



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 25, 2020

City Manager

- **Happy Thanksgiving** – City government offices will be closed on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be NO CHANGE in residential or commercial sanitation services for City of Punta Gorda customers as a result of the holiday closure.
- **From the Desk of the City Manager Greg Murray –City Council Meeting** – One of the primary roles of government is to protect the safety and well-being of its citizens. 2020 has presented us with many challenges, bringing this responsibility into the spotlight. We have had the opportunity to not only focus on traditional health and safety needs but also to respond to a global pandemic. Our usual focus on safety includes things such as the expansion of police and fire services. It is also a commitment to water quality, with a focus on bringing online the new reverse osmosis water plant. Analyzing sanitation services and planning for additional capacity to serve residents needs into the future is also a piece of the role of government. Adding crosswalks and accessibility to allow safe pedestrian travel in our streets also falls into this category. In addition, this year we have had COVID-19 to deal with.



While we had always considered the Florida Department of Health Charlotte County (FDOHCC) a partner, never before did we rely on the department and advice of Administrator Dr. Pepe on such a regular basis. The FDOHCC has given us the tools to monitor the health of our residents through dashboards. Dr. Pepe has shared the messages surrounding the COVID-19 at City Council meetings. This has included critical information to make decisions regarding keeping our community safe. As most are aware, one of the decisions made in the City of Punta Gorda is to require facial coverings in indoor places that do not allow for social or physical distancing. Positive tests in Charlotte County range from 36 to 56 cases per day. This makes the virus still a very real threat to the residents of Punta Gorda. Please do your part in protecting your health and the health of others including washing your hands frequently, practicing physical and social distancing, avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth, cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces and wearing a face covering in public places. Remember, everyone catches it from someone. Help us protect others we may encounter.

The FDOHCC has also asked the City to remind residents about prevention of influenza. Fortunately, many of the same practices that help to stop the spread of COVID-19 also work for the flu. Dr. Pepe provides the following advice “Frequently washing your hands, staying home while sick, and receiving a flu shot are the best ways to protect against and prevent the spread of the influenza virus.” Healthcare providers and pharmacies in Punta Gorda have supplies of the flu vaccine available and remind residents that once vaccinated it takes about two weeks to offer protection.

A final health advisory reminder from the FDOHCC is that there have been cases of mosquito borne illness in our county. Standing water is one of the biggest factors in mosquitos multiplying. Drain accumulated water from items that are stored outside. Empty and clean birdbaths and outside pet bowls at least once or twice a week. Also, cover skin with clothing or repellent to prevent bites.

While the challenges ahead of us are many, the City of Punta Gorda works hard to protect the health and safety of our residents every day. We are fortunate to have a citizenry that is connected, involved, and concerned for their city and each other. It's more than a city, it is a true community. This community will face these and any other challenges by working together and standing strong.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on Dec. 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. A few items of interest include:
 - The Community Redevelopment Authority monthly report will be presented.
 - The second reading of an ordinance to prevent left turns from Cooper St. onto E. McKenzie St. during school drop off and pick up times to improve safety for motorists and pedestrians traversing the area.
 - Second reading of a proposed ordinance to adopt new rates, fee and charges association with provision of water and wastewater services in the Punta Gorda Utility Service Area.
 - Consider proposals from Harbor Social to close a portion of Sullivan St. from W. Marion Ave. to the alley adjacent to the Women's Club for events in Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May and a separate Super Bowl event on Feb. 7 from Sun. at 8 a.m. to Monday at 8 a.m.
 - City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2040 continued Council discussion.
 - Park and Recreation Master Plan status update focusing on Level of Service (LOS) determinations.
 - A presentation of sign code survey results from the Aug. 28 to Sept. 30 general survey completed by 877 respondents.

The meeting is available for viewing on the City's YouTube Channel at 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. 28 and 29, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, Sullivan Street downtown Punta Gorda. For additional information, visit 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. 4 and 5, Premier Auto Auction, Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.premierauctiongroup.com/auction-calendar>
- 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., Coronado Dr.).
 - PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd., Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd., Suzi St., Casey Key Dr.).
 - PGI (Magdalena Dr., Via Vento, W. Henry St., Appian Dr., Columbian Dr.).
 - PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, Turtle Dove Blvd.).

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Level of Service** – This week’s topic continues the Level of Service (LOS) discussion and its effect on the park system. Based on the existing park system and identifying needs, establishing a LOS standard helps guide development of the park system over the next 10 to 20 years. It is the nucleus of the Park and Recreation Master Plan. At the Nov. 23 Planning Commission meeting, Urban Design Staff made a presentation regarding the two different types of LOS as part of the monthly update of the City of Punta Gorda [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#). In addition, a video of the presentation is available on the City’s [YouTube Channel](#). For more information on Punta Gorda’s Place to Play or to provide comment, please visit any of the following links; City of Punta Gorda website: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to-view/park-recreation-master-plan> or email City planning staff directly at 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. There are still six spots available. 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.

