



Florida's Harborside Hometown

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 17, 2020

### City Manager

- **Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Closure** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Jan. 20 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in their trash, yard waste or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers will notice **NO CHANGE** in collection service during the holiday. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Punta Gorda Boat Club** – The City has leased the peninsula area in Gilchrist Park to the Punta Gorda Boat Club since 1961. After recently exploring the feasibility of a waterfront activity center, City Council decided to forgo such a project and allow the Boat Club and Bayfront Center buildings to remain. As a result, City staff and representatives of the Boat Club have entered into lease negotiations which allow for the Boat Club to invest funds into their facility as well as provide more public access to the area. The Boat Club requests the following:
  - ✓ 20 year lease term with automatic annual renewals thereafter and 90 termination clause
  - ✓ Lease termination building buy-out waived if an equivalent waterfront activity center is constructed
  - ✓ Boat Club will undergo renovations to include parking, driveway, landscaping, South exterior, utilities
  - ✓ Grant of an Occupation of Easement (portion of Berry St. right-of-way) for driveway and parking improvements
  - ✓ Reduction in size of leasehold area
  - ✓ Retain signage adjacent to Retta Esplanade
  - ✓ Use of the Bayfront Center main parking lot for special events up to five days per year; must be coordinated with Bayfront Center tenant
  - ✓ City responsibility for utility infrastructure from Harborwalk improvement to Retta Esplanade
- **Burnt Store Isles Undergrounding** – The Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Undergrounding Committee will hold a community meeting Jan. 21, 6:30 pm at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church to present the results of an FPL electric undergrounding study to include design and cost. The Committee worked with City staff and Comcast to develop an overall project cost estimate and next steps. Committee members, City staff and representatives from FPL and Comcast will be in attendance to participate in the presentation and address any questions.
- **City Manager Recruitment** – At the upcoming City Council meeting, Council will review a draft City Manager Position Profile and discuss the recruitment process. The intent is to have a new City Manager in place by Oct. 5, 2020. Staff is recommending interview panels be formed including; City Council as a collective body, City Council interviews on an individual basis, and a resident/business panel. Council will be asked to determine the make-up of the community panel, specific attributes and abilities details desired, and determine preferences for level of education and past experience.

- **City Council Workshop Strategic Planning** – City Council will participate in a Strategic Planning Workshop on Jan. 24 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Strategic Plan is used to set the overall goals for the City, provide direction to City departments, and create the basis for each year’s annual budget. The plan provides a tool for more effective and economical operations and demonstrates to the public that careful consideration has been given to future development and direction of the organization. The Plan provides a realistic view of the expectations for the organization and community at-large.
- **Peace River Wildlife Center** – At its Sept. 18, 2019 meeting, City Council approved moving forward with exploration of relocation of the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) from Ponce de Leon Park to city-owned land at West Henry. Staff has met with Center representatives to review preliminary concept plans for such a relocation. PWRC also relocated its hospital facilities to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near East Marion Avenue. The site plan depicts the area that the Center would like to lease from the City for its administrative, viewing and gift shop facilities. In addition, the City's 1% Local Option Sales Tax Committee is considering a proposal to integrate all facilities in the area (Wildlife Center, Punta Gorda Library, History Park, Hounds on Henry, Linear Park, and Multi-Use Recreational Trail) with a multi-faceted trail system, lighting and restroom.
- **PicklePlex®** – City Council will consider a request from PicklePlex® to partner with the City in order to be eligible to secure funding from Charlotte County. The City has received a cost proposal from PicklePlex® for its Phase two project to include the addition of nineteen courts, concession stand and restroom. The estimate is \$915,065. Charlotte County has provided two legal opinions pertaining to such a request and whether the County could use public funds to construct Phase 2 improvements. A summary of the opinions is as follows:
  - ✓ County tourism development tax (TDT) revenue may be used to construct a pickleball complex if the complex is owned and operated by a public entity within the boundaries of Charlotte County. The complex must also be open to the public in some form or fashion, and any vote to appropriate TDT towards construction thereof must be based upon a finding that the pickleball complex will contribute to the advancement of tourism in Charlotte County.
  - ✓ If the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) makes a specific finding that the PicklePlex® complex will serve a County public purpose, then the BOCC may award funding to PicklePlex® for development, construction and/or operation of the PicklePlex® facility in unincorporated County from available public revenue sources (i.e. ad valorem).
- **Agripreneur Garden** – The first harvest of the Virginia Street garden occurred on Tuesday. WINK News was there to capture the collection and subsequent donation to the first food Pantry, the Homeless Coalition. The group took over the garden about a month ago and plans on providing food to other local food banks.

