

The Heron Herald



Another Seabreeze Publication

VOL. 10 NO. 3

www.seabreezecom munications.com

MARCH 2024

BSL Architectural Review Update – January



By Betty Ingerson, BSL Board of Directors, ARC Liaison

The architectural projects listed in the following table were either approved or conditionally approved by the

Burnt Store Lakes Board of Directors during the Jan. 9 Board meeting.

As of Jan. 31 there were 92 new homes in the construction process; 22 new homes have received certificates of occupancy in the current fiscal year (October 2023 to September 2024).

ADDRESS	BOARD APPROVED PROJECT
NEW HOMES	
16346 Nogales Ct.	SPEC HOME: 2,595 Sq Ft (1,805 AC). 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, concrete driveway, tile roof color Gray, house color Passive, trim color High Reflective White by Unique Homes
OTHER CONSTRUCTION	
17433 Cape Horn Blvd	EXTERIOR PAINT AND TRIM: Repaint home from Taupe with White Trim to Poised Taupe with White Trim by Jason Hartzel.
16859 Acapulco Rd.	PATIO ADDITION: 40' by 15' paver patio, coming off porch exit steps by Next Level Paver Company.
16249 San Edmundo Rd.	ENCLOSURE SHIELD: 6' high by 14' long by 6' wide in white PVC to store trash cans and hide mechanicals. Gate on front.
17290 Sagehorn Ln.	LANDSCAPE ADDITION: Adding 4 Xmas palms on southside of home and two palms and shrub in a 10' x 3' oval in the front yard.
24471 Rio Togas Rd.	FENCE: Black aluminum fence to surround pool.
24305 San Rafael Rd.	DRIVEWAY CHANGE: Stamped Concrete. Pacific Fog driveway with Slate Gray border
17082 Thyme Ct.	SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL: By Beautiful Boundaries.
16527 Cape Horn Blvd.	EXTERIOR PAINT & TRIM: Paint House Shitake, Trim Shoji White/Egret White

BSLPOA Paving 2024

I'm writing this article to inform residents of some important information about our upcoming paving project for 2024. We do not have an exact start date yet, but we have requested it to be done as late in the year as possible. This project will be resurfacing all the roads within Burnt Store Lakes. In other words, they will not be grinding the roads down to the base and repaving; it will only be applying a 1.75-inch layer of pavement on top of the existing road surface.

If you have a concrete driveway, the pavement will be tapered down to the existing driveway, and you will lose a couple of inches of concrete. If you have a paver driveway, you have two options. First, you can do nothing, and the contractor will treat your driveway the same way as with



BSLPOA Paving 2024 on page 2

February Drainage

In January we continued the removal of the *Washingtonia* palm trees from the county right of way along Peppercorn Road and Santa Inez Road. Once the trees were pulled the areas were regraded and sod installed. To date, we have completed the project with the exception of two trees, which we will hopefully be able to complete next month.

February Drainage on page 2



Join Your Neighbors!



Located off Rio Togas near Burnt Store Road.

**Sunday, March 10
1 to 3 p.m.**

Please bring a meat dish, casserole, side dish *and/or* a dessert to share with 12 to 15 people and bring your own beverage.

Plates, silverware, napkins, and water
is always provided.

Come for the food and stay for the fellowship and fun!

We hope to see EVERYONE there!



The Heron Herald

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THE HERON HERALD

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ARTICLES IS MARCH 5

DELIVERY IS WEEK OF MARCH 25

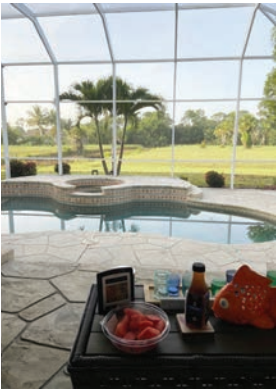
EMAIL ALL SUBMISSIONS TO PAULA SHORT, EDITOR

BSLNEWSPAPER@YAHOO.COM

From My Lanai

As I’ve mentioned many times, our new home comes with a front row seat to an episode of Marlin Perkins’ *Wild Kingdom*. We have it all – hot and cold running gator, raptors, herons, ducks, turtles, lizards, feral pigs, and my least favorite, the coyote.

The first part of the year sees some of the aforementioned on the prowl, looking for a mate and reacting adversely to our pet population. We could



debate for hours on “who was here first” vs. “who is here now.” However, at the end of the debate, I still choose my precious pup over their right to breakfast options.

