

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



Our Mission:

*“To enhance the quality of life in Punta Gorda Isles
as a leading waterfront community.”*

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association

2010 Annual Report

2010 continued to be an excellent year for the PGI Civic Association. Despite the downturn in the economy, membership has remained stable, participation in the various clubs continued to be quite high, and we were also able to add three new clubs. Financially, we are in excellent condition, with significant cash reserves on hand.

2010 Officers

President, Bob Peterson



President-Elect, Marlene Hofer



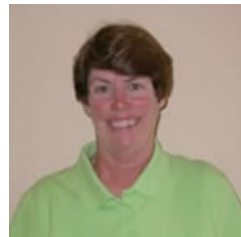
Secretary, Janice Reuther and Jeri Olsen



Treasurer, Brenda Lynch



Past President- Nancy Dauster



Beth Magnin, Executive Director



Under the leadership of our president, Bob Peterson, the 2010 Board of Directors was able to put into motion a number of new programs, improvements and upgrades to our facility. I am extremely proud of their accomplishments.

Last year's canal lighting contest had 64 entrants, far greater than in recent years. With the cooperation of eight local restaurants, we were able to offer \$100 prizes to the top entrees. Capt. Ralph Allen again offered to host additional prize winners for a local cruise of Charlotte Harbor.

We purchased a freezer and are offering our clubs and people who rent our facilities the capability to purchase bags of ice at a price significantly lower than could be purchased elsewhere. To help maintain the health of our members, we installed wall mounted hand sanitizers throughout the building.

The PGI Girls and Guys made a generous contribution that enabled us to purchase and install a new state of the art sound system. This gives us greater capability for multi microphone use and increased clarity of sound throughout the building. We also purchased a portable sound system which can be used for outdoor or off premise activities. Our picnic pavilion now sports wind screens to protect members from inclement weather. The ongoing upgrades to our landscape beds have enhanced our curb appeal with particular focus to the flagpole area.

We changed the wording on all of our PGI entrance signs from "Deed Restricted" to "Code Restricted" reflecting that PGI continues to protect their high standard of living.

The changes in the economy presented numerous challenges for the Association. With the numerous foreclosures of properties in PGI, maintenance of these properties became a high concern. We were able to work closely with the City of Punta Gorda to try to keep up the appearances of these properties. Additionally, we tried, sometime successfully and other times not so successfully, to work with property owners who had rented their properties to maintain the standards of the zoning codes.

The Commentator, our monthly newsletter took on a more upscale look, as well as an increase in advertising revenues with the addition of color pages. We have created a new PGICA logo and a new look for our *PGI Shops Punta Gorda Program*. We are in the design process of producing a new and attractive PGICA brochure promoting our organization as well as a pamphlet to explain our codes and regulations.

The new color copier recently purchased provides the PGICA and its clubs and groups the opportunity to produce cost effective brochures, flyers and quality documents. A generous gift from the Gifted Gator provided us with the resources to purchase a new security camera system.

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association was awarded a \$5000 grant from the Charlotte Community Foundation to assist with the purchase of an emergency generator.

New programs and events introduced this year provided more value to our membership and the community as a whole: **Beyond PGI, Lunch and Learn Lecture Series, Master Gardeners Plant Clinics** and sold out **Doo Wop Dances**. The first annual fundraiser for the **Cooper Street Kids after School Program** raised \$7500 and was made possible by the Newcomers, Floridians and many other volunteers of the Civic Association.

The Association building continues to be a popular rental venue for the community.

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, who are the backbone of our organization, PGICA continues to be dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Punta Gorda Isles community.

Treasurer, Brenda Lynch



The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association once again has maintained its cash position and remained debt free with reserves in the bank during 2010, while continuing to maintain and improve the facility.

The Association started the calendar year with cash and cash equivalents of approximately \$407,000 of which \$56,000 belonged to clubs affiliated with the association. As of September 30, 2010, our cash and cash equivalents totaled approximately \$407,000, including club accounts totaling \$64,000.

The Board approved and funded approximately \$15,000 in capital improvements during 2010, which included installation of security cameras and additional landscaping to beautify the facility.

