

# Free

# Local Area Guide



## Charlotte County, Florida

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- Recreation Trails
- Area History
- Parks & Rec. Info
- Local Attractions
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- Fishing Fees
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- Local Events

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Charlotte County



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# Local Area Events

## JANUARY

- Charlotte County Boat Show - Port Charlotte
- Charlotte County Fair
- Harbor Hustle 5K - Punta Gorda
- Maximum Velocity Car Show - Port Charlotte
- Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival
- Southwest Florida Wood Art Expo - Punta Gorda
- Two Guys Gun Show - Port Charlotte

## FEBRUARY

- Annual Art Expo - Punta Gorda
- Englewood Seafood & Music Festival
- Repticon - Port Charlotte

## MARCH

- Food Truck Rally & Music Festival - Englewood
- Annual Caribbean Heritage Month Celebration - Port Charlotte
- Loveland Center Ability 5K Run & 1K Fun Walk - Punta Gorda
- Taste of Punta Gorda & Beyond
- Annual Peace River National Art Festival - Punta Gorda

## APRIL - MAY

- Annual FLOFEST - Port Charlotte
- Fiesta Del SOL - Solana
- Giovanni's Italian Fest - Port Charlotte

## JUNE - JULY

- Fireworks at Lashley Park - Punta Gorda
- Annual Friday Night Concert Series - Englewood (June-Aug)
- YMCA Triathlon - Englewood

## AUGUST - SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

- Pirate Treasure Trot 5K - Port Charlotte
- Annual Labor Day Weekend Venice Craft Festival - Englewood
- Jamaican Independence Day Festival - Port Charlotte
- Loomis Brothers Circus - Port Charlotte
- Let's EAT Restaurant week - Englewood
- Halloween Notte Port Charlotte Pumpkin Festival
- Field Of Dreams Country Classic - Port Charlotte
- Oktoberfest - Port Charlotte
- Wet & Wild Kidz Fest - Port Charlotte

## NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Sullivan Craft Festival - Punta Gorda
- Annual Great Garage Sale - Port Charlotte
- Annual Charitable Golf Tournament - Port Charlotte
- Annual Charlotte Co. Habitats Turkey Trot - Punta Gorda
- Arts & Crafts Show - Punta Gorda & Port Charlotte
- Cannafest - Port Charlotte
- Florida International Air Show - Punta Gorda

## NOVEMBER - DECEMBER (CONTD)

- Field of Dreams Country Classic - Port Charlotte
- Twisted Fork - Port Charlotte
- Puff & Paint Cannafest - Port Charlotte
- Pet Fair Extravaganza - Port Charlotte
- Englewoods BeachFest
- Englewoods Turkey Trot
- Fantasea Shark Fishing Tournament - Englewood

- Englewood Craft Show
- Annual Paradise Christmas Fair @ Lashley Park - Punta Gorda
- Annual Holiday Social - Port Charlotte
- Holiday Craft & Vendor Show - Punta Gorda

*\* Events are subject to change*



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# Residential Services

Administration.....	941-743-1944
Animal Control.....	941-833-5690
Clerk of Circuit Court.....	941-505-4716
Community Development.....	941-743-1201
Community Services.....	941-625-7529
County Attorney.....	941-743-1330
County Commission.....	941-743-1300
Economic Development.....	941-764-4941
Emergency.....	911
Emergency Management.....	941-833-4000
Extension Service.....	941-764-4340
Facilities.....	941-743-1392
Fire & EMS.....	941-833-5600
Garbage & Recycling.....	941-764-4360
Human Resources.....	941-743-1260
Human Services.....	941-833-6500
Libraries & History.....	941-613-3200
Parks & Recreation.....	941-625-7529
Public Safety.....	941-833-5600
Public Works.....	941-575-3600
Sheriff	
Punta Gorda & Port Charlotte.....	941-639-2120
Englewood.....	941-474-3233
Transit.....	941-575-4000
Utilities (Water & Sewer).....	941-764-4300

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Hi Everyone! My name is Jinky, I am a Physical Therapist for more than 24 years now. Being a home health Physical Therapist for more than 14 years now is a fulfilling career however my time is used up during the day visiting patients in their homes and when I go back home I still have to complete my documentation. It has been an overwhelming life and our daughter who is 11 years old now is telling me "Working again Mommy?". My daughter is my greatest gift and I do not want to miss all her milestones. My deepest WHY is to achieve Time Freedom and spend more time with my husband and daughter. In May 2023 I took a leap of faith in this venture in the digital marketing world. I have been doing this for more than 1 year now and this has been helping our family pay our bills. We are very excited of what is in store for us in the near future. If you are looking to achieve financial and time freedom, I can show you the way and guide you through the process. Your efforts and my guidance will lead us to achieve our goals in life!  
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The county of Charlotte was founded on April 23, 1921. The Bay of Charlotte Harbor inspired its name. “Charlotte” is derived from the Spanish word “Carlota”. The Spanish dubbed the location “Bahia de Carlota” in 1565, while the English honored Queen Charlotte in 1775 by renaming the place Charlotte Harbor. The sole incorporated city in Charlotte County is Punta Gorda. There were 186,847 people living there as of the 2020 census. Punta Gorda is its county seat.

**Cities**

Punta Gorda - 19,471 (County Seat)

**Census Designated Places  
(Unincorporated)**

Charlotte Harbor - 3,784  
Charlotte Park - 2,667  
Cleveland - 3,435  
Englewood - 20,800  
Grove City - 2,174  
Harbour Heights - 3,428  
Manasota Key - 1,326  
Port Charlotte - 60,625  
Rotonda - 10,114  
Solana - 671

**Other Unincorporated Communities**

Boca Grande - 1,900  
Cape Haze - 2,125  
Deep Creek - 15,161  
Little Gasparilla Island - 1,900  
Murdock - 46,451  
Placida - 3,416  
Babcock Ranch (a solar-powered community currently under construction.)

*\*Populations are approximate.*

**Punta Gorda**

Punta Gorda, sometimes known as Fat Point in English, is a city in Southwest Florida that serves as the county seat of Charlotte County. About ten years after the Civil War, Frederick and Jarvis Howard, soldiers of the Union Army, homesteaded a region south of the Peace River close to the modern-day Punta Gorda. James and Josephine Lockhart purchased land in 1876, and they erected a home on it that is now the city’s center. James Madison Lanier, a hunter and trapper, purchased Lockhart’s claim approximately two years later. There were 19,471 people living in the city as of the 2020 U.S. Census.

