

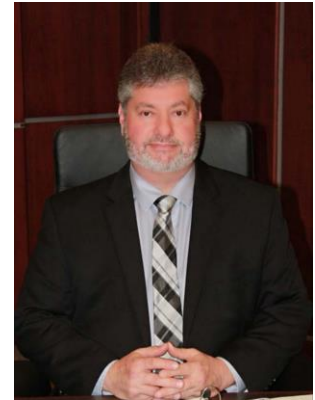


Florida's Harborside Hometown

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 13, 2020

### City Manager

- **From the Desk of the City Manager Greg Murray** – I'll start this column with a thank you to voters of Charlotte County. By passing the 1% Sales Tax you have given City and County staff a multitude of new and continuing projects to work on, and we are up for the challenge. We look forward to showing the results of these projects to our residents. As you may recall, City Council put together a Sales Tax Committee that represented a cross section of stakeholders to vet and rank each of the projects. City Council then carefully considered the suggestions of the committee and finalized the list, allocating dollars as tier one or tier two. If sales tax collections come in higher than expected, the tier two projects will receive funding.



Prioritization of the sales tax projects in terms of what year they are started or continued is done by City Council. The Council can change the order of the projects if circumstances warrant, but they don't change the actual project list once it has been voted on by residents of Charlotte County. The list of 2021 projects includes a mix of continuing and new initiatives. The Historic City Hall preservation project receives an allocation to move the project forward. Much needed improvements in lighting, sidewalk connections, and drainage are slated to occur in the Historic District. Two key safety projects, the Henry Street crosswalk and Henry Street sidewalk, are a priority to enhance the walkability of the neighborhood. Americans with Disability Act projects will receive funding throughout the city, with improvements to trail access specifically at Nature Park being a primary focus in fiscal year (FY) 2021. Work will continue on Boca Grande/Corto Andra area of Punta Gorda on drainage conditions. This has been a multi-year project that is expected to be completed by the end of FY2022. Dollars are allocated to start the West Henry Campus project that will house the Peace River Wildlife Center and connect all the downtown attractions.

The other projects on the docket over the next six years will also greatly improve the safety of our residents, preserve historic assets, and benefit quality of life. The public safety building will get an addition to better serve the needs of both police and fire. US 17 and Shreve Street Complete Streets projects will add additional sidewalks and other safety features. An assessment and renovation of the Freeman House and improvements to the Bayfront Activity Center will help preserve these assets into the future.

At this point I should probably wrap up this column and get to the real work of making these projects happen, but not before I congratulate Lynne Matthews our new Mayor, Debby Carey our new Vice-Mayor, and Jaha Cummings on their unopposed election wins for their respective districts. Their dedication to the residents of Punta Gorda is admirable and they too have a full slate of work in front of them. Once again thank you. Great things happen when they are in alignment with the vision and values of the community.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. in the Historic City Hall Council Chambers. A few items of interest include:
  - The first reading of an ordinance to prevent left turns from Cooper Street onto E. Mckenzie during school drop off and pick up times to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians traversing the area.
  - A proposed ordinance to adopt new rates, fee and charges association with provision of water and wastewater services with the Punta Gorda Utility Service Area.
  - A request for inkind services from First Macedonia Church for maintenance of way during their weekly food distribution.
  - Approval of contract change for Harborwalk Phase II to make the following modifications to previously completed construction documents:
    - ✓ Remove the alteration/reconfiguration of the basketball court (Only item to remain is the replacement of six poles/backboards – court has been resurfaced)
    - ✓ Removal of diagonal parking between Dolly St. and Berry St.
    - ✓ Removal of diagonal parking west of Berry St.
    - ✓ Removal/re-design of parking lot between Chasteen St. and Dolly St. to create additional “green space”
    - ✓ Reconfigure Bayfront Center parking lot entrance to align with Dolly St. intersection

The meeting will be available for viewing on the City’s YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6\\_Kqw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw?view_as=subscriber).

