

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT OCTOBER 9, 2020

City Manager

- **Halloween** – The City of Punta Gorda is strongly encouraging residents not to participate in trick or treating in neighborhoods other than their own due to the risks of spreading COVID-19. The traditional festivities will not take place at City Hall Annex. The Punta Gorda Police Department will not be closing streets or adding traffic control measures in the Historic District or any other City neighborhood. There will be extra traffic and Driving Under the Influence enforcement patrols throughout the night for increased traffic safety in Punta Gorda.
- **Mooring Cover Assist System** – As a part of the rewrite of Chapter 6 Vessels, Docks and Waterways the ability to for a homeowner to utilize a mooring cover assist system (permit required) is allowed. The definition of a mooring cover assist system is a mechanical system which rolls and unrolls a fabric mooring cover to protect a vessel when moored at a dock or boatlift. When not being used to cover a vessel, all components of the system shall be positioned at or below the seawall. A mooring cover (also referred to as boat cover) is the fabric covering which fits tightly on the vessel when not in use. These have always been allowed as there is no structural component. **Boathouses, dock and boatlift covers/canopies are still prohibited without exception.**



- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on Oct. 7 and took the following actions:
 - After a discussion regarding Cooper St. Multi-Use Recreational Trail design and construction, City Council directed staff to stop the design work on this project due to the anticipated funding availability for construction being so far in the future.
 - Gilchrist Park Phase B was discussed. Council approved a parking plan that redesigns the playground and Bayfront lots. The plan eliminates 46 paved spaces in this area and adds green space. The plan has 155 total spaces with 110 lot spaces and 45 on street parking spaces. Net parking increases 29 spaces. The project is slated to be funded with 1% Sales Tax revenue.

- Discussion took place about exceptions related to residential noise regulations. The Punta Gorda Code contains provisions which limit building construction and certain property maintenance activities to specified hours in residential neighborhoods. City Council directed staff to request that the contractor handling the lot mowing for the City not mow on Sundays or start mowing later on Sunday mornings. Council also requested that the contractors/builders be contacted to let them know about the complaints that have been received. The Punta Gorda Police Department shared that residents can report noise violations and other code compliance issues to the department during early morning hours, evenings, nights and weekends. The non-emergency number for reporting to the Punta Gorda Police Department is (941) 639-4111. Code compliance can be reached at (941) 575-3352.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 17, Historic Walk to honor Pastor Isaac and Charlie Ann Thomas, 650 Mary Street. For information contact Cathy Bivins, cbivins9@aol.com
- Oct. 24 and 30, Smuggler's Holiday Drive-in Movie Event, City Marketplace Property. For advance tickets and additional information, contact www.smugglersevents.com
- Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and 19, Sip, Shop & Save at the Celtic Ray, 145 E Marion Avenue. For additional information, contact theraypg3@gmail.com
- Oct. 31, Military Heritage Museum Car Show, 900 W Marion Avenue. For additional information, visit www.freedomisntfree.org



Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin the next mowing cycle on Oct. 12.

Urban Design

• The Planning Corner – Comprehensive Plan Elements Update

Over the next several weeks the City will be publishing the first drafts of the various Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) Elements for review and comment of the proposed changes. Staff will be presenting to the [Punta Gorda Planning Commission](#) the draft elements at the [Oct. 26 and Nov. 23](#) meetings. These are public meetings and allow for public comment. This is another way for the public to voice their opinions and make recommendations. The Planning Commission is comprised of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates appointed by the City Council. The Planning Commission serves as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) as required by Florida Statutes (163.3174). Consistent with Florida Statute the City's Planning Commission is duty bound to make recommendations to the City Council for:

- Amending, extending or adding to the Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City.
- Platting or subdividing land within the City.
- Adopting an official atlas of the City and for recommending or disapproving proposed changes in such atlas.
- Adopting and amending a zoning ordinance and recommending or disapproving proposed changes in such ordinance.
- Adopting plans for the clearance and rebuilding of slum districts and blighted areas within the City.
- Adopting a plan for the replanning, reconstruction or redevelopment of any area or district which may be destroyed in whole or in part or seriously damaged by fire, earthquake, flood or other disaster.

City staff is looking forward to hearing from you about the proposed changes. Please comment directly via either comment functions on the [City's website](#) and the [Plan Punta Gorda](#) website or by sending City staff an email directly at: urbandesign@cityofpuntafordafl.com

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **FY 2020/2021 Seawall Replacement Program** – The list of properties scheduled to have their seawalls replaced in fiscal year 2020/2021 has been posted to the Canal Maintenance Website. Notices have already been sent to residents that will have work performed on their seawalls starting in Oct. Residents can expect to receive a notice in the mail approximately six weeks prior to construction. It is highly recommended that property owners contact the contractor to discuss how to prepare the property for construction. Contact information is provided in the notice.
 - As we begin the next Seawall Replacement Work Program, property owners may be curious about the process and what to expect. There is a series of informational videos on the Public Works - Canal Maintenance website <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/canal-maintenance/canal-maintenance-video-series> that will inform you “How to prepare your Property for Seawall Replacement”; “Seawall Replacement Process”; and “Manufacturing of Seawall Panels”. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Cathy Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor at (941) 575-5050.
 - Crews filled depressions at 17 locations.
 - Crews performed three seawall cap and seam patches (36’ linear ft.).
 - Crews manufactured 30 seawall panels.