**Englewood**

Florida’s Charlotte and Sarasota counties contain the census-designated place (CDP) Englewood. Ceramics from the Safety Harbor and Weeden Island cultures were found during archaeological excavations in what is now Englewood. William Goff, who came by schooner from Tampa in 1878, was one of the first white settlers in the area. He established his farm a few miles south of the Englewood plot. A post office was also established in the neighborhood on July 3, 1895. There were 20,800 people living there as of the 2020 census.

**Port Charlotte**

In Charlotte County, Florida, Port Charlotte is a census-designated place (CDP) and an unincorporated community. U.S. News & World Report listed Port Charlotte as one of the “10 Best Places to Retire” in the country for 2012. Florida became a U.S. territory after the Spanish gave it up in 1819, and it became the 27th state in 1845. The region surrounding Port Charlotte remained largely undeveloped throughout the first 100 years of the state’s existence. Most roads and railroads heading into southwest Florida had gotten around the Port Charlotte area, according to maps of the region at the start of the 20th century. Except for a few small farms and cattle ranches, the region was largely deserted. When the post-World War II boom made land development in Florida more feasible, this would all change. In 2020, there were 60,625 people living there.





## GO GREEN

Reduce, Reuse,  
Recycle

reduce waste, reuse materials & recycle properly



Cut back on single-use plastics, conserve water, drive less



EVERY  
DAY  
is  
EARTH  
DAY

**Community/Home Gardens:** Really good at absorbing carbon dioxide. Cuts down on pesticides/fertilizers. Also benefits mental health and provides fresh food.

**Composting:** Decreases the amount of trash in landfills and reduces carbon emissions.

**Plant Trees:** Planting trees is a classic Earth Day activity.

**Local Food:** Buy local sustainable food.

**Clean-Up Events:** Organize or participate in local clean-up efforts.

**Upcycle Crafts:** Get creative by turning old items into new useful objects.



## COMPOSTING in Your Backyard

Yard trimmings and food scraps make up nearly 15% to 30% of waste produced by the average household in USA. Composting leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps, creates a nice black dirt to use around your yard. It also can reduce what goes to landfills and your use of fertilizer and water around your yard.

### How to get started composting

1. Make a compost bin or you can buy one
2. Place yard waste in and mix in kitchen scraps
3. Water as needed, to keep moist
4. Mix it with a shovel or pitchfork once in a while

### What to compost

Food scraps such as banana peels and coffee grounds are good to compost. The best results come from mixing the right materials like, nitrogen-rich (greens), carbon-rich (browns), water, and air. Get the mixture correct and you will have good quality compost.

### What not to compost

Although a lot of stuff is compostable, you should stay away from composting things that will attract scavengers or create bad odors.

Some things you should not add to your compost are pet feces, diseased plants, weeds gone to seed, ashes, dairy, oils and food with meat or bones.

### How long will it take?

Most likely you will produce compost in six months to a year depending on your management methods. To make compost faster keep the correct moisture levels and turn the pile every once in awhile.

### Using the finished compost

Compost is not a fertilizer but it can contain nutrients which improves plant growth. By using compost, you can improve the soil around your plants, flowers and throughout your yard, it also reduces your use of fertilizer and water. Another good use for your compost is to use it for your potted plants.






# Health Benefits of Physical Activity

## Major Research Findings

from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

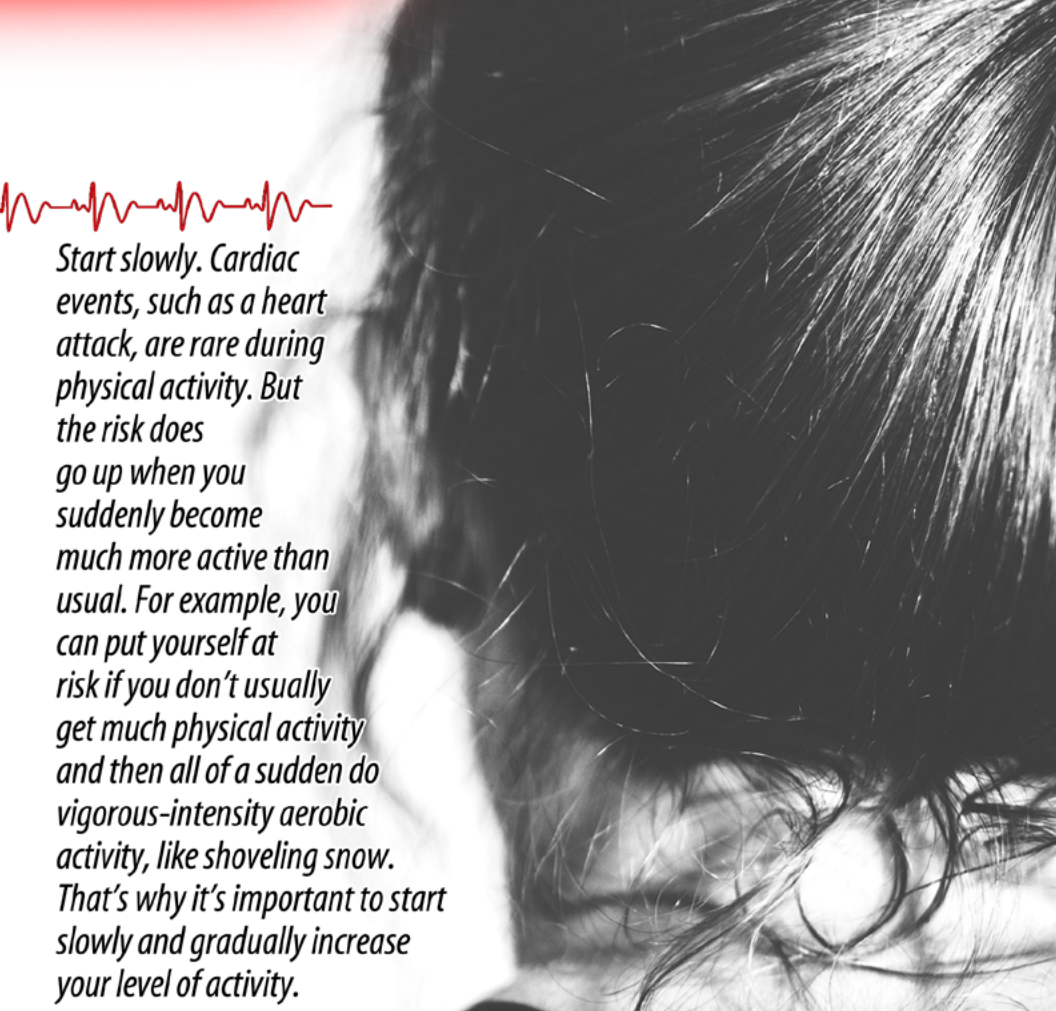
- 
- Regular moderate-to-vigorous physical activity reduces the risk of many adverse health outcomes.
  - Some physical activity is better than none.
  - For most health outcomes, additional benefits occur as the amount of physical activity increases through higher intensity, greater frequency, and/or longer duration.
  - Substantial health benefits for adults occur with 150 to 300 minutes a week of moderate-intensity physical activity. Additional benefits occur with more physical activity.
  - Both aerobic and muscle-strengthening physical activity are beneficial.
  - Health benefits occur for children and adolescents, young and middle-aged adults, older adults, and those in every studied racial and ethnic group.
  - The health benefits of physical activity occur for people with chronic conditions or disabilities.
  - The benefits of physical activity generally outweigh the risk of adverse outcomes or injury.

