



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT OCTOBER 16, 2020

City Manager

- **Sign Ordinance Update** – City staff has been working to re-write the sign code in order to more fully comply with recent U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. District Court decisions regarding regulations on commercial speech and to ensure the sign code remains content-neutral. The working draft of the sign code was brought to City Council as a discussion item May 20. City Council directed staff to obtain input from the community and stakeholders regarding the proposed regulations. In order to obtain the requested feedback, staff launched a sign survey on Aug. 28 and the survey closed at noon on Sept. 30. The survey link was published in the City's Weekly Highlights Report as well as the Punta Gorda and Charlotte County Chambers of Commerce's weekly newsletters and was also emailed to the homeowner's associations for community input. The survey was quite a success and there were 877 responses. Staff is currently reviewing all of the data, which included freeform answers and comments. Once all the data is analyzed, staff will prepare an updated presentation for a future City Council agenda.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet beginning at 9 a.m. on Oct. 21 at Historic City Hall. Some of the items of interest include:
 - A status update on the Park and Recreation Master Plan including a summary of the data from the general survey will be provided.
 - The first reading of an ordinance amending the Planned Development for the property located at 900 West Marion Ave. The proposed amendment will allow for public events to be held at the auditorium. The existing parking under the buildings and overflow parking in the front of the property, provides sufficient parking for the public auditorium use.
 - Second reading of an ordinance amending the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map changing the Future Land Use Map designation from Highway Commercial Corridor to High Density Residential/City for 22.80 +/- acres located within the Loop Municipal Service area. This area was annexed into the City in 2015, and lies to the east of Burnt Store Rd. and north of Jones Loop Rd. The applicant is seeking to develop the property as an apartment community.
 - First reading of an ordinance amendment to permit planters to encroach up to two feet into the required rear yard and would be limited to a maximum of 29 inches lower than the elevation of the adjacent pool deck, patio or structure (home).
- **Ponce De Leon Park Beach Closure** – Ponce De Leon Park is scheduled for seawall repairs and sidewalk installation. The project was designed by Weiler Engineering and will be constructed by Marine Contracting Group Inc. Starting Nov. 2 the entire sand beach area at Ponce de Leon Park as well as a portion of the parking lot adjacent to the beach will be closed. This area remain closed until the point of substantial project completion which is scheduled for Feb. 23.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- Oct. 31, First Baptist Church Drive-thru Trick or Treat, 459 Gill Street. For additional information, contact (941) 639-3857
- Nov. 14 and 14, MY Promotions Arts and Craft Show, City Marketplace Property. For additional information, visit www.mypromotions.com
- Nov. 28 and 29, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, Sullivan Street downtown Punta Gorda. For additional information, visit www.puntagordachamber.com

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd., Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd., Suzi St., and Casey Key Dr.).
PGI (Magdalena Dr., Via Vento, W. Henry St., Appian Dr., and Columbian Dr.).

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Comprehensive Plan Elements Update**

At the end of last week the City published the first drafts of updated Coastal Management, Housing, and Historic Elements to the [City’s website](#) and the [Plan Punta Gorda](#) website. This week the Future Land Use and Transportation Elements will be published. The changes within the updated elements are highlighted in a “~~strikethrough~~-underline” format. The complete draft elements are each published along with a companion document for the Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOP). These GOP documents contain a matrix table with the currently adopted GOPs, the proposed revisions, and a listing of the intent/effect of the proposed changes. City staff is looking forward to hearing from residents 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@cityofpuntagordafl.com



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Chapter Six – VESSELS, DOCKS, AND WATERWAYS** – The updated ordinance has been approved and adopted by City Council. The new ordinance goes into effect immediately.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has one project under construction in Punta Gorda Isles. There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. There are no seawall replacement projects currently underway in Burnt Store Isles. Four seawall replacement projects scheduled for Burnt Store Isles later this fiscal year.

- **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 12 locations.
 - Crews performed two seawall cap and seam patches (3.5’ linear ft.).
 - Crews removed one piling from the canal.
 - Crews manufactured 40 seawall panels.
 - Crews mowed and trimmed the Sancho Panza Point.
 - Crews replaced missing channel mark #nine mirror at Ponce De Leon inlet waterway.

Engineering

- **Sullivan Street Renovation to Historic Bricks** - Grading and rolling of crushed concrete base rock is complete. Compaction density testing passed. Grade has been prepped for asphalt placement. Brick pavers are scheduled for delivery on Oct. 19. For details on the Sullivan project, visit the City website. <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/3231/17>.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements City Hall Annex** – The third floor restroom and kitchen construction continues. The project is scheduled to complete in Nov.
- **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.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** – The Final Completion walk-thru is scheduled Oct. 20. Turn over to the City Parks and Ground Department is scheduled on or before Oct. 30.
- **Laisley Park (ADA) Ramp** – Demolition of one set of stairs south of the pavilion has begun. The anticipated completion date to construct the new ADA ramp is Oct. 28.



