



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT DECEMBER 13, 2019

City Manager

- **YouTube Statistics** – City staff has made an effort over the past year to increase the access to government via the internet. Most recently the City has begun live streaming our Council and committee meetings on YouTube. This has resulted in 1,802 total watch hours of City of Punta Gorda content on YouTube and 19,249 total views. All residents are encouraged to subscribe to the City of Punta Gorda YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw.
- **Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP)** – CHNEP has recently released the document entitled Our Plan to Protect Central and Southwest Florida's Water and Wildlife. CHNEP works on four priority action areas; water quality improvement, hydrological restoration, fish, wildlife and habitat protection and public engagement. The full plan can be accessed at www.chnep.org. Water quality improvement actions include:
 - ✓ Support for a comprehensive and coordinated water quality monitoring and assessment strategy
 - ✓ Development of water quality standards, pollutant limits and clean-up plans
 - ✓ Reduce urban stormwater and agricultural runoff pollution
 - ✓ Reduce wastewater pollution
 - ✓ Reduce harmful algal bloomsHydrological Restoration actions:
 - ✓ Conduct data collection, modeling, and analyses to support hydrologic restoration
 - ✓ Increase fresh surface water and groundwater availability to support healthy ecosystems
 - ✓ Protect and restore natural flow regimesFish, Wildlife, and Habitat Protection actions:
 - ✓ Protect, restore, and monitor estuarine habitats
 - ✓ Protect, restore, and monitor environmentally sensitive lands and waterways including critical habitat areas
 - ✓ Assess and promote the benefits of land, waterway, and estuary protection and restorationPublic Engagement actions:
 - ✓ Promote environmental literacy, awareness, and stewardship through expanded education and engagement opportunities for the general public
 - ✓ Expand reach of education and engagement opportunities to new target audiences
 - ✓ Strengthen non-profit partner collaboration in education and engagement programs
 - ✓ Increase outreach to policymakers to enhance understanding and support for the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
- **Vaping** – The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners is considering an ordinance to regulate vaping and to raise the age of tobacco products to 21 years old. The City has been asked to consider adopting a similar ordinance. Drug Free Punta Gorda has provided documents to support this type of ordinance. At its Dec. 18 meeting, City Council will discuss raising the age to purchase tobacco/vaping products to 21 years old. A second part of the discussion relates to prohibiting all persons from vaping in city parks.

- **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)** – In December 2018, staff presented City Council with comprehensive status reports of capital improvement projects. In addition, throughout the fiscal year, staff provides project updates as part of the Community Redevelopment Area monthly reports and within weekly highlights. As stated in the FY 2020 strategic objectives, periodic status reports will be provided that highlight progress to-date, funding, and timelines for completion. The CIP report will take place at the Dec. 18 City Council meeting. A complete list of agenda items and back up materials can be found at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>.

Upcoming Events

- **New Year’s Eve** – Fishermen’s Village to present family friendly festivities for New Year’s Eve, featuring a magnificent Fireworks display at 12 midnight. Fireworks can only be viewed from the west dock of Fishermen’s Village. The celebration includes live music/dancing, a photo booth, face painting, glitter tattoos, Moon Dancer, LED juggling, balloon twisting, magic show, tarot card readings, funky hair glitter designs, singer and guitarist performance, the Festival of Lights, stores and boutiques open until 6 p.m., and New Year’s Eve Cruise available. Parking available at Bayfront YMCA, First United Methodist Church, Five Star Realty, Punta Gorda Library and the Visual Arts Center. Call (941) 639-8721 or visit www.fishville.com for more information.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
12/14	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
12/14	41 st Annual Christmas Parade	Taylor Street	http://charlottecountychamber.org/
12/14	Yoga in the Park	Laishley Park	https://www.palmpoweryoga.com/
12/15	2 nd Annual Parade Christmas Fair	Laishley Park	https://www.localadiessouthflorida.com/
12/17	PGI Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
12/19	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
12/20-12/21	MHM Hosts “Bob Hope Christmas Gala”	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
12/24	Christmas Eve Services	Laishley Park	https://deepcreekcommunitychurch.com/
12/29	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
12/31	New Year’s Eve Celebration & Fireworks	Fishermen’s Village	https://www.fishville.com/
1/3-1/5	Snowbird Celebration Arts & Crafts	City Marketplace	http://www.mypromotions.com/
1/11	Fishbowl Fiesta Fun Run	Charlotte High School	Teresa.hughes@yourcharlotteschools.net

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
PGI (Magdalena 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).
East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, and Cooper St). Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.).

Urban Design

- Staff attended the regularly scheduled meeting of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination Meeting. Discussion included the Local Agency Program (LAP) project review.
- At the Design Studio meeting this week City staff met with developers and property owners interested in the following:
 - Rehabilitation and addition to a historic structure on Berry Street
 - Development of several duplexes on vacant lots along Magdalena Drive
 - Development of a small mixed-use building in the downtown.
 - Possible demolition of a contributing structure to the National Register Historic District.
- The PGI Green Thumbs continue to maintain and improve the Nature Park on a weekly basis. Residents and visitors are invited to stop by and to experience the expanding gardens. Special Thanks to Public Works for installing the Rose Garden benches at the Nature Park! They look fabulous!



