Small Towns in America. Towns with populations of less than 150,000 were eligible to qualify in one of six categories: Most Beautiful, Most Fun, Most Patriotic, Friendliest, Best Food, and Best for Geocaching. The City received the highest overall number of votes with 8,285 which was more than double the number received by any other town in the Most Beautiful category.



# French delegation fosters regional ties

By **BRENDA BARBOSA**  
STAFF WRITER

**EAST OF PUNTA GORDA** — In the world of gastronomy, French cuisine often is elevated to near-ethereal levels, with dishes like crème brûlée, coq au vin and escargot topping a long list of French culinary delights.

So when a French delegation of innovators and entrepreneurs

interested in bringing their companies and new technologies to the U.S. met with local officials at Babcock Ranch last week for an intimate dinner to discuss business opportunities in Charlotte County, they were a little shocked by the menu — not because it consisted of tender pieces of fried alligator meat or thick slabs of beef coupled with homemade green

bean casserole and Key lime pie. Rather, it was the colossal portions that left many of the French guests scratching their heads, wondering how anyone could possibly eat a cut of meat the size of a small catcher's mitt.

In many ways, though, it was the perfect metaphor for the gap the French contingent is trying to bridge. Although hailing from completely different

backgrounds and separated by miles of ocean, the participants were eager to learn about one another, build relationships, and exchange ideas and resources, with the end goal of working together.

"It's 2014, and it is a global economy," said Charlotte County Commission Chairman Chris Constance, who attended last Wednesday's meet-and-greet dinner.

"No country is really able to exist on its own. It has to integrate and interact with all of the other partners around the world. All we are doing, is doing it on a more intimate scale."

The delegation, made up of members and executives of the French Innovation Network, the PACA-Est incubator and Gingko Sfere (a technology company that has

developed an invisible and near-invisible botanical solution that "barcodes" products to protect against forgery) spent three days visiting various sites in Collier and Charlotte counties.

Charlotte County Economic Development Director Tom Patton said the ultimate goal is to provide international

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## FRENCH

FROM PAGE 1

companies that want to expand in the U.S. with a "soft-landing" region in Florida — similar to the French Innovation Network's California and Boston locations — where young company executives can learn how to start companies in the U.S. and network with local business leaders who can help them navigate, among other things, the regulatory maze.

"This would be a huge opportunity for us, since much of their technology base is in fields of renewable energy, sustainable

communities, digital technology and a few other fields — all with great connectivity to the Babcock Ranch initiatives of solar technology and smart grids," Patton said.

The PACA board of directors voted to make the Naples-Southwest Florida region the third center of focus in the U.S. because it shared in common several "clusters" — centers of innovative and economic possibilities — with southeastern France, a region that has grown from a tourism- and agricultural-based economy to a technology hub with the largest research park in Europe and the third largest

economy in France. This partnership would give the Southwest Florida region direct access to 100 French incubators across the country and 15,000 companies, officials said.

"We're here because we think we are bringing a huge opportunity to your region which is, incidentally, building a huge opportunity for our region," said IBD Consulting President Didier Rousseliere, who helped to facilitate the meeting. "So this is no philanthropy. Obviously this is a win-win, where everybody has an interest in doing something together."

Rousseliere was part of a team of experts at the University of South

Florida Polytechnic that, beginning in 2008, helped two French companies bring their operations to Tampa and Central Florida.

"One (vending technology) company established itself in Plant City and had a major customer in New York — a little company called Pepsi — and did very well," Rousseliere said. "The other established itself in Tampa and is doing medical devices and is also doing well. So this is the beginning of the story. We arranged that relationship so that it would be a win-win for everybody. Now we're interested in doing the same in Southwest Florida."



APR  
2013

# TRAVEL

TRAVEL | PUNTA GORDA

TRAVEL | PUNTA GORDA

## PUNTA GORDA

### ON POINT: HISTORY, CULTURE, SAILING. SWAMP BUGGY RIDES ALONG THE GULF COAST'S PEACE RIVER

by Ross Girdlin | Photography by Victor Bollino

Punta Gorda is a quiet little city, a scattering of low-rise buildings along neatly maintained streets. Except during Saturday's busy Farmers Market, you'll spot few pedestrians or other signs of bustle, wondering why this mini urban center has such a buzz. One advice: Park the car. And start strolling.

Look closely, and you'll find that the humble metropolis along the Peace River is a whimsical destination well worth a visit. Within its streets are fine restaurants, colorful art

galleries and public art. This charming city dates back to 1883, but you'd hardly know that from the architecture. A 1925 fire chased many of the original buildings, and 2004's Hurricane Charley finished off for sure. In less than a decade, the city has been rebuilt and rejuvenated and ready to its past have been integrated into the design. Literally.

Merits honoring Punta Gorda's heritage have been painted onto the exteriors of 27 buildings. Start by Artney Rooney's Building to see the mural *Catholic Drive*



Madge (Madgie) Ruiz and Fran Perrow painted this tribute in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, depicting the first incarnations since 1928.



This Richard Carter Steam Building mural depicts Henry Plant as one of the locomotive pullers who first ran on the line — Punta Gorda.



As part of Richard Carter's mural celebration from Punta Gorda, town founder James' place as railroad way.

Down Market Avenue, the WCI Protestant Revival Building features a recreation of a 1903 photo of the "Whimsy General Steam, and the Sacred Heart Church for a Museum of Sacred Catholic houses of worship.

Visitors can cruise a lot into a day trip in Punta Gorda. Here's a sample itinerary. We make it's uncharacteristically long. Start at the waterfront and stroll down the waterfront. Then head to the right in the spiky Wynne Island, where you can read your adventure clipping while on a sofa at the rooftop bar to the sounds of live music.

Make your excursion for Paradise Sailing at Burns Seas Machines (10 miles away), where Captain Frederick Viner will take you into Charlotte Harbor for a two-hour sunset sail. You'll be aboard *Flower*, a 42-foot Hatteras. Mangroves, pelicans, and (if you're lucky) dolphins and sharks will be part of the scenery. And fun in being a herkie of size for your evening.

See top gear, minus to the blizzard beach at the Peace River City Grill. Fresh and ingredients come from the organic agricultural enterprise. The organic agriculture in the main bar, on one of the BOG Fish Baskets ("Different than other fish baskets and more Dave burger substituted and served drinks) are special. Time you have fun for yourself. One Seaside near. Both POCs with an eye



Clockwise from top right: Sea Grape Gallery, Avenue; Punta Gorda; Wines from 1928 and 2013; Captain Frederick Viner on the *Flower*.

r children on the pen, you'll be driving over of excellent historical site heritage region making.

Gallery Walk all open. The

galleries and boutiques are all within a 10-minute walk. Especially interesting is the Sea Grape Gallery on Market Avenue. It is owned and run by five artists whose work is displayed there, so you'll be inspired by someone who works in a profession of the marketplace. Keep wandering, and you'll happen upon hand-painted signs at *Genius*, furnished art garden, and *Artisan's Anchor* where creative types make and sell their wares.

# All the horsepower is in the pedals

By AL HEMINGWAY  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

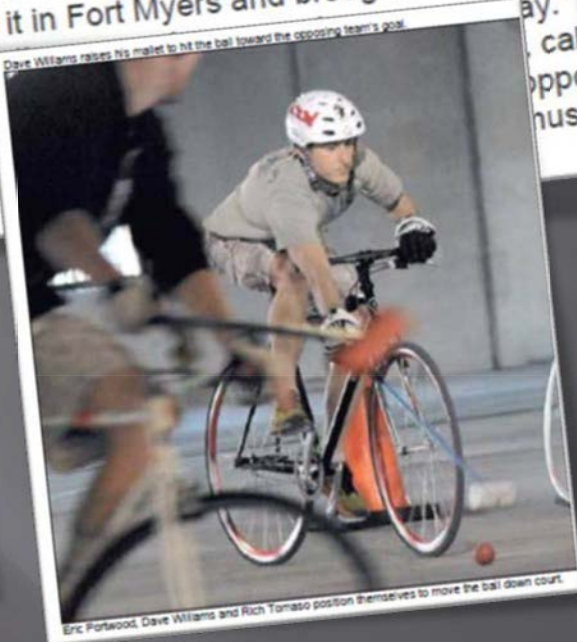
PUNTA GORDA — Every Thursday evening a dedicated group of individuals meets in a cordoned-off section on the third floor of the parking garage in Punta Gorda. The people dress accordingly, pull out their mallets, and proceed to play polo. Polo? Where are their horses, you ask? These people have traded in the traditional four-legged mounts for bicycles. Yes, bicycles. Bike polo is rapidly becoming a popular sport across the country. All you need is a mallet, bicycle, ball, a hard playing surface — like a parking garage or tennis court — at least six players, and you have a game.