So, what’s a pet mama to do? Well, head on over to our convenient Dollar General and purchase (in the birthday party section) a small can labeled “air horn.” Any YouTube video will prove that the use of an air horn blasted at an unwanted predator will send them running away. Each dawn and each dusk when I take our dog outside the air horn travels with me, just in case. Although I shouldn’t admit it, on one bleary morning I stumbled out the back door, and instead of grabbing my air horn I grasped a can of spray paint that had been left there the day before by

my husband. I laughed to think had that been the day of an attack, the best I could have done was paint a coyote in a nice Mediterranean blue.

Just one more picturesque part of the view from my lanai.

Ava Ritter





Board Of Directors

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Liaison – Architectural Review

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Liaison – Safety and Preparedness

Board Of Directors
Community Standards

Board of Directors meeting is Tuesday, March 12 at 3 p.m.
Meetings are hybrid meetings held in the Community Center and available by Zoom.

16500 Burnt Store Road, Suite 102
(941) 639-5881



Daylight Saving Time Starts

March 10, 2024

Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour Saturday night or Sunday morning the weekend of March 11.

STAY ALIVE!

don't TXT & drive

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?

For Active Home Listings For Sale & Burnt Store Lakes And Village Homes Sold OR For a Market Update for Active Vacant Lots For Sale @ present & Burnt Store Lakes Vacant Lots Sold 2023 -2024

Contact **Judy Petkewicz, Allison James,**
941-456-8304 for further information OR
Email:JudyPetkewicz@hotmail.com



Thinking of Buying or Selling?
Call Judy to get the job done!

Judy is on the Best Seller List!
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Judy K. Petkewicz BSL Realtor 
Allison James Estates & Homes
Cell Anytime Call **941-456-8304**

309 Tamiami Tr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

February Drainage from page 1

Due to a blocked concrete drainage pipe, there has been a “standing” water issue along the county right of way on both sides of Acapulco Road between Bundy Court and Chive Way. We were on the list for the county to blow out the pipe, but, fortunately, our contractor was able to clear the blockage and resolve the issue sooner.

Elisabeth Geltz,
Board Secretary and Drainage Liaison



BSLPOA Paving 2024 from page 1

concrete, so you would lose most of your first row of pavers. The other option is, you can remove the first row of pavers, and they will taper the pavement down to the existing elevation and leave a straight edge so the pavers can be reinstalled. I have been trying to locate a contractor that would be willing to go in front of the paving contractor and remove the pavers and then come back behind them and reinstall the pavers. So far, I have been unsuccessful. If I do find a contractor, residents would have to pay for their driveway to be done. Also, keep in mind that if you remove a row of pavers, you cannot drive across that area until the pavers are put back in place.

Once we have a start date, we will send out an email. In addition, the contractor will decide how they want to proceed through the neighborhood, and they will give a 48-hour notice by hanging a notice on your door as to when your street will be done.

The last thing I want to cover is the cost of paving the roads. Charlotte County funds these projects through what is called a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU). So, rather than grouping the county into tax districts, like in other places you may be used to, this is done to keep taxes lower. There are two MSBU

taxes on your property tax bill: One is South Burnt Store Street and Drainage, and the other is South Charlotte Stormwater Utility. Each MSBU has an advisory board that meets quarterly to discuss upcoming projects or additional items possibly to be done, as well as to go over the budget. The advisory board does not have authority to spend any funds; they only make recommendations to the County Commissioners. The South Burnt Store Street and Drainage MSBU is the one the paving will be paid out of.

Unlike some MSBUs, the South Burnt Store Street and Drainage MSBU funds can **only** be used in Burnt Store Lakes. In addition to the normal \$53, we have been putting an additional \$245 a year per lot for the last four years into the South Burnt Store Street and Drainage MSBU for the paving. We currently have approximately \$2.8 million to go toward the paving. Currently, the estimate for the paving is around \$6 million. The county will borrow the additional funds to complete the project. It will be a 10-year loan. We will be required to pay off the loan through the MSBU. The plan right now is to continue to pay the current \$245 a year per lot, and this would pay off the loan in approximately seven years.

Dave Evans,
Chairman, South Burnt Store Street and Drainage MSBU Advisory Board

Neighborhood Watch Information Survey

You are encouraged to respond to the “Neighborhood Watch Information Survey” as noted below on bslpoa.org, your community website. The information is needed to help the Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office and our community Neighborhood Watch Program become more successful.

In 2018, 143 bicycles were reported stolen in Charlotte County – a number the Punta Gorda Crime Prevention Unit continues to try and lower by implementing the Bicycle Anti-Theft (BAT) program. This program was created with the intention of returning lost or stolen bicycles, golf carts, and even kayaks to their owners.



