

## Weekly Highlights Report Oct. 22, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Taking the time to celebrate success is a management responsibility that gives credit to the team working to insure those successes occur. This celebration of success helps create a motivational environment and provides for learning opportunities. I have spent part of the week reviewing the accomplishments of each of our departments as a part of our leadership team's performance reviews. There is a lot to be acknowledged and celebrated. Some are significant achievements, some are small, but all of the accomplishments play a role in creating a community of excellence.

Success starts with preparedness. Advance preparations were completed in many areas to allow the goals for the next fiscal year to be realized. An example of this is the relocation of several departments in the city. It has been a pleasure to watch a cross-discipline team work together to find a convenient, accessible space for the functions of city government that will need to be temporarily relocated during renovations to the Historic City Hall. After reviewing multiple options, city staff selected the former Florida Gulf Coast University space at Herald Court Centre. The Clerk's Office and Finance Department will be moving after the first of the new calendar year. Public Works and IT staff have been key in assisting with this initiative.

The city's purchases and many of the contracts the city signs are administered through the Procurement Department that managed 754 vendor contracts this year. This work is no small feat and results in thousands of taxpayer dollars being saved and maximized. A few of the results of these contracts include the Gilchrist Park Gazebo repaint, 5,952 feet of seawall being replaced, resodding of Hector House Plaza and Hounds on Henry, Laishley Marina repairs, and Ponce de Leon seawall, boardwalk, and pier replacement.

Safety initiatives have been a critical focus that has resulted in several successful projects. A new stop sign was installed at Taylor and West Charlotte Avenues. The Shreve Street multi-use recreation trail is safer due to the new lighting installation as is the Harborwalk section near the tidal bridge bordering Fisherman's Village. Improved lighting was added to the Historic District East of US41.

The Police Department continues to provide several essential crime prevention programs. The programs include Neighborhood Watch notifications, safety tips through Twitter and Facebook, Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County, Inc., and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) training.



The Fire Department continues to market the smoke/CO detector program aggressively. The department provides residents who cannot afford a smoke/CO detector a new ten-year life unit. The Fire Department continues to experience increased participation in the Smoke Detector Battery Change Out program.

Utilities maintained 1,320 fire hydrants and replaced 15, while providing high quality water from a new facility, treating return water, and operating distribution and collection systems. It's easy to take for granted having clean, safe water to use on demand...

Collaborations and partnerships are an integral part of delivering services to the community. This year we celebrate the recreation of the Captivating Charlotte County mural exquisitely completed by the Punta Gorda Mural Society. Our partnership with TEAM Punta Gorda and the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce resulted in the downtown beautification program known as Punta Gorda in Bloom. In collaboration with local Veterans' groups, Veterans' Park enhancements have further enhanced the parks status as a premier memorial location and place of remembrance.

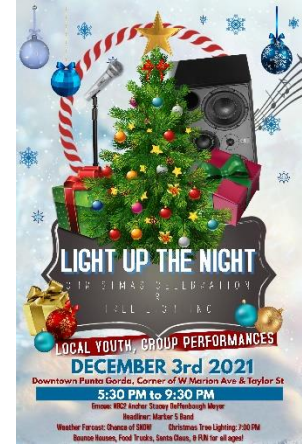
The success of FY2021 is acknowledged and appreciated, and it is now time to look forward. New goals are in place, and I look forward to seeing the outcomes the city will create due to the efforts of our staff, City Council, and the community we serve. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **Halloween in the Historic District** –The City Hall Annex parking garage will be transformed to days past for the Halloween celebration. Stop by from 5 p.m. until the candy runs out on Oct. 31.
- **Halloween Road Closures** – On Oct. 31, trick-or-treaters will descend on Punta Gorda's Historic District to celebrate Halloween. In order to ensure a safe and happy Halloween for everyone West Marion Avenue will be closed from US 41 (Cross Street) to Shreve Street. The east bound lane of West Retta Esplanade will be closed, but the west bound lane will remain open. In addition, all side streets between US 41 (Cross Street) and Shreve Street, including McGregor Street, will be closed from West Retta Esplanade to Olympia Avenue. Only residents with proof of residency will be permitted to drive on those streets with police assistance during these closures. These closures will go into effect beginning at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m.
- **City Council** – City Council met on Oct. 20 at 9 a.m. in the Historic City Hall. A few of the items of interest included:
  - Approval of a final plat subdividing a property located at 1700 Jamaica Way
  - Approval of a request to add Champagne Estates to the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance District
  - Approval of the modification of the City of Punta Gorda Shell Creek Water Treatment Plant Water Use Permit to comply with proposed Minimum Flows for Lower Shell Creek
- **FPL/Comcast** – If you have a more than one pole in your front yard and an old pole that hasn't been taken down, if wires are hanging on the new pole or any other concern about this project, please email Mayor Matthews with your name, address and contact phone and email **WITH PHOTOS** to support your request, and send to [lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com). The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