Dave Williams, owner of Just Riding Along Bicycles, located in Herald Court, said that they started playing about a year ago. He describes bike polo as an “underground sport” that is beginning to gain popularity in Southwest Florida.

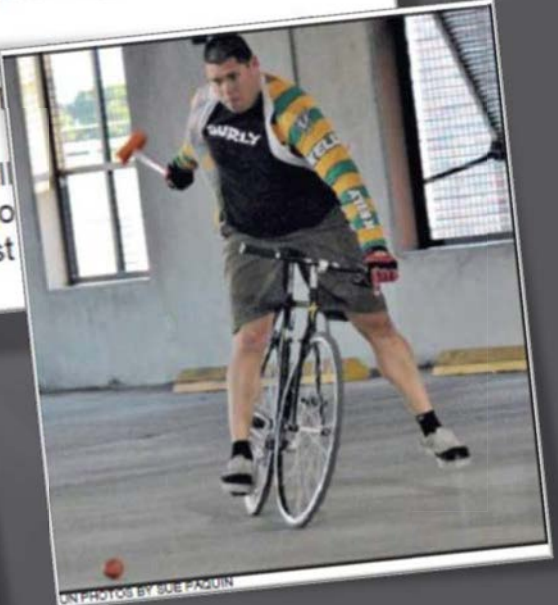
“We received permission from the city to use a third-floor section of the garage with orange cones,” he said. “I played it in Fort Myers and brought the idea to relocated here. Bike polo is open to anyone who wants to play.”



Chris Byrnie readies himself to take a shot and score for his team.



Eric Portwood, Dave Williams and Rich Tomaso position themselves to move the ball down court.



ON PHOTOS BY SUE PAQUIN

April 2, 2014  
Sun Photo by Sue Paquin

# RealtyTrac Ranks Top 15 Retirement Hot Spots for Real Estate Investing, Provides Tips on Buying With IRAs

Top Cities in Florida, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, California, Oregon, New York; 25 of 40 Retirement Hot Spots Post In Positive Cap Rates



Press Release: RealtyTrac - Thu, Jul 4, 2013 9:00

## Top 15 Retirement Hot Spots for Real Estate Investing

City	Retirement Age Pct	Cost of Living Index	Average Temp	Annual Chance of Sunshine	Median Sales Price May 2013	Annual Pct Change in Price	Cap Rate
Dunnellon, Florida	38%	102.05	70.30	66.85	\$76,941	31.42%	10.34%
Naples, Florida	44%	159.56	74.10	72.88	\$267,473	26.79%	3.84%
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas	58%	104.59	61.80	59.84	\$170,000	25.93%	4.87%
Douglasville, Pennsylvania	59%	107.03	51.10	55.89	\$252,000	22.33%	3.80%
Sun City, Arizona	73%	118.81	73.20	80.87	\$113,275	19.90%	8.86%
North Fort Myers, Florida	44%	106.39	74.90	72.88	\$84,500	19.01%	9.39%
Rancho Mirage, California	46%	152.14	73.90	72.05	\$430,000	16.77%	2.70%
<b>Punta Gorda, Florida</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>119.80</b>	<b>73.90</b>	<b>72.88</b>	<b>\$138,938</b>	<b>16.71%</b>	<b>6.11%</b>
Sun City Center, Florida	76%	105.83	71.90	66.85	\$99,750	14.66%	8.73%
Venice, Florida	52%	115.51	73.20	72.88	\$148,238	11.46%	6.52%

# Punta Gorda #8 Ranking

## PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA FEATURED IN WHERE TO RETIRE MAGAZINE

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA FEATURED IN WHERE TO RETIRE MAGAZINE

ShareThis  Facebook  Tweet  Pinterest  Email

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, Fla. (December 19, 2013) – *Where to Retire* magazine has selected Punta Gorda, Fla., as a top retirement destination for the January/February 2014 issue, available nationwide on newsstands. Punta Gorda resident Nanette Crist is featured on the magazine's cover and the six-page article includes statements from Punta Gorda residents on why they chose to retire in the city, statistics about the destination, and color photography. The publication has a national circulation of 200,000 and the advertising equivalent of the article is estimated to be more than \$70,000.

*Where to Retire* Managing Editor Annette Fuller said Punta Gorda possesses qualities important to today's retirees. "Those who have always wanted a boat docked in their backyard will find Punta Gorda is their dream come true. Charlotte Harbor, one of the nation's largest, intersects with the Peace River, creating the ideal setting for fishing and sailing. The outdoor lifestyle continues with waterfront parks, 18 miles of bike paths and weekend events. Added bonuses include free parking downtown, free boat launches and a free loaner bike program," Fuller said.

The magazine chose Fort Myers-based freelance writer Kathryn Straach to write the article. She was introduced to the area during a group media trip, called a familiarization trip, hosted by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in October 2011. The trip, for which the Bureau received a grant from VISIT FLORIDA, led journalists on a four-day tour through Charlotte County. The tourism office coordinated the writer's return in August 2012 to conduct additional research for a *Where to Retire* article that included Englewood.

For the January/February 2014 Punta Gorda article, the Bureau coordinated her visit in August 2013. The tourism office reached out to the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce to locate retirees interested in speaking with Ms. Straach and due to the enthusiastic response, she was not able to interview everyone. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau provided most photography used in the article and worked with the editorial assistant to fact-check many of the statistics mentioned.

"We are delighted *Where to Retire* elected to feature Punta Gorda," said Lorah Steiner, Director of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau. "The secret about this beautiful city is out!"

She added, "The article reinforces what we know about the value in conducting media familiarization trips and the long lead time it may take before an article is published. We will continue to work with members of the tourism industry to host journalists on individual and group media trips in an effort to gain earned editorial coverage in print, broadcast and electronic formats with the goal of increasing visitors into Charlotte County."

The mission of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau is to brand, market and sell Charlotte County globally as Florida's premier eco-tourism, leisure, and meeting and conference destination for the continual economic benefit of the community. Through hosting familiarization trips journalists are acquainted with the area's tourism amenities which often results in thousands of dollars in editorial coverage. These trips provide journalists with an opportunity to share stories about the destination with their readers.





# Punta Gorda offering Parks that Teach walk

By GUYTON PRITCH  
The Conversation

The newly installed Parks that Teach program will lead to five guided nature walks along Punta Gorda pathways and feature nature guides from the University of Florida.

During the walks, the University of Florida nature guides will discuss the importance of Florida native habitats and the value associated with them. Students will also learn the importance of native plants, trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, and other natural resources.

The program is a part of the Punta Gorda Pathways project, a public-private partnership between the City of Punta Gorda and the Charlotte Community Foundation.

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A large rock formation on the Charlotte Harbor shore.



A close-up of yellow flowers in the Parks that Teach trail in Punta Gorda.



The Parks that Teach walking path.



A garden path along the Parks that Teach corridor.



A walking section of the Parks that Teach corridor is bathed in sunlight.



A garden path along the Parks that Teach corridor.

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The "Parks that Teach" corridor of the City's newly completed PuntaGorda's Pathways. Guided tours will be led by the University of Florida's Master Gardeners, individuals who have completed an extensive training course in gardening sponsored by the University of Florida. As you walk thru the pathway, view the unique ecosystems of the mangroves, identify trees and shrubs, and learn how these plants can fit into your home landscape. In addition, experience the habitats that support many different Florida creatures including alligators, wading birds, turtles, fish, raccoons, and crabs.

# Punta Gorda Pathways to add self-service, bike-repair stand

By GARY ROBERTS

STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA — You're riding along on the Punta Gorda Pathways, without a care in the world, when suddenly one presents itself. Your rear tire is low, very low. So, miles from your house and with no bicycle shops in sight, you consider your options — then begin trudging home as your only real choice.

Well, with a new program in Punta Gorda, officials want to provide riders an immediate solution when a wonderful day falls terribly flat.

City Council is purchasing a self-service bike-repair stand that includes all the tools necessary to perform basic repairs and maintenance, from adjusting brakes and derailleurs. Hanging the bike from the hanger arms allows for easy adjustments.

The stand will be placed in the vicinity of Shred and multiuse recreational trail converge.

