

## Friday Facts for May 10, 2019

### PUNTA GORDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Dear Chamber Member,

Here are your Friday Facts - Enjoy reading them and have a great Friday and an even better weekend. If you have anything that you would like to put into the Friday Facts please send it to [poliva@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:poliva@puntagorda-chamber.com) by noon each Thursday.

#### Important Messages:

##### May PG Chamber radio show:

Just a couple of slots left for the May iHeart Radio Show with Bob Alexander. For \$95, you get an amazing 5-6 minutes of airtime, that is pre-recorded at a time suitable to you, OVER THE PHONE. So no drive time to the studio needed. To get your promotion, business or event promoted, all you need to do is email [jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com) to get the process started.

Your Chamber Staff,  
John, Pat, Carole, Stephanie & Janet

#### Quick Links

[Punta Gorda Chamber  
Membership Directory  
Calendar & Events  
Online Payment Center  
Hot Deals  
Job Postings](#)

#### Link To Us

We have had a lot of requests for a Facebook-sized link to our web page from member websites. [Click Here](#) to find the logo below, and several other

#### Chamber Calendar of Events

Please remember to RSVP to:  
[reception@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:reception@puntagorda-chamber.com) or 941-639-3720.

**May 15: Networking to Grow Your Business**  
Harbor Advisors, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce and Port Charlotte SCORE present a workshop on **Networking to Grow Your Business**.

Networking is not about making a sale it's about developing relationships. Marc Miles, Business Attorney and BNI Director Consultant, will show us how to network and create new contacts, gain referrals, stay current on business trends, solve problems and share knowledge and experience. Learn the Ten Commandments of Networking. Ultimately the purpose of networking is to increase revenues. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, May 15th from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM at the Charlotte Community Foundation, 227 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda. The workshop and lunch

different-sized logos, so that you can link your website to ours.

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## Our Partners In Action 2019

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### Platinum Sponsors

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### Platinum Media Sponsor

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### Gold Sponsors

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### Gold In Kind Sponsors

are available at no charge thanks to our sponsor Escape Rooms Unlocked. Seating is limited, you must pre-register for the workshop at [www.portcharlotte.score.org](http://www.portcharlotte.score.org) The next workshop "Insurance for Your Business" will be held on Wednesday, June 19th.

#### May 16: Third Thursday Wine Walk 5-8 pm

In Downtown Punta Gorda, third Thursday, join us for Wine Walk May - 5-8pm.. Art-Music-Live Demonstrations-Shopping & Food! What better way to spend an evening out with old friends while you take the time to make new ones. Wine Walk works by donating \$10 at the PG Chamber in advance or on the night in front of the Chamber building at 252 W Marion Avenue or at HipNotique located at 111 W Marion Avenue ) to get a wristband and passport that entitles you to a walking wine tasting - a map of all retail participants will accompany your wristband. Each location will have different wine varietals to taste! Not a wine drinker, you can still come and enjoy the atmosphere and shop, dine and stroll around. The fun starts at 5pm wherever you want to start, once you have your wristband in hand!

#### May 21: Business After Hours 5:30 pm - 7 pm

Come and join your Chamber for our Business After Hours at the Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home & Cemetery, 9400 Indian Springs Cemetery Rd., Punta Gorda. Don't forget to bring a gift to promote and showcase your business! Please be sure to RSVP [reception@puntaforda-chamber.com](mailto:reception@puntaforda-chamber.com) or call 941-639-3720.

#### May 29: Networking Luncheon - 12 Noon - 1:30 pm.

Come and join your Chamber for our Networking Lunch at Angela's Cafe Italiano, 258 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda . Please be sure to RSVP to [reception@puntaforda-chamber.com](mailto:reception@puntaforda-chamber.com) or call 941-639-3720. Cost is \$15.00 per person pre-paid or \$20.00 at the door. We take cash, check, Mastercard, Visa, Discover & Amex

#### Lunch Choices are:

1. Upstate Autumn Salad  
(Spinach, Walnuts, Apples, Fresh Vegetables, Warm Bacon Vinaigrette Dressing)
  2. Chicken Caesar Salad
  3. Beef on Weck with Fries
  4. Spaghetti & Meatballs
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**Silver Sponsors**

