



Florida's Harborside Hometown

Weekly Highlights Report February 5, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The City of Punta Gorda takes the responsibility of providing access to government facilities and services regardless of abilities very seriously. This continuously evolving initiative dates back to 1990. In 1990 the Federal Government enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This act guaranteed that, “no entity shall discriminate against an individual with a disability in connection with the provision of public services.” In order to fulfill the promise of this Federal law, it is vital that Federal, State, and local governments ensure that all facilities, programs, and services that they provide eliminate barriers to access. The City of Punta Gorda’s approach to ADA implementation is guided by the ADA transition plan.



In October of 2017 the City of Punta Gorda adopted the “Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan”. The ADA transition plan, produced by consultants Tindale Oliver, was based on an extensive data collection and analysis process that identified barriers to accessibility in various City operations, facilities, parks, and portions of the Punta Gorda Pathways system of trails. The plan serves as a roadmap for making improvements in these operations and facilities to reduce barriers to access, more fully comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide better service to our community.

To honor the importance of accessibility to the residents, visitors, and businesses, the city has made a commitment of \$125,000 per year in its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) utilizing 1% sales tax funding to implement the plan for the past several years. In November of 2020 when Charlotte County voters elected to continue with the 1% sales tax funding this included \$125,000 per year of funding for the dynamic ADA transition plan.

This year’s projects include the addition of interior way finding signage to Fire Station II, Fire Station III, and Cooper Street Recreational Center. This includes adding tactile words to the signs and will also enhance the city’s branding while providing a consistent message when navigating city buildings. The city will begin the design process for accessibility improvements in Nature Park by resurfacing the nature trail entrances. Engineering and permitting will be necessary to replace the trail’s platform bridge, observation deck, fishing pier and site furnishings. Finally, the city will begin the design, engineering and construction of a pedestrian sidewalk along West William Street to connect the missing sidewalk to the adjacent shopping plaza. This project was requested by residents that live on the street to provide a safe route to accessing local businesses.

The city is committed to ensuring that all residents can enjoy the best of American, small-town attributes, in what may be Florida's most picturesque, enjoyable and accessible waterfront destination. To learn more about the city's accessibility efforts visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/about/accessibility>.

- **City Council Recap** – City Council/Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) met on Feb. 3 with the following outcomes:
 - The CRA approved allowing the installation of a mosaic on the base of the Little Free Library at Gilchrist Park.
 - The CRA selected graphic design options for way finding signs to move forward to Florida Department of Transportation.
 - The CRA directed staff to move forward to full design to convert the existing “dry” playground area and the open space adjacent to the restrooms into “wet” playground installing a variety of water features.

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/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>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://freedomisntfree.org/#>
- Feb. 6, Punta Gorda Chamber City Wide Garage Sale, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd. For additional information, visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Feb. 6 and 7, The Invitational at Punta Gorda Arts & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For additional information, visit <https://daniellesblueribbonevents.com/>
- Feb. 7, Local Ladies Social Network Vendor Craft Fair, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For additional information visit, <https://www.llsnevents.com/>
- Feb. 12-14, Big Boy Toyz Expo, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Feb. 27, Boys and Girls Club Farm to Table Fundraiser, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For additional information visit, <https://www.bgcofcc.org/events>
- Feb. 28, Charlotte County Veg Fest, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For additional information visit, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/charlotte-county-veg-fest-2021-2nd-annual-tickets-97988661725>