"The bike paths are exploding all over the place," said the Parks and Recreation Department. "As a bicycle-friendly community, we want to ensure that our bicycles are safe."

The Fixit can be installed simply with four bolts. The stand is compatible with all bicycle models. The stand is compatible with all summer conditions of rain, heat, humidity and humidity. The stand is an aluminum model in a dark green, rather than a black, handle.

"It's a great idea. I'm all for it," Councilwoman said. The initial Pathways amenity, at a cost of \$1,500, will be purchased from community funds. The next location is tentatively set for the



# Punta Gorda Police Department Interactive Center



# Freedom Fountain to be dedicated July 3

The Freedom Fountain will be formally dedicated at 7:30 p.m. on July 3 at the Kiwanis Veterans Garden in Lashley Park. The fountain, a true community project involving such key players as the Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda, TEAM Punta Gorda, the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and the Charlotte County Veterans Council, will feature red, white and blue lights that will illuminate streams of



Leslee Peth is public relations manager for Punta Gorda Herald at lpeth@pun-ga.com

**Leslee Peth**  
*Out and About*

water in the fountain. The July 3 ceremony will have the 30 financial sponsors of the fountain and feature speeches by Ken Roberson, R-Port Charlotte; Punta Gorda Mayor Bill Abers and Tom Keesling, the city's vice mayor. Music will also be provided by Brown, winner of Charlotte County's Pirate Festival. For more information on the Freedom Fountain, visit its website, [www.freedomfountain.org](http://www.freedomfountain.org).



IMAGE PROVIDED

Artist's rendition of the Freedom Fountain. The fountain will be dedicated July 3 at Lashley Park.

## Pirate Festival Fishermen

Planning is under way for the Pirate Festival at Punta Gorda on July 27. The festival will take place at 1200 W. Retta Esplanade. Prizes will be awarded for the best decorated boat, and most unique. Registration for the event has begun. For more information, visit [www.pun-ga.com](http://www.pun-ga.com) with a skipper





# City Marketing Campaign

**PUNTA GORDA**  
**THE BEST**  
SHAREABLE BY FLORIDA

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- Location: Punta Gorda is one mile from the Gulf of Mexico and 75 miles from Orlando.
- Amenities: The city government provides water and sewerage for commercial, residential, and mobile home use.
- Festivals: Over 70 miles of beautiful white sand beaches, the renowned Keweenaw Inn, the Gulf of Mexico Beach, the Florida National Golf Club, and many more.
- Events: Enjoy the fireworks and the city's annual celebration.

**COME FOR THE WEEKEND, STAY FOR LIFE!**

**PUNTA GORDA**  
10000 U.S. Highway 1, Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Phone: 888-888-8888  
www.puntagorda.com

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
WINE & JAZZ FEST  
of Tourism Society

**ARTS | CULINARY DESTINATION | FESTIVALS**

**W**hether it's a symphony or a jazz concert, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is a world-class experience. The orchestra's performances are world-class, and the city's arts and culture scene is vibrant. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is a world-class experience. The orchestra's performances are world-class, and the city's arts and culture scene is vibrant.

**LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET SAFEST SMALL CITY**

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
FARMER'S MARKET | SAFEST CITY

**M**uch more than just vegetables, the Local Farmer's Market is a hub for the community. It's a place where you can find fresh produce, artisanal goods, and local products. The market is a vibrant and bustling scene, and it's a great place to spend your time.

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
SAILING | YACHTING | MARINA | BOATING

**MARINA OF THE YEAR**  
Marina Dock Age Magazine

**TOP 10 PLACES TO SAIL**  
Sea Magazine

**#15 BEST YACHTING TOWN**  
Yachting Magazine

**S**ail Magazine's recent review of Punta Gorda Marina docked the Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award. The Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award is a prestigious honor, and it's a testament to the Marina's excellence. The Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award is a prestigious honor, and it's a testament to the Marina's excellence.

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
WILDLIFE | ESTUARY | FISHING

**NUMBER ONE LOCATION FOR TARPON FISHING IN THE WORLD**  
Tarpon Magazine

**F**ishing Magazine's recent review of Punta Gorda Marina docked the Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award. The Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award is a prestigious honor, and it's a testament to the Marina's excellence. The Marina Dock Age Magazine's Marina of the Year award is a prestigious honor, and it's a testament to the Marina's excellence.

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
ACTIVE LIFESTYLE | BICYCLING | GOLFING

**BICYCLE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR**  
Florida Bicycle Association

**THIRD BEST PLACE TO LIVE & PLAY GOLF**  
GOLFING

**W**hether it's a bicycle ride or a golf course, the City of Punta Gorda is a great place to live and play. The City of Punta Gorda is a great place to live and play. The City of Punta Gorda is a great place to live and play.

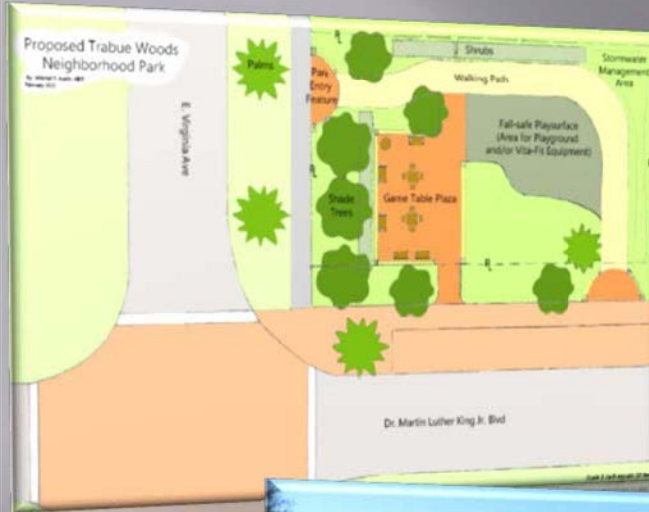
In February 2013 a collaborative effort between the City of Punta Gorda City Council, Economic Development Council, Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Chambers of Commerce, various non-profits, and business leaders developed a central and unified advertising, promotion, and marketing strategy...

# Looking Forward

While significant infrastructure and redevelopment accomplishments within the Downtown/CRA have been achieved in the past years, the CRA continues to focus on future projects.

As work on the key projects move towards completion, the CRA continues to focus its efforts on improving pedestrian and non-automobile related circulation within the CRA. Future projects include the increasing development within the Medical District Overlay and the initiation of a new planning process for East Punta Gorda. These future projects will build on the CRA's successes and accomplishments ensuring a sustainable, vibrant, pedestrian-oriented Downtown/CRA.

# Looking forward



- ▣ ADA Enhancements
- ▣ Harborwalk West Zone 7
- ▣ Community Park for East Punta Gorda
- ▣ Downtown Flooding Phase II
- ▣ Multi-Use Recreational Trails

Projects In Progress...

# Looking forward...

- ▣ Laishley Park Drainage and Irrigation Improvements
- ▣ Veteran's Park
- ▣ Community Garden
- ▣ Gilchrist Playground
- ▣ Trabue Park
- ▣ Storm Water Mitigation Bank
- ▣ Linear Park Enhancements
- ▣ Intersection Treatments
- ▣ Sidewalk Improvements



## Projects In Design...

# Financial Matters

The Community Redevelopment Agency budget and financial reporting activities are part of the City's comprehensive financial process. The following tables contain the City of Punta Gorda CRA Financials for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA	
BALANCE SHEET	
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	
September 30, 2013	
ASSETS	COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,508,736
Investments	-
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$38,236)	-
Restricted cash and equivalents	-
Due from other funds	-
Due from other governments	-
Inventories	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,736</b>

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**September 30, 2013**

<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>	
Accounts payable	\$	16,539
Retainage payable		-
Accrued liabilities		-
Deferred revenue		18,317
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>34,856</b>
Fund balances		
Permanent fund principal		-
Capital improvement and maintenance		
CRA District (Downtown)		1,473,880
Debt service		-
Reserved for others		
Unreserved		
Designated for reappropriations		
Designed for subsequent year's budget		
Undesignated - reported in Special Revenue Funds		
Undesignated - major funds		
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,473,880</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,508,736</b>

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND**  
**BALANCES**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>
Revenues	
Taxes	\$ -
Permits, fees and special assessments	-
Intergovernmental revenues	929,373
Charges for services	-
Judgments, fines and forfeits	-
Miscellaneous	290,007
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,219,380</b>
Expenditures	
Current	
General government	-
Public safety	-
Transportation	-
Economic environment	228,624
Recreation	-
Capital outlay	-
Debt service	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 228,624</b>
<b>Excess expenditures (over) under revenues</b>	<b>\$ 990,756</b>