When an owner fills out a BAT application while attending a registration event, information such as the item’s serial number and identifying features are recorded. The item registered will be given a specific identification number and entered in the unit’s database. When property is recovered that is registered with the BAT program, detectives will search the database to potentially determine the rightful owner.

Neighborhood Watch is planning a registration event in the community park sometime in March, and to that end, we need your input from the survey.

Please contact Louise Barrett at lbarrett10@comcast.net if you have additional questions.

If you have already taken the survey, Neighborhood Watch thanks you.

Please list your name, address, email, and phone number: _____

Are you interested in registering any of the items listed below? (Yes) (No)

Please list the items you are interested in registering: _____

“I Just Don’t Believe That...”

Dear friend,

When I meet people in town, they usually say, “Oh, yeah, I know you, you’re that doctor with the beard on TV.” Well, perhaps I should tell you a little more about myself, the picture from television and why I use it in my ads.

Let’s start with me, the guy with the beard. Ten years ago I was living here in Florida. At that time my mother was down visiting from New Jersey for the season when she showed up in my clinic with a **frozen shoulder**. She was desperate and in pain having lost practically all use of her dominant arm. She could hardly fix her hair, reach for a coffee cup or even fasten her brassiere. Basic hygiene had become extremely difficult for her. She was afraid, because the two orthopedic surgeons that she had consulted told her, “Your only option is to have your shoulder replaced.” I remember saying to my mother, **“I just don’t believe that.”**

Now at that time I was a chiropractor who worked primarily on the spine. Frankly... I didn’t know how I was going to help her. I just knew there was a non-surgical solution out there and I was going to find it.

And boy did I find it! I found the answer to my mother’s shoulder problem and much, much more. And where did I find it? Of all places, I found it at the birthplace of Elvis Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi. Immediately I hopped on a plane and flew into Memphis, rented a car and drove out to a chiropractic neurologist who was willing to teach me how to fix my mother’s frozen shoulder. I spent three days in his clinic shadowing him, learning a new technique I had never even heard about before. Eager to help my mother, I developed this new skill set quickly. When I returned to Florida I wanted to be able to immediately fix my mother’s shoulder.

And that’s exactly what happened. After I performed the first Non-Surgical Operation on her shoulder, her pain went away significantly and she recovered to nearly full range of motion. She was so happy that she avoided surgery and got her life back.

It’s strange how life is, because that same doctor who showed me how to fix my mother’s shoulder opened up his treasure chest of knowledge and showed me how to help people with **chronic knee, neck, low back pain and those suffering with neuropathy** in their hands and feet, **all without the use of Drugs, Surgery or Injections**.

I spent the next several months flying back and forth to Mississippi learning all that I could.

Many years later we now have over one thousand successful patient testimonials. Many of them were told by their doctors that their only option was to have their knee or shoulder replaced or to take toxic drugs for the rest of their lives to mask their neuropathy symptoms.

Al was one of those patients who was told he had **‘bone on bone’** degeneration. His knee stopped unlocking properly, similar to what I’m describing in the photo, and he was facing knee replacement surgery. He was suffering from **chronic degenerative knee pain**, couldn’t walk properly and was easily holding onto 60 pounds of excess body weight. His doctors would have eagerly scheduled him for a knee replacement surgery had he decided to go in that direction.

Immediately after the Non-Surgical Operation I performed on Al’s knee, he was squatting and walking up and down the stairs normally without pain.

Al is now in his early 70s touring Alaska in his RV. He has dropped over 60 pounds and is biking 15 - 20 miles per day and loving life. He regularly sends me great pictures from his adventures.

Joyce was told by her oncologist, “There’s nothing that can be done.” She would have to live with the chemo-induced **neuropathy in her hands and feet**. Hot and cold were indistinguishable and the numbness and tingling made it impossible for her to walk any distance.

Joyce was a cancer survivor only to have come out on the other side with another debilitating condition. She and her husband showed up in my clinic and told me what their medical doctor had said. I told her the same thing I told my mother, **“I just don’t believe that.”**

After a thorough neurological examination and report of findings she trusted me enough to follow my protocols. Within two weeks her numbness and tingling in her feet subsided and the feeling was coming back.. After 12 weeks she was feeling the sand between her toes as she walked along the beach again. At her one year checkup Joyce’s sensory loss had improved over 80% overall to within the normal range... She is all smiles these days!



You should know that ***I don’t heal anyone of anything.*** What I do is perform a specific non-surgical operation that resets the communication between the brain and knee or shoulder, instantly decreasing pain and inflammation, increasing strength and flexibility and **helping with tissue healing**. For our neuropathy patients we have a 4 step, proven approach that heals your nerves and reverses your symptoms. We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!We get tremendous results. It’s as simple as that!