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**Silver In Kind  
Sponsors**

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**Bronze Sponsors**

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**Array of Cabinets**

**Coldwell Banker  
Sunstar Realty**

## **New Members**

### **Mission Statement**

**To promote business in Punta Gorda and all our surroundings areas, for the benefit of our entire community.**

### **Accent Business Products**

David Sanders

6411 Arc Way

Fort Myers, FL 33912

941-637-6777

[david@accentbp.com](mailto:david@accentbp.com)

[www.accentbusinessproducts.com](http://www.accentbusinessproducts.com)

### **Office Equipment**

Sponsored by Pat Oliva

**Remember to utilize the certificates in the New Member packet. These are very valuable to your business.**

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### **Ribbon Cuttings**

Upcoming Ribbon Cuttings, Ground Breakings, Launchings, Ceremonies & Dedications. These are all 5:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Come out and welcome our newest members.

**May 15: Granny Nannies Anniversary Celebration, 4045-A Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte**

Farr Law Firm

Granny Nannies

Koch & Company  
CPA's

McCrorry Law Firm

Michael Saunders  
& Company

OneSource  
Accounting  
& Tax

Wotitzky Law Firm

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**Bronze In Kind  
Sponsors**

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Ann Street Storage

Coffee News

EverythingPuntaGorda

Heaven's Best Carpet  
Cleaning

Port Charlotte Florist

The Printed Page

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**May 28: Brooklyn Joe's Pizza**, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd #1115, Punta Gorda

**June 5: Sleep Inn & Suites**. 806 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte.

Join us in celebrating our newly renovated hotel. This is a Tri-Chamber Event and

a Business Card Networking Event! 5:30pm-7:30pm

Please bring items for our two charities that we are trying to help. Backpack Kidz and Backpack Angels

[Click here](#) for items that are needed.

**June 10: Dawn's Pamper Parlor One Year Anniversary,**

25378 Marion Ave., Punta Gorda

**June 20: Ribbon Cutting for the Dedication of the "Tails from the Harbor" Mural,**

Location: Under the Gilchrist Bridge (US 41 Southbound) along the Harborwalk between Hurricane Charleys & the Events Center Join the Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society for drinks and dedication of our newest mural "Tails from the Harbor". 5pm

**June 27:**

Please join at 5pm-7pm for a Ribbon Cutting at the **NEW Vietnam Wall Parking area**.

Stop by and see "What's NEXT" at Veteran's Park!

## Support Sponsors

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[All American Pet  
Resorts Fort Myers](#)

[Amberg Insurance](#)

[Animal Welfare League](#)

[Charlotte Players](#)

[DexImaging](#)

[Fontana Wealth  
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[Punta Gorda Isles Civic  
Association](#)

[State Farm Agency  
Mike Martin](#)

[Webb, Lorah &  
McMillan, PLLC](#)

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[Benefactor Emeritus](#)

[Gould Family Trust](#)

Refreshments will be served!

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## Partners in Action News

### **Bayfront Health Punta Gorda/Port Charlotte (Platinum)**

[Click Here](#) for upcoming May Events

**Bayfront Health Breaks Ground for New Primary Care and Walk-In** Bayfront Health Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda announced today that they recently broke ground to build a primary care and walk-in facility located at Kings Crossing Shopping Center on Kings Highway. "We are excited to bring this new location to Kings Highway," said Tim Cerullo, Market CEO for Bayfront Health Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. "Situated in close proximity to numerous residential communities and only one mile off I-75, residents and visitors of all ages will conveniently have access to preventive and diagnostic care for all members of the family." This location will offer same day, walk-in care and is expected to open late fall of this year. Currently Bayfront Health has primary care locations in both Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda, both offering same-day appointments. To learn more, visit [www.BayfrontPrimaryCare.com](http://www.BayfrontPrimaryCare.com)

### **Village Fish Market/La Fiorentina (Platinum)**

[Click Here](#) for Summer Specials at both Restaurants.