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND**  
**BALANCES**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

(continued)

	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>
Expenditures (continued)	\$ -
Excess expenditures (over)	
under revenues	990,756
Other financing sources (uses)	
Transfers in	480,644
Transfers out	(1,728,302)
Loan proceeds	-
Total other financing sources	
(uses)	(1,247,658)
Net change in fund balances	(256,902)
<b>Fund balances, October 1, 2012</b>	<b>1,730,782</b>
<b>Fund Balances, September 30, 2013 \$</b>	<b>1,473,880</b>



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

	Budgets			
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
Revenues				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 962,346	\$ 929,373	\$ 929,373	\$ -
Miscellaneous	257,913	315,631	290,007	(25,624)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,220,259</b>	<b>1,245,004</b>	<b>1,219,380</b>	<b>(25,624)</b>
Expenditures				
Economic environment	185,633	253,098	228,624	24,474
Debt service				
Principal retirement	665,000	-	-	-
Interest and fiscal charges	110,556	-	-	-
Total expenditures	961,189	253,098	228,624	24,474
<b>Excess revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>259,070</b>	<b>991,906</b>	<b>990,756</b>	<b>(1,150)</b>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	497,689	480,644	480,644	-
Transfers out	(590,208)	(1,728,302)	(1,728,302)	-
Total other financing uses	(92,519)	(1,247,658)	(1,247,658)	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ 166,551	\$ (255,752)	\$ (256,902)	\$ (1,150)
<b>Fund balances, October 1, 2012</b>			<b>\$1,730,782</b>	
<b>Fund balances, September 30, 2013</b>			<b>\$1,473,880</b>	

# CRA Members & Staff

## CRA Members

Mayor Rachel Keesling,  
Chairperson

Vice Mayor, Carolyn Freeland

Kim Devine

Tom Cavanaugh

Nancy Prafke

Frank Weikel

Jane Sturgess

Howard Kunik, Executive  
Director and City Manager

## City Staff Members

David Hilston, Urban Design  
Manager

Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner

Mitchell Austin, Urban Planner

Cherry Cash Prewitt, Planner

Lisa Hannon, Events  
Coordinator

Julie Ryan, Urban Design  
Executive Assistant

# Finding Us on the Web



The Community Redevelopment Agency is at your service 24 hours a day / 7 days a week at [www.pgorda.us](http://www.pgorda.us) you will find a wealth of information including meeting dates; latest happenings and events; maps; and much more!

# ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

DAVID C. HILSTON, AICP  
URBAN DESIGN DIVISION  
CITY OF PUNTA GORDA  
326 WEST MARION AVENUE  
PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA 33950

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EMAIL: [DHILSTON@PGORDA.US](mailto:DHILSTON@PGORDA.US)  
PHONE: 941-575-3372  
FAX: 941-575-3356  
WEB ADDRESS: [WWW.PGORDA.US](http://WWW.PGORDA.US)



March 31, 2014

Auditor General's Office  
111 West Madison Street  
Claude Denso Pepper Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Annual Progress Status Report for the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (PGCRA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Section 163.356(3)(c) requires the City to file with its governing body, on or before March 31 each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the end of such fiscal year. It is the philosophy of the PGCRA to keep all interested parties informed with respect to the activities of the PGCRA and encourage active participation in the development of redevelopment programs benefiting the entire community. We believe the data, as presented, is accurate in all material respects and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader of this report to gain an understanding of PGCRA's operation and financial activity (included).

Respectfully submitted,

*David C. Hilston*

David C. Hilston, AICP  
Urban Design Manager

# Table of Contents

- ✓ Mission
- ✓ The Purpose
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Development
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- ✓ Financials
- ✓ Agency/Staff



# The Mission

The Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency's mission is to create an aesthetically unique environment with high quality character while maintaining small town charm.





# The Purpose

- Pursuant to Section 163.356(3)(c) of Florida Statutes, the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (the “Agency”) is required to:
- ...file with the governing body, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of the filing of the report, the “Agency” shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice of the effect that such report has been filed with the municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city and in the office of the “Agency”.
- The purpose of this Annual Report is to satisfy the requirements of Section 163.356(3)(C) and to provide the public with useful information concerning the Community Redevelopment Area and Agency.

# Public Notice

## **PUBLIC NOTICE PUNTA GORDA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

All interested parties are hereby notified that the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency has filed with the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, a copy of its Annual Project Status Report and Annual Financial Report highlighting the projects, programs and finances of the Agency for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. Copies of these documents may be examined after March 31, 2014, in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, the Punta Gorda Urban Design Division, City Hall Annex, 126 Harvey Street, Third Floor, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may be accessed, after March 31, 2014 on the City's website at [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us).

This notice is being published in compliance with the requirements of Section 163.356(e)(c) of the Florida Statutes governing Community Redevelopment Agencies.

# What is the CRA?

A Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a dependent taxing district established by local government for the purpose of carrying out redevelopment activities that include reducing or eliminating blight, increasing the tax base, and encouraging public and private investments in the redevelopment area. The members of the City Council also serve as the Board members of the CRA along with 2 members at large and the City Manager, who serves as the CRA Executive Director.

# How is the CRA Funded?

Activities in the CRA are predominantly funded by tax increment. Tax increment is calculated based on the dollar value of all real property in the Community Redevelopment Area at the time the CRA district is created, also known as the “frozen value”. Taxing authorities who contribute to the tax increment continue to receive property tax revenues based on the frozen value. However, any tax revenues from increases in real property value, referred to as “increment”, are deposited into the Community Redevelopment Agency Trust Fund and dedicated to the redevelopment area. Tax increment revenues can be used immediately, saved for a particular project, or bonded to maximize the funds available. Any funds received from a tax increment financing area must be used in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan for specific redevelopment purposes within the targeted area, and not for general governmental purposes.

# The History of the CRA

In July 1985, City Councilwoman Phyllis Smith was named to head a group of local residents, business people, and community leaders with the express purpose of encouraging the revitalization of Punta Gorda's historic downtown area. The committee began with a community-wide citizen survey that said the downtown area needed conveniently located parking, a broader range of retail/service businesses, preservation of its rich history, and a stronger lineage of the central business district to the Charlotte Harbor waterfront. The Committee turned its efforts to downtown revitalization and in 1990 the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency with the aim of adopting a redevelopment plan for its downtown area and using tax increment financing to fund the projects and programs contained in the plan. The City of Punta Gorda has moved forward and has steadily implemented the projects and programs within the Redevelopment Plan (East Side and Downtown Planning Study) to achieve and realize the goals and objectives of the Plan.

# Community Redevelopment Area City of Punta Gorda, Florida



The CRA area is bounded on the North by the Peace River, on the West by Maud Street, on the South by Henry Street, and on the East by Cooper Street.

# CRA

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has focused its efforts on projects that rebuild public spaces. These efforts concentrated on several expansive projects which stressed the importance of maintaining a public waterfront and re-establishing the critical mass of structure and economic activity within the CRA. Publicly-financed projects within the CRA continue to re-establish the signature character and fabric of Punta Gorda. Projects accomplished within the CRA of Punta Gorda reflect the City's intent to rebuild public infrastructure necessary to encourage business and community development. The CRA has been dedicating existing revenues to pay down debt service and operational expenses on a major improvement: Herald Court Centre. The CRA continues to look for funding alternatives to leverage against existing amenities; new projects planned/constructed within the CRA have been and will continue to be funded through other sources.

# Economic Development

The mission of the Economic Development Task Force is to create and facilitate the development of business opportunity within the Punta Gorda environs, in order to enhance job creation, investment and diversification of the tax base.

- Participation in monthly meetings Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council
- Continued work with the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and partnering with the Chamber on various business communication, networking and resource based initiatives
- Gallery Walk Downtown
- Downtown Farmer's Market
- Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Show
- Lighted Boat Parade
- Punta Gorda Block Party
- Entrepreneurial Academy





# Economic Development

The Urban Design Studio continues to assist developers, business owners, engineers and citizens in identifying solutions to design challenges and to assist with site design. In 2013 Staff assisted developers, engineers and/or owners with more than 38 proposed projects.



