



Florida's Harborside Hometown

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 15, 2019

### City Manager

- **FEMA Risk MAP Study** – FEMA has produced the preliminary flood maps for the City and County reflecting map changes to flood zones and elevations. This study was mandated by FEMA, although the City through a contract with Charlotte County retained Weiler Engineering as a consultant during the mapping process. The maps are preliminary and still being studied. It appears that the most significant overall impact to the area is the change in vertical datum from NGVD to NAVD. (NGVD 29 is the abbreviation for the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929, the predecessor to NAVD 88. A few of the reasons why NAVD 88 is more accurate than its predecessor is that it includes adjustments for observed gravity, 1,001,500 (km) of land was leveled, and 450,000 benchmarks were created.) This represents an increase in base flood elevation of approximately 14 inches if the base flood elevation number remained the same. At the Nov. 20 City Council Meeting, Weiler Engineering will present a short overview of the process and explain where we currently are in the overall procedure. Information Technology will have a brief presentation showing interested parties how to navigate to FEMA links that will show any impact to specific properties. Additionally, FEMA will be hosting a FEMA Map Update Meeting at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center on Dec. 12 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. to answer questions from any impacted individuals.
- **Waterfront Overlay District Zoning Amendment Fishermen's Village Phase 1** – Also at the Council meeting a zoning amendment related to the peninsula area will be considered. Fishermen's Village is a mixed-use, development creatively designed in the 1970's. In order to provide the ability for this existing development to remain relevant as a destination tourism property vital to the local economy, future modification and expansion of existing buildings along the peninsula will be necessary. Such changes would bring the development into compliance with the Land Development Regulations and be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan. In addition to the currently permitted uses and development standards in the Waterfront Overlay district and underlying Neighborhood Center zoning designation, the proposed text amendment provides for additional uses and development standards including:
  - a height of 50 feet above base flood elevation (BFE) (existing buildings range from 36' to 43' above BFE with other buildings in the area reaching up to 85');
  - a zero-foot waterfront setback (current regulations require a 25' waterfront setback and existing conditions range from 0.9' to 16.2'); and
  - preservation of the public harborwalk pursuant to the land acquisition agreement.The primary purpose of the text amendment is to bring existing development on the peninsula into conformance with the City Codes and ensure that future modifications and/or expansions of buildings at Fishermen's Village bring the City closer to achieving its stated vision while retaining the character as identified in the Land Acquisition Agreement. The complete agenda item will be available for viewing at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-minutes> under the Nov. 20 City Council meeting.

- **Center for Digital Government Award** – The Center for Digital Government (CDG) announced the winners of the 2019 Digital Cities Survey. Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the annual survey recognizes cities using technology to tackle social challenges, enhance cybersecurity, improve transparency, and much more. Punta Gorda placed #8 in the up to 75,000 category. That is up two places from last year! View the complete report at <https://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-cities/Digital-Cities-Survey-2019--Winners-Announced.html>.
- **Punta Gorda Tree Lighting** – Dec. 6 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Punta Gorda City Center (Marion & Taylor). This exciting night of holiday cheer will be emceed by NBC-2 morning anchor, Stacey Deffenbaugh and features singing, dancing, photo opportunities with Santa, Olaf and Elsa, as well as the City Council lighting of the tree. Food trucks will be offering delicious items for purchase and a performance by the band Storyline rounds out the night. Complete event details can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/pgtreelighting/>
- **Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival** – The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) is thrilled to present the 20th CHNEP Nature Festival! We will celebrate the splendor of Central and Southwest Florida with environmental educators, live animal exhibits, engaging speakers, guided nature walks, games, and food trucks! Please join us on Nov. 16 from 10 a.m - 3 p.m. at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda.



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
11/13-11/17	Mystik Magic Show	City Marketplace	<a href="http://www.forzaent.com/">http://www.forzaent.com/</a>
11/16	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	<a href="http://musclearcity.net/events/">http://musclearcity.net/events/</a>
11/16	Mindi & Friends	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	<a href="https://puntagordachamber.com/">https://puntagordachamber.com/</a>
11/16	Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.chnep.org/">https://www.chnep.org/</a>
11/17	Twin Tots Walk/Run 5k	Gilchrist Park	<a href="http://justagainstchildrendrowning.org/">http://justagainstchildrendrowning.org/</a>
11/16	Lighting of the Village	Fishermen's Village	<a href="http://www.fishville.com/events/">http://www.fishville.com/events/</a>
11/19	PGI Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	<a href="mailto:billtucker@earthlink.net">billtucker@earthlink.net</a>
11/21	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
11/23	CAST for Kids Charlotte Harbor	Laishley Park	<a href="https://castforkids.org/events/">https://castforkids.org/events/</a>
11/23-11/24	Season Openers Arts & Crafts Show	City Marketplace	<a href="http://www.mypromotions.com/">http://www.mypromotions.com/</a>
11/23	MHM Hosts "Service Academy Information Day"	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
11/24	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	<a href="http://musclearcity.net/events/">http://musclearcity.net/events/</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 ( Magdalina Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive), Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr).