### Guidelines for Adults

- For substantial health benefits, you should do at least 2.5hrs a week of moderate-intensity, or 1.25hrs a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic activity, or a combination of the two activities. Aerobic activity should be performed in episodes of at least 10 minutes, and should be done throughout the week.
- For even better health benefits, adults should increase their aerobic physical activity to 5hrs a week of moderate-intensity, or 2.5hrs a week of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or a combination of the two activities.

### Guidelines for Children and Adolescents

- Children and adolescents should do an hour or more of physical activity daily.
- Aerobic: Most of the hour or more a day should be either moderate- or vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity.
- Muscle-strengthening: As part of their hour or more of daily physical activity, children and adolescents should include muscle-strengthening physical activity on at least 3 days of the week.
- Bone-strengthening: As part of their hour or more of daily physical activity, children and adolescents should include bone-strengthening physical activity on at least 3 days of the week.
- It is important to encourage young people to participate in physical activities that are appropriate for their age, that are enjoyable, and that offer variety.



*Start slowly. Cardiac events, such as a heart attack, are rare during physical activity. But the risk does go up when you suddenly become much more active than usual. For example, you can put yourself at risk if you don't usually get much physical activity and then all of a sudden do vigorous-intensity aerobic activity, like shoveling snow. That's why it's important to start slowly and gradually increase your level of activity.*

## Intensity Examples

### Moderate Intensity

- Walking briskly (3 mph or faster, but not race-walking)
- Water aerobics
- Bicycling slower than 10mph
- Tennis (doubles)
- Ballroom dancing
- General gardening

### Vigorous Intensity

- Race walking, jogging, running
- Swimming laps
- Tennis (singles)
- Aerobic dancing
- Bicycling 10mph or faster
  - Jumping rope
  - Heavy gardening (continuous digging or hoeing)
- Hiking uphill or with a heavy backpack



# Mosquitoes

## Prevention & Health Risks



### A MOSQUITO FREE YARD

Create an environment in your yard that invites animals that like to eat mosquitoes. Some things that enjoy eating mosquitoes are:

- Bats
- Frogs
- Fish
- Turtles
- Birds
- Dragonflies

To help repel mosquitoes, plant some of the different vegetation listed:

- Citronella
- Geranium
- Eucalyptus
- Rosemary
- Basil
- Anise
- Mint
- Marigolds
- Catnip
- Wormwood
- Tansy
- Lavender
- Cedar
- Cloves

Don't have stagnant water sitting around in things like buckets or tires.

### BE SAFE WHILE OUTDOORS

When a mosquito bites you it can leave saliva in your body. If the mosquito is infected it can transfer diseases to you. A few of the more common diseases transmitted to people are:

- Dengue
- Encephalitis
- Malaria
- Yellow Fever

Mosquitoes can also transmit diseases to animals. A couple of these diseases are:

- Heartworm (mostly to dogs & cats)
- Encephalitis

To reduce your chance of getting a disease from mosquitoes you can, apply mosquito repellent to your skin and clothing.

### RANDOM MOSQUITO FACTS

- More than 3,000 different mosquito species can be found around the world.
- Female mosquitoes feed on blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant nectar.
- Some mosquito species prefer to feed on animals or reptiles over humans.
- All mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle.
- One female mosquito can lay over 200 eggs at one time.
- Mosquito larvae only need a week in water to hatch.
- Mosquito eggs can survive for more than five years.
- Mosquitoes can fly around 1 to 2 mph.
- Mosquitoes find food by sight, infrared radiation and chemicals in the air.
- Around 1,000 Americans get ill or die from mosquito bites each year.
- Mosquitoes are a huge food source for birds, bats and some reptiles.



**ALLIGATORS** are in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, brooks, & canals. Sometimes they are found in people's swimming pools! So, watch-out: They like to eat small mammals.



## Ainger Creek Park

2011 Placida Road | Englewood |  
941-681-3742

Amenities: Boat Ramp, Canoeing, Kayaking  
& Paddling, Fishing Restroom/Portable Toilet.

## Amberjack Environmental Park

6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd. | Rotonda |  
941-613-3220

Amenities: Birding, Nature Preserve & Nature  
Trail.

## Bayshore Live Oak Park

23157 Bayshore Road | Port Charlotte |  
941-627-1628

Amenities: BBQ, Grills, Canoeing, Kayaking  
& Paddling, Dog Friendly, Facility Rentals,  
Fishing, Fishing Pier, Historic Features, Multi  
Purpose-Open Space, Nature Preserve,  
Nature Trail, Picnic Shelters, Picnic Tables,  
Playground & Restroom/Portable Toilet.