Today in the United States medical doctors are prescribing more drugs than ever before. These drugs are designed to cover up symptoms as your condition gets worse underneath the surface. The toxicity from the daily use of these chemicals ultimately leads to nasty side-effects and more drugs to treat the new symptoms. The current “healthcare” system was built to maintain your condition, not fix it. It’s a brilliant business model for the pharmaceutical industry and the hospitals, but a horrible strategy to follow if one is looking to age gracefully.

That’s where my practice comes in. I have **found a way** so that more people are able to afford the treatment they need, even those on a fixed income with or without health insurance coverage. One Non-Surgical Operation in my clinic could cost what you’d pay for just the deductible of a joint replacement surgery.

You Benefit from a Unique Offer...When you bring in this article, you will receive a **FREE CONSULTATION** with me to determine whether you are a good candidate for our Non-Surgical Knee or Shoulder Operation. If you’re being seen for Neuropathy we will take a thermal image of your feet **at no charge to you**. This will give me enough information to know whether I can help you. Once we determine you’re a good candidate and you feel comfortable in my clinic **the complete examination is only \$197**. That’s it, for the entire neurological examination & report of findings. This examination & report could cost you over \$500 elsewhere. But, please

call right away because this offer expires on March 31, 2024, and I don’t want you to miss out. By the way, further care is very affordable and you’ll be happy to know that the non-surgical, drug free therapies and procedures performed in my clinic **can cost as little as \$300 per month**. You see, I’m not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor because higher costs can add up very quickly.

“You shouldn’t be forced to choose drugs and surgery just because that’s the only treatment medicare and your insurance company will cover.”

You should know a little about my qualifications. That’s important so that there’s no misunderstanding about the quality of care. I’m the best-selling author of **Breaking The Cycle** - how to take control of your life when traditional medicine has failed. **An amazon #1 new release in three categories**. I’m a graduate of Life University School of Chiropractic practicing since 1998. I am a licensed chiropractic physician certified in functional neurology. I’ve been entrusted to take care of avid morning walkers, pro-athletes and business tycoons you may have heard of.



My office is called **Active Health Brain & Body** and it is located at 6710 Winkler Road, Suite #1. It’s the gray Key West-style building at the corner of Cypress Lake Drive and Winkler Road behind the Bank of America. The phone number is **239-482-8686**. Please call my wonderful assistants Megan or Silvia today to make an appointment.

I wish you the Very Best in Health and Life!

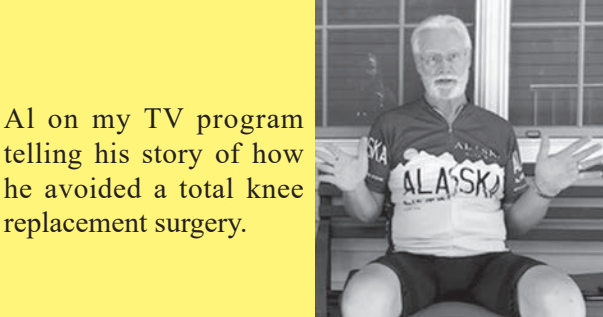
Dr. Rob Davis, DC

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only **\$97**.

P.P.S. Your time is as valuable to you as mine is to me. That’s why I have a “no wait” policy. It is highly unusual to wait more than a few minutes in my office.



My mother and I featured in a local publication for non-surgical shoulder solutions.



Al on my TV program telling his story of how he avoided a total knee replacement surgery.



Joyce is all smiles at her one year checkup. No more neuropathy!

Call Today 239-482-8686



The mission of the Peace River Wildlife Center is to contribute to the survival of native Florida wildlife through rescue, rehabilitation, and education.

PRWC Rescue And Release News

During the month of January, Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) admitted 128 animals. Last month our rehabilitation team released 16 animals back into the wild and transferred one to another wildlife facility. The education center and gift shop located at Ponce Park are open to the public daily for visits from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The wildlife hospital located at 223 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for injured animal care.



Athena, PRWC’s resident barn owl

Tricia’s Talon Talk

The new year started off with a bang! PRWC is thrilled to be part of the American Cruise Lines Punta Gorda Loop. We have been welcoming guests to our education center once a week to experience and learn about native Florida wildlife.