## **Urban Design**

- Staff attended the monthly meeting of the Peace River Housing Partners Board of Directors. Discussion centered on the upcoming bid process for Charlotte County owned properties by local non-profits for affordable housing.
  1. Staff attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization/Citizen's Advisory Committee (MPO/CAC) meeting. Agenda items included:
  2. Review of the Chairman's Report
  3. City of Punta Gorda Report
  4. Charlotte County Report
  5. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Report
  6. Adoption of 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Goals, Objectives and Population/Employment Estimates
  7. Review of Transportation Improvement Program Amendment.
- Every five years the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to update the Long Range Transportation Plan for the community. The 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan update is underway now and MPO staff is looking for your input with an online survey available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Charlotte2045LRTP>. Work on the 2045 Long Rang Transportation Plan is ongoing with an anticipated completion in October 2020. For more information on this project please visit the MPO website at: <https://ccmpo.com/wp/2045-long-range-transportation-plan/>
- The City of Punta Gorda recently re-adopted its Title VI/Nondiscrimination Policy and Plan to certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that its programs, services and activities are being conducted in a nondiscriminatory manner and is committed to nondiscrimination and equitable service to its community. The City values diversity and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of cultural identity, background or income level. Moreover, the City believes that the best programs and services result from careful consideration of the needs of all its communities when those communities are involved in the transportation decision making process. Thus, the City does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services or activities. Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal and state authorities, the City will not exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination anyone on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income or family status. The Policy and Plan can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/accessibility/title-vi-nondiscrimination-plan> or by contacting the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator: City of Punta Gorda, Philip Wickstrom, Human Resources Manager. Nondiscrimination Coordinator 326 W Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, Email: [humres@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:humres@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com), Telephone: (941) 575-3300, Florida Relay 1(800)955-8770 (Voice) or 1(800)-955-8771(TTY), 1-800-955-9770 (English); 1-877-955-8707 (Spanish); or 1-877-955-8707 (French Cr).

## **Public Works**

**Citizens Academy 2020** is no longer accepting applications at this time, the academy is full!

## Parks and Grounds

- **Christmas Wreaths and Tree Installation** – The areas outlined in red (*see picture*) at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be blocked off to allow access for City crews and equipment to decorate the Christmas tree. Parking spaces along Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be opened up in the evening and on the weekends. Crews are beginning to decorate other areas throughout the city too.



## Engineering

- **Taylor Street Streetscape** – Directional drilling for electric and irrigation has begun. Placement of pavers will begin during the week of Nov. 18.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Stevens and Layton Inc. completed installation of the flag pole and trees and irrigation at the south end of the project. Next week the electric work and irrigation should be substantially completed.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Beam placement is complete. The block wall and backfill continues. The crane has demobilized. Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US41 NB remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 529 properties totaling 397,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in the southwest portion of PGI at two more locations that could not be completed earlier in the program due to conflicts with other construction activities. Work in Burnt Store Isles is now projected to begin during the week of Nov. 18.



## Canal Maintenance

- **Canal Odor** – In the past few weeks there have been a number of calls reporting the smell of what seems to be sewage in some of the canals within the city limits of Punta Gorda. Rest assured this is not a sewer line break, but a natural phenomenon. Almost every year, as cooler weather moves into Southwest Florida the canal water ‘flips’ or ‘turns’. This means that the bottom (including silt, decomposing plant material and miscellaneous debris) comes to the surface bringing with it a smell of stagnant water and debris, while the surface water goes to the bottom. This is a natural occurrence and typically happens in dead end canals. This may not happen in some canals and may occur only occasionally in others.
- **Repairs** – Crews filled 23 depressions and performed three seawall cap and seam patches.

