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2022 COMMUNITY GUIDE

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COUNTY



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WELCOME TO THE COUNTY OF
CHARLOTTE
FLORIDA

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Ad Designer - Kylie Cutting
Book Designer - Teri Burkitt
Art Director - Kara Cutting | Published by HMI
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At a glance
CHARLOTTE
County FLORIDA



Charlotte County

192,971

Port Charlotte	61,204
Punta Gorda	21,033
Rotonda	8,921
Englewood	15,252
Charlotte Harbor	4,077
Cleveland	3,304

.....

Charlotte County is a county located in the U.S. state of Florida. As of the 2020 census, the population was 192,971. Its county seat is Punta Gorda. Charlotte Harbor Estuary is an important natural preserve and one of the most productive in Florida.

Charlotte County was established April 23, 1921. It was named for the Bay of Charlotte Harbor. “Charlotte” came from “Carlota” (Spanish). In 1565, the Spanish named “Bahia de Carlota,” followed by the English in 1775 who named the area Charlotte Harbor in tribute to the Queen Charlotte Sophia, wife of King George III. Punta Gorda is the only incorporated city in Charlotte County.



PUNTA GORDA

Charlotte County

The name Punta Gorda (“Fat Point”) has been on maps at least since 1851, referring to a point of land that juts into Charlotte Harbor, an estuary off the Gulf of Mexico. It was in the late 1800s that early settlers began to arrive in what is the present-day Punta Gorda area.

Frederick and Jarvis Howard, Union Army veterans, homesteaded an area south of the Peace River near present-day Punta Gorda about a decade after the close of the Civil War. In 1876, James and Josephine Lockhart bought land and built a house on property which is now at the center of the city. Approximately two years later Lockhart sold his claim to James Madison Lanier.

In 1879, a charter for a railroad with termini at Charlotte Harbor and Lake City, Florida was established under the name Gainesville, Ocala, and Charlotte Harbor Railroad. It was taken over

by the Florida Southern Railroad, which reaffirmed Charlotte Harbor as a terminus in its own charter. Lanier with his wife lived there until 1883, when 30.8 acres (12.5 ha) were sold to Isaac Trabue, who purchased additional land along the harbor and directed the platting of a town (by Kelly B. Harvey) named “Trabue”. Harvey recorded the plat on February 24, 1885. At the time, Isaac was in Kentucky, and his cousin, John Trabue, was in charge of selling lots. Kelly, a native of the Peace River area, started referring to the new town as Punta Gorda. He later explained that the Spaniards called the area Punta Gorda, and local businesses included Punta gorda within their companies’ names.

Punta Gorda became the southernmost stop on the Florida Southern Railroad, until an extension was built to Fort Myers in 1904, attracting the industries that propelled its initial growth.

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Places to visit

and things to do

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1200 W Retta Esplanade, #57a
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5325

Octagon Wildlife Sanctuary

41660 Horseshoe Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-7767

Peace River Wildlife Center

3400 Ponce de Leon Pkwy
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6312

Muscle Car City Museum

3811 Tamiami Trl
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-7900

Babcock Ranch Preserve

8502 FL 31
Punta Gorda, Florida 33982

Ponce de Leon Park

3400 Ponce de Leon Pkwy
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6312

Alligator Bay Distillers

25522 Marion Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4644

Laisley Park

100 Nesbit St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-3629

Harborwalk

1200 W Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5325

Gilchrist Park

400 W. Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Punta Gorda History Park

501 Shreve St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-3329

Alligator Creek Preserve

10941 Burnt Store Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33955-4702

Peace River Botanicals & Sculpture Gardens

- 5800 Riverside Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-5100

Fat Point Brewing

611 Charlotte St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4115

Sandman Book Company

5240 Duncan Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-1785

417 Southern Speedway

8655 Piper Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-2447

FLORIDA

Charlotte County

Military Heritage Museum

900 W Marion Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5308

Three Suns Ranch

2351 State Road 31
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-8718

Harbor Heights Park

27420 Voyageur Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33983-3177

Punta Gorda Train Depot

1009 Taylor Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6033

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference

Center - 75 Taylor St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-3650

Peace River Beer Company

1732 Steadley Ave
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6030

Punta Gorda Nature Park

1555 Aqui Esta Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-6530

Charlotte Harbor State Park

12301 Burnt Store Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33955-9204

Galleria Mall Antiques & Collectibles

- 5260 Duncan Rd
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-1710

Blanchard House Museum

406 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Punta
Gorda, FL 33950-4546

Berry Best Farm

7415 Riverside Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-1484

Sunart Gallery & Framing

307 Taylor St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4829

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

701 Carmalita St
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-5619

A. C. Freeman House

311 W Retta Esplanade
Punta Gorda, FL 33950-3619

Hathaway Park

Washington Loop Road
Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Riding Star Ranch

