



July 2024

TEAM Punta Gorda's focus these days is decidedly green. Our newest venture is to support a group of hardy volunteers from the Historic Punta Gorda Civic Association who have been replacing the trees damaged by Ian in the linear parks. This is often how projects come to us. A group of citizens working on getting something done needs organizational support to manage the administrative aspects of the project. That's what we do.

TEAM's "bloomers", our downtown landscape volunteers, have just finished re-planting all the downtown landscape pots. They will look fabulous in no time, especially with the rain they are getting to help them along. Punta Gorda in Bloom is in the process of working with the City of Punta Gorda to determine their next sites.

We're also lining up more service projects for the year with our great partners. The Punta Gorda Rotary will help us with Paint Your Heart Out, TEAM Builds will be building a new home with Habitat for Humanity, and we'll be supporting other projects all over town.



Then there is water: we swim in it, we fish in it but how clean is it, really? A group of scientists from our partner, Heal Our Harbor, along with TEAM volunteers, are attempting to answer that question. The State DEP has declared our canals to be impaired, but we want to know more. Water testing is well under way under the auspices of the Citizens Partnership for Clean Canals (CPCC). We should see some interesting reports over the coming year.

Meanwhile, the free loaner bicycles keep rolling and the gardens will soon be growing once again. The community garden at the Punta Gorda History Park has been solarized

and dormant for the summer. Gardeners are already signing up for the 92 plots that will soon be replanted.

There are special events to be planned throughout our 20th year, such as Pedal & Play, Paddle Punta Gorda, our Golf Scramble and our Annual Community Meeting in January. There will be mixers for new volunteers to get acquainted with TEAM and fundraisers to help pay for it all. As TEAM Punta Gorda is a volunteer driven organization, the cost to do all of this is very low. Our greatest need is continually for more volunteers, including project leaders. This past 23-24 season TEAM utilized the services of 661 volunteers for more than 20 projects and committees. Some volunteer for one-day projects, and others get involved in an ongoing way. We so appreciate the local businesses who are our sponsors and make it all possible.

If you would like to be a part of these and other projects starting this Fall, contact the TEAM Punta Gorda office at team@teampuntagorda.org and tell us how you would like to become involved.

Nancy Johnson, CEO