



***For Immediate Release: Annual "Lighting of The Village" to be held November 17, 2018***

Punta Gorda, FL—Fishermen's Village will herald in the Holiday Season with a spectacular "Lighting of the Village" Saturday, November 17. This celebration is the official kick off of the annual "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS", a display of more than ONE MILLION LIGHTS and themed decorations. Local residents and visitors will enjoy beautiful traditional themed holiday décor and lights both inside and outside Fishermen's Village.

Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. as Santa arrives at the Village front entrance courtesy of Punta Gorda Fire Chief Ray Brigg's Antique Fire Truck! At 5:30 pm, an official ribbon cutting will take place with Santa and City of Punta Gorda officials. Part of this year's ribbon cutting will include a performance by Charisma, the premiere touring vocal ensemble at Charlotte High School. As the ribbon is cut, visitor's will witness the reveal of the annual Lighting of the Village! The Lee County Pipes and Drums Band will then parade through the Village, followed by a rousing performance in Center Court. Other festivities include live music/dancing with the Shane Duncan Band, Juggling/balloon creations by Jeff the Juggler, Finest Face Painting by MaryRose, pictures with Santa (bring your camera!), complimentary refreshments courtesy of Village Merchants, and live radio remote with Todd Matthews of Seaview Radio. The Sugar Plum Fairy, aka Bob "Fig" Newton, will make a special appearance and be available for photo ops!

**YOUR ADMISSION: Patrons are being asked to bring toilet paper, paper towels and bleach to be donated to "Share The Blessings Ministry", an all-volunteer, nonprofit charity benefiting those in need in Charlotte County. Their mission is to provide hygiene, cleaning and non-perishable food items which serve over 500 individuals and 150 families each month. Their current critical need is for paper hygiene products.**

**Due to the popularity of this event, parking will fill up fast, so arrive early. Overflow parking will be available off site at: Former IMPAC building (900 West Marion Avenue) and Five Star Reality (across the street from Fishermen's Village). Security personnel will be offering golf cart rides throughout the evening to transport you from your car to the Village entrance.**

Fishermen's Village Waterfront Mall, Resort and Marina is located on Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda. From I-75, take exit 164, turn left and proceed 3 miles to Fishermen's Village. Call 941 639-8721 for more information or visit on line at [www.fishville.com](http://www.fishville.com).

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