## 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/#>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street, for all community event and class information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Oct. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31, Haunting on the Harbor, 115 Tamiami Tr., aka City Marketplace property, for more information visit <http://www.puntagordahaunting.com/>
- Oct. 23, Punta Gorda Downtown Merchants Association Fall Downtown Bash, Taylor St. between W Olympia & Herald Ct., for more information visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/>
- Oct. 23, Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact Tara Sullivan at [tsullivan@afsp.org](mailto:tsullivan@afsp.org)
- Oct. 23, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Free Concert with The Shark Sisters, 7 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, cabaret style, bring your own food and beverages, for more information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Oct. 28, Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade, downtown along Taylor St., for more information contact Emily Klossner at [Emily.klossner@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Emily.klossner@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Oct. 31, 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat, 507 W Marion Ave., for more information visit <https://www.whatis1st.com/>
- Oct. 31, Trick or Treat at the City Hall Annex Parking Garage, 126 Harvey Street for more information visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/events-festivals/trunk-or-treat>
- Nov. 6, C.A.S.T. for Kids Charlotte Harbor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit <http://castforkids.org/events/>
- Nov. 6, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Art n Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, vendor space available, for more information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Nov. 6, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 Veteran's Parade, 10 a.m. Taylor Rd to W. Retta Esplanade, for more information contact Charles Moore at [cam4fire@yahoo.com](mailto:cam4fire@yahoo.com).
- Nov. 9, "The 5th Annual BOB" The Beyond Ourselves Bash benefitting Peace River Wildlife Center and the Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County, for more information visit [https://www.pgica.org/Beyond\\_Ourselves](https://www.pgica.org/Beyond_Ourselves)
- Nov. 13, CHNEP EarthEcho Water Challenge Volunteer Event, 9 a.m. at Gilchrist Park. For more information visit <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>.
- Nov. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information visit [www.bspconline.org](http://www.bspconline.org).

- Dec. 3, Light up the Nights Christmas Celebration and Tree Lighting 5:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m Downtown Punta Gorda.
- December 3-4 - Holly Days Garden Tour, various locations, 10 to 4. For information, visit <https://pggc.org/home-tour/>.
- Dec. 31, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, New Year's Eve Gala, 8:30 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, sponsorship opportunities available, for more information or tickets visit <https://pgica.org/>.



### Lot Mowing Program

- **The City has completed mowing the following areas –**
  - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, W. Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).
  - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
  - PGI (Bal Harbor Boulevard, Deborah Drive, Ryan Boulevard, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive).
  - PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard, and Turtle Dove Boulevard).
  - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)
  - The Historic District East of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E Henry Street, and Cooper Street).
- **The City has completed edging the following areas –**
  - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)
  - East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E Henry Street, and Cooper Street).