## Butterford Waterway Park

13555 Marathon Blvd. | Port Charlotte |  
941-681-3742

Amenities: Boat Ramp & Fishing

## Carmalita Park

2605 Carmalita Street | Punta Gorda |  
941-627-1074

Amenities: BMX, Bike Trails, Concession  
Stand, Facility Rentals, Football Fields, Horse  
Arena, Picnic Tables, Playground, Restroom/  
Portable Toilet, Skate Park & Softball Fields.

## Franz Ross Park

19333 Quesada Ave. | Port Charlotte |  
941-681-3742

Amenities: BBQ Grills, Facility Rentals,  
Football Field, Nature Preserve, Nature Trail,  
Pickleball Courts, Picnic Shelters, Picnic  
Tables, Playground, Restroom/Portable Toilet  
& Tennis Courts.

## Larry Taylor Kiwanis Park

501 Donora Street | Port Charlotte |  
941-627-1628

Amenities: BBQ Grills, Birding, Dog Friendly,  
Facility Rentals, Fishing, Fitness Trails, Nature  
Preserve, Nature Trail, Picnic Shelters, Picnic  
Tables, Playground & Restroom/Portable  
Toilet.

## Midway Park

23023 Midway Blvd. | Port Charlotte |  
941-627-1074

Amenities: BBQ Grills, Multi Purpose-Open  
Space, Pickleball Courts, Restroom/Portable  
Toilet & Tennis Courts.

## Oyster Creek Environmental Park

2333 Placida Road | Englewood |  
941-681-3742

Amenities: Canoeing, Kayaking & Paddling,  
Dog Friendly, Fishing, Nature Preserve,  
Nature Trail & Picnic Tables.

## Placida Fishing Pier

13120 Pier Road | Placida | 941-681-3742  
Amenities: Fishing, Fishing Pier & Restroom/  
Portable Toilet.

## Prairie Creek Preserve

1900 Duncan Road | Punta Gorda |  
941-613-3220

Amenities: Birding, Canoeing, Kayaking &  
Paddling, Horse Trails, Nature Preserve &  
Nature Trail.

## Rotonda Community Park

100 Rotonda Blvd. E | Rotonda West |  
941-681-3742

Amenities: BBQ Grills, Bike Trails, Multi  
Purpose-Open Space, Nature Preserve,  
Nature Trail, Pickleball Courts, Picnic Shelters,  
Picnic Tables, Playground, Restroom/  
Portable Toilet & Tennis Courts.

## Shell Creek Preserve

4334 Nellis Lane | Punta Gorda |  
941-613-3220

Amenities: Birding, Nature Preserve &  
Nature Trail.

## Thornton Key Preserve

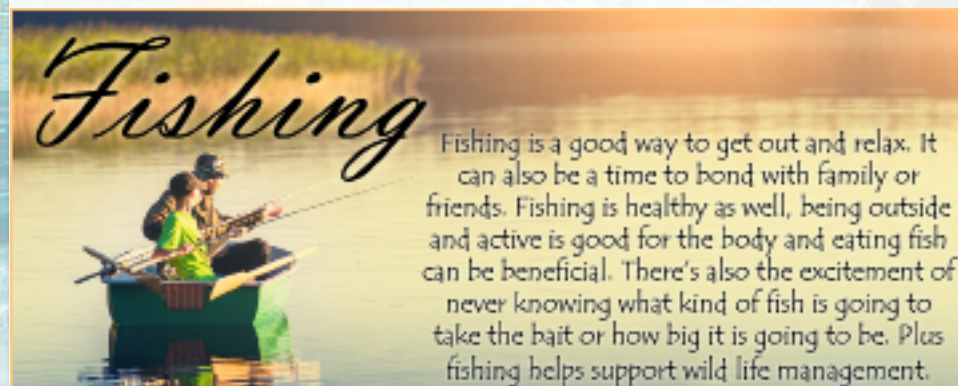
8 Thornton Key Preserve | Englewood |  
941-613-3220

Amenities: Birding, Canoeing, Kayaking &  
Paddling, Nature Preserve & Nature Trails.

## William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park

20499 Edgewater Drive | Port Charlotte |  
941-627-1074

Amenities: Birding, Canoeing, Kayaking  
& Paddling, Fishing, Fishing Pier, Nature  
Preserve, Nature Trail, Pickleball Courts,  
Picnic Tables, Playground, Restroom/  
Portable Toilet & Tennis Courts.