## Buckley’s Pass

- Beginning Nov. 15 the canal between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Turbidity curtains will be deployed across the canal blocking boat traffic. These curtains will be opened on occasion to let barges in/out of the work zone. Boaters living in the yellow shaded area will be allowed to pass through the work zone but should expect long delays while waiting for the curtains to be opened. Signs will be posted near the curtains with a VHF radio frequency and phone number to make contact with the operator. The curtains will be left open when dredging is not occurring. Boaters should use caution when operating in the area. View at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=10147>,
- The smalltooth sawfish habitat area is being excavated and dredging has commenced.

- **Smugglers Pass** – Smuggler’s Pass is dredged annually and typically 100 to 170 cubic yards of material is removed with each dredge – that’s a dredged area approximately 15’ x 10’. Canal Maintenance is planning to perform a sonar reading of the area sometime in January/February when most of the Buckley’s Pass dredging has been completed. At that time we will make arrangements for any necessary dredging to be done prior to the opening of Buckley’s Pass. Also, please understand that by opening up a new channel, the flow of water will change. Canal Maintenance will be monitoring canal depths in that area on a regular basis to ensure we maintain permitted depths. Latest Buckley’s Pass videos can be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6\\_Kqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw).



### Police Department

- **Employment Scams** – We have recently received several reports of employment scams. One of these scams works by the victim being "hired" by the scammer as a secret shopper. The scammer will send the victim a check and advise them to cash the check at their bank and make a purchase of gift cards at a store during their evaluation. The scammer will usually advise the victim that they can keep the gift cards and any remaining money as payment for their services, but that they must send a photo of the gift cards and receipts along with their evaluation of the store. The scammer will then use all of the funds on the gifts cards and the victim will discover that the check was fraudulent, leaving the victim out all of the money. Please remember, legitimate employment opportunities never involve an employer sending a check that needs to be cashed by the employee in order to perform their job. If anyone you do not know sends you a check for any reason, always make sure the check clears the bank prior to spending any of the money.
- **9PM Routine** – Locking car doors at night could have prevented nearly all vehicle burglaries in the City of Punta Gorda in the past year. Most criminals are only interested in easy access and will not force entry into a vehicle unless valuables are clearly visible. Follow the 9PM Routine and check to make sure your valuables have been removed from your vehicles and your vehicle doors are locked each night before bed to help prevent crime in our city!



- **Alert Punta Gorda** – The City 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 community notifications. Sign up by visiting [www.AlertPuntaGorda.com](http://www.AlertPuntaGorda.com) and creating an account.
- **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@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto: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](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com).
- **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.



## **Fire Department**

- **Safety tips** – The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during Thanksgiving. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on days when there is a lot of activity and people at home.
  - Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
  - Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
  - Keep your child at a safe distance when cooking, and never hold on to them with one arm—that’s an invitation to be burnt!
  - Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
  - Keep the floor clear so you don’t trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
  - Keep knives, sharp objects, and flammable objects out of reach.
  - Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
  - Never leave children alone in room with a lit a candle or any source of fire.
  - Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.
  - If deep-frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, avoid overfilling with oil, use a thermostat, keep fryer away from walls, and make completely thaw before cooking.
  - Never douse a grease fire with water, as the fire can thus spread. Turn off the burner, smother the flames with a lid (wearing an oven mitt!), or douse with baking soda or a fire extinguisher if it’s getting out of hand.

## Utilities Department

### **Administration**

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) continues at the sample site located at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values can be viewed on the City's web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

### **Groundwater R.O. Construction Update**

- Week 72 – Bleach feed line along with a water line being installed



- Week 72 – Blended water transfer pumps have been installed



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 38.1 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.4 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 Nov. 2018 1.8”, Nov. 2019 0.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 17 ppm – Total hardness 290 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 14 – Current 460 ppm, Low 349 ppm, High 552 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 435 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 14– Current 5.10’, Record Low 4.95’, Record High 5.74’, 54 Year Avg. 5.18’

### City Clerk

- **Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency** is seeking one member to fill a position expiring on Dec. 31. Appointee must be a Charlotte County resident and shall serve for a four-year term. The purpose of the Agency is to implement the policies, projects & programs contained in the Punta Gorda Downtown Redevelopment Plan. Please contact Nina Stamoulis, Commission Office at (941) 743-1300 or [janina.Stamoulis@charlottecountyfl.gov](mailto:janina.Stamoulis@charlottecountyfl.gov) for an application or for additional information.

**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.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (Two alternates) 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:
  - ✓ Amy's Lash & Brows, 318 Tamiami Trail, #224
  - ✓ Craig vacation rental, 1140 La Palma Court