

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT DECEMBER 20, 2019

City Manager

- **Christmas and New Year's Day Holiday Closures** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Dec. 24, and Dec. 25, for the Christmas holiday and Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. The holiday closures WILL affect residential refuse, yard waste and recycling collections. It will also affect commercial customer collections. Residential services normally handled on Dec. 25 will be collected on Dec. 26. There are no changes to the Dec. 27 or Dec. 28 schedule. There will be no other changes to the sanitation schedule during Christmas or New Year's Holidays. If you have any questions, please call the City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Promoting Arts and Culture** – Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan highlights arts and culture as not only reflecting the spirit and soul of a place, facilitating a sense of belong, but they are also an essential economic asset, attracting visitors and businesses who want to be a part of these authentic communities. Punta Gorda's unique history and thriving local arts and festival scene could become as much of a calling card for visitors as its beautiful setting and outdoor recreation. The Plan goes on to state that investing in the arts has positive impacts on society, health and wellbeing, the economy and education.



How timely are the above comments from Dover Kohl in the Citywide Master Plan. The December 2019 issue of PM Magazine by the International City/County Management Association includes an article regarding the importance of the arts using cultural assets for neighborhood revitalization and increased economic sustainability. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2016, arts and culture contributed \$804 billion to the economy, or 4.3% of the gross domestic product. Such industries as construction and agriculture contributed less. According to Americans for the Arts Arts & Economic Prosperity Study, the nonprofit arts contributed \$27.5 billion to state and local government coffers. Given that nationally, all levels of government collectively invest around \$5 billion in nonprofit arts, this ends up being more than a 5-to-1 return on investment. The healthier and more vibrant a locality's nonprofit arts sector, the more the locality will collect in tax revenue.

Starting in 2018, a not-for-profit organization, Harborside Center for the Arts (HCA), was created to promote arts in Punta Gorda and establish a new Community Arts Center that would not only house the Punta Gorda Symphony Orchestra and visiting theatre and musical productions, but also serve the broader community with additional spaces for exhibition, cultural production and arts education. HCA is currently working on feasibility analyses for a new community arts center. The Citywide Master Plan includes a concept plan of what that development might look like in the downtown area. If successful in a downtown location, HCA would generate a combination of earned, contributed and endowment revenues.

- **Community Redevelopment Area** – The application period for the CRA vacancy has closed. The Charlotte County Commission will make their nomination at their Jan. 14 meeting. The four applicants are Bill Dryburgh, Wendy Mueller, Drew Rossi and George Rucht. The City should have the letter of nomination in time for the Jan. 22 Council Agenda.
- **City of Punta Gorda 1% Sales Tax Committee** – On Jan. 13 the Sales Tax Committee will reconvene at 1 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center. The group will hear and score the remaining City proposals and the projects that came from the Request for Proposal responses from community organizations. The RFP responses include:
 - Connecting City Points of Interest to create a “campus” for centrally located attractions
 - History Park Maintenance/Improvements/Restoration (Economic Development)
 - Maud Street Angled Parking to create additional parking near the Visual Arts Center
 - Visual Arts Center Gallery and Classroom Addition (Economic Development)
 - Henry Street Crosswalk to enhance public safety
 - Park/Kayak Ramp at South Punta Gorda Park
 - Event Center Parking Garage Visual Enhancements
 - South County Annex Visual Enhancements

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
12/24	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 Arts & Crafts	City Marketplace	http://www.mypromotions.com/
1/11	Fishbowl Fiesta Fun Run	Charlotte High School	Teresa.hughes@yourcharlotteschools.net
1/11	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/12	Yoga in the Park	Laishley Park	https://www.palmpoweryoga.com/
1/16	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/17	MHM Hosts “Give ‘em Hell Harry – A Biographical Play”	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
1/18	Peace River Pride	Laishley Park	https://www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/pride
1/18-1/19	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	http://puntagordachamber.com
1/20	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade	Taylor Street	http://www.macedoniaservices.org/org

Lot Mowing Program

- The City Lot Mowing crews will begin mowing a new cycle on Jan. 6.