## ArtScape Sculpture Garden

460 W Green St. | Englewood

## Blanchard House Museum

406 Dr. Martin Luther King Dr. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 575-7518

## Boat Rental Seekers

150 Laishley Ct. | Punta Gorda |

(239) 955-2800

## Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center

Cedar Point Environmental Park | 2300

Placida Rd. | Englewood | (941) 475-0769

## Charlotte Sports Park

2300 El Jobean Rd. | Port Charlotte |

(941) 235-5010

## Englewoods Farmers Market

300 block - west of Dearborn Street

## Escape Rooms Unlocked

401 E Olympia Ave. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 295-6880

## Fisherman's Village

1200 W Retta Esplanade #57a | Punta Gorda |

(800) 639-0020

## Higher Ground Performing Arts Studio & Entertainment

17353 Geddes Ave. | Port Charlotte |

(941) 625-3622

## Iguanaland

33900 Bermont Rd. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 844-5350

## Lemon Bay Playhouse

96 W Dearborn St. | Englewood |

(941) 475-6756

## Military Heritage Museum

900 W. Marion Ave. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 575-9002

## Myakka Pines Golf Club

25505 River Rd. | Englewood |

(941) 474-1753

## Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary

41660 Horseshoe Rd. | Punta Gorda |

(239) 543-1130

## Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

5827 Riverside Dr. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 621-8299

## Peace River Wildlife Center

3400 Ponce De Leon Pkwy. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 637-3830

## Port Charlotte Town Center

1441 Tamiami Trl. | Port Charlotte |

(941) 624-4447

## Punta Gorda Chocolate & Wine

117 Herald Ct. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 505-0479

## Punta Gorda / Englewood Beach VCB

### Visitor Info Center

1700 Tamiami Trl. Ste. G2 | Punta | Gorda

## Punta Gorda History Center

512 E Grace St. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 916-8800

## Punta Gorda Historical Society

501 Shreve St. | Punta Gorda |

(262) 442-0709

## Punta Gorda Historical Mural

### Society / Tours

252 W Marion Ave. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 979-2786

## Punta Gorda Historic Railroad Depot & Antique Mall

1009 Taylor Rd. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 639-6774

## Punta Gorda Symphony

6210 Scott Ste. #213 | Punta Gorda |

(941) 205-5996

## Saturn 5 Arcade

1441 Tamiami Trl. | Port Charlotte |

(877) 352-7529

## Sea Grape Artists Gallery

113 W Marion Ave. | Punta Gorda |

(941) 575-1718

## Stump Pass Marina

260 Maryland Ave. | Englewood |

(941) 697-2206

## Tippecanoe Environmental Park

2400 El Jobean Rd. | Port Charlotte |

(941) 613-3220

## Visani Italian Steakhouse & Comedy Theater

2400 Kings Hwy. | Port Charlotte |

(941) 269-9191



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### TWO LOCATIONS

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Sarasota, FL 34231

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You can purchase hunting and fishing licenses online <https://myfwc.com>, or call Fishing 888-347-4356, Hunting 888-486-8356 or visit one of the FWC agents available throughout the area:

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

620 S. Meridian St. | Tallahassee  
(850) 488-4676 | myfwc.com

## Englewood

Charlotte TC - Englewood  
6868 San Casa Dr. | Englewood |  
(941) 681-3706

## WalMart #1874

2931 S McCall Rd. | Englewood |  
(941) 475-9220

## Port Charlotte

Charlotte TC - B Olean  
21229 B Olean Blvd. | Port Charlotte |  
(941) 743-1536

Charlotte TC - Murdock  
18500 Murdock Circle Suite 128 |  
Port Charlotte | (941) 743-1536

## Port Charlotte (Contd)

WalMart #721  
19100 Murdock Circle | Port Charlotte |  
(941) 625-2399

## WalMart #3349

375 Kings Highway | Port Charlotte |  
(941) 625-1201

## Punta Gorda

Charlotte TC - Punta Gorda  
410 Taylor Rd. | Punta Gorda |  
(941) 833-5484

## WalMart #778

5001 Taylor Road | Punta Gorda |  
(941) 637-3800

# HURRICANE SAFETY

## Top Five Tips

If authorities issue evacuation orders, follow them promptly. Delaying evacuation can put your life and the lives of emergency responders at risk. They have the most up-to-date information on the storm and can provide guidance on the safest course of action. Remember that each hurricane is unique, so it's essential to stay informed and adapt your plans accordingly. Preparedness and early action are key to minimizing risks and ensuring the safety of yourself and your loved ones during a hurricane.

### 1. STAY INFORMED

### 2. SECURE YOUR HOME

### 3. FOLLOW EVACUATION ORDERS & GUIDELINES

### 4. EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

### 5. EVACUATION PLANNING

CAT 5  
157+ MPH

## HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CAT 1-2  
74-110 MPH

CAT 3-4  
110-156 MPH

The Highest  
Recorded Wind Speed  
of a Hurricane is 215 mph



# Fishing Licensing

For specific zone areas, dates & details check online:  
<https://myfwc.com>, Telephone: (850) 488-4676,  
or scan the QR code.



## Recreational Freshwater or Saltwater Fishing License Prices:

Resident Annual: \$17.00  
Resident Five-Year: \$79.00  
Non-Resident Annual: \$47.00  
Non-Resident 3-Day: \$17.00  
Non-Resident 7-Day: \$30.00  
Resident Annual Saltwater Shoreline License: No-Cost  
Annual Resident Military Gold Sportsman's License: \$20.00  
Annual Resident Gold Sportsman's License: \$100.00  
Five-Year Resident Gold Sportsman's License: \$494.00  
Annual Resident Silver Sportsman's 64+: \$13.50  
Five-Year Resident Silver Sportsman's 64+: \$61.50  
Resident Youth Fishing License: \$17.00  
Resident Youth Gold Sportsman's License (available with completion of hunter education requirements): \$100.00

## Promotional Prices, Freshwater or Saltwater:

Annual Gold Sportsman - \$50.75, plus applicable fees  
5-year Gold Sportsman - \$247.75, plus applicable fees  
Lifetime Sportsman:  
Age 0-4 - \$201.50, plus applicable fees  
Age 5-12 - \$351.50, plus applicable fees  
Ages 13-64 - \$501.50, plus applicable fees  
**License-free Freshwater Days**  
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Second consecutive Saturday & Sun. in June  
**License-Free Saltwater Days**  
First consecutive Saturday & Sunday in June  
First Saturday in September  
Saturday following Thanksgiving

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# Fishing Piers & Boat Ramps

## FISHING PIERS

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East Marion Avenue and Adrienne Street | Punta Gorda  
**Allapatchee Shores Park Fishing Pier ~ Dock**  
3100 Hickory Court | Punta Gorda | 941-505-8686  
**Anger Fishing Pier**  
1385 Beach Road | Englewood | 941-681-3742  
**Bayshore Live Oak Park Fishing Pier**  
23157 Bayshore Road | Sibley Bay Drive & Bayshore Road | Charlotte Harbor | 941-235-5013  
**Chadwick Park Fishing Pier ~ Englewood Beach**  
2100 North Beach Road | Englewood  
**Coral Creek ~ Placida Rotary Centennial Fishing Pier**  
Fishery Road & Gasparilla Road | Placida  
**Gasparilla Fishing Pier ~ Placida Fishing Pier**  
Fishery Road & Gasparilla Road | Placida  
**Gilcrist Park Fishing Pier**  
400 West Retta Esplanade | Punta Gorda  
**Laishley Park Fishing Pier**  
100 Nesbit Street | Punta Gorda  
**Myakka North Fishing Pier ~ AKA ~ El Jobean Pier**  
Garden Road & River Beach Drive | Port Charlotte  
**Oyster Creek Regional Park Fishing Piers ~ Western Side**  
Placida Road  
**Port Charlotte Beach Fishing Pier**  
4500 Harbor Boulevard | Port Charlotte  
**Spring Lake Park Fishing Decks**  
3520 Lakeview Boulevard | Port Charlotte