### Urban Design

- **Planning Commission** – At the Oct. 25, Planning Commission meeting, Urban Design staff will be presenting A Land Development Regulation – Form Based Code Update. The information will be based on City Council’s request from the Sept. 8 meeting to have a workshop clarifying building height, architecture, the Community Benefits Program, and the implementation of the proposed code changes.
- **The Planning Corner – Form Based Codes – How does the proposed code affect greenspace?** The proposed Community Benefit Program provides a way in which the City can gain public open space (plazas, greens, and such) through the development process. This portion of the current working draft of the Land Development Regulations is the least detailed currently as City staff recognizes that City Council and the public need to provide input. Proposed regulations also provide more structured requirements for building frontages which can enhance the public realm of the City’s Streets. Examples include:



- Terraces that allow for buildings to be set back from the street with exterior spaces which permit a more elegant transition from existing street level to Base Flood Elevation
- Requirements and standards for street trees, sidewalks, and street furnishings along/within the public rights of way

Do you have a question regarding the proposed Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update? Please let us know by visiting <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com> or emailing [Urbanesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:Urbanesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com).

## **Public Works**

### **Canal Maintenance**

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has one project under construction in last fiscal year's work program. This project was added at the end of the fiscal year due to a seawall failure. Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has three projects under construction. All seawall replacement projects are completed for Burnt Store Isles in last fiscal year's work program. Burnt Store Isles has seven seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and at this time none are under construction. A seawall replacement project can consist of multiple properties. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - Crews filled depressions at 14 locations.
  - Crews patched/repared seawalls at three locations.
  - Crews manufactured 30 (10' linear feet) seawall panels.
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** - The annual Seawall Replacement Work Program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Canal Maintenance <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/12550/637643718591830000>. Each year the City replaces approximately 12,000 linear feet of seawall. By utilizing the Seawall Assessment Data, the seawall replacement program is planned a year in advance (unexpected seawall failures or seawalls that are inspected and found to be at extreme risk of failure are given top priority and may bump planned projects to the following year).

### **Engineering**

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** - Bi-weekly design project update meetings continue. The revised 60% design plan staff comments have been sent to the engineer for incorporation into the 90% plans. The engineering firm is making plan revisions and preparing for submittal to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- **Henry Street Sidewalk** - The construction plans are under final review. Coordination will continue with FDOT on work within their drainage easement and the sidewalk connection at US41.
- **Paving Program Street Resurfacing** - A revised Media Advisory has been issued listing each street scheduled for mill and resurfacing. The "Notice" signs are scheduled for placement at each street. Work is tentatively scheduled to commence Nov. 8 through Dec. 1 (weather and operations depending). The paving program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Engineering [Paving Program | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/12550/637643718591830000). For additional information please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Punta Gorda Public Works at (941)575-5060.



## Police

- **VIP Program** - The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 706 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of September 2021. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing [vip@pgorda.us](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).



- **Police Assist Homeless Individual** – On Oct. 13, Corporal Woelk responded to a call for a homeless individual in need of assistance. Upon arrival it was discovered that the individual, who was from Fort Lauderdale, had been transported to multiple medical facilities throughout south Florida for medial treatment. When he had finally been discharged he was left in Punta Gorda with no money, clothing, or transportation back to Fort Lauderdale. Lieutenant Davoult was told about the situation and he purchased a bus ticket for the individual with personal funds. Records Specialist Mohaupt also provided money out of her pocket for food and drink. Corporal Woelk drove the individual to the bus station and ensured that he got on the bus back to Fort Lauderdale safely.
- **National Drug Take Back Day** – On Oct. 23, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Punta Gorda Police Department, in conjunction with Drug Free Punta Gorda and the Punta Gorda Fire Department, will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Agency’s National Drug Take Back Day. If you have unused drugs or medication, they can be dropped off at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex located at 1410 Tamiami Trail for disposal. Here are some additional tips for keeping your home and community safe:
  - **Monitor** pills, keep track of refills, and control access. Most people who abuse prescriptions get them from family and friends.
  - **Secure** pills well, preferably in a locked cabinet. Reduce drug abuse, curb theft, and prevent overdose and accidental poisoning.
  - **Dispose** of unused medications at the permanent disposal sites. Flushing medication down the toilet or throwing them in the trash may be hazardous to people and animals.
  - **Take** only medications prescribed to you, as directed by your physician. It is illegal to sell, give away, or otherwise share a prescription with others, including family members.
  - **Talk** to your teens about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs. Parents are the biggest influence in their teen’s life.
  - **Visit** [www.saferx.tips](http://www.saferx.tips) for more information.

