

Holiday fun heats up in Charlotte County

Oh my, Charlotte County is in full swing for the holidays.

The Nov. 20 Gallery Walk was a terrific start to the season, with the lighting of the Punta Gorda Christmas trees, Santa and Mrs. Claus making their rounds and holiday music playing throughout the evening.

We had a terrific turnout at the Purple House, the Punta Gorda office for the Sun on Sullivan Street. I want to offer a big thank you to homegrown, local band Country Express for playing all night, and thanks to the staff of the Charlotte Sun — both from our Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte teams — for making the event so much fun.

And just how terrific were the bagpipers from the Lee County Pipes & Drums? A fun evening was had by all.

Here's a look at some upcoming events in our area:

Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club offers open house

An open house and cookout for prospective members of the Charlotte Harbor Yacht Club will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 30 at the club, located at 4400 Lister St., Port Charlotte.

They will be serving burgers and hot dogs to all prospective members who stop by the club, and the club will offer a special rate during the event for new members who join the club, often called "The Window to the Harbor."

For more information or reservations, call Joy at 941-629-5131.

Shop local on Small Business Saturday

Five downtown Punta Gorda businesses have united for a Small Business



Leslee Peth Out and About

Leslee Peth is the publisher of the Punta Gorda Herald. Contact her at lpeth@sun-herald.com.

Saturday open house event set to run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Nov. 29.

Participating businesses are Sea Grape Gallery, Courtyard Café & Wine Bar, HipNotique, Pomegranate & Fig and Tiki's Boutique — all are located on West Marion Avenue.

Holiday refreshments, hourly door prizes and a chance to win a grand-prize basket will be offered.

Make plans to stop by downtown to dine and shop while supporting your local merchants.

Charlotte Chorale to benefit from quarter auction

A quarter auction in benefit of the Charlotte Chorale will begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the 24TwentyOne Event Center, 2421 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte.

The auction offers bidders the chance to play for prizes that are offered by independent vendors, and auction paddles will be sold for \$3 each. There will be additional opportunities to win, and food and beverages will be available.

The Dickens' Carolers will offer a special performance at the start of the event.

It is suggested that participants bring a roll or two of quarters, cash for raffles and food, as well as lots of enthusiasm for the festivities.



HERALD PHOTO BY PAMELA STAIK

The Lee County Pipes & Drums paraded through downtown Punta Gorda during Gallery Walk on Nov. 20.



The Lee County Pipes & Drums made a special stop on Sullivan Street at the Purple House, the Punta Gorda office of the Sun.



Betsy Williams Photojournalist

Betsy Williams is a freelance photographer. Contact her at photobw17@gmail.com.

Havana Tranquility offers two-day open house

Havana Tranquility, located at 25139 E. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda, held a two-day open house Nov. 15-16. Visit <http://havanatranquility.com> for more information about upcoming events.



HERALD PHOTOS BY BETSY WILLIAMS

The smoking room, which is triple ventilated, offers smokers a comfortable oasis for enjoying a cigar and camaraderie.

RIGHT: Owner Emil Dameff stands in the humidor filled with cigars. Havana Tranquility has been his dream for a long time.



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