Code

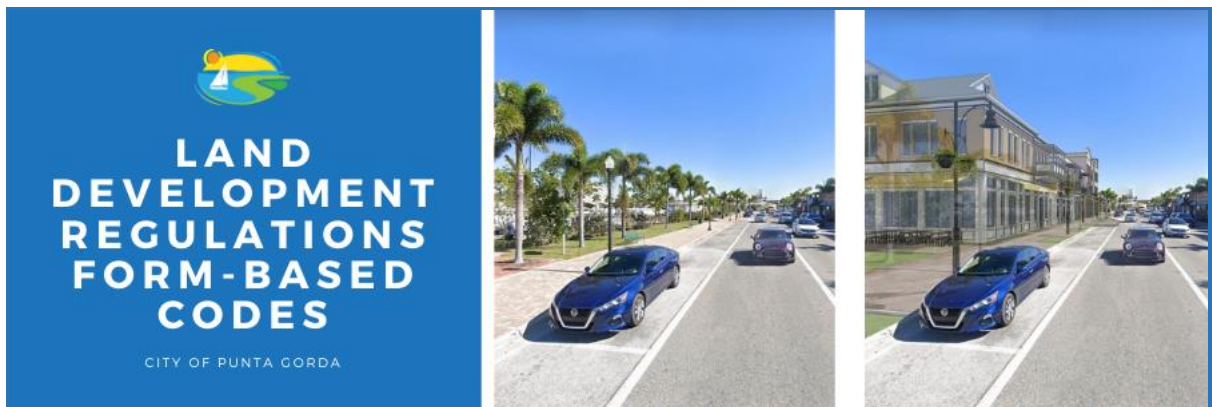
- **Permits required** – Staff would like to remind our residents and contractors that a Right-of-Way (ROW) permit is required prior to restoring or re-sodding any right-of-way, for all properties, developed or vacant. ROW permit applications must be submitted by a licensed contractor. The ROW permit will initiate a line and grade inspection to ensure that proper drainage is maintained as the property is restored.
- **Signs in the Residential Zoning Districts** – At the Jan. 6 City Council meeting, Council reaffirmed that there will be no enforcement of the sign regulations for signs on residential lots in the Right of Way or otherwise until such time as the sign ordinance is amended and adopted. This includes political signs/flags.

Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin a new mowing and trimming cycle on Feb. 15

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations Presentation** – Please join City Manager Greg Murray and Mitchell Austin, Chief Planner, Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. via [Zoom](#) for a discussion on the proposed reforms to Land Development Regulations and implementation of Form Based Codes to modernize the rules for development in our City. The proposed reforms are a result of the City Wide Charrette held in spring 2018, and will provide the basis of our Comprehensive Plan for the next 15-20 years. You will have an opportunity to make comments or ask questions via the chat feature on Zoom. The Zoom link will be available at [PGICA.org](#). You do not need a Zoom account to log in but can attend by following the link or putting in the meeting ID at Zoom.us and clicking on Join a Meeting. Plan to login three to five minutes prior to the start time. Registration is not required for the free presentation. Have your voice heard for Punta Gorda's future!



For more information, please contact Mitchell Austin, Chief Planner, by phone (941-575-3335) or email (MAustin@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com). Topic: Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan

Time: Feb 10, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83201194457>

Meeting ID: 832 0119 4457 Passcode: 575912 One tap mobile

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+16465588656,,83201194457#,,,,*575912# US (New York)

- **Gulf Coast Partnership Meeting** – Staff attended the monthly stakeholders meeting of the Gulf Coast Partnership (GCP). The GCP, our community's Continuum of Care Lead Agency, a non-profit organization, works with numerous local agencies comprising One Charlotte whose mission is to facilitate community-wide initiatives to understand community needs, identify and implement best practices to meet those needs, and to raise the quality of life for all residents. Having reached a goal of ending chronic homelessness this year, the meeting discussed next steps in expanding their target population to include unaccompanied youth, those experiencing or at risk of domestic violence or human trafficking, and families with children. For more information on the group go to <https://gulfcoastpartnership.org/about-us-2/>.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Assessment** –City staff continues the Annual Seawall Assessment during low tide periods through Feb. City staff will be inspecting seawalls from the waterside while traversing canals in a boat. Residents may see city staff in a boat close to their seawalls while inspecting the condition of seawalls.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction and four projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. There are three seawall replacement projects currently under construction and one project completed in Burnt Store Isles. Four seawall replacement projects are scheduled for Burnt Store Isles this fiscal year. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 38 locations.
 - Crews patched/repared 222’ linear feet of seawall cap and seams.
 - Crews removed a portion of damaged culvert pipe which allowed storm water to flow properly.