The capital reserve fund established in 2006 has continued to be funded. The capital reserve fund serves as a vehicle to accumulate funds to maintain the quality of the facility, replace deteriorating items such as carpet, air conditioning, and landscaping, and provide a first class facility for the members to enjoy. For 2010, a \$25,000 addition to the capital reserve fund has been funded. The balance in the capital reserve fund as of September 30, 2010 stands at \$245,632.

The 2011 budget provides for an additional \$25,000 to be added to the capital reserve fund. It also provides for the replacement of the carpet in the facility and the cleanup of the rookery on the north side of the building.

Center Administrator, John Miller, Director



During the past year we have made the following improvements to the building and ground:

Purchased and had installed a new sound system for the building

Purchased a portable sound system for the Pavilion

Resurfaced the tennis courts

Power washed the roof and all outside walls and windows

Purchased a wind screen for the Pavilion

Cleaned the pond and added more rip rap to prevent erosion

Built new storage in garage and Executive Director's back area

Obtained quotes and presented plan for purchase of a backup generator

Added more tables for member use

Upgraded our security system with cameras

Improved drainage around building

Upgraded several of our outside landscaped areas

Updated our signage around PGI

Updated our plan for long range capital needs

Increased the number of building rentals

Acquired a new freezer and provided ice for our members and building users

Fixed broken and loose tile on roof and had leak repaired

Of course, many hours of routine maintenance and repairs around the building

Communications, David Baird, Director



Fiscal 2010 brought color to *The Commentator*. It also brought the editor an invaluable assistant. **Bill Guenther** joined us to provide professional layout and design. We get consistent compliments on the new look. Thank you Bill. Color was a big project. It took well over a year to come to fruition. **La-Verne Tyler** deserves serious kudos for getting the support of enough of advertisers to actually launch the effort. Thanks go also to these advertisers for supporting us in this effort. Without them we'd still be in B&W. Many of the great ideas you see in *The Commentator* today were the work of **Beth Magnin** and two former Directors of Communication, **Janice Reuther** and later **David Brower**. Had David not sold his home and moved further south a few months into the job, allowing me to step in, it would have been Dave Brower, not me accepting your congratulations. I simply followed through on the plans these fine people envisioned and happily am here to accept credit. Thank you.

Development, Ken Ellingson, Director



I submitted the monthly commentator articles for publication. I completed the one and three year fund raising plans. I oversaw the interests of the Isles Girls and Guys and the Gifted Gator. Both groups gave generous gifts to the association. I wrote thank you letters to donors through the year. I wrote the grant request to the Charlotte Foundation and we were awarded a grant of the requested amount of \$5,000 for a standby electric generator.



Education, Karen Wedemeyer, Director



The Education Department of the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association would like to express a huge thank you to the PGICA membership for their on-going support of the educational opportunities offered by the Association. During the past year those offerings have been wide and varied.

There are many on-going activities for members to choose from including classes in Bridge, Line Dancing, Digital Photography, Mah Jongg, Yoga, Tai Chi and Zumba Fiesta fitness. These classes build the core of our educational experience and are offered on a yearly basis.

The past year has also brought many additional opportunities that serve to educate as well as enlighten our community. The offerings have included an outstanding series on legal matters that affect the elderly, presented by the Farr Law Firm. The Association also collaborated with Florida Gulf Coast University to offer a wide range of classes through the Renaissance Academy. FGCU offerings included classes on the Seminole Wars, WWII Code Breakers, and Charlotte County History, just to name a few. Captain Ralph Allen's Fishing Class continues to be an exciting offering and is well attended. The Beyond PGI Series is a huge success, thanks to Carol Nieberline, who has spent many hours arranging for speakers. These lectures have taken us from The Great American Loop to the Temples of Bangkok and far beyond the borders of PGI. Lastly, our members have had a unique opportunity to receive artistic instruction from some of Charlotte County's finest artists. Jan Britland, Lee Blizard, Diana Croy and Ann McCarty have enriched our program by sharing their special talents. None of this would be possible without the assistance of Beth Magnin, Executive Director of the Association. Beth is responsible for the scheduling and management of all educational activities.