### **Charlotte State Bank (Silver)**

Fawcett Memorial Hospital is offering free stroke-risk education assessments at Charlotte State Bank & Trust. These one-on-one consultations will take place at bank offices from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. according to the following schedule:

1. Wednesday, May 15 - Charlotte Harbor, 23112 Harborview Road, Charlotte Harbor
2. Wednesday, May 29 - Punta Gorda, 2331 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda
3. Wednesday, June 12 - North Port, 4300 Aidan Lane, North Port

While the assessments are free, reservations are recommended and may be made by calling Consult-A-Nurse (941) 624-4441. Walk-ins are welcome and will be seen as time permits.

### **One Source Accounting & Tax Co. (Bronze)**

**Did you not file by the April deadline ???**

While the federal income tax-filing deadline has passed for most people, there are some taxpayers who have not yet filed their tax returns. There are many ways the IRS offers help to taxpayers facing this situation. The IRS offers these simple tips for handling

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## Thought for the Week

The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started."

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## Point to Ponder One Solitary Life

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## Joke of the Week

### Biggest Lie

Two students were arguing when their teacher entered the classroom. The teacher says, "Why are you arguing?"

One boy answers, "We found a ten dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie."

"You should be ashamed of yourselves," said

some typical after-tax-day issues: For those who didn't file by the April deadline There is no penalty for filing late if a refund is due. Penalties and interest only accrue on un-filed tax returns if taxes are not paid by April 15, the tax filing deadline this year in most states. Because of local holidays, the deadline for taxpayers living in Maine or Massachusetts was April 17, 2019. Anyone who did not file and owes tax should file a tax return as soon as they can and pay as much as possible to reduce penalties and interest. Some taxpayers may have extra time to file their return and pay any taxes due. Some disaster victims, military service members and eligible support personnel in combat zones, and U.S. citizens and resident aliens who live and work outside the U.S. and Puerto Rico, have more time to file and pay what they owe. For taxpayers whose 2018 federal income tax withholding and estimated tax payments fell short of their total tax liability for the year, the IRS provided penalty relief. This means that the IRS is now waiving the estimated tax penalty for any taxpayer who paid at least 80 percent of their total tax liability during the year through federal income tax withholding, quarterly estimated tax payments or a combination of the two. What happens to those who wait to file? Filing soon is especially important because the late-filing penalty and late-payment penalty on unpaid taxes adds up quickly under the law. Ordinarily, the failure-to-file penalty is 5 percent of the tax owed for each month or part of a month that a tax return is late; However, this penalty is reduced for any month where the failure to pay penalty also applies. The basic failure-to-pay penalty rate is generally 0.5 percent of unpaid tax owed for each month or part of a month. But if a return is filed more than 60 days after the April due date, the minimum penalty is either \$210 or 100 percent of the unpaid tax, whichever is less. This means that if the tax due is \$210 or less, the penalty is equal to the tax amount due. If the tax due is more than \$210, the penalty is at least \$210. In some instances, a taxpayer filing after the deadline may qualify for penalty relief

OneSource Accounting & Tax Co

Mary Anne Simone 315 E. Olympia Ave., #224, Punta Gorda,  
[masimone@1sourceaccounting.com](mailto:masimone@1sourceaccounting.com)/[www.1sourceaccountingfl.com](http://www.1sourceaccountingfl.com)

### Animal Welfare League (Support)

Our supply of **PURINA ONE** cat & kitten food are at very low levels. We would very much appreciate any donations of this food for our cats & kittens. We are truly grateful for anything you can do to help!  
Sincerely, **ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

### Charlotte Players (Support)

[Click Here](#) for Charlotte Players Happenings

### "Jack Benny" Coming to the Langdon

The prolific comedian Jack Benny, some may recall, used a running gag about being 39 years old throughout his long career on radio and television. Playwright Marv Siegel incorporated the joke in his

the teacher. "When I was your age I didn't even know what a lie was."

The boys gave the ten dollars to the teacher.

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## Member Newsletters

Click Name of Business for their latest news

Archway Institute

Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity

Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association

Charlotte Players 2019-2020 Season

Charlotte Player Happenings

Drug Free Punta Gorda

FGCU Renaissance Academy - Punta Gorda

Florida International Air Show

Gulfshore Opera

play "Jack Benny's Not 39 Anymore," which will be performed May 17-25 at the Charlotte Players' Langdon Playhouse in Port Charlotte. "If you are expecting to see Jack Benny, you might be disappointed, although I don't really think so, because I am sure you will enjoy exploring life with Norman and Edna Bender and their family and friends," said director Jenni Elliott.