# Herald Court Centre Retail Space



Herald Court Centre, a mixed-use parking garage, is the most ambitious CRA project ever. The facility provides “free” parking for downtown shopping and events, and houses retail/restaurants such as Subway Restaurant; Artisan’s Atelier; JRA Bicycle Company; the Foot Landing; Otherside Ink; the on-site campus for Florida Gulf Coast University. The CRA and CRA Staff continue to work to retain and recruit new business to develop the Downtown/CRA District.

# Welcome ... New Businesses

“THE GREENER CLEANER ”



“DEENA’S ”





"DOWNTOWN GATORZ"



"the Orange House"



"Otherside Ink"



"PUNTA GORDA BOAT RENTALS"

# 2013 Activities

- Linear Park – Phase II
- ADA Enhancements  
Citywide
- Harborwalk @ Punta Gorda  
Waterfront Hotel
- US 17 Marion  
Avenue/Taylor  
Intersection Improvements
- Gilchrist Landing  
Community Park
- Laishley Park Irrigation  
and Drainage (electrical)
- Community Garden
- Laishley Park Municipal  
Marina Pumpout Boat



# Linear Park Phase II





# Harborwalk at the Waterfront Hotel

# Gilchrist Landing







# Laishley Park Municipal Marina Pumpout Boat

# Who's that in your rear-view?

Santa traded in his sleigh for a patrol car as he hit the streets with Punta Gorda Police in December to visit local day care facilities and parks while keeping an eye on local residents to see who was being naughty and who was being nice!



## Santa takes to the street

# Special Events

Downtown Punta Gorda is also a place for numerous events. The scenic waterfront open space hosts public festivals, concerts, and fishing tournaments.

These events bring a steady stream of people to the downtown area and generate interest in the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Area (PGCRA).





- AAWW Women's Walk for Votes
- Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk
- Animal Welfare League - Party in the Park
- Annual Candy Card Lane
- Annual Christmas Parade
- Annual Wine & Jazz Festival
- Antique Shows of Florida
- Area 9 Cycling Competition for Special Olympics
- Artsensation
- Block Party Fundraising Event
- Chamber of Commerce Oktoberfest
- Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade
- CHS Basketball Community Yard Sale
- Charlotte Symphony Orchestra
- Charlotte Warrior Family Hog Roast & Fishing Tournament
- Community Affairs Art & Craft Show
- Conquistadors Yard Sale/Mini Festival
- Downtown Event Jim Morris

# ARBOR DAY IN LAISHLEY PARK

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day Celebration was held in Laishley Park on April 26, 2013, hosting over 300 First Grade Students from local elementary schools. The City's Arbor Day Celebration won the National Arbor Day Celebration Award; as a result of partnerships cultivated by the CRA, City Staff, and Community Organizations.





- Dragon Boat Festival
- First Baptist Church Historic District Arts & Craft Fair
- Fishermen's Village Fall Boat Show
- Fishermen's Village Festival of Lights
- Flat Master Series
- Florida International Air show
- Golden Gloves Boxing Championship
- Good Shepherd Canterbury Faire
- Guitar Army
- Harbor Happening PGICA
- Habitat for Humanity World Habitat Day
- Hogies on the Harbor
- Hot August Nights 8K
- IFDS World Sailing Championship
- Jim Morris Octoberfish Concert
- Just Against Children Drowning 5K Walk

# Pedal and Play in Paradise



- Pedal and Play is 5 exciting bicycle that includes:
- 62 mile Metric Century Tour
- 30 mile Tour
- 15 mile Tour
- 10 mile Mystery Tour
- City Manager's/History Tour

The Third Annual Pedal and Play in Paradise benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma society and Team Punta Gorda's Bicycle-friendly Community Initiatives. .

- Kids' Safety Play Day
- Main Street Punta Gorda Harbor Run/Walk
- My Promotions Spring Arts & Craft Show
- Nature Fest & Outdoor Recreation Festival
- Nazarene Church Fall Festival
- Octoberfeast Fall Festival
- Peace River National Air Show
- Peace River Seafood Festival
- Pedal and Plan in Paradise
- Pirates' Fest Fishermen's Village
- PGCC Family Style Picnic & Mural Run
- Ponce de Leon Festival – 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Punta Gorda Chambers Holly Days
- Punta Gorda Bike Night
- Punta Gorda Days Block Party
- Relay for Life Car & Bike Show
- Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda
- Rudolph's Chase 5K
- ShamRock in the Courtyard







- Smuggler's Chili Fest & Beer Tasting
- Smuggler's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- Smuggler's Halloween Scream
- Southeast Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) Conference
- Strides for Scholarship 5K
- Sullivan St. Arts & Craft Fair
- Sunset Promotion Arts & Craft Fair
- Sunset Stampede 5K Run
- The Boogiemen "Playin' for the Playground"
- Mistletoe Ball
- USPCA K-9 Trails
- Veteran's Parade
- Wheels & Wings Bicycle Event
- Wood Street Jam
- Y Fish Youth Fishing Tournament
- YMCA Zombie 5K Obstacle Run
- YMCA Craft Fair
- Zombie U at the Office



*Most Beautiful*  
2013 ★ FINALIST

# Most Beautiful Small Town in America

Punta Gorda was selected as one of five finalists in the 2013 Best of the Road Contest – Most Beautiful Category. This year's annual contest, sponsored by the well-known travel publishing company, Rand McNally, in partnership with Good Sam RV Club and Geocaching, sought to find the Best Small Towns in America. Towns with populations of less than 150,000 were eligible to qualify in one of six categories: Most Beautiful, Most Fun, Most Patriotic, Friendliest, Best Food, and Best for Geocaching. The City received the highest overall number of votes with 8,285 which was more than double the number received by any other town in the Most Beautiful category.



# French delegation fosters regional ties

By **BRENDA BARBOSA**  
STAFF WRITER

**EAST OF PUNTA GORDA** — In the world of gastronomy, French cuisine often is elevated to near-ethereal levels, with dishes like crème brûlée, coq au vin and escargot topping a long list of French culinary delights.

So when a French delegation of innovators and entrepreneurs

interested in bringing their companies and new technologies to the U.S. met with local officials at Babcock Ranch last week for an intimate dinner to discuss business opportunities in Charlotte County, they were a little shocked by the menu — not because it consisted of tender pieces of fried alligator meat or thick slabs of beef coupled with homemade green

bean casserole and Key lime pie. Rather, it was the colossal portions that left many of the French guests scratching their heads, wondering how anyone could possibly eat a cut of meat the size of a small catcher's mitt.

In many ways, though, it was the perfect metaphor for the gap the French contingent is trying to bridge. Although hailing from completely different

backgrounds and separated by miles of ocean, the participants were eager to learn about one another, build relationships, and exchange ideas and resources, with the end goal of working together.

"It's 2014, and it is a global economy," said Charlotte County Commission Chairman Chris Constance, who attended last Wednesday's meet-and-greet dinner.

"No country is really able to exist on its own. It has to integrate and interact with all of the other partners around the world. All we are doing, is doing it on a more intimate scale."

The delegation, made up of members and executives of the French Innovation Network, the PACA-Est incubator and Gingko Sfere (a technology company that has

developed an invisible and near-invisible botanical solution that "barcodes" products to protect against forgery) spent three days visiting various sites in Collier and Charlotte counties.

Charlotte County Economic Development Director Tom Patton said the ultimate goal is to provide international

**FRENCH | 15**

## FRENCH

FROM PAGE 1

companies that want to expand in the U.S. with a "soft-landing" region in Florida — similar to the French Innovation Network's California and Boston locations — where young company executives can learn how to start companies in the U.S. and network with local business leaders who can help them navigate, among other things, the regulatory maze.

"This would be a huge opportunity for us, since much of their technology base is in fields of renewable energy, sustainable

communities, digital technology and a few other fields — all with great connectivity to the Babcock Ranch initiatives of solar technology and smart grids," Patton said.

The PACA board of directors voted to make the Naples-Southwest Florida region the third center of focus in the U.S. because it shared in common several "clusters" — centers of innovative and economic possibilities — with southeastern France, a region that has grown from a tourism- and agricultural-based economy to a technology hub with the largest research park in Europe and the third largest

economy in France. This partnership would give the Southwest Florida region direct access to 100 French incubators across the country and 15,000 companies, officials said.

"We're here because we think we are bringing a huge opportunity to your region which is, incidentally, building a huge opportunity for our region," said IBD Consulting President Didier Rousseliere, who helped to facilitate the meeting. "So this is no philanthropy. Obviously this is a win-win, where everybody has an interest in doing something together."