Engineering

- **ADA Improvements City Hall Annex** – The third floor restroom and breakroom construction continues. This work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by mid-Nov.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - The contractor and sub-contractors are working on preliminary Punch-list items. An Irrigation system inspection walk-thru was performed Wednesday, Oct. 7. The Final Completion walk-thru is scheduled Oct. 20 with project documentation, completion of punchlist items and turn over to the City scheduled on or before Oct. 30.
- **Florida Department of Transportation - US 41 Carmalita St. to Marion Ave. within City of Punta Gorda** - FDOT contractor, Highway Safety Devices, continues work to install new signals on US 41 from Carmalita St. to Marion Ave. The construction will take place Monday through Friday during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours, weather permitting. Lane closures may occur during daytime hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For complete details, contact information and map <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/engineering>.
- **Gilchrist Park Pier Replacement** - Staff has entered requisitions for Owner direct purchase of the decking materials which will take several weeks to procure, manufacture and deliver. A requisition has also been entered for the Purchase Order issuance to the contractor to refurbish the pier decking after arrival of the materials.
- **Laishley Park ADA Ramp** - Construction is underway to remove one set of stairs south of the pavilion in order to construct an accessible ramp between Laishley Park and the Marina Park/Laishley Crab House.



- **Shreve St. MURT Lighting** - Staff continues coordination efforts with concrete, electrical and directional drilling contractors for this project between History Park and the Airport/Pompano intersection.
- **Sullivan St. Renovation to Historic Bricks** - Grading and rolling of crushed concrete base rock continues. Compaction density testing is scheduled by Friday. Concrete curb removal and replacement is complete. Asphalt placement will be scheduled upon passing compaction results and dry conditions. For details on the Sullivan project information please visit the City website. <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/3231/17>.



Police Department

- **9 p.m. Routine** – Remember to check each night before retiring for the evening to ensure that valuables are removed from your vehicle and your vehicle doors are locked. Surveillance video shows that most criminals that come into our city to burglarize vehicles skip over those vehicles that they find locked. Keep from becoming a victim and make it a routine to check your vehicle at 9 p.m.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Dept. is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Jan. 11 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13. Currently we are only accepting applications from candidates who are currently certified, Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible, or law enforcement academy students.
- **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 Jan. 19.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester of 2021. 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. To apply for any of these positions or for more information please visit www.pgdjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

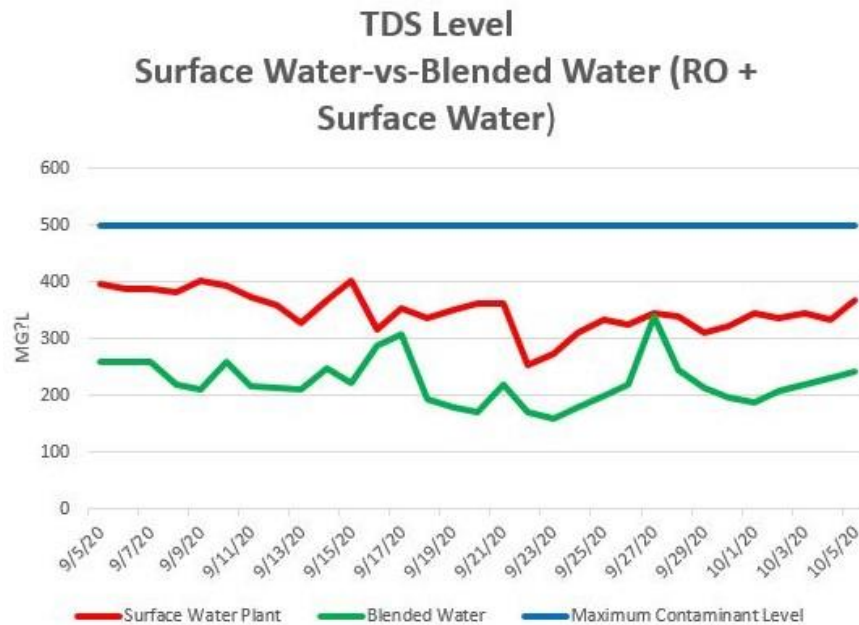


Fire Department

- **Fire Prevention Week** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department has the following tips to share about cooking safely:
 - Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
 - The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
 - Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
 - If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
 - Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it's cool.
 - Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
 - Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.

Utilities Department

- **Ground Water RO Update** – Maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) allowable is 500



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 36.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 250 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 350 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall in Oct. 2019 5.02” Oct. 2020 0.50”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 4 ppm – Total hardness 68 ppm
- TDS for Oct. 8 – Current 203 ppm, Low 203 ppm, High 440 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 323 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 8 – Current 5.89’, Record Low 4.93’, Record High 6.45’, 55 Year Avg. 5.49’

City Clerk

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

- **Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee** – (City representative) Meets the second Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center (18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte). Pre-agenda meetings held the first Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Room B-106 of the Charlotte County Administration Center. Three-year terms. Makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on marine related matters.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (Two alternates) Meets the fourth 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.

- **General Employees Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two general employees and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Four year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.
- **Building Board** – (One alternate) 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** – Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven-member board. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. 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 permits Chapter Six of the City Code of Ordinances.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board. Three-year terms – maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.

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:
 - Lily Rivera Bridal and Alterations, 2511 Vasco Street