Like Benny, Norman is as young as he feels. Suffering from retirement remorse, he hatches business schemes to fill idle hours. Edna, his loving wife, is delighted her new neighbor, Rosemary, has a son who may be a match for their daughter. When widowed Rosemary recognizes Norman and reminds him of their youthful, romantic past, Edna is threatened and works to keep their offspring apart, hoping it also keeps Norman and Rosemary apart. Not only hilarious throughout, but the play has an ending that has audiences gasping. "If there is any message within this play, it is probably that you should not jump to conclusions before you know all the facts," Elliott said. "However, it is not intended to give you a learning experience. As with all theater, its primary purpose is entertainment and I know you are going to be entertained by this play and our wonderful cast of actors." That cast includes a skilled group of popular Players regulars - Gene Callan, John DiGiovanni, Kyle Marie, Larry McGee and Paula Pender - and talented newcomers to the company Barbara Hawkins and Lee Hakeem. Stage Manager Jeanne DeYoung, Costumer Pamela Jones and Set Designer Chris Smith continue their outstanding work, assisted by "Cultural Adviser" Rick Stannard. See how it all comes together at the Langdon at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18**, or in a matinee at 2 p.m. on **Sunday, May 19**. The following week, showtime is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at [www.charlotteplayers.org](http://www.charlotteplayers.org) or by calling the box office at 941-255-1022. The Langdon Playhouse is located at 1182 Market Circle, Port Charlotte.

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## Fact of the Day

**What's the Heaviest Animal in the World?**

The blue whale is the heaviest animal in the world. In addition to reaching lengths of 80 feet long, they also weigh up to 200 tons, or 400,000 lbs.

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## Question of the Week

I hear that Punta Gorda has love bugs. Will I be able to see them in January

KeyWest Express

Port Charlotte Score  
Lunch & Learn  
Workshops

The Yoga Sanctuary

## Special Offers for Chamber Members

**Storm Smart**  
[Click Here](#) for a special offer for Chamber Members.

**Sleep Inn & Suites**  
[Click here](#) for a special offer for Chamber Members.

**Twin Isles Country Club**  
[Click Here](#) for Offer

**Gregg's Automotive**  
[Click Here](#) for May is Military Awareness Month

**F.M. Don's**  
[Click Here](#) for Summer Specials

**La Quinta Inn & Suites**  
[Click Here](#) for a special offer for Chamber Members

when I get there?

## Events for Week of May 10 - May 19

Remember to click this link to see events for these dates that are in flyer format.

### UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

**The Orange House Wine Bar**  
320 Sullivan St., Punta Gorda 941-505-8233

We are now open for breakfast and lunch!

Tuesday-Saturday 8 am - 2 pm

Fri. May 10: 7pm -10 pm

Sat. May 11: 7pm-10 pm

### **Fishermen's Village**

It's All About the LIME! Key Lime that is at Fishermen's Village annual Key Lime Festival, Saturday, May 11, 10 am-4 p.m. Luscious Key Lime foods, beverages and products in store and on the promenade! Vendors, live entertainment, family fun! Free admission/Free parking. Visit [www.fishville.com](http://www.fishville.com) for full details!

**Free Admission for Moms on Mother's Day at Edison and Ford Winter Estates** To celebrate Mother's Day on **May 12**, moms are invited to visit Edison and Ford Winter Estates for free. This is a great way for families to enjoy the day with their mothers or spouses. Free admission includes a self-guided audio tour of the homes, laboratory and 15,000-square-foot inventions museum. Trees and plants bloom throughout the year on the more than 20 acres of botanical gardens. The Orange Geiger tree, ginger plants, yellow African Tulip tree, Desert Rose, and the Florida native Spanish Bayonet are just some of the beautiful specimens that are currently blooming around the site. Highlights include the award-winning Moonlight Garden with sweetly-scented white flowers, and the pergola between Thomas Edison's House and the Guest House with lavender Queen's Wreath blossoms dangling down. Orchids, Mina Edison's favorite flower, are also blooming throughout the site. At the end of a tour, families can stop in the Ford Cottage Shoppe for some ice cream or a cool beverage to savor while enjoying a relaxing view of the river. The Museum Store and Edison Ford Shoppe at Bell Tower Shops offer many unique gift items, including books, t-shirts, artwork and Florida-inspired decorations. For the mom with a green thumb, the Garden Shoppe has many varieties of plants and trees, including orchids available for sale.

