



SUMMERTIME BRINGS BOTH THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This is the time of year when we are vigilant about the inevitable storms that threaten Florida communities each hurricane season. We hope to escape unscathed but must be prepared. COAD, Communities Organizations Active in a Disaster, exists in many communities. We are fortunate to have a proactive team in Charlotte County. Led by the



County's Human Services Department our local COAD is supported by the Gulf Coast Partnership, the Charlotte Community Foundation, TEAM Punta Gorda and the United Way as well as the City of Punta Gorda. Last year this group manned a Volunteer Resource Center after Ian. They sent over 200 volunteers out in the field to agencies that were providing post-hurricane services. Hopefully it will not be necessary, but our preparedness after Ian was directly responsible for the assistance that was able to be provided.

Summertime is also a great time to focus on children. Most of our projects are dormant this time of year. Summer is mostly for planning fall projects. TEAM volunteers have come up with a novel and educational event for local children in partnership with the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC). To be held 8:30 am, July 29, it is an environmental trail ride on CHEC property for kids ages 7-12. It will be a lot of fun. Marked off road trails, games, educational programming, breakfast, and lunch will be provided for \$15 per child registration fee. Participants can sign up on the TEAM website.

This summer we are closely watching conversations about the land development regulations. Discussion is on this week's City Council agenda. The outcome can be viewed on the city website. Joan LeBeau Day was June 6, 2023, and our City Council has issued a proclamation honoring her years of service. She will retire in August. She has been instrumental in getting many of our projects approved and in serving as our liaison with City staff. We'll miss working with her.

Check out our newest free Bicycle Loaner site at Becky's Garden Shoppe on Marion Avenue and Route 41. Year to date 4,059 residents and guests have taken a spin for free on the 36 bikes at our 4 sites: Becky's Garden Shoppe, Four Points Sheraton; Springhill Suites, and Fishermen's Village. The volunteer-led program will need to

replace 12 bikes this year, so businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities are most welcome.

We'd also like to thank the plant parents and their summer substitutes, the volunteers who install and care for the beautiful downtown flowerpots seen on Marion and Taylor. Our Punta Gorda in Bloom volunteers will expand their efforts this fall.

It's clear that even when our seasonal residents and guests head north, Punta Gorda is still alive and well!

Nancy Johnson, CEO

Ideas or questions can be addressed to Nancy at team@teampuntagorda.org. Or call 941-637-TEAM (8326). Visit www.teampuntagorda.org to find a complete schedule of all upcoming activities, as well as more information about TEAM Punta Gorda and volunteer opportunities. TEAM Punta Gorda is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.