<https://www.winknews.com/2020/01/14/special-needs-adults-group-grows-fruits-vegetables-for-those-in-need/>



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
1/17	MHM Hosts “Give ‘em Hell Harry – A Biographical Play”	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
1/18	Peace River Pride	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/pride">https://www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/pride</a>
1/18-1/19	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	<a href="http://puntagordachamber.com">http://puntagordachamber.com</a>
1/20	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade	Taylor Street	<a href="http://www.macedoniaservices.org">http://www.macedoniaservices.org</a>
1/21	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	Bal Harbor	<a href="mailto:biltucker@earthlink.net">biltucker@earthlink.net</a>
1/24	Return to Hardwick: Documentary with Director Michael Sellers	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8e5d5338aa485ebdc693bd0bfa8a9d60">https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8e5d5338aa485ebdc693bd0bfa8a9d60</a>
1/25	Dave Bray USA with Opening Act Nate Winkler	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8c02511f8e796979b16f638d74c40fc4">https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8c02511f8e796979b16f638d74c40fc4</a>
1/30	25th Anniversary Punta Gorda Mural Society Celebration	Visual Arts Center	<a href="https://puntagordamurals.org/25th-anniversary-celebration-jan-30th/">https://puntagordamurals.org/25th-anniversary-celebration-jan-30th/</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). PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive). Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr).

## Urban Design

- The City of Punta Gorda seeks a Planning Intern for the Urban Design Division. In this position you will gain practical on-the-job experience by assisting with research and data collection for a variety of projects, including comprehensive plans, land use analysis; zoning ordinance development, corridor and small area plans, as well as communications and public engagement. Candidates should be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program in city planning, urban studies, public policy, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, historic preservation, public administration, or a related field. View the job description at <https://www.applitrack.com/puntagorda/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?FromAdmin=true&AppliTrackJobId=474>
- Gulf Coast Partnership: On Jan. 14, HUD announced \$2.16 billion in grants to provide funding to 6,595 local homeless housing and service programs across the U.S. and its territories. These Continuum of Care (CoC) grants provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide support while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. The Tier 1 funding announcement includes Renewal, New, Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus, and CoC Planning projects. For FL-602 Charlotte County received 100% of their Tier 1 requests:
  - Tier 1 - FL-602 - Charlotte County CoC
  - Renewal - HMIS Renewal FY2019 \$70,061
  - Reallocation – St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) - Returning Home RRH \$105,436
  - Renewal – Jewish Families and Children Services (JFCS) Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) \$18,473
  - Renewal – CARE DV Bonus SSO-CE \$50,000
  - New – Gulf Coast Partnership CoC Planning \$8,820
  - Tier 1 Total for FL-602: \$252,790

- NOTE: HUD will award approximately \$122 million in Tier 2 funding to support hundreds of local projects in the near future. Tier 2 grants will include Renewal, New, and DV Bonus projects & projects straddling Tier 1 and Tier 2 which will be announced along with other Tier 2 projects at a later date.