Rousseliere was part of a team of experts at the University of South

Florida Polytechnic that, beginning in 2008, helped two French companies bring their operations to Tampa and Central Florida.

"One (vending technology) company established itself in Plant City and had a major customer in New York — a little company called Pepsi — and did very well," Rousseliere said. "The other established itself in Tampa and is doing medical devices and is also doing well. So this is the beginning of the story. We arranged that relationship so that it would be a win-win for everybody. Now we're interested in doing the same in Southwest Florida."

APR  
2013

# TRAVEL

TRAVEL | PUNTA GORDA

TRAVEL | PUNTA GORDA

## PUNTA GORDA

### ON POINT: HISTORY, CULTURE, SAILING. SWAMP BUGGY RIDES ALONG THE GULF COAST'S PEACE RIVER

by Ross Girdlin | Photography by Victor Bollino

Punta Gorda is a quiet little city, a scattering of low-rise buildings along neatly maintained streets. Except during Saturday's busy Farmers Market, you'll spot few pedestrians or other signs of bustle, wondering why this mini urban center has such a buzz. One advice: Park the car. And start strolling.

Look closely, and you'll find that the humble metropolis along the Peace River is a whimsical destination well worth a visit. Within its streets are fine restaurants, colorful art

galleries and public art. This charming city dates back to 1883, but you'd hardly know that from the architecture. A 1925 fire chased many of the original buildings, and 2004's Hurricane Charley finished off for sure. In less than a decade, the city has been rebuilt and rejuvenated and ready to its past have been integrated into the design. Literally.

Many honoring Punta Gorda's heritage have been pointed onto the exterior of 27 buildings. Start by Artney Rooney's Building to see the mural Catholic Drive



Madge (Madgie) Ruiz and Fran Perrow painted this tribute in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, depicting the first incarnations since 1928.



This Richard Carter Steam Building mural depicts Henry Plant as one of the locomotive pullers. He's still out on the line — Punta Gorda.



As part of Richard Carter's mural celebration from Punta Gorda, town founder Carter glides as railroad way.

Down Market Avenue, the BCI Protestant Revival Building has a recreation of a 1903 photo of the "Whimsy General Steam, and the Sacred Heart Church for a Museum of Sacred Catholic houses of worship.

Visitors can cruise a lot into a day trip in Punta Gorda. Here's a sample itinerary. We make it's uncharacteristically long. Here's a sample itinerary. We make it's uncharacteristically long. Here's a sample itinerary. We make it's uncharacteristically long.

Make your excursion for Paradise Sailing at Burns Seas Machines (10 miles away), where Captain Frederick Vicer will take you into Charlotte Harbor for a two-hour sunset cruise. You'll be aboard Frederick's 42-foot Hiram. Mangroves, pelicans, and (if you're lucky) dolphins and sharks will be part of the scenery. And fun in being a heron of sea for your evening.

See top gear, minus to the blizzard beach at the Peace River City Grill. Fresh and vegetables come from the organic agricultural enterprise. The organic agricultural enterprise. The organic agricultural enterprise.



Clockwise from top right: Sea Grape Gallery; Artists' Pointe Gallery; Workers from 1928 and 1929; Captain Frederick Vicer on the Hiram.

r children on the pen, you'll be driving over of excellent historical site heritage region making.

Gallery Walk all open. The

galleries and boutiques are all within a 10-block radius. Especially interesting is the Sea Grape Gallery on Market Avenue. It is owned and run by five artists whose work is displayed there, so you'll be inspired by someone who works in a profession of the marketplace. Keep meandering, and you'll happen upon hand-painted signs at Givens, furnished art garden, and Artman's Anchor where creative epoxy mosaic and all their wares.

# All the horsepower is in the pedals

By AL HEMINGWAY  
SUN CORRESPONDENT

PUNTA GORDA — Every Thursday evening a dedicated group of individuals meets in a cordoned-off section on the third floor of the parking garage in Punta Gorda. The people dress accordingly, pull out their mallets, and proceed to play polo. Polo? Where are their horses, you ask? These people have traded in the traditional four-legged mounts for bicycles. Yes, bicycles.

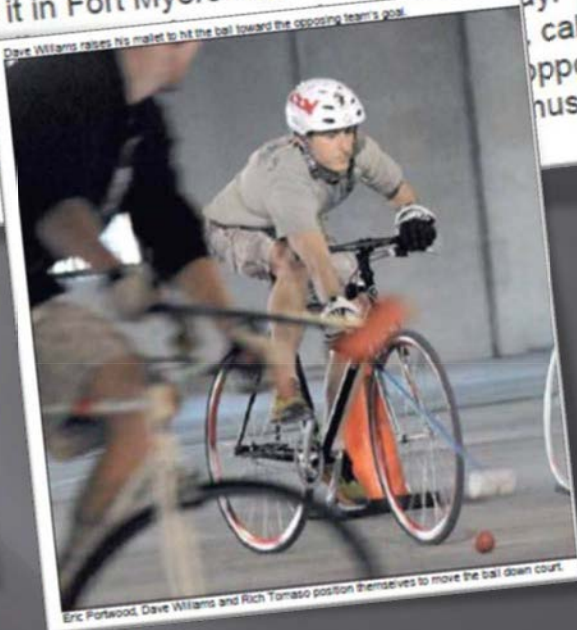
Bike polo is rapidly becoming a popular sport across the country. All you need is a mallet, bicycle, ball, a hard playing surface — like a parking garage or tennis court — at least six players, and you have a game.

Dave Williams, owner of Just Riding Along Bicycles, located in Herald Court, said that they started playing about a year ago. He describes bike polo as an “underground sport” that is beginning to gain popularity in Southwest Florida.

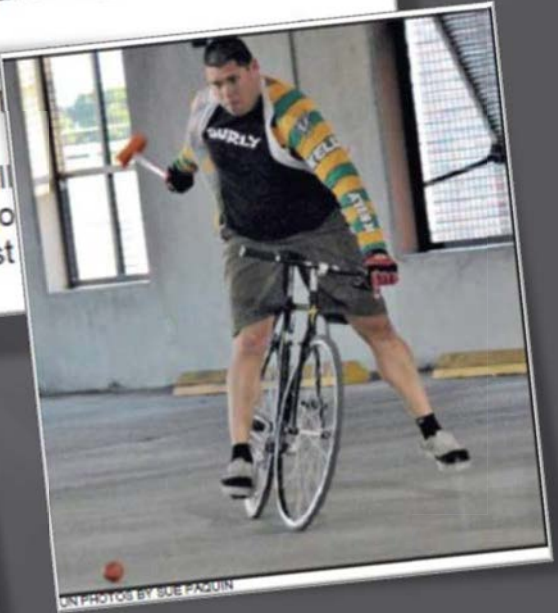
“We received permission from the city to use a third-floor section of the garage with orange cones,” he said. “I played it in Fort Myers and brought the idea to relocated here. Bike polo is open to anyone who can ride a bike. It’s a fast-paced game that calls for quick reflexes and a bit of aggression. It’s a sport that’s growing in popularity.”



Chris Byrnie readies himself to take a shot and score for his team.



Eric Portwood, Dave Williams and Rich Tomaso position themselves to move the ball down court.



ON PHOTOS BY SUE PAQUIN

April 2, 2014  
Sun Photo by Sue Paquin

# RealtyTrac Ranks Top 15 Retirement Hot Spots for Real Estate Investing, Provides Tips on Buying With IRAs

Top Cities in Florida, Arkansas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, California, Oregon, New York; 25 of 40 Retirement Hot Spots Post In Positive Cap Rates



Press Release: RealtyTrac - Thu, Jul 4, 2013 9:00

## Top 15 Retirement Hot Spots for Real Estate Investing

City	Retirement Age Pct	Cost of Living Index	Average Temp	Annual Chance of Sunshine	Median Sales Price May 2013	Annual Pct Change in Price	Cap Rate
Dunnellon, Florida	38%	102.05	70.30	66.85	\$76,941	31.42%	10.34%
Naples, Florida	44%	159.56	74.10	72.88	\$267,473	26.79%	3.84%
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas	58%	104.59	61.80	59.84	\$170,000	25.93%	4.87%
Douglasville, Pennsylvania	59%	107.03	51.10	55.89	\$252,000	22.33%	3.80%
Sun City, Arizona	73%	118.81	73.20	80.87	\$113,275	19.90%	8.86%
North Fort Myers, Florida	44%	106.39	74.90	72.88	\$84,500	19.01%	9.39%
Rancho Mirage, California	46%	152.14	73.90	72.05	\$430,000	16.77%	2.70%
<b>Punta Gorda, Florida</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>119.80</b>	<b>73.90</b>	<b>72.88</b>	<b>\$138,938</b>	<b>16.71%</b>	<b>6.11%</b>
Sun City Center, Florida	76%	105.83	71.90	66.85	\$99,750	14.66%	8.73%
Venice, Florida	52%	115.51	73.20	72.88	\$148,238	11.46%	6.52%

# Punta Gorda #8 Ranking

## PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA FEATURED IN WHERE TO RETIRE MAGAZINE

PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA FEATURED IN WHERE TO RETIRE MAGAZINE

ShareThis  Facebook  Tweet  Pinterest  Email

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, Fla. (December 19, 2013) – *Where to Retire* magazine has selected Punta Gorda, Fla., as a top retirement destination for the January/February 2014 issue, available nationwide on newsstands. Punta Gorda resident Nanette Crist is featured on the magazine's cover and the six-page article includes statements from Punta Gorda residents on why they chose to retire in the city, statistics about the destination, and color photography. The publication has a national circulation of 200,000 and the advertising equivalent of the article is estimated to be more than \$70,000.