In other exciting news, several of our resident animals will be a part of the National Geographic Photo Ark by photographer Joel Sartore. Joel and his crew visited the center on Jan. 24 to photograph Luna, our leucistic screech owl, as well as our blue jay, double-crested cormorant, burrowing owl, fish crow, boat-tailed grackle, common grackle and brown thrasher. PRWC is honored to be a part of this incredible piece as Joel works to document as many species as possible before they disappear. He has already



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documented over 16,000 species. Be sure to follow the Photo Ark at www.photoark.com and watch for our PRWC residents to make their debut!

For more information on making an annual gift or a capital campaign gift for our new home, please email me at prwc.ed@prwildlife.org or call me at (941) 637-3830.

Patient 24-01

Our first intake in 2024 was an eastern screech owl that came to us as a transfer from the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc. (C.R.O.W.) on Sanibel Island. It had originally been admitted after colliding with a motor vehicle resulting in a head injury. Because of ongoing Hurricane Ian damage repair on outdoor habitats at C.R.O.W., this patient needed a quiet place to recover.

PRWC is very fortunate to partner with other licensed wildlife facilities across the state. This allows for a large spectrum of care for our native Florida wildlife.



We are happy to announce that this little owl completed its recovery with us and was successfully released back into the wild on Jan. 17. What a great way to start 2024!

Resident Of The Month Orion The Barred Owl

Help us celebrate Orion’s seventh birthday this month through a symbolic adoption.

After failed attempts at renesting by another rehabilitation center, young Orion became a permanent PRWC resident in 2017. Unfortunately, he had imprinted



on humans. Imprinting happens when an animal forms dependency on humans for food and care necessary for survival. To learn more about Orion or barred owls, visit our education center at Ponce Park, open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To symbolically adopt Orion for \$25 a month, contact us at (941) 637-3830 or <https://prwildlife.org>. Your adoption will help support his care and other non-releasable wildlife that call PRWC home.

Barred Owl Fun Facts

- Silent flyers: Barred owls are known for their stealthy hunting skills. Their feathers are designed in a way that reduces sound when flying, allowing them to swoop down on prey silently. This makes them formidable nighttime hunters, surprising their prey with little to no warning.
- Multilingual owls: Barred owls are famous for their distinctive hooting calls that sound like they’re saying, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?” Interestingly, they are known to have regional variations in their hoots, almost like different dialects. This unique vocalization adds character to the forests they inhabit.
- Adaptability champions: Barred owls are highly adaptable birds, found in a variety of habitats ranging from dense forests to urban parks. In fact, they are one of the few owl species that have successfully adjusted to human-altered environments. This adaptability has contributed to their widespread distribution across North America, making them a fascinating species to observe in diverse settings.

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Educate

For further information call (941) 637-3830 or go online at prwc@prwildlife.org.

Follow us on social media.

Did You Know?

Lobsters Taste With Their Feet

Tiny bristles inside a lobster’s little pincers are their equivalent to human taste buds. Meanwhile, lobsters’ teeth are in one of their three stomachs.

How do lobsters taste their food?

With their hairs on their legs and feet

With their tongues

With their tails

With the tops of their heads

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HEATING AIR CONDITIONING PLUMBING

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FOR EXPERT SERVICE, ADVICE OR A SECOND OPINION

941-623-0451



March Events

Friendship Car Show

Date: Saturday, March 2
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Event Description: Show off your “pride and joy” at our car show. All vehicles are welcome! Trophies will be awarded at 12 p.m. in the following categories: Participants Choice; People’s Choice; Youth Choice (under age 18). Outside the Lunchbox, a local food truck, and Sunny Days Ice Cream will be onsite. We look forward to seeing you there!



Location: Friendship United Methodist Church, 12275 Paramount Drive (in the community of Tropical Gulf Acres), Punta Gorda
Contact Information: Mel at (972) 689-3071 or Pastor Schoolcraft at (941) 268-7355
Fees/Admission: Admission is **free** for spectators. Entry fee for participants is \$15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Symphonic Winds Of Charlotte County – Musical Treasures

Date: Friday, March 8
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Website: www.charlottecountyconcertband.com
Description: Musical Treasures, from the Symphonic Winds



of Charlotte County Band and their Artistic Director, Bob Miller, features musical selections that visit the heavens to the sounds of earthly locations. This concert sparkles with music that will excite your imagination.
Location: Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC), 701 Carmalita St., Punta Gorda
Contact Information: (941) 218-0022
Fees/Admission: Preorder \$23/Box Office \$25

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration

Date: March 17
Time: 12 to 8 p.m.
Website: <http://www.fishermensvillage.com>
Event Description: Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at Fishermen’s Village! Live authentic Irish music by the Black Velvet Band, bagpipers, and Irish-inspired specialties at village restaurants!
Location: Fishermen’s Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
Contact Information: Kathy Burnam at kburman@fishermensvillage.com
Fees/Admission: Free



Recurring Activities

Trivia Night At Coastal Expressions & Wine
Every Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m.
1133 Bal Harbor, Suite 1135, Punta Gorda
Contact information: Lori Sandage at (941) 214-8599 or at loriscoastal-expressions.com

Dance Fusion Class
Every Tuesday and Friday
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association,
2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda or by Zoom
Contact Carla Peralta, (941) 276-1887 or at carlap@hotmail.com.

