

## Founders' Day Week Events 2016

### Thursday, December 1

[Luminaria Night at the History Park](#), 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Punta Gorda History Park, Shreve Street. *Relay for Life invites you to help light the night, enjoy treats, shopping and celebration.*

**Isaac Trabue Chess Tournament**, Punta Gorda Kiwanis running Chess Tournament brackets starting today, various locations. To sign up or watch: Contact: Michael Haymans, (941) 661-5622.

["Then and Now"](#) Today through December 7., Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Visual Arts Center, 210 Maud Street, *Exhibit of Historic Photos from the Vernon Peoples Collection, Punta Gorda History Center and contemporary photos taken by area photographers of the same locations.* Contact: (941) 639-8810

### Friday, December 2

[Annual Holly Days Home Tours](#), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historic Residential Area. The Punta Gorda Garden Club presents "A Natural Tropical Christmas." Homes and gardens in historic residential district decorated for Christmas (four homes and First United Methodist Church). Proceeds go to PGGC Scholarship fund and community projects. Donation, \$15. Contact: Carol Moore (941) 575-4653

**Downtown Christmas Celebration, Tree Lighting and Carol Sing.** 5 to 8 p.m., in front of Punta Gorda Christmas tree W. Marion and Taylor. Many exciting interactive performances are being planned, including a Community Sing-Along, Santa Parade and the lighting of the tree! Contact: City of Punta Gorda at (941)575-3302

### Saturday, December 3

**Christmas Tree Yarn Bomb at the Farmer's Market**, 8 a.m to noon, Olympia and Taylor, Trees at Hector Square decorated with colorful yarn.

**Charlotte County Chamber's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade** through Punta Gorda. Noon. Taylor Road through downtown Punta Gorda.

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[Celebrate the Holidays with Bella and Luna](#), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Peace River Wildlife Center, Ponce de Leon Park, Photos with Santa, Bella, and Luna, Donation. (941) 637-3830.

["Nothing But The Blues" Happy Hour](#), 4 to 8 p.m., at the Cooper Community Center on Mary Street. The public is invited by the Blanchard House Museum to experience a sultry piece of southern African American culture. Come listen to the blues, dance the shimmy, and the slow drag, eat and drink. Bring your own bottle. Set-ups will be available and southern small plates served. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the door.

[Founders' Day Southern Supper](#), 5 to 11 p.m., Hurricane Charley's, 300 W. Retta Esplanade. An Authentic old-time Punta Gorda Southern Supper includes induction of 10 new members to Punta Gorda Founders' Hall of Honor, auctions, entertainment. Benefits the Punta Gorda History Center. Tickets \$55. Call 941-916-8800 or 941-258-2080 for tickets.

### **Sunday, December 4**

["Dare to Dream, an Afternoon with Amelia Earhart"](#) 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Punta Gorda

Woman's Club, 118 Sullivan St., the GFWC Punta Gorda Woman's Club presents Janina Birtolo, in a one-woman play featuring Amelia Earhart, with hors d'oeuvre's and lite lunch, \$20. Contact: Linda (941) 979-0964.

### **Monday, December 5**

**Historic Trolley Tours and History Celebration** from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tours start at Kays Ponger & Uselton, 635 E. Marion Ave., with refreshments. Pre-register to insure a spot on these tours. Donation. Call (941) 639-1133 to RSVP.

**Historic Punta Gorda City Hall Tours**, 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. City Hall, 326 W. Marion Ave. City Council members and Punta Gorda "Old Timers" lead tours through the historic building with tales of City Hall Past. (free) Call (941) 575-3302

**Freeman House Tours**, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Tour historic Freeman House with docents. (free)

### **Tuesday, December 6**

[Historic Walking Tours of Indian Springs Cemetery](#), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 9500 Indian Springs Rd. Charlotte County Community Services presents self-guided tours of Punta Gorda's oldest cemetery. History docents share stories of pioneer triumphs and tragedies (Many of Punta Gorda's Founding Citizens were buried here.) free. Contact: (941)629-7278.

[Raise the Roof..for the Trabue House](#), 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., Punta Gorda History Park, 501 Shreve St., Old Fashioned Breakfast in the History Park. Proceeds go to repairing roof of Trabue House and Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Sponsored by PGPCNP Board of Realtors. Suggested donation \$10.

[Founders Mural Tour](#), 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Meet at Herald Court Parking Garage Breezeway, Learn about the folks who put Punta Gorda on the map with a special visit by the "Ladies of Punta Gorda." Benefits the Punta Gorda Mural Society. Suggested donation: \$10. Contact: Kelly Gaylord (941) 979-2786.

## **Wednesday, December 7**

[Old Time BBQ & Historical Poker Run](#), 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., starts at Charlotte Community Foundation, 227 Sullivan Street, Discover the history of Punta Gorda while walking, running or riding to 5 historic sites. Sponsored by Team Punta Gorda. \$20 registration prior to December 1, \$25 thereafter. Contact (941) 637-TEAM.

**Final Isaac Trabue Chess Tournament** – 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Top of the Herald Court Parking Garage. Punta Gorda Kiwanis sponsors final of tournament with giant chess pieces. Contact: Mike Haymans 941 661-5622

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