*Where to Retire* Managing Editor Annette Fuller said Punta Gorda possesses qualities important to today's retirees. "Those who have always wanted a boat docked in their backyard will find Punta Gorda is their dream come true. Charlotte Harbor, one of the nation's largest, intersects with the Peace River, creating the ideal setting for fishing and sailing. The outdoor lifestyle continues with waterfront parks, 18 miles of bike paths and weekend events. Added bonuses include free parking downtown, free boat launches and a free loaner bike program," Fuller said.

The magazine chose Fort Myers-based freelance writer Kathryn Straach to write the article. She was introduced to the area during a group media trip, called a familiarization trip, hosted by the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau in October 2011. The trip, for which the Bureau received a grant from VISIT FLORIDA, led journalists on a four-day tour through Charlotte County. The tourism office coordinated the writer's return in August 2012 to conduct additional research for a *Where to Retire* article that included Englewood.

For the January/February 2014 Punta Gorda article, the Bureau coordinated her visit in August 2013. The tourism office reached out to the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce to locate retirees interested in speaking with Ms. Straach and due to the enthusiastic response, she was not able to interview everyone. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau provided most photography used in the article and worked with the editorial assistant to fact-check many of the statistics mentioned.

"We are delighted *Where to Retire* elected to feature Punta Gorda," said Lorah Steiner, Director of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau. "The secret about this beautiful city is out!"

She added, "The article reinforces what we know about the value in conducting media familiarization trips and the long lead time it may take before an article is published. We will continue to work with members of the tourism industry to host journalists on individual and group media trips in an effort to gain earned editorial coverage in print, broadcast and electronic formats with the goal of increasing visitors into Charlotte County."

The mission of the Charlotte Harbor Visitor and Convention Bureau is to brand, market and sell Charlotte County globally as Florida's premier eco-tourism, leisure, and meeting and conference destination for the continual economic benefit of the community. Through hosting familiarization trips journalists are acquainted with the area's tourism amenities which often results in thousands of dollars in editorial coverage. These trips provide journalists with an opportunity to share stories about the destination with their readers.





# Punta Gorda offering Parks that Teach walk

By **ANNETTE PRITCHETT**  
Staff Writer

The newly installed Parks that Teach program will lead to a new guided nature walk along Punta Gorda pathways and feature nature guides from the University of Florida.

During the walk, the University of Florida nature guides will discuss the importance of Florida native plants and the value of wetlands with their students and will offer the support, advice, and assistance needed to help the guides.

The program is a public-private partnership between the University of Florida and the City of Punta Gorda. The program is a public-private partnership between the University of Florida and the City of Punta Gorda.

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A large rock formation on the Charlotte Harbor shore.



A close-up of yellow flowers in the Parks that Teach trail in Punta Gorda.



The Parks that Teach walking path.



A garden path along the Parks that Teach corridor.



A walking section of the Parks that Teach corridor is bathed in sunlight.



A garden path along the Parks that Teach corridor.

The program is a public-private partnership between the University of Florida and the City of Punta Gorda. The program is a public-private partnership between the University of Florida and the City of Punta Gorda.

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The "Parks that Teach" corridor of the City's newly completed PuntaGorda's Pathways. Guided tours will be led by the University of Florida's Master Gardeners, individuals who have completed an extensive training course in gardening sponsored by the University of Florida. As you walk thru the pathway, view the unique ecosystems of the mangroves, identify trees and shrubs, and learn how these plants can fit into your home landscape. In addition, experience the habitats that support many different Florida creatures including alligators, wading birds, turtles, fish, raccoons, and crabs.



# Punta Gorda Pathways to add self-service, bike-repair stand

By GARY ROBERTS

STAFF WRITER

PUNTA GORDA — You're riding along on the Punta Gorda Pathways, without a care in the world, when suddenly one presents itself. Your rear tire is low, very low. So, miles from your house and with no bicycle shops in sight, you consider your options — then begin trudging home as your only real choice.

Well, with a new program in Punta Gorda, officials want to provide riders an immediate solution when a wonderful day falls terribly flat.

City Council is purchasing a self-service bike-repair stand that includes all the tools necessary to perform basic repairs and maintenance, from adjusting brakes and derailleurs. Hanging the bike from the hanger arms allows for easy adjustments.

The stand will be placed in the vicinity of Shred and multiuse recreational trail converge.

"The bike paths are exploding all over the place," said the Parks and Recreation Department. "As a bicycle-friendly community, we want to ensure that our bicycles are safe."

The Fixit can be installed simply with four bolts. It's a great idea. I'm all for it," Councilwoman said. The initial Pathways amenity, at a cost of \$1,500, will be purchased from community funds. The next location is tentatively set for the summer.



# Punta Gorda Police Department Interactive Center



# Freedom Fountain to be dedicated July 3

The Freedom Fountain will be formally dedicated at 7:30 p.m. on July 3 at the Kiwanis Veterans Garden in Lashley Park. The fountain, a true community project involving such key players as the Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda, TEAM Punta Gorda, the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and the Charlotte County Veterans Council, will feature red, white and blue lights that will illuminate streams of



Leslee Peth is public relations manager for Punta Gorda Herald at lpeth@pun-her.com

**Leslee Peth**  
*Out and About*

that day. Some of the proceeds from the event will go to the Do the Right Thing program put on by the Punta Gorda Police Department. For more information and to register for the Flotilla, visit [www.pun-her.com](http://www.pun-her.com).



water in the fountain. The July 3 ceremony will feature the 30 financial sponsors of the fountain and feature speeches by Ken Roberson, R-Port Charlotte; Punta Gorda Mayor Bill Abers and Tom Keesling, the city's vice mayor. Music will also be provided by Brown, winner of Charlotte County's Pirate Festival. For more information on the Punta Gorda by calling 888-888-8888 or visit its website, [www.pun-her.com](http://www.pun-her.com).

## Pirate Festival Fishermen

Planning is under way for the Pirate Festival at Punta Gorda on July 27. The festival will take place at 1200 W. Retta Esplanade. Prizes will be awarded for the most decorated boat, and most unique. Registration for the event has already begun with a skipper



IMAGE PROVIDED

Artist's rendition of the Freedom Fountain. The fountain will be dedicated July 3 at Lashley Park.



# City Marketing Campaign

**PUNTA GORDA**  
**THE BEST**  
SHAREABLE BY FLORIDA

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- Punta Gorda is one of the most beautiful cities in the world.
- The city is home to the largest public park in the state.
- The city is home to the largest public park in the state.
- The city is home to the largest public park in the state.

**Experience**  
**THE BEST**  
SAILING YACHTING MARINA BOATING

**Marina of the Year**  
Marina Dock Age Magazine  
**TOP 10**  
PLACES TO SAIL  
Sail Magazine  
**#15**  
BEST YACHTING TOWN  
Yachting Magazine

**COME FOR THE WEEKEND, STAY FOR LIFE!**

**PUNTA GORDA**  
10000 Punta Gorda Blvd., Punta Gorda, FL 33450  
PuntaGorda.com  
888.888.8888

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
SAILING YACHTING MARINA BOATING

**MARINA OF THE YEAR**  
Marina Dock Age Magazine  
**TOP 10**  
PLACES TO SAIL  
Sail Magazine  
**#15**  
BEST YACHTING TOWN  
Yachting Magazine

**Experience**  
**THE BEST**  
WILDLIFE ESTUARY FISHING

**LARGEST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**  
IN THE STATE  
**#2**  
LARGEST ESTUARY  
IN THE STATE

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
WINE & JAZZ FEST  
A Tourism Society

**ARTS CULINARY DESTINATION FESTIVALS**

**W**hether it's a symphony or a jazz festival, the city of Charlotte is a vibrant and diverse community. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is one of the largest and most respected in the world. The city is also home to a variety of festivals, including the Wine & Jazz Festival, which is one of the largest and most popular in the state.