## Applause Section

**Florida SBDC at FGCU Distinguished Entrepreneur of Southwest Florida Awardees Announced**  
Florida Small Business Development Center (FSBDC) at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) announced the winners of the 2019 Distinguished Entrepreneur of Southwest Florida Awards at the annual awards dinner on Tuesday April 30, 2019. The FSBDC awards are held annually to recognize three Southwest Florida small businesses for their innovation, advocacy, and business growth. This year's awardees include Distinguished Entrepreneur of SW Florida, Ryan Carter, owner of Scotlynn USA Division; Innovator of the Year, Brian Rist of Storm Smart; and Advocate of the Year, Rafael J. Feliciano, owner of Food Idea Group. "Our finalists are recognized for being pioneers who think big, take risks and work hard. We recognize the critical role small businesses play in our community through job creation, tax revenue generation and your place in the overall economic health of the community.", said Lois Knox, FSBDC Regional Director. Previous winners of the awards include Norman Love of Norman Love Confections in 2012, Pam Oakes of Pam's Motor City in 2013, Felix Lluberés

The entire site is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, visit the website at [www.edisonford.org](http://www.edisonford.org)

### **Annual Mental Health Awareness Walk to be Held on May 18**

When you or someone you love is dealing with a mental health concern, sometimes it's a lot to handle. It's important to remember that mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. To draw attention to the issue, **Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC)** will lead a Mental Health Awareness Walk. The walk, which was attended by more than 200 people last year, draws support from many individuals living with mental illness, as well as their friends and families. The public is invited to join us on **Saturday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m.** at Laishley Park. Free mental health screenings will be available to all guests. There will be a brief program where community members share their inspiring stories. Then, we'll embark on a scenic 1/2 mile walk through our beautiful Harbor Walk in effort to raise awareness for mental health. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. This is a pet-friendly/kid-friendly event. No registration necessary. The theme of this year's walk is Mental Health Matters, and also looks at the importance of overall health to mental health. Our community's leading partners in mental health will be there with information tables. Enjoy music by Music by Tiki Tom & LA Daniels. FREE T-shirts to first 100 walkers. FREE refreshments & snacks. Also enjoy honor beads, painting Rocking Punta Gorda #AntiStigma rocks, a prize raffle, and more! "It is important to really look at your overall health, both physically and mentally, to achieve wellness," said Kelly Pomerville, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care's (CBHC) Director of Marketing & PR. "Getting the appropriate amount of exercise, eating healthy foods that can impact your gut health, getting enough sleep and reducing stress - it's all about finding the right balance to benefit both the mind and body." For more information or to reserve a provider table please contact Pomerville at [kpomerville@cbhcfl.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcfl.org) or 941.639.8300 ext. 2275.

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## Member Information

[Click Here for Member Info](#)

### **Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary Honoring our Veterans**

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary honors our Veterans by offering complimentary admission all year around. This Memorial Day, special thanks are given to those Veterans and are invited to visit the sanctuary, as always, free of charge. They hope to see you, so

of Position Logic in 2013, Gary K. Mart of Global Tech LED in 2015, Chris Spiro of Spiro and Associates in 2016, Dr. Aurora Badia of Florida Skin Center in 2017 and Scott Fischer of Scott Fischer Enterprises in 2018. The awards ceremony was made possible through the generous support of the Hallmark Sponsor, Markham, Norton, Mosteller, Wright, and Company, P.A. Other sponsors include: FGCU Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Suncoast Credit Union, Chris-Tel Construction, Iberia Bank, Brennan Manna Diamond, Roetzel Law Firm, LandQuest Commercial Real Estate Services, Scott Fischer Enterprises, AXI International, Gulfshore Business, Path of Being, A. JARON Fine Jewelry, Spada Salon & Day Spa, Florida Skin Center, Narrative Coffee Roasters, Maribel Suzzette Hair and Make-up Studio, and Naturie Shea Butter Apotheca.