### Upcoming Events

- Fishermen’s Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Nov. 14 and Nov. 15, MY Promotions Arts and Craft Show, City Marketplace Property. For additional information, visit [www.mypromotions.com](http://www.mypromotions.com)
- Nov. 21 Virtual Kid’s Fishing Clinic hosted by Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership. The clinic will take place from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information visit <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/CHNEP-November-Volunteer-Events.html?soid=1120876307235&aid=VtDJXXYAMG4>
- Nov. 28 and 29, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, Sullivan Street downtown Punta Gorda. For additional information, visit [www.puntagordachamber.com](http://www.puntagordachamber.com)
- Dec. 3, Classic Movie Drive-in, Bal Harbor Plaza, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd. For additional information, visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Dec. 5 and 6, Peace River National Art Festival, Laishley Park. For additional information, visit <https://visualartcenter.org/pages/peace-river-national-art-festival-prnaf>
- Dec. 5, City Wide Garage Sale, Bal Harbor Plaza, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd. For additional information, visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Dec. 12 and 13, Holly Jolly Market, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For additional information, visit <https://daniellesblueribbonevents.com/>
- Dec. 24, Deep Creek Christmas Eve Service and Music Event, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For additional information, visit <https://deepcreekcommunitychurch.com/christmaseveinfo>
- Dec. 24, First United Methodist Church Live Nativity and Christmas Eve Service, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For additional information, visit <https://www.whatis1st.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.).
  - PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd., and Turtle Dove Blvd.).
  - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.)
  - East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave., E. Olympia Ave., Narranja St., E. Henry St., and Cooper St.).
  - Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr).
  - Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

## Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Comprehensive Plan Elements Update** – Over the past few weeks in the Planning Corner a lot of information has been shared about the comprehensive plan process and identifying the proposed changes. As the City moves thru the process of updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan, it is important to understand why and how the changes affect the community. The proposed changes can be viewed at the City’s website: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan/plan-punta-gorda-comprehensive-plan-update>. Keep in mind as you review these proposed changes that they are based the City’s vision to “Continue to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development and sustainability.” That vision is of a place connected to the rich natural beauty of Charlotte Harbor and grounded in our unique history. We are striving to embrace places, enhance choices, and engage communities as we continue to balance preservation and growth in our City. Your input over the coming weeks will provide staff with a valuable perspective of how you wish to see the City develop. Achieving the City’s vision will require bringing our community closer together to implement smart planning principles that benefit our social, economic, and environmental health. The City’s goal is to balance preservation of our character while ensuring that the design of new development enriches our sense of community. For more information on the proposed changes or to provide comment please visit any of the following links:

Plan Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan update website

<https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/engage>

City of Punta Gorda website:

<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan/plan-punta-gorda-comprehensive-plan-update>

Email City planning staff directly:

[urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com)

City staff looks forward to hearing from you about the future of our great community.



## Public Works

### Administration

- **Citizens' Academy** - Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming Citizens Academy 2021 Session <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to-register-for/citizens-academy>. This academy is a free, eight session course of interactive classes designed to provide insight into City government and to develop future leaders through well informed and civically engaged residents. The Academy is limited to 15 participants who reside or own a business within the City of Punta Gorda. The deadline for registration is 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 28. For more information, please contact Public Works Senior Executive Assistant, Jennifer Daumann at (941) 575-5002 or [jdaumann@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:jdaumann@cityofpuntagordafl.com).

### Canal Maintenance

- **Dredging Ponce Inlet** – The week of Nov. 16 thru Nov. 30 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Ponce De Leon 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. For information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. For more information [Ponce Inlet Dredging Press Release](#).
- **Spoil Site Hauling** - Beginning Mon., Nov. 16 a contractor will be hauling fill material from the City Spoil site located on Colony Point Dr. Dump trucks will be hauling material to Placida, Charlotte County. The trucking route will be traveling along Colony Point Dr. to W. Marion Ave. to U.S. 41 (Tamiami Tr.). Hauling is expected to be completed by Fri., Dec. 11. There will be no truck traffic on weekends or the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Catherine Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor at (941)575-5050.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has two projects under construction in Punta Gorda Isles. There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. There is one seawall replacement project currently underway in Burnt Store Isles. Four seawall replacement projects are scheduled for Burnt Store Isles later this fiscal year.
  - Crews filled depressions at 24 locations.
  - Crews performed one seawall cap patch/seam patch (8' linear feet).
  - Crews manufactured 18 (12.5' ft. each) seawall panels.

### Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements City Hall Annex** – Construction is near completion. The project is scheduled to be completed the first week in Dec.
- **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 Deck Replacement** – The Purchase Order has been issued to the contractor. A pre-construction date is to be determined upon delivery schedule.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** – Construction is complete. Pending is final pay application processing.
- **Laisley Park Americans with Disabilities Act Ramp** – Handrail installation commenced. Project is anticipated to be complete the week of Nov. 16 (weather permitting).

- **Sullivan St. Renovation to Historic Bricks** –Project is near completion and pay application processing pending. Project is anticipated to be complete the week of Nov. 16 (weather permitting). For details on the Sullivan Street project, visit the City website. <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/3231/17>.
- **Ponce De Leon Park Seawall Repairs** - The contractor cleaned and pressure washed approximately 75% of the seawall to prepare for cap repairs and sealing work. Work will continue as weather and conditions allow this week. During construction the beach area as well as the seawall between the beach and fishing pier will be closed. The contractor will accommodate the public by leaving sections of the beach area open when possible. Construction is anticipated to be completed in Mar. 2021.