Canal Maintenance

- **Dredging Ponce Inlet** –The Ponce De Leon Inlet is scheduled to be dredged thru Nov. 30 (weather and equipment operation permitting). 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](#).

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has three 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 65 locations.
 - Crews manufactured 20 (10' ft. each) seawall panels.



Right-of-Way

- Crews installed limited site distance signs at the Punta Gorda Boat Club and near Fishermen's Village. Please use caution when traveling through those areas (picture at right).

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements City Hall Annex** – Construction is near completion. The project is scheduled to be completed in Dec.
- **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.
- **Laisley Park ADA Ramp** – Handrail installation continues.
- **Ponce De Leon Park Seawall Repairs** – Work continues on the tie back repairs and epoxy coating of the seawall cap. 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** – City crews continue decorating the tree and all areas throughout the City.

Police Department

- **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.pgjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.



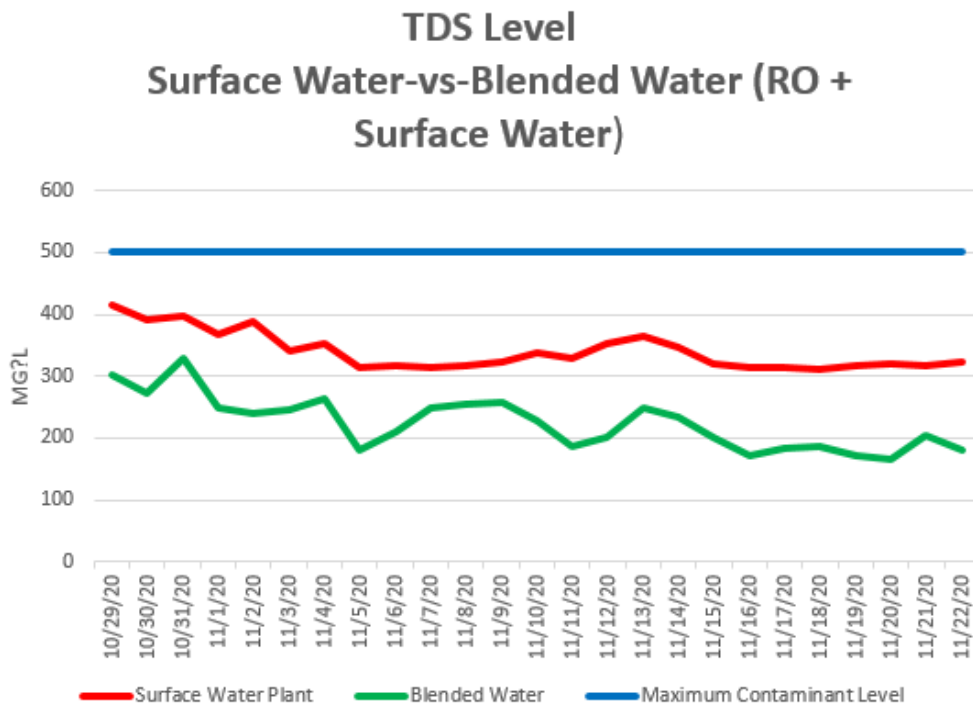
Fire Department

- **Hosting a Thanksgiving Gathering** – Celebrating virtually or with the people you live with is the safest choice this Thanksgiving. If having guests to your home, be sure that people follow the steps that everyone can take to make Thanksgiving safer. These steps include:
 - Have a small [outdoor meal](#) with family and friends who live in your community. Limit the number of guests.
 - Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.
 - [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces and items between use.
 - If celebrating indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. You can use a window fan in one of the open windows to blow air out of the window. This will pull fresh air in through the other open windows.
 - Limit the number of people in food preparation areas.
 - Have guests bring their own food and drink.
 - If sharing food, have one person serve food and use single-use options, like plastic utensils.



Utilities

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



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.5 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.4 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 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 5 ppm – Total hardness 88 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 25 – Current 208 ppm, Low 208 ppm, High 519 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 441 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 25 – Current 5.26’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 6.24’, 55 Year Avg. 5.18’

Wastewater Collection

- Beginning Nov. 30 until Dec. 18 the alley that runs from E. Olympia Ave to E. Virginia Ave including the alleyway at Nesbit St. will be closed due to sewer line work.



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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **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:
 - Los Dos Christianos Coffee Shop, 320 Sullivan Street
 - Mr. and Mrs. Fragrance, 525 Showalter Avenue