## BOAT RAMPS

**Ainger Creek Park Boat Ramp**  
2011 Placida Road | Englewood | 941-681-3742  
**Allapatchee Shores Park Hand Launch**  
3100 Hickory Court | Punta Gorda  
**Butterford Boat Ramp**  
13555 Marathon Boulevard | Port Charlotte | 941-473-1018  
**Darst Park Boat Ramp**  
537 Darst Avenue | Punta Gorda  
**El Jobean Boat Ramp**  
4224 El Jobean Road | Port Charlotte | 941-625-7529  
**Harbour Heights Park Boat Ramp**  
27420 Voyageur Drive | Punta Gorda | 941-627-1074  
**Hathaway Park Boat Ramp**  
35461 Washington Loop Road | Punta Gorda  
**Laishley Park Boat Ramp**  
100 Nesbit Street | Punta Gorda  
**Placida Boat Ramp**  
Boca Grande Causeway & Gasparilla Road | Placida  
**Ponce De Leon Park Boat Ramp**  
Ponce de Leon Parkway and West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda  
**Port Charlotte Beach Park Boat Ramp**  
4500 Harbor Boulevard | Port Charlotte | 941-327-7628  
**Riverside Park Boat Ramp**  
8320 Riverside Drive | Punta Gorda  
**South Gulf Cove Boat Ramp**  
10150 Amicola Street | Port Charlotte  
**Spring Lake Park Boat Ramp**  
3520 Lakeview Boulevard | Port Charlotte  
Ramp entrance is actually on Edgewater Drive



## Chadwick Park / Englewood Beach

2100 North Beach Road | Englewood

## Don Pedro State Park

8450 Placida Road | Cape Haze

## Gasparilla Island State Park

Gulf Boulevard and Belcher Road |

Boca Grande

## Ponce De Leon Park Beach

Ponce de Leon Parkway and West Marion Avenue | Punta Gorda

## Port Charlotte Beach Park

4500 Harbor Boulevard | Port Charlotte |

941-627-1628

## Stump Pass Beach Park

700 Gulf Boulevard | Englewood

## DISC GOLF

Disc golf or frisbee golf is played a lot like traditional ball golf but instead of hitting a ball with a club into a hole the player throws a frisbee into a basket. Disc golf can be played by just about anyone at any age. It's also an inexpensive sport to get into. Specialized frisbees for disc golf cost around \$10-\$15 and a lot of courses are free. Playing disc golf is a great way to get out for some exercise, enjoy nature and have some fun.



# Beach Warning Flag Colors

**Beach flags are commonly used to communicate important information to beachgoers. The color-coded flag system may vary slightly from one location to another, but the following are commonly recognized color meanings:**

**Blue Flag:** This flag is used to signify that lifeguards are on duty and that the area is being actively monitored for safety.

**Green Flag:** Indicates that it is safe to swim. The water conditions are generally calm, & there is a low risk of hazards such as strong currents or high waves.

**Yellow Flag:** Caution is advised. This flag suggests that there may be some hazards present, such as moderate surf or currents.

**Red Flag:** A red flag indicates high hazards & potentially dangerous water conditions. It is a warning that strong currents, high surf, or other dangers are present. It is advised to stay out of the water.

**Double Red Flags:** This is a more severe warning, & it typically means that the beach is closed to the public. Dangerous conditions, such as strong rip currents or severe weather, pose a significant threat.

**Purple Flag:** This flag is used to indicate the presence of dangerous marine life, such as sharks or jellyfish. It is advised to exercise caution.



# BUTTERED-UP Steak



Simple meal with a Gourmet Feel

## INGREDIENTS

2 steaks (ribeye or sirloin are good choices)

Salt and pepper

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 cloves garlic, minced

Fresh herbs (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS

1 Take the steaks out of the refrigerator and let them come to room temperature for about 30 minutes. This helps the steak cook more evenly.

2 Preheat your oven to 400°F.

3 Season the steaks generously with salt and pepper on both sides.

4 Heat a large skillet over high heat until very hot. Add the steaks and cook for about 2-3 minutes per side, until nicely browned.

5 Remove the steaks from the skillet and place them on a baking sheet.

6 In the same skillet, add the butter and garlic. Cook for about 30 seconds, stirring constantly, until the garlic is fragrant.

7 Pour the garlic butter over the steaks on the baking sheet.

8 Place the baking sheet in the oven and cook for about 5-7 minutes for medium-rare doneness, or longer if you prefer your steak more well-done.

9 Remove the steaks from the oven and let them rest for a few minutes before slicing.

10 Serve the steak with any remaining butter from the baking sheet and fresh herbs if desired.

PREP: 35 MIN • TOTAL: 50 MIN



## BARBECUE DO'S:

- use proper barbecue equipment and tools, such as a grill, tongs, and spatulas.
- preheat your grill before placing any food on it.
- marinate your meat before cooking to enhance the flavor.
- keep a close eye on your food while grilling to prevent overcooking or burning.
- use a meat thermometer to ensure that your meat is cooked to the correct internal temperature.
- let your meat rest for a few minutes before slicing or serving to allow the juices to redistribute.
- keep your grill and utensils clean to prevent any foodborne illness.

## BARBECUE DON'TS:

- use lighter fluid to start your grill. Instead, use a chimney starter or electric starter.
- overcrowd your grill. Leave enough space between the pieces of meat to ensure even cooking.
- use a fork to flip your meat. Piercing the meat can cause it to lose its juices and become dry.
- baste your meat with sugary sauces too early in the cooking process, as it can burn and create a bitter taste.
- leave cooked meat out in the sun for too long, as it can spoil quickly.
- assume that meat is fully cooked by its color. Always use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature.
- leave your grill unattended while it's still hot. Always make sure to properly cool it down before leaving it.



Enjoy your delicious  
buttered-up steak!



Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water that can pose a danger to swimmers and surfers. Getting caught in a rip current can be frightening, but knowing how to recognize and handle them can help you stay safe. Here's how to avoid or get out of a rip current in the ocean:

**1. Stay Calm & Don't Fight the Current:**

If you find yourself caught in a rip current, stay calm and try not to panic. Remember that rip currents do not pull swimmers underwater; instead, they pull them away from the shore. Avoid fighting against the current by swimming directly back to shore, as this can lead to exhaustion.