Public Works

Parks & Grounds

- **Laisley Park** – Children’s playground is closed for major repairs until further notice.

Engineering

- **Traffic Signal at US 41 and Aqui Esta Improvement** – The five section signal head has been installed and is fully operational adding a left turn phase for East Bound traffic.
- **Paving Schedule** – The contractor has completed mill and pavement resurfacing for over 4 miles of cul-de-sac streets ahead of schedule. Temporary striping is scheduled with permanent striping to occur within the next 2 weeks. The City and contractor are working on punch list development which includes staging area sod restoration.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Seating, plaque and mural walls are in process of having stucco work completed. The contractor is installing light pole foundations and gazebo floor removal is underway.



- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Erosion control, excavation and grading continue. Installations of railing, electrical, wall coping formwork and approach slab concrete placement occurred. The contractors work zone encompasses the multi-use trail and over Alligator Creek parallel to US41 NB. The multi-use trail will remain closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 562 properties totaling 425,100 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in Burnt Store Isles and during the week of Dec. 16 will include 5000-5012 Isparta Ct. and 552-564 Macedonia.
- **Intersection ADA Improvements** – Virginia and Taylor ADA ramps are complete. Additional work is to commence at various ramp locations over the next few weeks. Updates will occur upon completion of each location.
- **Madrid Blvd. and US 41 Sidewalk Improvements** – The bid opening occurred Dec. 12.
- **Taylor Street Streetscape** – The project is complete as the eight benches for the four seating areas were delivered earlier than expected and installed on Dec. 5.

Canal Maintenance

- Crews filled 28 depressions and performed three seawall cap repairs and removed debris.
- **Seawall Assessment Program** – The Seawall Assessment Program has started in the PGI canals beginning at Sancho Panza and working up the Tarpon Inlet. Staff will be inspecting all seawalls by boat and collecting data utilizing GPS (Geographical Information System) equipment. The inspection is performed with the input of the exact locations on a computerized map as well as the condition data for each segment of wall & cap. The completion of the annual assessment allows the division to continue to forecast the estimated wall and cap longevity and create future work programs. This work is accomplished during low winter tides and expected to be completed by February.

Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access

- Dredging of the pass is ongoing. The canal between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Boaters should use caution when operating in the area. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Drive to the Colony Point Drive spoil site continues.



Police Department

- **Community Garden** – There are two plots available in the Community Garden at the Public Safety Complex. The cost is \$25 per year. If interested please contact Nancy Combs at (321) 332-4221.

- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 895 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of November 2019. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 233 hours. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 160 hours. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 395 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@pgorda.us or (941) 575-5536.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Punta Gorda Family Fun Day** – The Inaugural Family Fun Day for the Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments was a huge success! Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and celebrate this awesome community of people we are blessed to be a part of.



Fire Department

- The Fire Department responds to medical emergencies involving patients having a stroke. With early recognition and early treatment patients have much better outcomes. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with how to recognize the early signs and symptoms of a stroke. What Is Stroke? A stroke is the leading cause of adult disability in the United States and the fourth most common cause of death. A stroke occurs when blood flow through an artery to the brain is cut off either by a blockage or because the artery ruptures and bleeds into the brain tissue. More than 85 percent of strokes are because of blockage by a blood clot or plaque (a fatty, waxy substance that accumulates on artery walls). **Getting treatment within the first three hours after stroke onset is critical for minimizing permanent damage. That is why it is so important to act F.A.S.T. Don't wait. Dial 9-1-1.** The American Stroke Association developed this easy-to-remember guide to help identify the signs of a stroke.
 - F – Face drooping.** Is one side of the person's face drooping or numb? When he or she smiles, is the smile uneven?
 - A – Arm weakness.** Is the person experiencing weakness or numbness in one arm? Have the person raise both arms. Does one of the arms drift downward?

S – Speech difficulty. Is the person’s speech suddenly slurred or hard to understand? Is he or she unable to speak? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Can he or she repeat it back?

T – Time to call 9-1-1. If any of these symptoms are present, dial 9-1-1 immediately. Check the time so you can report when the symptoms began.

Is it a stroke? Check these signs FAST!



Act FAST. Call 9-1-1 at any sign of stroke!

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

Week 75- High Service Pumps and motors replaced.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 39.1 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.6 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 0.80”, Dec. 2018 1.90”, Dec. 2019 .10”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 19 ppm – Total hardness 324 ppm
- TDS for Dec. 12 – Current 474 ppm, Low 367 ppm, High 567 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 451 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 12– Current 5.07’, Record Low 4.80’, Record High 6.56’, 54 Year Avg. 5.16’



City Clerk

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

- Code Enforcement Board – (One regular and 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 regular and 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.
- Building Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the fourth 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 against contractors.

- 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

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:
 - ✓ Harbor Home Builders, 411 Cross Street, Unit 111
 - ✓ Hibiscus Property Group, 252 W Marion Avenue
 - ✓ Illusions Full Service Salon, 115 Taylor Street