### **SCORE**

It was a proud day for the local SCORE Chapter of small business advisors and mentors as they gathered at Heron Creek to show appreciation to their successful clients. These are vital small businesses who used SCORE Port Charlotte services to assist and guide them and their successful businesses. The

they can thank you in person for your sacrifice to our country! Hours: Mon-Fri 9-noon, Sat 11-4, Sunday 11-4 (Nov-May). OPEN MEMORIAL DAY 9-NOON. For more information, visit the website: [www.octagonwildlife.org](http://www.octagonwildlife.org) or FB page. 41660 Horseshoe Rd Punta Gorda...across from Babcock Ranch entrance. 239-543-1130

### **Lifelong Learning Classes**

[Click Here](#)

to see what is coming up.

### **The BEAN on 41 Coffee Shop**

The BEAN on 41 Coffee Shop - 50 Years Later.....

Announcing "Three Days of Peace & Music." Celebrate the Summer of Love '1969 - 50 Years later at the BEAN! Woodstock Weekend is set for **August 16-18th** at The BEAN. We'll have a great tie-dye weekend with lots of great music, round the clock Woodstock movie on the Big BEAN Screen, tie-dye workshop, and live festival music: Click here for Woodstock Info. The BEAN is a great hideaway this summer for 1-1 meetings, buddy catch-ups, and coffee brewed with locally roasted beans and triple filtered water. You will not find a fresher cup of java south of Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda! The BEAN also provides outcall coffee catering service, and room rental for private parties or meetings. Towles Plaza. 941-769-8239.

### **The Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda**

The Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda is holding a Diaper Drive benefiting the Baker Center Head Start Program. Diapers of all sizes are needed; pull-up type training diapers are also encouraged. Diapers are being collected at the Punta Gorda office of Charlotte State Bank & Trust and Chic-fil-A in Port Charlotte.

### **CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND-MOMS CRUISE FREE!**

King Fisher Fleet, headquartered at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda, invites Moms to cruise for free in honor of Mother's Day. We think Mothers deserve more than just one day of celebration, so we are offering free cruises for moms all of Mother's Day weekend! Here's the Mother's Day Weekend Schedule:

#### **Friday, May 10**

Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes: 7:00 pm

#### **Saturday, May 11**

Cabbage Key, full day: 9:00 am

Harbor Tour, 90 minutes: 1:00 pm

Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes: 7:00 pm

#### **Sunday, May 12**

Cabbage Key, full day: 9:00 am

Cayo Costa, full day: 9:00 am

Harbor Tour, 90 minutes: 2:00 pm

Harbor Tour, 90 minutes: 4:00 pm

Sunset Cruise, 90 minutes: 7:00 pm

Score Port Charlotte Chapter was awarded the Best Chapter of the Year from the Southwest Florida district. From all indications, the First Annual SCORE Client Appreciation Luncheon was a big hit. Chairman Don Benjamin started the function with a description of what SCORE does and its impact in Southwest Florida. Fred Cort, a longtime mentor provided a yearly review and showed how locally Port Charlotte SCORE has helped more than 350 client businesses and over 1000 individual mentoring sessions. SCORE was proud to have Aletha Harris, SBA's Small Business Lead Economic Development Specialist as keynote speaker. Ms. Harris was especially impressed that the Port Charlotte SCORE Chapter is helping so many businesses along with a host of other events and services they provide. She said through the partnership with Clients, Sponsors and mentors, the real power of small business is realized. Long-time SCORE mentors were recognized for their service and dedication to small business with a Special Mentor Emeritus Award given to former Chairman Bob Burkholder. SCORE's Ed Davis received the Education Extraordinaire Award and Walter Pawlowski was named Mentor of the Year. The

All moms cruise free on all of the above listed cruises with full-price paid accompanying ticket. Advance reservations are recommended. For more information about the special Mother's Day offer, please call (941) 639-0969. King Fisher Fleet offers eight cruises including daylong cruises to the islands of Cayo Costa, Cabbage Key, and Boca Grande, narrated tours of the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor, as well as sunset cruises and Christmas light canal cruises. King Fisher Fleet also offers charter fishing with some of the best fishing guides in southwest Florida, departing every day from Fishermen's Village Marina.