- **Narcan Distribution Event** – On Nov. 6, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. free Narcan will be distributed to members of the Community at the Charlotte County Family Services Center located at 21450 Gibraltar Drive in Port Charlotte. Narcan is the medication used to stop fatal overdoses from opioid drugs and medications such as pain pills and heroin. If you are someone you know is struggling with opioid addiction, please pick up your free Narcan Rescue Kit and training on how to administer it.
- **Derelict Vessel** – The sunken derelict vessel near Gilchrist Park has been removed. Thank you to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for their help with this investigation.



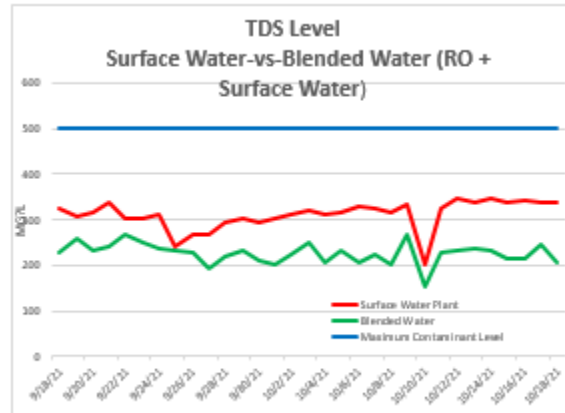
## Fire

- **Friends and Family CPR Class** – The fire department conducted another family and friends CPR class, this time at the Twin Isles Country Club. Participants learned the basic skills necessary to save a life until EMS arrives on scene. We are proud to serve in a community where so many citizens care to learn these lifesaving skills and will have the ability to make a difference.



## Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update –**



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 58.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.4 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 750 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 2,083 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Oct. 2020 1.1” Oct. 2021 0.10”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 6 ppm –Total hardness 100 ppm
- TDS Oct. 21 – Current 238 ppm, Low 238 ppm, High 424 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 350 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 21– Current 5.27', Record Low 5.00', Record High, 6.07' Year Avg. 5.29'

### **Wastewater Treatment**

- **Maintenance** – Team members installed the power and control wiring from the control panels to the Filter Press sludge pump. A crew performed oil changes and services on both riding lawn mowers this week. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. The City’s contracted hay vendor has brought in his mowing equipment and will start cutting and bailing the fields next week, weather permitting.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.27 million gallons for a total of 15.90 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

## City Clerk

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

- **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. 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 permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.



- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (two regular and two alternate) Meets the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency is required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms or partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council.
- **Firefighters’ Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two firefighters and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Two year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the Firefighters’ Pension Fund.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 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 archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- **Code Enforcement** – (two alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms. Maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required.
- **Planning Commission** –Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on Special Exceptions, amending or extending the Comprehensive Plan, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending zoning ordinances.

#### **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:
  - Cherith Burger, Perfectly Polished, 121 E Marion Avenue, #111
  - Gorda Bowl, 117 Herald Court, #110
  - Hemingway’s Grille, 139 W Marion Avenue
  - LLU, LLC, (inside Otherside Ink) 117 Herald Court, #116
  - PGI Properties FLA Vacation Rental, 1312 Penguin Court
  - Sea Bags, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, #N-25
  - The Wash Basin LLC, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, 7-B