



Be Part Of Today's Decisions

Today is Election Day and it is important for you all to remember to cast your ballot and be part of the decision process. As a Chamber of Commerce, we are totally a-political and endorse no candidates, although the Board of Directors may take positions on ballot issues, such as the Yes for Success initiative.

Now, more than ever, the small business community of our area needs your total support and patronage. We need elected officials who understand and respond to the needs of both our residential and commercial sectors alike.

Being the Voice of Business, we thrive on working with professional officials who are receptive to new and innovative ways to deal with current economic issues. Our city recently lost several businesses in both downtown and surrounding areas to the storm and our retail mix has been further diminished by the effects of Ian. As a community, we need to ensure that those that remain, continue to operate and hopefully thrive, as we do our part to attract new entities to our area.

When you sit and think just how far we have all come since September 28th, it is truly amazing. Together, united, we are much. This Friday, November 11, please consider joining me at 6 pm at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, as I emcee the 7th Annual Harvest on the Harbor farm-to-table dinner, benefitting the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center. Tickets can be purchased by calling 941.575.5435. This is their annual major fundraiser for the Center, which, like so many other non-profits, needs particular support this year, in light of Ian.

The Lighting of the Village at Fishermen's Village is scheduled for this Saturday November 12 at 6.20 pm – THE event in the City to mark the arrival of the holidays. Lift your spirits as over 1 million lights illuminate the entire Village.

On November 21 starting at 7 pm at the Event Center, we welcome the winner of “Your Chamber’s Got Talent 2022” Whitney Grace for a dinner show that should not be missed. Tickets are \$45 and available by calling us at 941.639.3720 or by visiting the shop chamber tab on the homepage of www.puntagordachamber.com

You will also find the link on our webpage to buy tickets for a spectacular show on December 13 by jazz artist extraordinaire Mindi Abair as she brings her unique “jazzy Christmas” show for the very first time to Southwest Florida! Join us for the fun and Holiday Spirit that evening, which is also preceded by a special wine tasting hosted by Mindi’s husband Eric, accompanied by her musical accompaniment. Starts at 5 pm. Get the best tickets in the house while they still are available.

This is simply a snapshot of what is being planned for the upcoming month. Visit www.puntagordachamber.com and click the Friday Facts under Quick Links for a full listing. You can even opt to have the calendar sent to your inbox weekly, so you’ll never be out of the loop again.

We continue to send out regular emails to our database group, alerting them with valuable information about resources, progress and which businesses are open for business. If you want to be added to receive this list, please send your email address to chamber@puntagorda-chamber.com and you’ll be added. If your business is a Chamber Member (or not), we’ll add your details to the list free of charge! Our offices are open 9-4 and, as long as we have the resources, you are welcome to drop by and use our internet, phones and a/c.

We’ll also be happy to direct you to additional assistance that we are aware of that is being offered to our community residents and businesses. Together we are one great community.

2023 CHAMBER GUIDE AD SPACE/PARTNERS IN ACTION DEADLINES NEXT WEEK

We are in the final stages of putting together our 2023 Member and Visitors' Guide. With a publication of 40,000 copies, a readership that far exceeds 100,000 people and a downloadable version on our website that increases that readership exponentially, this is an opportunity no business in the area should miss.

As a member, you get a FREE business listing in the category that most applies to your business; you get the opportunity to advertise at very competitive rates for a one shot/year-long advertisement and your name is carried for 12 full months to key locations around the area and distributed to both visitors and residents alike, to help promote your business and its services.

There is simply no better time to become a member of the Punta Gorda Chamber than NOW. Join our family of businesses who go to tremendous lengths to promote each other and try to make everyone succeed. So, join us and be part of the 2023 guide.

The advertising deadline has been extended to Friday, November 18, as we reset after Ian. That is the same day for signing up for our 2023 Partners in Action program. All camera-ready ads are due to us by Monday, November 28. Call 941.639.3720 and we will assist you. And your ad can be designed by us, at no extra charge! We are here to make your marketing "pop" for 2023.

A full listing of our members and their events and promotions are ready for you to view on puntagordachamber.com Under Quick Links, click the Friday Facts icon.

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