

Nancy says, “Stay Tuned. The Best is Yet to Come”

The year 2020 was a challenging time for local nonprofits who need to stay viable and visible so they can regroup for more normal times. Despite the challenges, TEAM volunteers refuse to be deterred from improving our community. They are out there working safely despite current challenges. The stories below illustrate some of the great projects underway, each of which displays considerable creativity.



Here's a new idea to help you better know your community.

When we were unable to host our highly anticipated annual bike event, Pedal & Play in Paradise, this past March, we came up with an alternative. It's called “Build a Bike, Win A Bike.” Everyone can participate. Once registered, cyclists head out at their own schedule and pace to seven different locations where bike part clues are hidden. Once all the clues are found, recorded on an entry form, and submitted to TEAM, winning entries will be selected for prizes of which one is a new bicycle. Stay tuned for further details.

Our exciting downtown landscape project, Punta Gorda In Bloom, is coming along well. Visit Hector House Plaza across from the Courthouse on Taylor Street to see the new planters and hanging baskets. The Courthouse is also blooming with flowers.

We're also helping the Gulf Coast Partnership and Punta Gorda Housing Authority in their efforts to provide affordable rental housing for veterans in need. We plan to hold several volunteer Paint your Heart Out Days to support their Peace River Community Housing (PORCH) project. Let us know if you want to help paint.

Want to help without lifting a brush? Our projects and civic initiatives depend upon your support. Our annual Friends of TEAM campaign is in full swing. We're hoping you will renew or become a “Friend of TEAM.” Just follow this link: <https://teampuntagorda.org/become-a-friend/>

During 2019 we all participated in the development of a new Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan. When the plan was complete, it was filled with many good ideas for Punta Gorda's future. Not all ideas will be adopted, but many will move us forward. Now comes the hard part: implementation. Currently, the city and their consultants, Dover-Kohl & Partners, are working to convert these ideas into land development regulations, the rules define what can be built where. Those will provide the basis of our Comprehensive Plan for the next 15-20 years.

Those regulations will be written as what is known as “form-based codes.” Simply stated, this means the emphasis is less on abstract ideas and more on how we want development to look in the end. Form-based codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks. As these form-based codes are developed, the city is planning several opportunities for public comment. Many local organizations, including neighborhood civic associations and TEAM Punta Gorda will host forums to educate the public about the new codes and provide meaningful input into their final shape.

The PGICA will host a Zoom session on February 10 at 10 a.m. Check their website (www.pgica.org) for details. Here is a perfect opportunity to provide your input. We encourage

you to support and help preserve the character of our community and the unique historical charm of our city. While our volunteers get involved in many activities, stewardship of our development is the core mission of TEAM Punta Gorda and the reason we were founded. We look forward to participating in this process and continuing the journey.

Nancy Johnson, CEO