- **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.

Police Department

- **Southwest Florida Police Chiefs Association** – Members of the administrative staff attended the Southwest Florida Police Chiefs Association (SWFPCA) meeting this week in Fort Myers. The SWFPCA is a non-profit association made up of Chiefs of Police and leaders from law enforcement agencies throughout Southwest Florida for the purpose of promoting efficient law enforcement services through cooperation and coordination in our area. Chief Davis and Captain Nahra both serve on the Board of Directors for this organization.
- **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.pgjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.



Fire Department

- **Season is Coming** – Before you know it our friends from the north will be arriving before cold weather sets in. With that, our roads will be busier and the chance of being involved in a crash will also increase. It is important to not drive aggressively or in a pushy manner without regard for the safety of yourself or others. The following are some tips to keep you safe and help you avoid becoming a crash statistic:
 - ✓ If you begin to feel stressed or irritated, try some relaxing music to calm you down.
 - ✓ Give the roadway your full attention and don't allow yourself to become distracted.
 - ✓ Give other motorists the benefit of the doubt.
 - ✓ Refrain from driving slow in the left lane.
 - ✓ Don't take other people's driving behavior personally, it has nothing to do with you.
 - ✓ During season, remember to give yourself a little extra time to get where you're going. You know the road will be busier.
 - ✓ Never make hand gestures or other gestures that may irritate other drivers.
 - ✓ If another driver wants in front of you, let them.

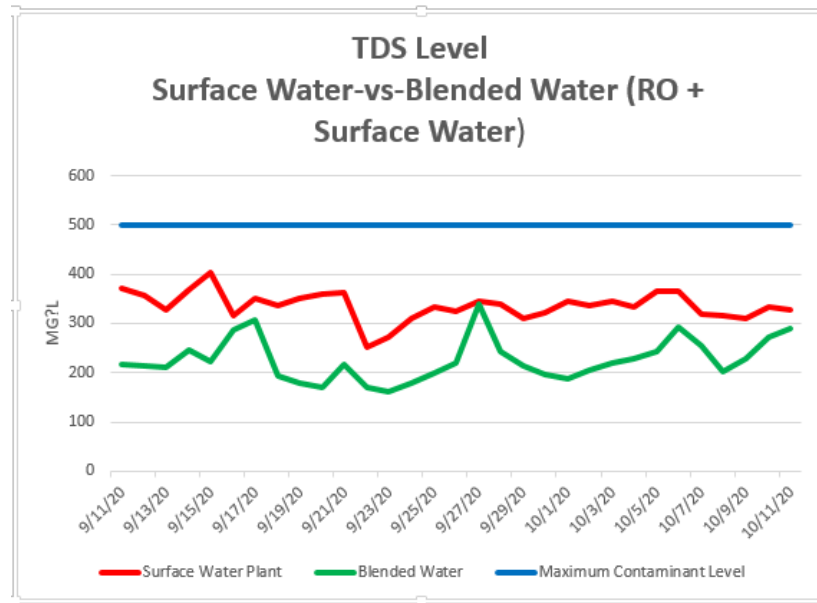


Finance

- **Utility Bills** – The City of Punta Gorda would like to let Utility customers know that if you are experiencing a hardship and your household meets income guidelines, you may be eligible for assistance. This may include reimbursement of utility bills you've already paid. The deadline to complete an application is Oct. 31. Please visit coadfl.org to apply.

Utilities Department

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



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 40.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.8 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 0.60”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 6 ppm – Total hardness 100 ppm
- TDS for Oct. 15 – Current 257 ppm, Low 230 ppm, High 437 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 318 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 15 – 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.
- **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 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:
 - Calm Development Vacation Rental, 47 Sabal Drive
 - Law Office of Robert Norton, 309 Tamiami Trail, #2
 - Leskovich Law Group, 306 E Olympia Avenue
 - Mint Asian Market, 209 W Olympia Avenue
 - Pacheco Vacation Rental, 1590 San Marino Court
 - Paola Enterprises Vacation Rental, 3836 Paola Drive
 - Reilly vacation Rental, 782 Monaco Drive
 - Smartstyle, 5001 Taylor Road (inside Walmart)
 - Thairapy, 2511 Vasco Street, # 113
 - The White Daisy Quilt Shop, 2705 Tamiami Trail, #314
 - Wildwood Pizza, 117 W Marion Avenue, #112