### **MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH AT KING FISHER FLEET**

King Fisher Fleet, headquartered at Fishermen's Village in Punta Gorda, is celebrating May as Military Appreciation Month by thanking all active duty service members, members of the reserve components, and all veterans. This very important month reminds Americans to continually honor, recognize, and appreciate those men and women who have served throughout our history, as well as acknowledge their families who have sacrificed in order for us to enjoy our freedom. Through their Military Appreciation Month promotion, King Fisher Fleet hopes to spread recognition for all those who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

#### **Military Appreciation Month Program:**

All military personnel with a valid military ID, and veterans with proof of service (DD214, American Legion or VFW membership card, VA ID card, Driver's License with "V") receive half-price admission on any sightseeing cruise offered at King Fisher Fleet during the month of May. Advance reservations are recommended. Subject to availability. Discount also applies to spouses and dependents. Offer good for individual tickets only and cannot be applied towards group ticket sales. Discount cruise reservations cannot be made online and must be made by calling our ticket office at 941-639-0969.

For more information about these special offers, please call (941) 639-0969. King Fisher Fleet offers eight cruises including daylong cruises to the islands of Cayo Costa, Cabbage Key, and Boca Grande, narrated tours of the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor, as well as sunset cruises and Christmas light canal cruises. King Fisher Fleet also offers charter fishing with some of the best fishing guides in southwest Florida, departing every day from Fishermen's Village Marina.

#### **Do You Focus on #4Mind4Body?**

Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. So much of what we do physically impacts us mentally - it's important to pay attention to both your physical health and your mental health, which can help you achieve overall wellness and set you on a path to

highlight of the luncheon was local small business owners telling their story and how SCORE helped them. "The best day of my life - aside from meeting my husband, was when I met my SCORE Mentor and he encouraged me to start my own business." said Tracy Beck of Sea-Inspired Jewelry Design with a smile. Keith Harper of Rescue Air Cooling and Heating said a chance meeting with his SCORE Mentor started his quest to be in business for himself. "I would not be here today if it was not for the help of SCORE and it's mentoring services - what they did meant everything to me." Garrett Kizer of Charlotte Harbor Construction, Ron Morgan of Complete Auto Repair and Luci Bromberg of One Putt Designs also received awards. Clients, Mentors and Sponsors agreed that the confidential business mentoring that SCORE provides is instrumental in growing small business in the counties. SCORE is an SBA-Affiliated non-profit that offers mentoring and guidance for Small Businesses and startups nationwide. If you'd like to get involved helping small businesses, call Don Benjamin at 941-249-4440. For more information: Greg Imig, SCORE Port Charlotte, (907) 312-3198, alaska2020@hotmail.com

recovery. Did you know that Mental Health America (MHA) founded May is Mental Health Month back in 1949? That means this year marks MHA's 70th year celebrating Mental Health Month! This May is Mental Health Month **Charlotte Behavioral Health Care** is expanding its focus from 2018 and raising awareness about the connection between physical health and mental health, through the theme #4Mind4Body. We are exploring the topics of animal companionship, spirituality and religion, humor, work-life balance, and recreation and social connections as ways to boost mental health and general wellness. A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions. For those dealing with a chronic health condition and the people who care for them, it can be especially important to focus on mental health. When dealing with dueling diagnoses, focusing on both physical and mental health concerns can be daunting - but critically important in achieving overall wellness. There are things you can do that may help. Finding a reason to laugh, going for a walk with a friend, meditating, playing with a pet, or working from home once a week can go along way in making you both physically and mentally healthy. The company of animals - whether as pets or service animals- can have a profound impact on a person's quality of life and ability to recover from illnesses. A pet can be a source of comfort and can help us to live mentally healthier lives. And whether you go to church, meditate daily, or simply find time to enjoy that cup of tea each morning while checking in with yourself-it can be important to connect with your spiritual side in order to find that mind-body connection. Charlotte Behavioral Health Care wants everyone to know that mental illnesses are real, and recovery is always the goal. Living a healthy lifestyle may not be easy but can be achieved by gradually making small changes and building on those successes. Finding the balance between work and play, the ups and downs of life, physical health and mental health, can help you on the path towards focusing both #4Mind4Body. For more information, visit [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may).