Wine-O Bingo At Coastal Expressions & Wine
Every Friday, 6 to 8 p.m.
1133 Bal Harbor, Suite 1135, Punta Gorda
Contact information: Lori Sandage at (941) 214-8599 or at loriscoastal-expressions.com

Live Music At Fishermen’s Village
Every Friday and Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m.
1200 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda
Contact information at kathyb@fishville.com

Punta Gorda Farmers’ Market
Every Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Downtown corner of Taylor and Olympia

History Park Sunday Market
Every Sunday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
History Park, 501 Shreve St., Punta Gorda
Email: 118pghs@gmail.com

BSLPOA Website

– bslpoa.org

Register On The Website To Receive BSL Emails!

Update your information if any changes are needed. You are the only one that can update your emails, phone numbers, etc. If you are not receiving your Monday email bulletins, please check your email for accuracy.

- 1,640 members receiving weekly updates
- 1,095 website accounts
- Privacy and passwords controlled by member
- Multiple informational pages
- Weekly bulletin updates
- Email blasts for instant information sharing
- Bulletin listings of past notices
- Calendar with R.S.V.P. available for events
- BSL information — documents, forms, etc., available 24/7

Colleen Wilson, Web Administrator

WELCOME! NOW OPEN!

“Elevating The Standard Of Veterinary Care”

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www.burntstoreanimalhospital.com

To make an appointment please call
(239) 315-0729
16480 Burnt Store Road, Suite 106B, Punta Gorda

Locally Owned and Operated by
Dr. Justin Kerr, DVM

HAPPY Easter

Sunday, March 31

It Was A Nice Idea!

Chapter 8: Places To Go

I used to travel more, and the place I used to love to travel to the most was Florida! Now what? In 1999, I drove to California by myself with only three cassette tapes to keep me company. I thought it would be **a nice idea** to write a postcard to my friends from each state I went through. Bad idea! I had eight friends I was writing to, and the first day I went through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Tennessee. I wrote out 64 postcards day one! At least the states get bigger as you travel across the country. When you look at a map of the United States, it looks like the founders started off very meticulously with the states – tiny like New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Then they got lazy just to get the map done – massive Texas and big New Mexico – and when they got to the end, they just said, “Well, we will just call the rest California, be done with it, and have some Chardonnay!”

Highflyers And Carrion Eaters

Several times a year I get questions on the species of big, high flying dark birds. Identifying them depends on how high the birds are relative to the viewer. All of them, except the osprey, also eat carrion (dead animals) usually hit and killed by vehicles on the road: bald eagle, turkey vulture, black vulture, and crested caracara.



Good Neighbor Program

Let us know if you would like to be connected with a neighbor. Neighborhood Watch is accepting resident profiles as a community service for those who may need assistance from time to time, particularly in the event of a severe storm or hurricane.

To obtain a copy of the profile and/or to obtain additional information, contact Louise Barrett at (508) 728-8002 or at lbarrett10@comcast.net. The BSL website (bslpoa.org) also has the profile forms and information available.

Furthermore, you can register online at the State of Florida Special Needs registry for “special needs” status if you have a physical, mental, or sensory disability and require assistance during an emergency. Charlotte County Emergency Management, along with the Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County, will strive to provide special needs sheltering and/or transportation to a general shelter.



Mary Ellen Kiss

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Anyway, I got off course. I went to Germany once, too, and I got myself an international driver’s license. You just needed to fill out some paperwork to get it, with no test at the time. But when I got to Germany, I asked my friend who lives there, “What does that sign mean?” He said, “Do not enter.” So, I wasn’t allowed to drive.

Going on and coming back from vacations are grueling! The packing, the driving, the flying, the traffic, etc., just get home! I have the solution, and it is a great business idea for you. When you are ready to go or come home from vacation, you call this travel company. They have a doctor who sedates you and a crew that packs up all your stuff, transports you home, and then revives you! If you use my business idea, I’ll be the first customer!