Urban Design

- **2019 Eastwood Roland Planner of the Year** – Jason Greene, Chair of the Promised Lands Section of American Planning Association (APA) Florida Chapter awarded the 2019 Roland Eastwood Planner of the Year Award to Urban Design Chief Planner Mitchell Austin. The award, named in honor of Roland Eastwood, a legendary land use attorney who was the first director of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council from 1974 to 1982 and a Lee County Commissioner from 1982 to 1990, has been awarded annually since 2000. Mitchell began his career 15 years ago on Aug. 16 2004, the Monday AFTER HURRICANE CHARLEY! When most would have called in and stayed away Mitchell showed up to work at ground zero. His talents and efforts have helped design the City from the ground up! He has assisted on many, if not all of development projects since 2004 and can share in the City’s success. Congratulations to Mitchell on this distinct honor.
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- **Metropolitan Planning Organization City** – staff attended the regular meeting of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board. The MPO is the local agency responsible for long range transportation planning and prioritizing individual federally funded projects designed to achieve the long range vision. At this meeting the MPO Board
 - Elected a new officers, congratulations to
 - MPO Chair – County Commissioner Joe Tiseo
 - MPO Vice Chair – County Commissioner Christopher Constance
 - 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update
 - Adopted vision, goals and objectives for the 2045 LRTP
 - Accepted 2045 population and employment projections
 - 2045 population: 260,550
 - 2045 employment: 106,304 (jobs within Charlotte County)
 - Opportunities for public input into the plan
 - Online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Charlotte2045LRTP>
 - Workshop schedule:
 - Feb. 25 West County at Tringali Community Center
 - Feb. 26 Mid County at Mid County Library
 - Feb. 26 South County at Punta Gorda Library
 - **Agripreneur Garden** – City Council approved the Agreement with Quality Independence, LLC for the management of the agripreneur garden at 317 East Virginia. Members of the group were present and were extremely excited and thankful to be able to manage the garden. The garden will teach “agripreneurs” or budding farmers raise and sell agricultural products as part of an emerging local food network, thereby promoting economic development, job training and or job creation. The group has already cleaned up the area and has begun planting for the season. To learn more about the work of Quality Independence LLC visit <https://bit.ly/2Z6AZY5>

Public Works

Engineering

- **Paving Schedule** – Temporary striping has been placed with permanent striping to be scheduled for placement. The contractor anticipates completion of the punch list by Dec. 20. Permanent striping will occur in Jan.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – All stucco work is complete. The contractor has installed light pole foundations. Gazebo floor removal is complete and installation of flooring will be completed over the next week.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Erosion control, excavation and grading continues. Installations of railing, electrical, wall coping formwork concrete placement continues. The project is greater than 60% complete and on schedule for completion on or before Feb. 2019. The contractors work zone encompasses the multi-use trail 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 569 properties totaling 430,600 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in Burnt Store Isles and during the week of Dec. 23 will include several locations along Bordeaux Drive.
- **Intersection ADA Improvements** – The contractor has demolished and placed concrete at the following ADA ramp locations: Myrtle and Narranja, Hazel and Myrtle, Ida and Cooper, Showalter and Mary, Showalter and Cooper, Fitzhugh and Booth, Booth and Virginia, E Helen and Mary and E. Helen and Milus. ADA mat placement will occur after concrete curing.
- **Madrid Blvd. and US 41 Sidewalk Improvements** – The bid opening will be Dec. 20. Procurement will review the submittals and determine the low responsible bidder prior to the recommendation for award.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** –
 - Marine Contracting Group has completed two of the 37 seawalls in PGI with four seawalls under construction.
- Crews filled 29 depressions.
- **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 (Global Positioning 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 Feb.

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

- **Santa Claus on the Streets** – Santa has been riding along with our police officers to spread Christmas cheer to our community. He's officially putting everyone in the City of Punta Gorda on his "Nice List."
- **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.



Fire Department

- The City of Punta Gorda Fire Department receives a lot of calls inquiring about BLS Provider CPR training. This is the 8 hour class that provides you with certification credentials needed as part of your employment requirements. If you go to <https://cpr.heart.org/.../c.../out-of-hospital-chain-of-survival> and click Find a Class you can hopefully locate a class near you. PGFD offers a free Family and Friends CPR course. The Family and Friends CPR program does not offer CPR certification. Instead, our primary goal is to raise awareness of the importance of immediate action in response to sudden cardiac arrest. Register online at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/.../cpr-trai.../cpr-registration> or contact the Punta Gorda Fire Dept. at (941) 575-5529. Course dates and times are available online using the link above.

Utilities Department

Utilities Administration

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) has been conducted at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values is on the City's web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values at this sample site as well as throughout the water system are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

Week 76- RO Plant generator being delivered



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 33.8 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.8 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 .70”
- 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. 19 – Current 484 ppm, Low 396 ppm, High 587 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 470 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 19– Current 5.09’, Record Low 4.87’, Record High 6.43’, 54 Year Avg. 5.17’

City Clerk

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 – (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.