7701 Cleveland Dr
Punta Gorda, FL 33982-2014

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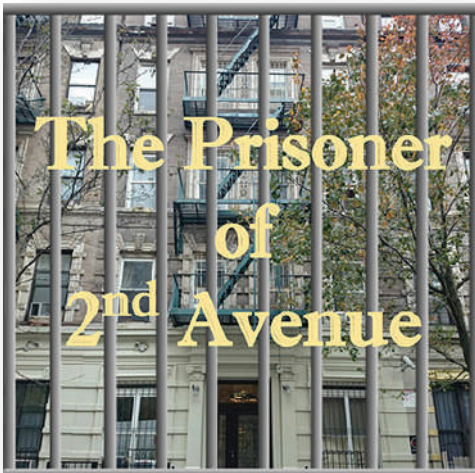
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The Psychic
Apr 27 - May 15, 2022



The Savannah Sipping Society
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The Outsider Jan 18 - Feb 12, 2023



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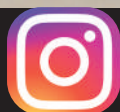


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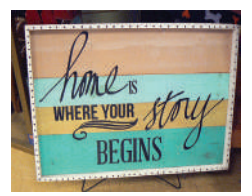
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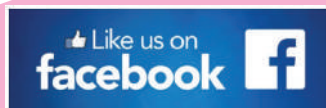


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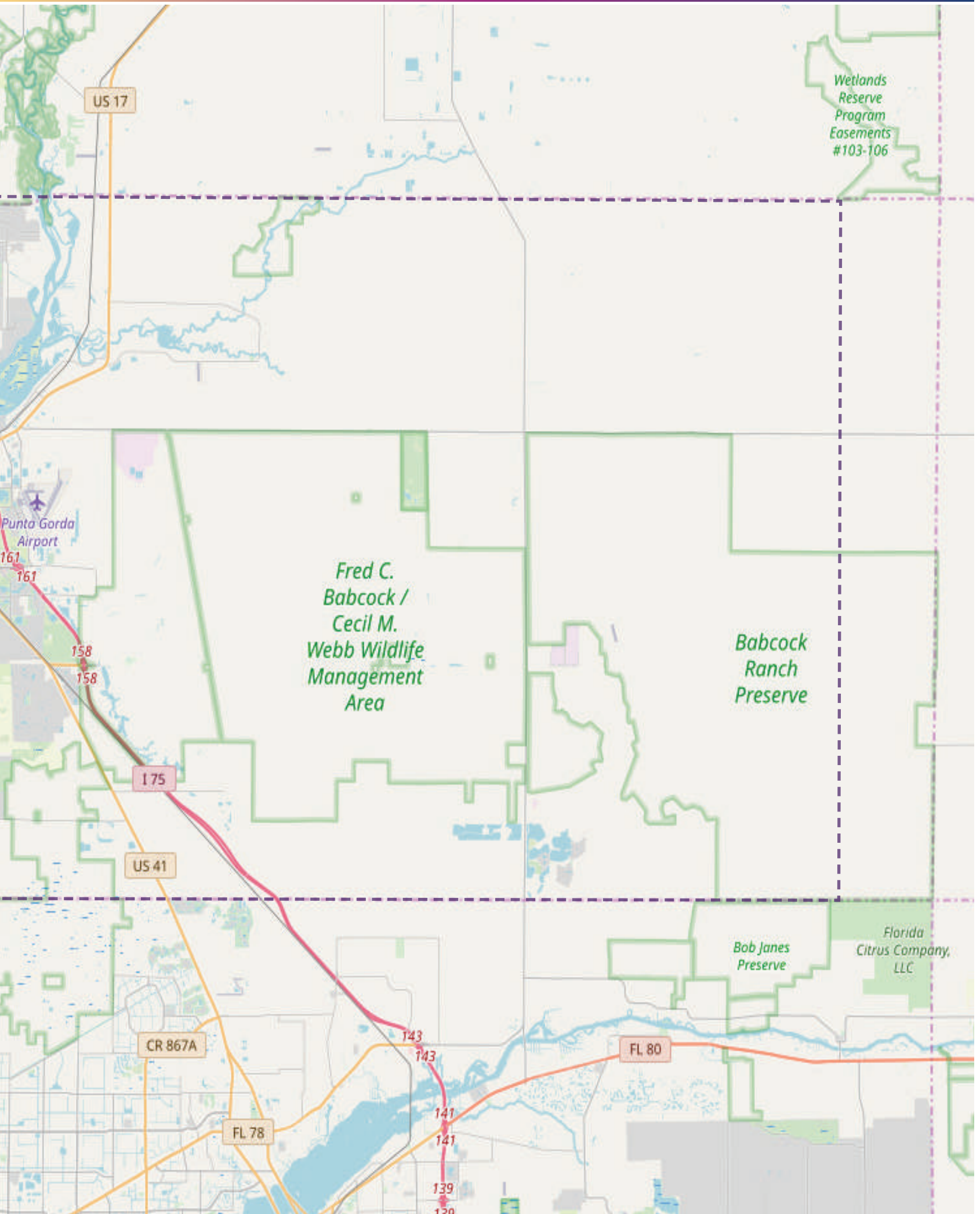
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Charlotte County



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