But now we live in Florida. Places to go has a different meaning to me now. Here are some of my favorites ... Englewood Beach is great; Venice is nice too! My friends told me the best is Boca Grande, but I haven’t been there yet. There is an itty-bitty beach right by the Peace River Wildlife Preserve, too. Lazy people go there if they don’t want to drive too far. I go there a lot.

What do I recommend? Probably everything you already know because I haven’t been here that long. If you haven’t done it yet, try the Alligator Bay Rum Distillery! Free tour on how the rum is made, and the best thing is free samples at the end!

Where are your favorite places in Punta Gorda? Let me know at itwasaniceidea@gmail.com. It really would **be a nice idea** for you to drop me a line!

Stay tuned for **Chapter 9: Fun in the Sun in the Sunshine State.**



Matthew Szuchy,
Itwasaniceidea@gmail.com

American Bald Eagle – Immature

These are eagles between the ages of 1 and 4 1/2. The wing pattern is very close to that of the turkey vulture, and they often soar the skies together. The eagle has blotchy beige patterns on the underside of the wings. It also has a thicker neck and broader tail. If it is an adult 5 or older, the head and tail are white. And yes, the eagle will eat carrion as well as garbage at the Zemel Road dump.



Turkey Vulture (Not A Buzzard)

This bird is about the size of an eagle but is considerably lighter in weight. They seem to soar effortlessly for a long time without a lot of wing flapping (catching the thermal winds). They have an amazing sense of smell, which can pick up the scent of carrion almost two miles away. Because of this it is usually first to arrive on the meal. No other bird has this ability. The underside of the wings has a slight color of grey and no white on the wing tips. In the correct sunlight you can usually pick up the light color of their beak.



Black Vulture

Compared to the turkey vulture, this bird is slightly smaller in wing size; however, it is a bit heavier requiring it to flap its wings more often. It does a flap-flap-flap then a glide-glide-glide pattern that isn’t done by other birds. The tip of their wings is white, which helps to recognize this species. Also, its tail feathers are slightly wider. It has very good eyesight and can see the turkey vulture with its dinner. It is heavier and gutsier and, therefore, knocks the turkey vulture off its meal.

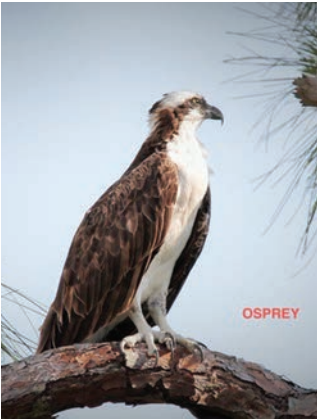


Crested Caracara

This bird does not soar much. It flies closer to the ground. It is unusual to see one here on Burnt Store Road unless you have sharp eyes. They are more often seen out toward Arcadia. They are heavier and faster than the vultures and can push the vultures off a meal. I think they still have one at Peace River Wildlife.

Osprey

Because of its whitish head, many people see this bird and think it is a bald eagle. The white belly and narrower wings confirm that it is an osprey. They are excellent fishermen, and the eagle will quite often swoop down and grab the osprey’s fish. They usually soar over water and not ground. I added this bird because it soars like the eagles and vultures, and people confuse them with the eagle.



A frigatebird can be seen out over the water, and they soar quite a bit. Most landlubbers have never seen one. Their wingspan is wider than the other birds, and it has a forked tail. They can soar on the thermals for days.

The pecking order of feeding on carrion is typically as follows: the turkey vulture, because it smells the animal first; the black vulture, because it is heavier than the turkey vulture; the caracara; the eagle, which is the biggest, who chases all of them away.

One needs to be careful when approaching a wounded vulture. To defend itself, it will vomit at the “attacker” – and they have an accuracy of 8 feet! I learned this when rescue volunteering at Peace River Wildlife.

We should be grateful to these carrion eaters. They keep our roads and neighborhoods measurably cleaner.

Bill Kimber,
Florida Master Naturalist

Standard of Care Vs. Exceptional

Today, most people would agree that in the United States we have a world renowned emergency medical care system. If someone has a traumatic head injury or is experiencing some sort of acute inflammatory response they have access to some of the best doctors in the world.

Most people also realize that when it comes to chronic conditions such as **arthritic joint pain, neuropathy, digestive disorders, diabetes or even memory problems** that their health insurance only pays for the same standard of care.

Unfortunately, when that standard of care or acute care model is applied to millions of people in the U.S. who are suffering with chronic complex conditions, it does not result in health and vitality, quite the opposite.