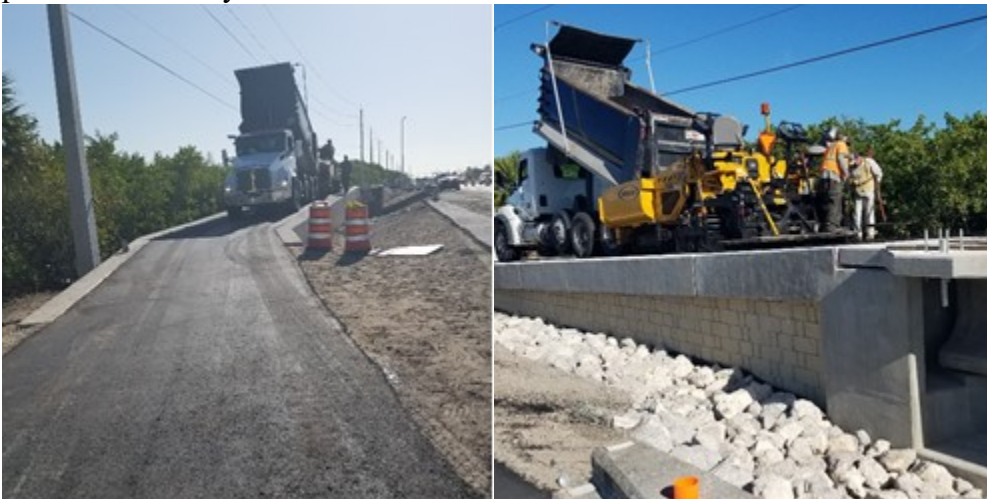
## Public Works

### Parks and Grounds

- **Christmas Decorations** – Crews will begin removal of the Christmas decorations on Jan. 21. Please take special care when driving in the City to be aware of Public Works employees removing holiday decorations.

### Engineering

- **Veterans Park Phase II** – The contractor is continuing to pour concrete sidewalks and this work should be completed during the week of Jan. 20. Installation of the gazebo flooring is approximately 95% complete. Other work scheduled during the week of Jan. 20 will include paver installation and site restoration.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Slope grading is occurring in prep of sod. Bridge approachment asphalt placement is underway. Installation of guardrail and electrical work has commenced. 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 612 properties totaling 458,225 square feet of grading/sodding. Work has returned to Burnt Store Isles and the next work locations in order will be along Marseilles Ct., Bastia Ct., Maltese Dr. and Maltese Ct.
- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** – The ADA and Wayfinding signage installations are near completion for City Hall, City Annex and Public Safety. This phase of the project is on schedule to be completed by the end of January.
- **ADA Ramp Improvements** – The contractor for the ADA ramp construction continues work on Fitzhugh Avenue & Mary Street.
- **Madrid Blvd. and US41 Improvements** – The PO was issued and Pre-Construction Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17



## Canal Maintenance

- Beginning the week of Jan. 13 through Jan. 31 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Ponce Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will off load dredge material at the vacant lot at the southerly end of Colony Point; then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks.



- **Seawall Assessment Program** – The Seawall Assessment continues, crews are currently working in the NE zone. The assessment is expected to be completed by Feb. 202
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** –
  - The seawall replacement contractor has completed three seawall replacement projects and has five projects under construction. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - The Seawall Assessment is ongoing; staff has collected over 4,135 points to date. Seawall Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of Feb.
  - Crews filled depressions at 15 locations and performed one culvert repair.

- **Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access**

Please visit the City's YouTube channel to view drone footage taken of the construction progress. The video playlist link is:

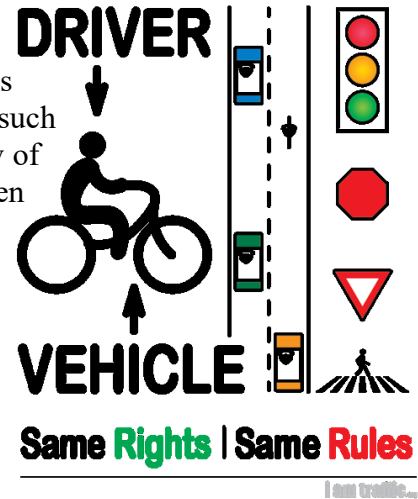
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNfEdounKc85\\_W-fSqI5](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNfEdounKc85_W-fSqI5). Dredging

operations are currently occurring in the canal along Sea Edge Drive. Boaters NEED to stay out of the new pass until construction is completed which is scheduled to occur in April. Damage to vessel propulsion systems is very likely to occur if they enter the pass. The canals between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive and Sea Edge Drive will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Boaters should use caution when operating near the construction area. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Drive to the Colony Point Drive spoil site continues.



