



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT OCTOBER 18, 2019

City Manager

- **Citizens Academy** – Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming 2020 Citizen Academy. This is a free, eight session courses of interactive classes designed to provide insight into City government and to develop future leaders through well informed and civically engaged residents. Sessions will take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month between Jan. 7 and Apr. 15. Attendance is limited to 30 participants who reside or own a business within the City of Punta Gorda. To register, please visit the www.cityofpuntagordafl.com and navigate to “I Want to... Register for Citizens Academy” The deadline for registration is 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 27. For more information, please call (941) 575-5050 or email hpetkus@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
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- **Alert Punta Gorda** – The City of Punta Gorda has implemented Alert Punta Gorda, a new public safety emergency alert and community notification system. Alert Punta Gorda will allow the Punta Gorda Police Department and Punta Gorda Fire Department to contact the community in emergency situations that require the public’s immediate attention and to make non-emergency community notifications. Residents are encouraged to sign up by visiting www.AlertPuntaGorda.com and creating an account. Once the account is created you can choose whether you want to want to receive alerts through a home or business phone call, mobile phone call, email, text message, or through the Everbridge mobile phone app (available through the Apple App Store or Google Play). You will automatically be signed up to receive emergency alerts and can sign up to receive non-emergency alerts based on your preferences. You can change your contact information and notification preferences at any time or can stop receiving alerts simply be removing your information from your account. We encourage all of our residents to sign up to ensure that you receive important information in a timely manner.
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- **International City Managers Association (ICMA) Conference** – The Journey to the Future (JTTF) event co-chaired by TEAM Punta Gorda, CEO, Nancy Johnson and City Communications Manager, Melissa Reichert, was held in January of 2019 to prepare residents for participation in the PLAN Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan process. This event is being recognized by ICMA as a best practice in engaging everyone in community visioning. Information about the process used, organizations involved, and impact of engaging the community in creating a vision for the future will be shared with City Managers and key staff representing municipalities across the country and internationally at the ICMA conference.

- **City of Punta Gorda Water Customers** – Dropcountr (the vendor for the City’s water portal) will be sending out an email that customers will receive stating:

*City of Punta Gorda Water customer,
We are excited to invite you to our new customer water usage portal. Starting today, City of Punta Gorda customers can access their personal water use anytime, anywhere with Dropcountr. This is a free tool that allows you to track your water use, compare it to similar households, receive leak alerts, and access direct customer support. [You can learn more about this program here.](#) Register today for Dropcountr at www.dropcountr.com/puntagorda or by downloading the [Android/iOS app](#) - it takes less than 30 seconds and all you will need to sign up is your account number and account name.*

The Dropcountr app will help residents keep track of their water use, avoid leaks and water damage, connect with utility alerts and receive direct customer support. Not to mention, Dropcountr users reduce their water consumption by 7-9%, on average, leading to significant water and wallet savings. Please call the City of Punta Gorda at (941) 639-2528 with any questions regarding Dropcountr.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
10/19	Food Truck Festival	Laishley Park	www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/
10/19	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
10/24	Nature Park Ribbon Cutting	Nature Park	https://pgigreenthumbs.org
10/24	A Military Mustang Book Launch Party	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
10/25	“Nightmare at the Museum”	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
10/25-10/27 & 10/31	Haunting on the Harbor	City Marketplace	http://smugglersevents.com
10/26	FIAS Stem Workshop the Speed of Sound	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
10/26	Big Orange Music Festival	Laishley Park	https://www.edgewatereventsllc.com/
10/26	Throwback to the 50’s	Fishermen’s Village	https://www.fishville.com/
10/26	Trunk or Treat	KW Peace River Partners 1675 W Marion Ave	http://mc871.yourkwoffice.com/
10/27	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
10/31	Free & Safe Halloween Parking	First Baptist Church 459 Gill St	https://www.fbcpuntagorda.org/
10/31	Cars & Candy Food Truck Rally	1 st United Methodist Church 507 W Marion Ave	https://www.whatis1st.com/

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas: Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.) and is currently mowing: Punta Gorda Isles (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- Staff attended the regularly scheduled meeting of Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Discussions included:
 - ✓ Proposed SUN Trail realignment in order to better position the BPAC to receive grant funding from the State.
 - ✓ Status report of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.
 - ✓ Individual reports from the State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Charlotte County, City of Punta Gorda, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

The next scheduled meeting of the BPAC is December 5, 2019.

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) held a public meeting in Punta Gorda this week to help create a Corridor Vision Plan for US 41 (Tamiami Trail) in Charlotte County. The goal for this effort is to formulate a Corridor Vision Plan that will be reflective of where your community would like to be and how FDOT, as a partner, can better understand your needs. If you missed this meeting and would like your voice to be heard FDOT is hosting another public input meeting this coming Tuesday Oct. 22 at the First Alliance Church - Family Life Center at 20444 Midway Blvd Port Charlotte from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Public Works

Engineering

- **Ponce de Leon Park Boardwalk:** Staff met with the contractor to assess pilings. A statement of work is being prepared prior to authorize the start of work.
- **Taylor/Marion Streets Bollards:** Bollard installation and electrical work continues.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way:** Work continues with preparing rebar and forms for proposed cap construction. The work area, north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US 41 NB, remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading:** The contract has completed work at 513 properties totaling 385,400 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week between 405-449 Scarlet Sage and 448-454 Scarlet Sage. The contractor will be working on cleanup and punch list items in Burnt Store Meadows and has anticipates work to begin in Burnt Store Isles the week of Oct. 28.
- **Veterans Park Phase II:** Site demolition and digging for footers continues.

Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs:** Crews filled 26 depressions and performed 5 seawall cap and seam patches.