### **Parks and Grounds**

- **Christmas Wreaths and Tree Installation:** The areas outlined in red (*see picture*) at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be blocked off to allow access for City crews and equipment to install the Christmas tree through the week of Dec. 4. Parking spaces along Marion Ave. and Taylor St. will be opened up in the evening and on the weekends.



### **Police Department**

- **Volunteers in Policing Program (VIP)** – The VIP program contributed a total of 730 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of Oct. 2020. 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](mailto:vip@pgorda.us) or (941) 575-5536.
- **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 current 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 Summer & Fall Semesters 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](http://www.pgdjobs.com) (941) 575-5571 or [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us) for additional information or to have an application package sent.



## Fire Department

- **From the Desk of Chief Briggs** – This week the City of Punta Gorda experienced several days of localized flooding due to the rain that Tropical Storm Eta brought to the area. A contributing factor to the flooding was the flood waters inability to drain due to extremely high tides associated with storm surge. We can use the experience this week as a reminder that we all need to be diligent in our preparation for the Hurricane season. While for most of us the localized flooding may only been an inconvenience but for many who live or operate a business in the flood prone areas it can prove to be very damaging. Please use good discretion and try to avoid traveling over water covered roads. The impact of Tropical Storm Eta gave opportunity for a collaborated effort by all City departments, additionally it provided several opportunities to coordinate and share resources from other local agencies. Currently we are conducting City wide clean-up and damage assessments to determine any damage that may have resulted from the storm.

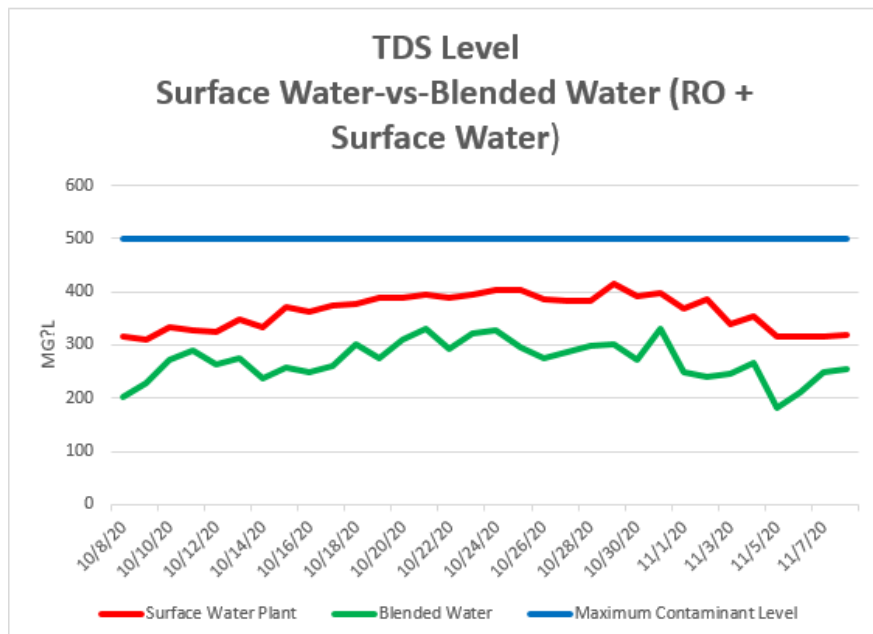
## Utilities Department

### Utilities Administration

- The City flushes fire hydrants throughout the service area when required for the following:
  - Routine maintenance and testing
  - Adhere to strict regulations from regulatory agencies.
  - Help find weaknesses in the water system
  - Improvement of water quality
  - Taste and Odor issues
  - Water Sampling

The time involved in flushing can vary from a few minutes to serval hours depending on the circumstances.

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



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 40.5 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.8 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 450 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 550 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall in Oct. 2019 5.02” Oct. 2020 1.10” Nov. 2019 .80” Nov. 2020 4.70”
- 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 74 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 12 – Current 200 ppm, Low 200 ppm, High 535 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 408 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 12 – Current 5.41’, Record Low 5.02’, Record High 5.59’, 55 Year Avg. 5.22’

## **City Clerk**

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

- **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. 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.
- **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:
  - Coastal Expressions & Wine LLC, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd
  - Ocean Isles Outdoor LLC, 1080 Taylor Road
  - The Refinery, 117 Herald Court