



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

City Manager

- **Signs and Elections** – Election season is here and the City Code has a few regulations regarding political signs. Political signs are not permitted in the public right-of-way, public water canals or on other public property or on any utility pole or tree, except within specified proximity of polling places on election day, under rules utilized by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections. Signs are limited to one per candidate or issue on any single parcel. Signs may be located on private property, with permission of the owner. Signs cannot exceed 32 square feet in area per side and 6 feet in height. Signs may be placed a maximum of 45 days prior to the election (Sept. 22) and shall be removed within 5 days (Nov. 10) after the election.
- **Punta Gorda Alert** – Get notified in the event of an emergency. Subscribe now for public safety alerts regarding hurricanes, critical threats, evacuation, and other important emergency information from Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments. To sign to Punta Gorda Alert visit <https://bit.ly/2mnlBqZ>.
- **City Council Agenda** – The Sept. 18 City Council Highlights:
 - ✓ Approved legislative priorities proposed by Charlotte County for presentation to the Charlotte County Legislative Delegation that will take place on Oct. 8.
 - ✓ Approved change order for the Buckley's Pass seawall installation due to rock incurred during construction that was unforeseen during the bid process. The increased costs of \$289,025 are still within the overall estimate originally prepared by the Engineering Consultant.
 - ✓ Appropriated funds for bollards to be located around the mural along the Harborwalk under the US 41S Bridge to mitigate vandalism of the mural and safety concerns from users of the harborwalk.
 - ✓ Voted to forego federal dollars to construct Harborwalk West Area 3. This project is along Retta Esplanade from just west of Berry Street to Linear Park/tidal canal crossing. Proposed improvements include a multi-use pathway with decorative lighting, landscaping, site furnishings, and two foot bridges. Acceptance of federal funds brings along increased costs associated with both design and construction.
 - ✓ Encouraged Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) to create plans for relocation from Ponce de Leon Park to City-owned property on West Henry. Current plans call for relocation of the Wildlife Center onto one acre of land within Ponce Park.
 - ✓ Approved change order for Gilchrist Park Phase 2 based on previous Council rejection of the bid to complete the Harborwalk connection and park renovation as one project. Council directed staff to meet with the Engineer to determine an estimated cost for a new proposed scope & fee by pulling out the Harborwalk from the plans as an independent biddable project. The proposed cost is \$27,325 with a 91 day project timeline, prior to submittal to the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for its review.

The meeting can be viewed on YouTube Live Streaming at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw.

- **FY 2020 Budget** – The final public hearing on the millage rate and overall budget was held on Sept. 18, 5:01pm in the City Council Chambers. For detailed information contained in the financial plan, you can review the City Manager’s budget message [at http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/2950/605](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/2950/605)
- **Shell Creek** – Questions have been raised about the spraying of the Shell Creek for weed control. This is a practice that has been put in place by the Florida Wildlife Commission and the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). SWFWMD is responsible for maintain the creeks and reservoir. When the City of Punta Gorda treats the water, carbon is added to trap and remove any residual herbicide and other organic chemicals found in the raw creek water prior to treatment. The Water Plant tests the treated water annually for herbicides and pesticides and all results have been below the limits set by the United States Environmental Protection Association and Florida Department of Environmental Protection for drinking water.
- **City of Punta Gorda Local Options 1% Sales Tax** – The committee will meet on Sept. 30 in City Council Chambers to score the following projects:
 - ✓ Shreve Street Complete Streets
 - ✓ Shreve Street Train Head
 - ✓ Harborwalk West- Area 3
 - ✓ Drainage Improvements- Boca Grande
 - ✓ Copper Street Complete Street Improvements
 - ✓ ADA Improvements- Citywide
 - ✓ US 41 Bridge Approach Lighting
 - ✓ Virginia Complete Street Improvements
 - ✓ Baynard/Vasco Sidewalk

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
9/20	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
9/20	Recovery Candlelight Vigil	Laishley Park	https://www.cbhcf.org/events/
9/21	Charlotte County Out of the Darkness Walk	Laishley Park	https://afsp.donordrive.com/
9/21	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
9/21	CHNEP & CHEC Paddle Cleanup	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center	www.eventbrite.com
9/22	Punta Gorda Sweet Stroll	Downtown Punta Gorda	https://thegivingpartner
9/29	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
10/4-10/6	Sandra’s Oktober Fest	Sandra's Restaurant - 111 W Olympia Ave	http://www.sandras-restaurant.com/
10/5	Walk to End Alzheimer’s 2019	Laishley Park	https://act.alz.org
10/5	October St. Vincent Rummage Sale	25200 Airport Rd.	http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/15405/19?curm=10&cury=2019
10/5	Blessing of the Animals	11330 Burnt Store Rd.	www.bspconline.org

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers completed mowing the Colony Point area (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
- City mowers are currently mowing the following area of PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- The Public Hearing before the Punta Gorda Planning Commission for the Citywide Master Plan Resolution is being withdrawn so additional comments can be made at the Oct. 2 City Council meeting. This will ensure all comments may be considered in the final draft plan. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/citywide-master-plan>.
- In 2018, the City applied for and received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2018-2019 Florida Resilient Coastlines: Resiliency Planning grant, administered by FDEP. The City contracted with Taylor Engineering, Inc. in Feb. 2019 to conduct a vulnerability analysis for city-owned critical infrastructure and prepare an addendum to the 2009 City of Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan with a Living Shoreline Element. The 2019 City of Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan Update is an addendum to the 2009 Plan. The Plan will be presented at the Oct. 2 City Council Meeting and at the Oct. 23 Planning Commission meeting. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-manager/climate-adaptation-plan>.

