

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT OCTOBER 25, 2019

### City Manager

- **Water Quality** – As was highlighted in the Oct. 4, and Oct. 11, Weekly Highlights Report and noticed in the Charlotte Sun on Oct. 7, water customers were notified of a finding of out of range TTHM's in the water supply. The City of Punta Gorda Utilities Department has resampled water at the site multiple times and an independent lab has found the samples to be in compliance. The water is safe to drink.
- **Citywide Master Plan** – At their Nov. 6 meeting City Council will consider a resolution accepting the 2019 Plan as prepared by Dover Kohl & Partners. If accepted, Council will also consider a request to have Dover Kohl produce Comprehensive Plan changes and revised Land Development Regulations based on recommendations included in the Master Plan. A couple of years ago City staff presented to City Council consideration of form based codes in the downtown area to include discussion of height, architecture, setbacks, landscaping, open space and other amenities. Rather than direct staff to develop revised land development regulations based on form codes at that time, City Council undertook a proposal process and secured the services of a planning firm (Dover Kohl) to prepare a new Citywide Master Plan. Included in the Plan are the following recommendations that Dover Kohl feels should be in the immediate horizon for implementation:
  - Revise the Comprehensive Plan to permit zoning/land development changes that will allow reasonable intensity, density and predictability.
  - Consider the adoption of a form-based code in key areas and along key corridors. The regulations within this code should conform to the qualities and intent of the Future Character Areas detailed in the Master Plan.
  - Evaluate and revise Downtown's overlay districts to ensure they are compatible with the Citywide Master Plan goals and with any zoning and regulatory changes.
  - Adopt the Investment Sector Map to inform public and private investment priorities, as well as stable areas that should be preserved.
  - Ensure the local historic district designations do not impose additional development barriers to key development opportunity sites.
  - Study and adopt an intensity bonus program which grants additional bonus development in exchange for a pre-delivered set of community benefits such as affordable housing, cultural and arts-related space, and public open space.

While the City's urban design staff possess the technical expertise to undertake revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations, current workload and ability to maintain current level of service hinders staff's ability to produce the above scope of work in a timely manner. Thank you to all who have participated in and continue to be involved in PLAN Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan. This has been a planning process that has had valued participation from residents, business representatives and many organizations throughout the community. The level of resident engagement in the community is one of the many things that make Punta Gorda a great place to be.

- International City Managers Association (ICMA) Conference** – The story of Journey to the Future community engagement was shared with City Managers and key staff from across the country and internationally this past week. Other key conference areas of focus were crisis management, fostering innovation, creating healthy communities, crowd sourcing and non-cash employee benefits. The learnings from this conference can be integrated into future planning for the City of Punta Gorda.
- 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](http://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](mailto:hpetkus@cityofpuntagordafl.com).
- 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](http://www.AlertPuntaGorda.com) and creating an account.



**Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Location	Contact
10/25-10/27 & 10/31	Smugglers Haunting on the Harbor	City Marketplace	<a href="http://smugglersevents.com">http://smugglersevents.com</a>
10/26	MHM Hosts Stem at the Speed of Sound	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
10/26	Big Orange Music Festival	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.edgewatereventsllc.com/">https://www.edgewatereventsllc.com/</a>
10/26	Throwback to the 50’s	Fishermen’s Village	<a href="https://www.fishville.com/">https://www.fishville.com/</a>
10/26	KWPRP Trunk or Treat	1675 W Marion Ave	<a href="http://mc871.yourkwoffice.com/">http://mc871.yourkwoffice.com/</a>
10/27	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	<a href="http://musclecarcity.net/events/">http://musclecarcity.net/events/</a>
10/31	Free & Safe Halloween Parking	1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Church – 459 Gill St	<a href="https://www.fbcpuntagorda.org/">https://www.fbcpuntagorda.org/</a>
10/31	Cars & Candy Food Truck Rally	1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church – 507 W Marion Ave	<a href="https://www.whatis1st.com/">https://www.whatis1st.com/</a>
11/2	Friendsgiving Family FunBrunch	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.pregnancycareline.org/">https://www.pregnancycareline.org/</a>
11/2	Fall Downtown Bash	Taylor Street	<a href="https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/">https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/</a>
11/2	Diocese of Venice Youth Rally	Sullivan Street	<a href="https://dioceseofvenice.org/">https://dioceseofvenice.org/</a>
11/5	Pedal Punta Gorda Ribbon Cutting	Laishley Park	<a href="https://pedalpuntagorda.com/">https://pedalpuntagorda.com/</a>
11/8	Patriotic Concert	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	<a href="https://www.bspconline.org/">https://www.bspconline.org/</a>

### Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas; PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive), and PGI ( Magdalina Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).