I see this in my clinic every day, people in their 60s, 70s and 80s who have been trying to do the right thing by listening to their doctor’s advice. They end up on countless prescription drugs that merely cover up symptoms and manipulate their lab values as the underlying disease destroys more healthy tissue.

Do you feel that your chronic health condition(s) is being addressed properly? Do you think that it’s a good idea to continue covering up your symptoms with drugs? If the answer is No, then contact Donna or Silvia at (239) 482-8686. I will perform a complete head to toe neurological examination to determine if you’re a good candidate for one of my Nonsurgical Operations and or a Recovery Care Program.

*Dr. Rob Davis, DC is the Best Selling Author of **Breaking the Cycle**, How to take control of your health when traditional medicine has failed. Call (239) 482-8686 to schedule an appointment.*

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Why Do People Dye Easter Eggs?

For many families, dyeing Easter eggs each year before the holiday is a fun tradition. There are numerous dyeing methods, but why do people dye Easter eggs? You might be surprised to learn that your favorite Easter activity is a tradition that dates back over 2,500 years.

While modern dyes and different methods are new, the ritual of dyeing eggs dates back to the ancient Persians. Some scientists believe that they painted eggs for the Persian New Year (Nowruz). Many Persian families still practice this tradition and paint colorful eggs each year – but not for Easter.

The connection between the Christian holiday and egg-dyeing dates back to the 10th century, when Christianity spread to Ukraine and the tradition of coloring eggs with wax or dye became associated with religion. The Greeks dyed eggs red in association with Mary Magdalene's visit to Jesus' tomb.

It wasn't until King Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be colored with gold leaf and given away to celebrate that "Easter eggs" became popular. During the Victorian era, the art of dyeing eggs became less exclusive and more of a family tradition. The eggs were considered treats for the children, and the vibrant colors were associated with spring. Eventually, dyeing eggs led to other Easter traditions, including egg hunts.

As you can see, egg dyeing for Easter has come a long way. Share some of the history with your family this year as you dip and dye your colorful creations for the upcoming holiday.



Quote Of The Month

Not everything that's
faced can be changed,
but nothing can be
changed that is not
faced.

James Baldwin



Consumer Alert

Veterans: Guard Against Identity Theft

Identity theft can happen in a lot of ways: a stolen wallet, a missing phone, or a hacked online account. Then there are impersonators – scammers who pretend to be almost anyone. They’ll tell you almost any story to get you to trust them, so they can steal your money or information. If you’re a veteran, there’s another risk: sharing information with someone who claims they’ll help with paperwork and filing benefits claims. But instead of helping you for free as they’re supposed to, dishonest advisers charge you – and may take and misuse your information, too.

What are some ways to protect yourself from identity theft targeting veterans?

- **Don’t pay to file – or get help with – VA benefits claims. It’s free to apply for any type of veterans’ benefits.** Scammers may offer to help you for a fee or a percentage of the benefits you get. Don’t do it. Get free help from an accredited representative.
- **Don’t work with anyone who pressures you.** Take your time to review paperwork and consider all your options, including doing nothing. Don’t sign blank paperwork to be filled in later. Also, be sure your VA benefits are deposited directly into your account – and not the account of an adviser, assisted living facility, or nursing home.
- **Safeguard your personal information.** Never share your VA login credentials or password. Check out VA’s advice on setting up multifactor authentication on your VA accounts.

• **Get help if your VA benefits or services are affected.** Call the toll-free VA Veteran Identity Theft Helpline: (855) 578-5492.

• **Check your credit report regularly.** You’re able to get a free copy of your report every week from each of the three credit bureaus at AnnualCreditReport.com.

Finally, if you encounter identity theft, report it at IdentityTheft.gov. When you report, you’re telling law enforcement what happened and you also get step-by-step instructions on how to recover from any type of identity theft.

Suspect identity theft?

Report it and get a recovery plan at [IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov)



ftc.gov/IDTheftWeek

Caught On Camera



Can you see me? This owl seized the unoccupied osprey nest from last year!



Mom or Dad guarding the nest.



Babies are growing up!
Photos by Edie Johnson

Beware Of Alligators!

Inhabitants of Burnt Store Lakes and nearby areas have encountered alligators from time to time.

- If you cross paths with an alligator that ...
- a. is in a place considered unacceptable, such as a swimming pool, lanai, garage, etc.,
 - b. you consider a threat to people, pets, or property,
 - c. approaches people, or
 - d. doesn’t retreat if approached,
- ... please call the BSL POA office at (941) 639-5881.

Do not feed or harass it. Doing so is dangerous and illegal.

Visit the Burnt Store Lakes Property Owners Association website for more information.



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