

Punta Gorda Bloomers Spread Their Wings in the Summer of 2022

Punta Gorda in Bloom (PGIB) cochair Richard Polk reports, “Cascading pink verbena and white begonias make a great combination in the fountain located near the clock tower on Marion Avenue. We now have a total of 3 fountains, 10 light pole planters and 56 planter boxes in Hector House Park, along Taylor Street and Marion Avenue.”

With the recent announcement of Friday evening farmers’ markets at the Bailey Brothers Park, PGIB will stretch its wings by undertaking a beautification project to enhance the location. Built in 2015, the community park is dedicated to seven distinguished Punta Gorda brothers who served their country in the armed services with distinction, according to local historians.

Six of the brothers served in WWII. Lt. Charles Bailey was a Tuskegee airman who flew 133 combat missions. Arthur Bailey was a corporal in the Marine Corps who spent time on Iwo Jima, one of the major battles in the Pacific. Combined, Maurice, Berlin, Harding, and Paul served in all four branches. Their youngest brother Lt. Carl Bailey was too young for WWII but



went on to fly jets in the Korean War. After their military service, the brothers went on to become college graduates who had successful business, teaching, and community leadership careers. The park is located at 361 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard just east of downtown. A commemorative plaque honoring the brothers hangs in the Bailey Terminal at the Punta Gorda airport.

Bloom is looking for a community volunteer to monitor the status of the planters. PGIB volunteers can spend “as little as an hour a week checking planters,” says Polk. No gardening experience required. “We will provide the training and all you need.”

Funding for Punta Gorda in Bloom projects has been secured “in perpetuity” with the recent establishment at the Charlotte County Community Foundation of an endowment by benefactor and Bloom cochair Alan Schulman and Barbara Schulman.

Pictured here: Justin Brand (l.), Director of Community Development at Charlotte Community Foundation with Alan Schulman (r.) at the CCF building in Punta Gorda.

Punta Gorda in Bloom is a group of volunteers working under the umbrella of TEAM Punta Gorda.

See more at <https://teampuntagorda.org/pginbloom/>