### **Visual Arts Center**

**Now on Display: Charlotte County Public Schools** until May 18. Youth Summer Camp (age 8-14) happens 6/10 - 7/19. Summer Classes just for teens (age 15-20) also available! Adult Art Classes start next week, thru July - Register at [www.VisualArtCenter.org](http://www.VisualArtCenter.org). We have greeting cards, gifts and gift certificates for Mothers Day- Visit our Gift Shop & the NEW Art & Supply Store inside The Visual Arts Center located @ 210 Maud St, Punta Gorda. Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: M-F, 9-4 & Sat, 10-2. Find our Calendar of Events at [www.visualartcenter.org](http://www.visualartcenter.org) **Youth Summer Camp** (age 8-14) happens 6/10 - 7/19. Summer Classes just for teens (age 15-20) also available! Register

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
MARCH 2019 TOURIST  
DEVELOPMENT TAX  
COLLECTIONS EXCEED  
\$1 MILLION**

**[Click Here](#)** for the whole article

at [www.VisualArtCenter.org](http://www.VisualArtCenter.org). Visit our Gift Shop & the NEW Art & Supply Store inside The Visual Arts Center located @ 210 Maud St, Punta Gorda. Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: M-F, 9-4 & Sat, 10-2. Find our Calendar of Events at [visualartcenter.org](http://visualartcenter.org).

**Sea Grape Gallery's Artists of Month for May-June 2019**

From now to July 3, 2019 Sea Grape Gallery will be featuring two of their artists, Susan Kapuchinski, oil painter, and Bonnie Benande stoneware potter. **Susan Kapuchinski** has traveled extensively in Europe, the Far East and South America. Many of her oil on canvas artworks are inspired from both the photos and sketches she has brought back from these travels. After a one-year sabbatical in Australia, Susan and her husband moved to Florida where she fell in love with Florida's natural environment. Many of her paintings reflect the beauty of the area and her love for florals, still life and landscapes. **Bonnie Benande** Always having a love for pottery, decided to try focusing her own creative abilities on making pottery by taking classes at the local art center. Once retiring to beautiful Florida, she again began pursuing this art form by taking classes with several local potters. Having a love for the area's sea life, flora and fauna, she incorporates turtles, dragon flies, shells and other items representative of the Florida life in her stoneware pottery. Even though Bonnie has worked on the potter's wheel, she enjoys creating unusual hand-built designs using clay slabs. Each piece of her pottery is created to be both functional and decorative. Many of Susan's wonderful oil paintings and Bonnie's stoneware pottery are prominently on display at the Sea Grape Gallery. In addition, more of their art and the artworks of all Sea Grape artists can be viewed at

[www.seagrapegallery.com](http://www.seagrapegallery.com)

Sea Grape Gallery is located at 113 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda and can be reached at 941-575-1718. In addition to their regular hours, the Gallery is always open until 8 p.m. during downtown Punta Gorda's "Third Thursday Wine Walk".

**Join the Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast in Spreading Sunshine - Become, a volunteer, destination liaison at the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor and Convention Bureau today!** If you have knowledge of local area attractions, accommodations, restaurants and points of interest in Charlotte County you can assist visitors with their tourism questions by volunteering at the Visitor Bureau. Spend three to four hours once or twice per week greeting customers and clients in person and through incoming calls. Training will be provided. Visit [PUREFLORIDA.COM/VOLUNTEER](http://PUREFLORIDA.COM/VOLUNTEER) Contact Elizabeth Parker or Bry Phipps at 941.743.1900 for additional details.

**Job Opportunities**

Grand Care Plus is looking for caring, loving and outgoing people to come and be a part of our company. We are a NON-SKILLED Home Health Agency and are extremely passionate about providing services above the industries "norm". Our leadership members have a common goal and mission, which is to continually raise the standards in which community members and clients are treated. Our GrandCare Plus team is always available to assist with our client wants and needs. We remain focused on creating a culture within the company that every client will be treated with the same care compassion that we would want for a member of our family.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, or applying for this position, please contact Sarah at 941-916-8356, or by email at [sarah@grandcareplus.com](mailto:sarah@grandcareplus.com).

GrandCare Plus Inc,  
25074 East Olympia Ave Ste # 110  
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Telephone: 941-916-8586 Fax: 941-761-5652

Sincerely,

**John Wright**  
**President**  
**Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce**

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