**3. Swim Parallel to the Shore:**

If you feel confident in your swimming abilities, swim parallel to the shoreline instead of trying to swim directly back to shore. Rip currents are typically narrow, so swimming parallel to the shore can help you escape the pull of the current. Once you're out of the rip current, you can then swim back to the shore at an angle.

**5. Seek Assistance if Needed:** If you're unable to escape the rip current on your own or if you're feeling exhausted, continue to signal for help and wait for assistance from lifeguards or other beachgoers. Don't hesitate to call for help if you need it, as prompt action can prevent a dangerous situation from escalating.

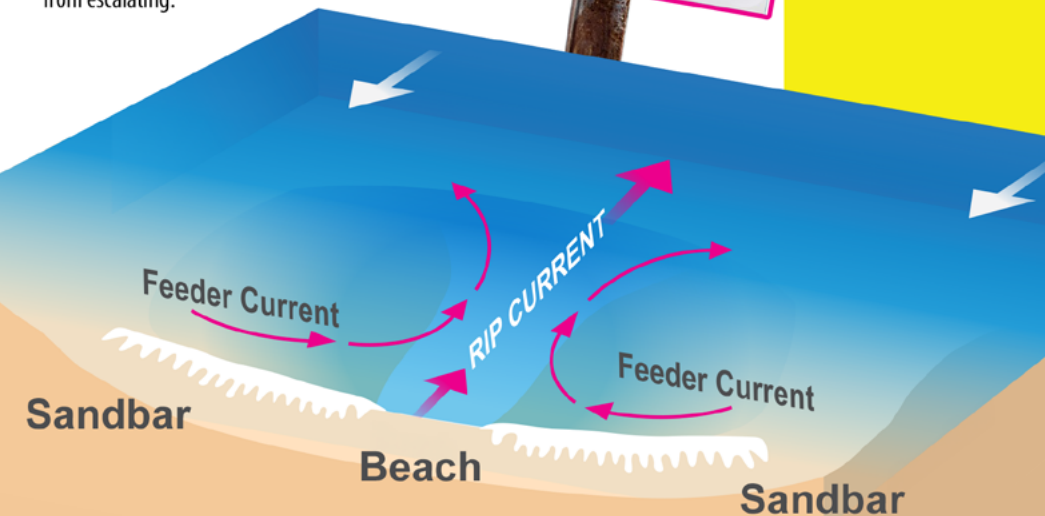
**2. Float & Conserve Energy:**

If you're unable to swim out of the rip current, conserve your energy by floating or treading water. Signal for help by waving your arms and calling for assistance if you see lifeguards or other beachgoers nearby. Most rip currents are narrow, and you will eventually be carried out of the current and into calmer waters.

**4. Use Waves to Help You Escape:** Wait for waves to push you towards shore and use them to assist your escape from the rip current. Time your movements with the breaking waves, and use the momentum to swim towards the shore. Be patient and persistent, and don't exhaust yourself by attempting to fight against the current.

*Always swim at beaches with lifeguards present, heed warning signs, and follow any instructions or advice given by local authorities.*

# Rip Currents



## Bicycle Pre-Ride Checklist





# Local Area Trails

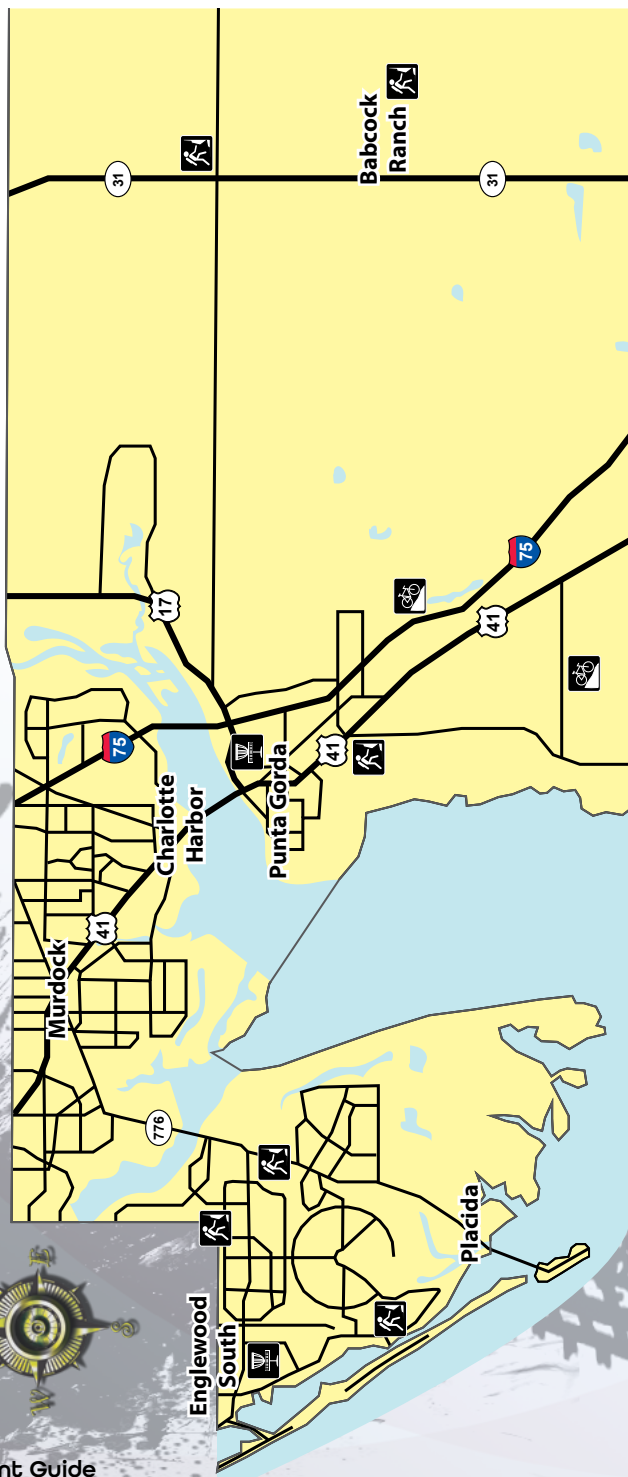
Hiking/Walking Trail



Disc Golf Course



Mountain Bike Trail



# Get Active!!!

- Yard Work
- Gardening
- Walk the Dog
- Bike Ride
- Swimming
- ANYTHING!!!