**NUMBER ONE LOCATION FOR TARPON FISHING**  
IN THE WORLD  
Tarpon Magazine

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
FISHING SPOT  
IN THE WORLD  
Sport Fishing Magazine

**PLACE TO CATCH MONSTER TARPON**  
Flyfishing Magazine

**W**hether it's a symphony or a jazz festival, the city of Charlotte is a vibrant and diverse community. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is one of the largest and most respected in the world. The city is also home to a variety of festivals, including the Wine & Jazz Festival, which is one of the largest and most popular in the state.

**LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET SAFEST SMALL CITY**

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
FARMER'S MARKET SAFEST CITY

**M**uch more than just a market, the Local Farmer's Market is a vibrant and diverse community. The market is one of the largest and most popular in the state. The city is also home to a variety of festivals, including the Wine & Jazz Festival, which is one of the largest and most popular in the state.

**EXPERIENCE**  
**THE BEST**  
ACTIVE LIFESTYLE BICYCLING GOLFING

**BICYCLE COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR**  
Florida Bicycle Association  
**THIRD BEST**  
PLACE TO LIVE & PLAY GOLF  
GOLFING

**W**hether it's a symphony or a jazz festival, the city of Charlotte is a vibrant and diverse community. The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra is one of the largest and most respected in the world. The city is also home to a variety of festivals, including the Wine & Jazz Festival, which is one of the largest and most popular in the state.

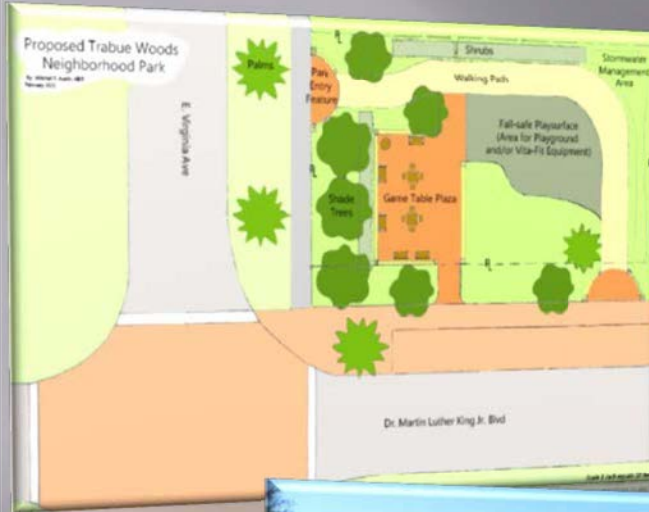
In February 2013 a collaborative effort between the City of Punta Gorda City Council, Economic Development Council, Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Chambers of Commerce, various non-profits, and business leaders developed a central and unified advertising, promotion, and marketing strategy...

# Looking Forward

While significant infrastructure and redevelopment accomplishments within the Downtown/CRA have been achieved in the past years, the CRA continues to focus on future projects.

As work on the key projects move towards completion, the CRA continues to focus its efforts on improving pedestrian and non-automobile related circulation within the CRA. Future projects include the increasing development within the Medical District Overlay and the initiation of a new planning process for East Punta Gorda. These future projects will build on the CRA's successes and accomplishments ensuring a sustainable, vibrant, pedestrian-oriented Downtown/CRA.

# Looking forward



- ▣ ADA Enhancements
- ▣ Harborwalk West Zone 7
- ▣ Community Park for East Punta Gorda
- ▣ Downtown Flooding Phase II
- ▣ Multi-Use Recreational Trails

Projects In Progress...

# Looking forward...

- ▣ Laishley Park Drainage and Irrigation Improvements
- ▣ Veteran's Park
- ▣ Community Garden
- ▣ Gilchrist Playground
- ▣ Trabue Park
- ▣ Storm Water Mitigation Bank
- ▣ Linear Park Enhancements
- ▣ Intersection Treatments
- ▣ Sidewalk Improvements



## Projects In Design...

# Financial Matters

The Community Redevelopment Agency budget and financial reporting activities are part of the City's comprehensive financial process. The following tables contain the City of Punta Gorda CRA Financials for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA	
BALANCE SHEET	
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS	
September 30, 2013	
ASSETS	COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,508,736
Investments	-
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$38,236)	-
Restricted cash and equivalents	-
Due from other funds	-
Due from other governments	-
Inventories	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,508,736</b>



**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**September 30, 2013**

<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>	
Accounts payable	\$	16,539
Retainage payable		-
Accrued liabilities		-
Deferred revenue		18,317
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>34,856</b>
Fund balances		
Permanent fund principal		-
Capital improvement and maintenance		
CRA District (Downtown)		1,473,880
Debt service		-
Reserved for others		
Unreserved		
Designated for reappropriations		
Designed for subsequent year's budget		
Undesignated - reported in Special Revenue Funds		
Undesignated - major funds		
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,473,880</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,508,736</b>

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND**  
**BALANCES**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>
Revenues	
Taxes	\$ -
Permits, fees and special assessments	-
Intergovernmental revenues	929,373
Charges for services	-
Judgments, fines and forfeits	-
Miscellaneous	290,007
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,219,380</b>
Expenditures	
Current	
General government	-
Public safety	-
Transportation	-
Economic environment	228,624
Recreation	-
Capital outlay	-
Debt service	
Principal retirement	-
Interest and fiscal charges	-
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 228,624</b>
<b>Excess expenditures (over) under revenues</b>	<b>\$ 990,756</b>

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND**  
**BALANCES**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

(continued)

	<b>COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND</b>
Expenditures (continued)	\$ -
Excess expenditures (over)	
under revenues	990,756
Other financing sources (uses)	
Transfers in	480,644
Transfers out	(1,728,302)
Loan proceeds	-
Total other financing sources	
(uses)	(1,247,658)
Net change in fund balances	(256,902)
Fund balances, October 1, 2012	1,730,782
Fund Balances, September 30, 2013 \$	1,473,880

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2013**

	Budgets			
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
Revenues				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 962,346	\$ 929,373	\$ 929,373	\$ -
Miscellaneous	257,913	315,631	290,007	(25,624)
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,220,259</b>	<b>1,245,004</b>	<b>1,219,380</b>	<b>(25,624)</b>
Expenditures				
Economic environment	185,633	253,098	228,624	24,474
Debt service				
Principal retirement	665,000	-	-	-
Interest and fiscal charges	110,556	-	-	-
Total expenditures	961,189	253,098	228,624	24,474
<b>Excess revenues over expenditures</b>	<b>259,070</b>	<b>991,906</b>	<b>990,756</b>	<b>(1,150)</b>
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	497,689	480,644	480,644	-
Transfers out	(590,208)	(1,728,302)	(1,728,302)	-
Total other financing uses	(92,519)	(1,247,658)	(1,247,658)	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ 166,551	\$ (255,752)	\$ (256,902)	\$ (1,150)
<b>Fund balances, October 1, 2012</b>			<b>\$1,730,782</b>	
<b>Fund balances, September 30, 2013</b>			<b>\$1,473,880</b>	

# CRA Members & Staff

## CRA Members

Mayor Rachel Keesling,  
Chairperson

Vice Mayor, Carolyn Freeland

Kim Devine

Tom Cavanaugh

Nancy Prafke

Frank Weikel

Jane Sturgess

Howard Kunik, Executive  
Director and City Manager

## City Staff Members

David Hilston, Urban Design  
Manager

Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner

Mitchell Austin, Urban Planner

Cherry Cash Prewitt, Planner

Lisa Hannon, Events  
Coordinator

Julie Ryan, Urban Design  
Executive Assistant

# Finding Us on the Web



The Community Redevelopment Agency is at your service 24 hours a day / 7 days a week at [www.pgorda.us](http://www.pgorda.us) you will find a wealth of information including meeting dates; latest happenings and events; maps; and much more!

# ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

DAVID C. HILSTON, AICP  
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