Public Works Department

Sanitation

- **Yard Waste Collection** – (Palm Fronds, Branches & Trimmings) Yard waste is collected once per week and must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Do not mix yard waste with regular household trash. Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4" in diameter or 4' in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds. Shrubbery, grass clippings and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yard waste collection are allowed. However, no plastic bags will be collected. The yard waste is made into mulch and the plastic products could contaminate the mulch. Any yard waste that is in a plastic bag will not be collected. If you have a large quantity or loose pile of yard waste, branches, stumps, etc., you will need to schedule a special collection either by visiting the Sanitation page on www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com or by contacting the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050. Lot clearing and whole tree removal is NOT part of your regular service. You must contact a tree removal company. SAFETY TIP! Do not place yard waste piles near or under power lines or trees, telephone boxes, mail boxes, fire hydrants, etc. This could impede access to the yard waste materials.

Engineering

- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Stevens and Layton will begin work at Veteran's Park Phase II on Sept. 23.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Excavation, back fill continues with placement of bedding stone and the first layer of the segmental block wall. Materials sampling and testing is occurring. Erosion control measures and Maintenance of traffic devices are in place. Electrical and fiber utility conflicts were removed and will be re-installed at a later date. 6 US 41 NB roadway lights will be out temporarily

- **Goldstein Street Bricking Party between Marion and Olympia Aves** – A Historic Street bricking party was successfully held Saturday, Sept. 14. Community volunteers and City staff completed the project. Clean up and final sweeping of sand will be done the week of Sept. 22.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 488 properties totaling 360,000 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 301-335 Clusia Rosea. Work is underway at 7411-7417 S. Tulip Tree, and 701 Royal Poinciana. Work will then move to 550 Royal Poinciana and 618 Royal Poinciana.
- **Minor Paving** – Beginning the week of Sept. 23 through Sept. 27 (weather and equipment operations permitting) maintenance milling and pavement resurfacing is scheduled at the northern leg of the Taylor Road and Carmalita intersection.

Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs** – Crews filled 25 depressions and performed four seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Maintenance** – Crews performed maintenance at Candia and Ponce de Leon Inlets.
- **Buckley's Pass** – City Council approved Change Order 2 for rock seawall installation. Rock removal and seawall installation is ongoing.



Police Department

- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 847.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of August 2019. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 258.5 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 218.5 hours. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 216.5 hours. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering with the police department are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at vip@cityofpuntagordafl.com or (941) 575-5536.



- **Employee Development Coordinator Position** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Employee Development Coordinator. This is a non-sworn, administrative position responsible for department training programs, hiring and testing processes, member certifications, and armory management. You can apply by visiting www.pgpjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Monday, January 13, 2020 with oral board interviews scheduled on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 and Wednesday, January 15, 2020. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Monday, October 14, 2019. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on Monday, October 7, 2019. To apply visit www.pgpjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com.

Fire Department

- **Carbon Monoxide** –Carbon monoxide or CO is called the invisible killer. It is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that many don't think twice about. More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental non-fire related CO poisoning associated with consumer products.

SAFETY TIPS

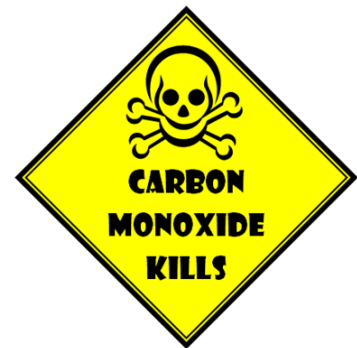
Never use portable generators inside homes or garages even if door and window are open

Never use a charcoal or barbeque grills inside home or garages for heating or cooking.

Open fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool.

Install battery-operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup in your home outside separate sleeping areas.

Never run a vehicle or other engines or motors inside garage even with the door open



Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- **Week 64** – Installing pipes to the degasifier and to the deep injection well.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 35.6 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.1 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of 2.0 million gallons per day, started Jul. 16.
- Rainfall in Sept. 2018 3.60” and Sept. 2019 .08”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “slightly hard” – Grains of Hardness 12 ppm – Total hardness 205 ppm
- TDS for Sept. 19 – Current 340 ppm, Low 207 ppm, High 400 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 302 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 19 – Current 5.25’, Record Low 5.08’, Record High 6.79’, 54 Year Avg. 5.58’

City Clerk

Election Information

- Vote By Mail ballots for the 2019 City General Election were mailed to all Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absent Voters on Sept. 20.
- The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming City Election is Oct. 7. Please contact the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections, 226 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida, call (941) 833-5400 or register online at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/en/registration/Index>.
- Candidate Campaign Treasurer’s Reports for all 2019 General Election reporting periods through Sept. 13 (due date Sept. 20) are available by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (941) 575-3369.

Current Board & Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- Building Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Four members must be involved with the building industry and three members must be consumer advocates who are not, nor ever have been, involved with building industry. Makes recommendations to City Council on the minimum qualifying requirements for obtaining Certificates of Competency in the various construction trades and the fees for same. Periodically reviews and holds public hearings on all building, electrical, plumbing, housing, gas, fire prevention and other related codes. Reviews enforcement of all codes relating to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints.
- Utility Advisory Board – (One regular vacancy) Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board. Three-year terms, maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings.
- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee – (One regular vacancy) meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code.

New Businesses

- Renewal Notices for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year have been emailed to all current active businesses. Due date for payment is Sept. 30. A 10% late fee will be charged for payments received after the deadline.