The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association's Education Department always strives to meet the educational needs of our membership and the Charlotte County community. All classes are open to the public. Members are encouraged to offer new courses and make suggestions for classes.



Government Liaison, Bill Schindler and Ray Rose, Director



What may not be obvious the influence of your Association in local government is more than most people realize. Except for one Council member who resides outside our membership area all Council members are also members of PGICA. Three of them have held key board leadership roles.

We took a very active stance this past year to protect not only PGI residents, but also Punta Gorda residents, from solicitors who were using very aggressive tactics when approaching residents' homes. The Association worked very closely with City Council to pass an ordinance that door-to-door solicitors could not make contact with homes in Punta Gorda which had posted a "No Solicitors" sign on their homes.

All code regulations that impact PGICA in any way are submitted to the LDR committee where we are able to comment for the record prior to being heard by the city where we once more may comment. Most of the key city advisory boards have multiple association members and are chaired by our members. This really is not intentional influence but the fact that active community citizens know the value of PGICA membership and participation. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join and be active association members.

Health, Safety, and Welfare, Dr. Bob Fidler, Director



In the past year we have sponsored the administration of the Influenza, Pneumococcal, and the Adult Diphtheria -Tetanus Vaccines. We have facilitated three Blood Drives and held a class for Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Automatic Electronic Defibrillator training.

We have hosted three Bloodmobile visits to the PGICA and have scheduled three for this next year. We held a class for CPR/AED recertification. We will have in November a short discussion on the early effects of the Obama health care legislation. Following this will have a Nurse Patient Advocate discussing availability of care in our area. In late January, 2011, we have scheduled a Health Fair at the Civic Association for one day. This is being preceded by Lunch and Learn lectures given by several members of the health professionals of the area.

Marketing, Mary Jollett, Director



Much has taken place this year in this new position as Marketing Director.

We developed a new logo for the Association.



We made a change in the name to “PGI Shops Punta Gorda” as well as developing a new logo for our members discount program that supports local merchants.



We updated and design enhanced our promotional flyer highlighting all aspects of the PGICA. We supplied numerous press releases published in local print media. We submitted an application to be the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year and were a finalist. We worked with the Communication Director to change to Constant Contact for ease in e-mail broadcast. We assisted the Events Coordinator in promotional announcements for events and placed event announcements on the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce web-site calendar.

Member Activities, Steve Rutherford, Director



The **Dive Club** was formed to promote the scuba diving interests of their members. They organize local and in-state diving trips. They also provide non-diving events for educational as well as social purposes. **In Stitches** is a knitting group that meets weekly to share knitting patterns, needles, books, expertise, and chit chat. The **Singles Club** was formed after a Civic Association survey revealed the need for such an organization. This club provides a variety of group activities that can be enjoyed by single members of the PGICA. Currently, there are approximately 75 members in these three new clubs.

Membership, Mary Frances Adair, Director



To date, membership is growing at a slow but steady pace. Our goal for the year continues to be a 10% increase in membership for calendar year 2010.

We have done one mass mailing to non members asking that they join and will do another one before the end of the year.

The Block Captain Program has almost 40 households signed on and we have had our first formational meeting. Block Captain badges, welcome packets, informational cards, etc. are being produced and we will be approaching neighbors to set up emergency information cards as a service to protect each other's properties in each other's absences, etc. This is destined to be a very valuable service to members.

We continue to offer a \$5 reduction in membership fees to any member who is able to sign up any member.



Planning, Dr. Thom Feneran, Director



Much of the past several months have been spent developing and finalizing a new strategic plan which we will kick off in 2011.

Appointees

La-Verne Tyler, Advertising and Sales Coordinator



Terry Miller, Event Coordinator



Jan Murphy, Public Relations Coordinator



Ed Zapke, South Charlotte County Coalition Representative



Frank Mazur, Team Punta Gorda Representative



Gail Fortier, Volunteers Coordinator



Betty Cochran, Webmaster



Adeline Seakwood, Sunshine Lady