## Police Department

- **Bicycle Safety** – In Florida, any time a bicyclist is riding in the roadway the bicycle is legally considered a vehicle and the bicyclist a driver. This means that bicyclists have the same rights as motorists, but also that bicyclists must obey the same laws such as stopping for all stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, using lights at night, yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway, and yielding to pedestrians at crosswalks.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on May 18 with oral board interviews scheduled on May 19 and May 20. 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 Summer and Fall Semesters of 2020. 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.



## Fire Department

- The Punta Gorda Fire Department in cooperation with Police Department and Drug Free Charlotte County would like to remind the public that they can bring their unused/unneeded or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to the Fire Department located at 1410 Tamiami Trail. Residents can deposit unused and expired medications into the Vault (Drop Box) for proper disposal, no questions asked. All participants will remain anonymous. The goal of “Operation Medicine Cabinet” is to get rid of dangerous and potentially deadly prescription drugs before they fall into the wrong hands. An additional benefit of the program is this will help to prevent drugs/medications from being disposed of improperly, which will result in reducing the impact on the environment.

**PUNTA GORDA FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET™**  
A Prescription for Safe Kids and a Clean Environment  
FOR SAFE & ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL, PLEASE DEPOSIT UNUSED & EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION & OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS IN THE CONTAINER BELOW.

ITEMS ACCEPTED HERE:	ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED HERE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Controlled Substances/Narcotics including Vicodin, Oxycodone, etc.</li><li>• Prescribed Medications including antibiotics, medication samples, medications for pets, medicated ointments/lotions</li><li>• Over-the-counter medications</li><li>• Vitamins</li><li>• Inhalers</li><li>• EpiPens (unopened)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needles/Syringes (see F.D. for Sharps Recovery Program)</li><li>• Thermometers</li><li>• IV bags or bloody/infectious waste</li><li>• Personal care products including shampoo, soap, lotions, etc.</li><li>• Hydrogen peroxide/other chemicals</li><li>• Aerosol cans</li><li>• EpiPens (used)</li><li>• Iodine solutions (Betadine)</li><li>• Business waste</li></ul>

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACCEPTED AT THIS LOCATION**

**PUNTA GORDA FIRE DEPARTMENT** **DRUG FREE CHARLOTTE COUNTY** **PUNTA GORDA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## 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 were below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

### Groundwater R.O. Construction Update



Week 80- Cabinets are being installed in the building. This picture is of the new water treatment plant laboratory.

### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 37.3 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.3 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 Jan. 2019 4.90” Jan. 2020 0.10”
- 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 325 ppm
- TDS for Jan. 15 – Current 481 ppm, Low 346 ppm, High 623 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 496 ppm
- Reservoir Jan. 15 – Current 5.09’, Record Low 4.91’, Record High 5.90’, 54 Year Avg. 5.20’
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant Evaluation and Summary Report** – The City Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was initially constructed in 1984. The WWTP has an operating permit from the Department of Environmental Protection which authorizes a treatment capacity of 4.0 million gallons per day (MGD), based on annual average daily (AAD) flow. The 2019 AAD flow was 2.56 MDG. The original DEP permit authorized treatment capacity of 3.2 MGD. At a later date, the permit was modified to 4.0 MGD, although no plant improvements were completed. WWTP staff has experienced difficulty with treatment of flows greater than 3.2 MGD. Current AAD flows of 2.56 represent 80% of 3.2 MGD design flow. When actual flows reach 75% of permitted flow, regulatory criteria requires the City to perform a Capacity Analysis Evaluation, and identify a plan for WWTP improvements to meet future wastewater flow projections. Due to the recognition of the regulatory standard, the City has awarded engineering services to CDM-Smith to provide a Capacity Analysis Evaluation and an Alternatives Evaluation Summary Report. The full report is available in the City Council agenda packet at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>.

## **City Clerk**

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One alternate vacancy) 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:
  - ✓ Pedelec SQB, 1205 Elizabeth Street