- **Buckley’s Pass:** Seawall panel installation is complete. Helical anchors and waler boards are being installed. Construction progress videos are available on the City’s YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEdownKc85_W-fSqI5.



Police Department

- **Report Crime** – In the past several months we have seen an increase in the number of people reporting that they are seeing social media posts about suspicious activity that were never reported to the police department. In addition, while investigating crimes, we have found that residents have witnessed suspicious activity, but did not report it to police at the time it was happening. We would like to remind all of our residents that if they observe suspicious activity happening in the City, they should call the police department’s non-emergency number at (941) 639-4111 or 911 in an emergency.
- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 846.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of August 2019. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 212.5 hours. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 333 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 193.5 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 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.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or 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 Jan. 13 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 14 and Jan. 15. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or 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 Feb. 10. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com.

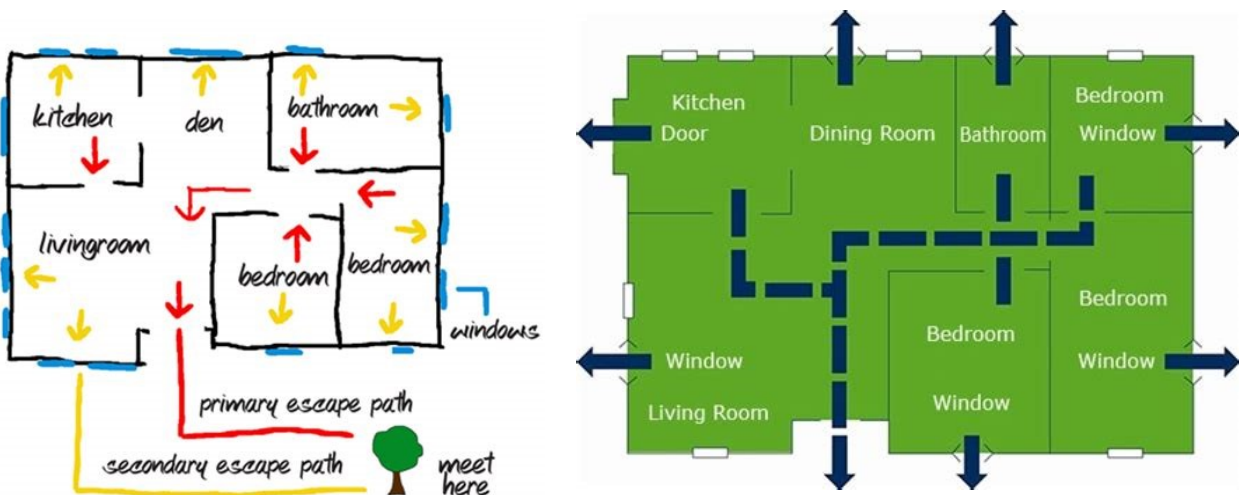
Fire Department

- Fire Prevention Awareness Month – October is Fire Prevention Awareness Month. Punta Gorda Fire Department recommends have a “Home Fire Escape Plan and Practice It”.

Home Fire Escape Planning

- A home escape plan should include the following:
- Two exits from every room in the home – usually a door and a window. Maps are encouraged and can be hand drawn or computer generated. (See Below)
- Properly installed and working smoke alarms
- A safe meeting place outside, in front of the home, where everyone will meet after they exit the house
- A call to 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor’s phone

Please call the Fire Marshal at (941) 575-5529) if you have questions about how to make your own escape plan.



Utilities Department

- **Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant:** Week 69 work continues on the interior of the RO Plant Process Building.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 36.7 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Oct. 2018 .05” Oct. 2019 2.12”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 15 ppm – Total hardness 256 ppm
- TDS for Oct. 17 – Current 440 ppm, Low 257 ppm, High 440 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 343 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 17– Current 5.10’, Record Low 5.04’, Record High 6.34’, 54 Year Avg. 5.34’

Lawn Watering Schedule/Times

- Lawn watering is limited to twice per week (if needed) from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. by property address. Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and at any time using a shut-off nozzle on their hose, so water isn't wasted.

Addresses	Watering Day	May Also Water
Ending in 0 and 1	Monday	Thursday
Ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday	Friday
Ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday	Saturday
Ending in 6 and 7	Thursday	Sunday
Ending in 8 and 9	Friday	Tuesday
Addresses that end with a letter instead of a number will water on:	Friday	Tuesday

For more information about Punta Gorda’s water restrictions, visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/residents/code-compliance/water-restrictions>

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Maintenance staff found a creative way to help a deer struggling to get out of a mostly empty holding pond. After watching the deer make several attempts to climb the slippery liner, the crew set up a section of green indoor-outdoor carpet in the corner and the deer was able to walk out of the pond.



City Clerk

Election Information

- **Over the Counter ballots** are available from the City Clerk's Office each week day from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Monday, Nov. 4, 2019.
- **Vote by Mail ballots** are available by contacting the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400. The deadline to submit your request is Oct. 26 at 5:00 p.m.
- Track your ballot at <https://www.charlottevotes.com/Registration/Check-Your-Registration>.
- **Candidate Campaign Treasurer's Reports** submitted for all 2019 City General Election reporting periods through Oct. 11 (due date Oct. 18) are available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (941) 575-3369 or pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

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

- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Police Officers' Pension Board (One regular vacancy) - Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at large, two police officers and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Charged with management of the Police Officers' Pension Fund.
- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (One regular vacancy) - Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven-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 of Ordinances.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board – (Three vacancies) Meets the 4th Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a "Local Historic Landmark" or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One alternate) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms - maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.

New Businesses

- All persons, firms or corporations engaging in business or occupation within the City of Punta Gorda are required to obtain a Local Business Tax (LBT) Receipt in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Punta Gorda City Code. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred business within our community this week:

The Spice and Tea Exchange of Fishermen's Village