Engineering

- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work on the swale regrading program with JRL Underground Inc. is underway in the Burnt Store Isles subdivision. Crews are currently working at the corner of South Crete Drive and Tripoli Boulevard and will then move to Bordeaux Drive.
- **Paving Program Street Resurfacing** – The contractor has completed 4.25 miles of mill and resurface work. Permanent striping placement is pending. For complete list of streets [Paving Program January 2021](#). For information contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5060.
- **Palm Avenue Between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street Road Closure** - Utility staff has installed the sewer and water mains. Water services are under construction and they are waiting for Department EP water line clearance for the tie in at each end of the street. The entire project is anticipated through April (weather permitting). For information [Engineering | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#) or contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050.
- **Ponce De Leon Park Seawall Repairs** – Construction of the sidewalk between the fishing pier and the South end of the beach parking lot is complete. Work on the handrails along this new sidewalk is underway and is projected to be completed by Feb. 10. The beach parking lot is projected to re-open for use during the week of Feb. 8.
- **Adrienne Street Pier Pile Jackets** - A Purchase Order has been issued to the contractor. Once a timeframe is established the contractor will provide a schedule to complete work. A Pre-Construction meeting will be held and work will be authorized to commence. This pier is currently closed to the public and will remain so until work is complete.



Fire Department

- **Boat Operator Search and Rescue (BOSAR) Training** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department recently sent one of its members, FTO Lieutenant J. Lombard, through a BOSAR course. This course was attended by several surrounding emergency response agencies and even included the United States Coast Guard. The class was very detailed from search and rescue patterns, radio communications and multi-agency response procedures. This week FTO Lombard hosted a recap of the training with all department boat captains and personnel. New procedures and improved communication abilities were some of the highlights achieved throughout the training.

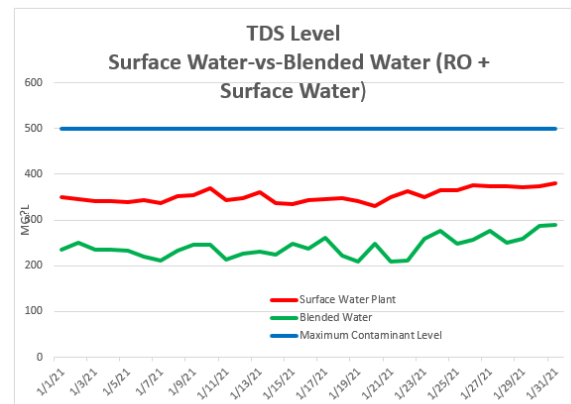


Police

- **Annual Awards** – The police department held their annual awards ceremony on Feb. 4. The event recognized officers, professional staff, local organizations, and citizens for their contributions to the department in 2020. During the ceremony sixteen lifesaving awards were presented for the heroic efforts of both officers and citizens. Congratulations to all of the award recipients!
- **Dispatcher Testing Process** – The police department conducted Public Safety Dispatcher testing this week. The next testing will be held on Apr. 26. See below for details or visit www.pgpgjobs.com.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The police department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Apr. 19 with oral board interviews scheduled on Apr. 20 and Apr. 21. Currently we are only accepting applications from candidates who are currently certified, Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible, current law enforcement academy students, or those with prior experience in a law enforcement related field.
- **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 Apr. 26.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the summer and 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 (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Utilities

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



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 49.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.1 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 Jan. 2020 .90” Jan. 2021 0.20” Feb. 2020 0.90” Feb. 2021 0.20”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm – Total hardness 120 ppm
- TDS for Feb. 4 – Current 254 ppm, Low 254 ppm, High 632 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 474 ppm
- Reservoir Feb. 4 – Current 5.11’, Record Low 4.88’, Record High 6.15, 55 Year Avg. 5.20’

City Clerk

- **Reminder - Online Records Requests Portal Available** –Just a reminder that public records requests can be submitted online by visiting www.copgrecords.com. Submitting requests online via the portal helps ensure efficient and timely processing of requests. For the convenience of requestors, records are provided via the public records portal, allowing customers the flexibility to retrieve requested records with the click of a button.



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.
- **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.

- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (Two regular) Meets the fourth Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms, maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic preservation.

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:
 - LSI Companies, Inc., 122 Nesbit Street, #111