# Go Outside and Do SOMETHING!

Anything to get your heart rate up,  
and your blood flowing...

# you'll feel better and it's good for your health!



# Be smart...

Take good care of your skin



*The skin is an organ and helps protect against heat, sunlight, injury, and infections. This is why it is important to always protect it. Overexposure to the sun can be linked to some skin cancers. Ultraviolet rays from the sun or sunlamps can also cause eye problems, weakened immune system, age spots, wrinkles, and leathery skin.*

## • Protect your skin

Wear proper clothing like long-sleeved shirts and pants. Also protect your head and eyes with a hat and UV-resistant sunglasses.

Remember that you can also fall victim to the sun on a cloudy day as well as in the winter.

Sunburns increase the risk of developing skin cancer. It is especially important that children don't get a sunburns.

Peak burning hours, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization, are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Reflective surfaces, like water, snow, and sand can reflect sun rays and make them more intense.

You experience more UV exposure at higher altitudes, because there is less atmosphere to absorb UV radiation.

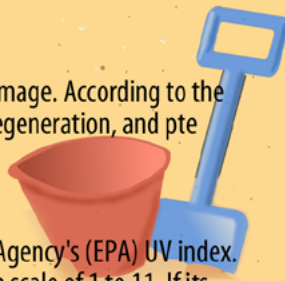
Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen to cover all exposed skin. The FDA recommends using sun screens that are broad spectrum and have a sun protection factor (SPF) value of at least 15. Re-apply sunscreen throughout the day.

## • Protect your eyes

UV rays can penetrate the structures of your eyes and cause cell damage. According to the CDC, some sun-related vision problems cause cataracts, macular degeneration, and pterygium.

## • UV index

Before going outside you can check the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) UV index. To see the intensity of UV rays for the day. The index measures on a scale of 1 to 11. If its low on the UV index you will require less protection and a high UV index will require a lot more protection.



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# *So, You have decided to get a pet... NOW WHAT??*

**Commitment and Time:** Owning a pet is a long-term commitment. Before bringing a pet home, consider your lifestyle and ensure you have enough time to spend with your pet. Dogs, cats, and many other animals require attention, exercise, and mental stimulation.

**Choose the Right Pet for Your Lifestyle:** Different pets have varying needs, temperaments, and activity levels. Research and select a pet that fits well with your lifestyle, living situation, and family dynamics. Whether you choose a dog, cat, bird, fish, or any other animal, make sure you can provide for its specific needs.

**Proper Nutrition:** Feed your pet a balanced and nutritious diet suitable for their species and age. Consult with a veterinarian to determine the best food options for your pet's health and well-being.

**Regular Exercise:** Most pets need regular physical activity to stay healthy and happy. Engage in playtime and exercise with your pet daily, as it helps prevent obesity and provides mental stimulation.

**Routine Veterinary Care:** Schedule regular check-ups with a veterinarian to monitor your pet's health, get necessary vaccinations, and address any concerns. Early detection of health issues can often lead to better outcomes.

**Spaying/Neutering:** Consider spaying or neutering your pet if you don't plan on breeding. This helps control the pet population and can have health benefits for your pet.

**Training and Socialization:** Properly train your pet to follow basic commands and have good manners. Socialize them with other animals and people from a young age to prevent behavioral issues later on.

**Provide a Safe Environment:** Ensure that your home and yard are safe for your pet. Remove hazards, keep toxic substances out of reach, and provide appropriate shelter from extreme weather conditions.

**Grooming:** Regular grooming is essential for most pets. Brush their fur, trim nails, and clean their ears as needed to keep them comfortable and healthy.

**Identification and Microchipping:** Keep identification tags with your current contact information on your pet's collar. Consider microchipping your pet as an extra measure to ensure they can be identified if lost.

**Love and Attention:** Pets thrive on love and attention from their owners. Spend quality time with your pet, provide affection, and build a strong bond.

**Respect and Understanding:** Learn to understand your pet's body language and behavior. Respect their boundaries and feelings, and avoid forcing them into uncomfortable situations.



**Patience and Forgiveness:** Pets, especially young ones, can be mischievous or have accidents. Be patient with them during the training process and forgive any mistakes they make along the way.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Have a plan in place for emergencies, including natural disasters. Know how to evacuate with your pet safely if needed.

*If you have just rescued / adopted a new fur baby, please it is important to remember the 3-3-3 RULE:*

## **3 Days:**

In the first 3 days being in its new home, they will be feeling overwhelmed, scared & unsure of what is going on. They may also be uncomfortable being "themselves", and may not want to eat or drink. They may want to "shut down" or hide under a bed or in a crate, and they will test boundaries.

## **3 Weeks:**

At this point, they may be a lot more comfortable & settling in. Learning a new routine can be overwhelming, so please be patient. By now they may have figured out the new environment & accepted that this may be their FURever home. Their personality traits will start to show, as well as any behavior issue that may be present.

## **3 Months:**

For most fur babies, 3 months is enough time to finally be comfortable and begin to build trust and a true bond. A sense of security may be present & a set routine will help this process.

Please know that this is not the rule with every rescued or adopted pet, as some may need 6 months to a year to adjust & adapt, depending on MANY factors. Age of animal, what type of an environment did they come from?

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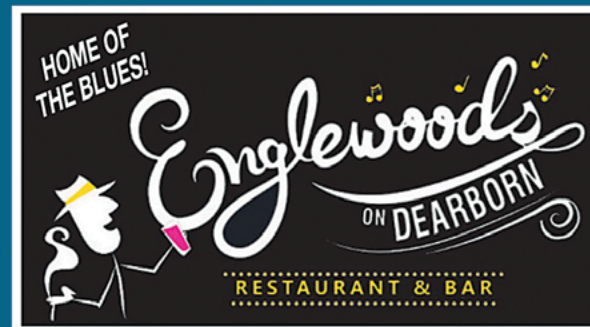
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