### Code Compliance

- Code Compliance congratulates Jennifer Daumann who has completed the Fundamentals of Code Enforcement training and passed the certification test. She is now a certified code officer.

### Urban Design

- After eight years of digging, planting, weeding and sweating, the PGI Green Thumbs had a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate all the improvements made to the City's Nature Park located at Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta. The PGI Green Thumbs, led by Richard Polk, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all volunteer organization whose mission is to enhance the City's Nature Park. With City Council approval and assistance from City departments, the group has provided and maintains the garden beds that emphasize landscape conservation, native plant species, and habitat protection. As a result of careful planning, the Nature Park has become a place of beauty, tranquility and education for our citizenry and visitors. Mayor Nancy Prafke, Vice Mayor Lynne Matthews, Councilmember Carey and former Mayors Bill Albers and Carolyn Freeland and former Councilmember Tom Cavanaugh all joined in the celebration.



### Public Works

#### Engineering

- **Taylor/Marion Streets Bollards** – Bollard installation and electrical work are complete.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** Cap formwork continues. Tentatively the beams are scheduled for placement on Nov. 7, 2019. Contractors Work Area is north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US41 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** – Stevens and Layton Inc. has completed installation of wall foundations and has begun construction of the mural, plaque and seating walls. The project is still set for a mid-December 2019 completion.
- **Taylor Street Streetscape Bricking** – Contractor will begin work on Oct. 28.

### Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs** – Crews filled 26 depressions and performed 5 seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Buckley’s Pass** – Helical anchor installation is complete and anchor testing is in progress. Waler boards have been installed on the east and west seawalls. Waler boards are being installed on the south seawall section. Backfill is being placed behind the west seawall. The pilings that will line the channel have been delivered to the staging site. Construction progress videos are available on the City’s YouTube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEdounKc85\\_W-fSqI5](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEdounKc85_W-fSqI5).



### Police Department

- **9PM Routine** – Did you know that less than 5% of the vehicle burglaries that occurred in Punta Gorda so far in 2019 involved forced entry? Please remember to follow the 9PM Routine. Take a few minutes each night before bed to ensure that valuables and keys are removed from your vehicles and that you vehicles are locked. We need everyone to do their part to help keep crime low in our awesome city!
- **Volunteer Bike Patrol Unit Grants** – The Punta Gorda Police Department has been approved for two Justice Assistance Grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The funds for these grants are being used to purchase bikes and equipment for the Volunteer Bike Patrol Unit.



- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester. Our internship program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Please contact the internship program coordinator at (941) 575-5571 for additional information or to have an application package sent. The deadline for the upcoming semester is Dec. 7.**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](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.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](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.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](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com).

## Fire Department

- **Drive Extra Safely on Halloween**
  - Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
  - Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
  - Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
  - Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
  - Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
  - Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.



## Utilities Department

- **Groundwater Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant:** Week 69 well heads being installed.

### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 34.5 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.9 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 4.52”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 16 ppm – Total hardness 271 ppm
- TDS for Oct. 24 – Current 452 ppm, Low 269 ppm, High 452 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 368 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 24– Current 5.21’, Record Low 5.00’, Record High 5.90’, 54 Year Avg. 5.26’

**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>

**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.
- **Designees my pick up ballots** from the City Clerk’s Office beginning on Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Signed affidavit required.
- Track your Vote by Mail or Over the Counter 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. 18 (due date Oct. 25) are available by contacting the City Clerk’s Office at (941) 575-3369 or [pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.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 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:
  - ✓ Koch & Company, CPA PA, 252 West Olympia Avenue
  - ✓ Ruth Soukup Omni Media, Inc., 307 Taylor Street
  - ✓ Stock Chiropractic Wellness Center, 2310 Tamiami Trail, Suite 2121