

Weekly Highlights Report Nov. 5, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The Punta Gorda City Council has set its legislative priorities for 2022. The legislative priorities focus on the areas of public safety, water quality, and economic development. All of the initiatives positively impact the residents of the city.

In the area of public safety, the Punta Gorda Police Department seeks to enhance the Veterans Crisis Assistance Team (VCAT). This project will allow our team to support a licensed mental health clinician as part of our response team with future grant funding anticipated. The project will also provide recovery kits for homeless veterans, printing costs, VCAT challenge coins, help



funding for shelter and transportation, along with a wrap for a patrol vehicle. The estimated cost to help the City of Punta Gorda fund the VCAT is \$64,480. The second public safety project invests in a training structure to serve both the Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments. The tower training structure would allow the fire department to meet the Insurance Service Organization's required 228 hours of annual fire-related training. A multi-story training structure would enable both departments to conduct a variety of necessary training scenarios. The estimated cost to fund a new Training Structure is \$175,000.

Water quality is an issue that impacts every resident of Punta Gorda. The first project is phase one of a new central sewer collection system in the Charlotte Park area to replace the aging septic systems and improve water quality. The sewer system would allow the City of Punta Gorda to provide wastewater collection and treatment services to Charlotte Park and increase water quality in Charlotte Harbor. The project's construction cost is estimated at \$24,534,535 plus additional fees such as surveying, easements, legal services, and construction engineering and inspection. We request assistance for this regional water quality initiative of \$5.5 million to allow for design and 50% construction. This will then require approximately \$11,000 per ERU as a remaining assessment. The full report is available upon request. The city is also seeking for a wastewater force main extension along Riverside Drive. The project provides wastewater service to a new development and the potential to connect four existing mobile home park communities along Riverside Drive currently using on-site treatment systems. The cost is approximately \$941,328 at 75% required from the city without contingency. This project would again help increase water quality in Charlotte Harbor, tie into State initiatives for point-source elimination, and is cost-effective due to a public/private partnership for construction of the asset.

Finally, the City of Punta Gorda seeks the delegation's assistance with obtaining flexible funding for necessary infrastructure investments to create development-ready sites

for business in the downtown core, in the Historic District (particularly east of US 41), the US 17 corridor east of Cooper Street, US 41 south of downtown, and the Jones Loop area of Punta Gorda. The cost is \$1 million. This funding will allow for currently vacant yet critical sites that have specific infrastructure or environmental issues to be supported to make development feasible and help increase the city's tax base with additional commercial growth.

The legislative assistance requested will help us to work to preserve and enhance Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history, and as a desirable place to live, work and visit.

- **City Council** – Thank you to former Mayor Nancy Prafke and Councilmember John Miller for your years of service on the City Council. Councilmembers-Elect Mark Kuharski (District 3) and Melissa Lockhart (District 5) were sworn in during the Nov. 4 City Council meeting. In addition, during the Reorganization portion of the meeting, Lynne Matthews was unanimously selected to serve for another year as Mayor with Debby Carey unanimously selected to serve again as Vice Mayor. Congratulations to all! Other action items included:
 - Approved a budget amendment for Trabue Harborwalk and Harborwalk plaque
 - Set the City of Punta Gorda legislative priorities
 - Approved Peace River Wildlife Center Lease Amendment
- **Comcast/FPL** – FPL has provided an update on the pole project: To date, 409 poles have been pulled, 86 are ready to pull and another 98 still have attachments on them, so wires and other equipment still need to be moved before the poles can be placed on the removal list. They are also working on the locations that have been reported to them by the Mayor and City Manager at this time. Poles were pulled at 3835 Tripoli, 618-626 Monaco and the ramp removed at 3322 Domenica. Currently in process: 1434 Aqui Esta, 3663 and 1008 Tripoli, 310 Shreve St., remainder of Magdalena and Aqui Esta. Comcast has cleaned up messy wires at 2902 Guadalupe Drive and 1478 Wren Court, as well as 1012 Conecta Dr., APT 2 and 1000 Conecta Dr., APT B. 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 lmatthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

Urban Design

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/>.
- 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.
- 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
- Nov. 13, CHNEP EarthEcho Water Challenge Volunteer Event, 9 a.m. at Gilchrist Park. Register early as supplies are limited, at <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>.
- Nov. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information, visit www.bsponline.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 will begin a new mowing and trimming cycle on Nov. 15.

Planning

- **Public Workshop** – Punta Gorda City Council will hold a public workshop on Nov. 19, at 10 a.m. to discuss the proposed changes to the City of Punta Gorda, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Land Development Regulation. City staff will provide a presentation focusing specifically on Building Height, Community Benefits Program, Architecture and Implementation. The workshop will be held in City Council Chambers at 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. IF you plan on attending please register at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ldr-public-workshop-tickets-199785061497>



NOTE: This is a workshop only and no formal action will be taken by City Council. The public will have an opportunity to address the Council for 3 minutes and present relevant information on the topic.

Urban Design staff completed a draft of a new element to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Required under the provisions of Florida Statute Section 163.3177 (6)(i), the new Property Rights Element will:

Identify specific property rights and state that local government will respect them
 Identify the rights of people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and property
 Provide standards for local government decision-making to be reliable and predictable to promote sound, long-term investments in a community. The new element will be discussed at the Nov. 22, Planning Commission and Dec. 1, City Council meetings.

Public Works

- **Citizens' Academy** – We are no longer accepting applications at this time, Citizen's Academy 2022 is full! 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. For information regarding future sessions, please contact Public Works Senior Executive Assistant, Jennifer Daumann jdaumann@cityofpuntagordafl.com or (941) 575-5002.
- **Canal Maintenance Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement projects for the last fiscal year are complete. Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year, and the seawall replacement contractor has four projects under construction. Burnt Store Isles has seven seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year 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 22 locations.
 - Crews manufactured 25 (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>. Every 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** – The project design is nearing 90% complete with the Southwest Florida Water Management District permit application pending submittal. The property acquisition process for the proposed pond is anticipated to be complete in the early part of 2022. Staff continues to seek grant funding opportunities to assist with funding for the project.
- **Henry Street Sidewalk** – Final construction plan revisions and drainage calculations are being completed. 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.
- **Harbor Walk West End Lighting** – The installation of five additional decorative lights street lights between Shreve Street and the tidal bridge at the west end of Retta Esplanade has begun. The underground conduits and light bases have been installed and the electrical wiring is expected to begin next week.

Parks and Grounds

- **Dog Water Fountain Linear Park** – The dog water fountain has been installed at Linear Park on the corner of Shreve St. and W. Virginia Ave.
- **Christmas Wreaths and Tree Installation** – The areas outlined in red (see picture) at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street are blocked off to allow access for City crews and equipment to continue installing the Christmas tree. Parking spaces along Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be opened up in the evening and on the weekends.



Police

- **Halloween** – A very special thank you to all of the city employees and volunteers who worked on Halloween to make sure that our citizens and visitors had a safe and fun night!



- **K9 Competition** – Officer Burga and K9 Sadie have been selected by the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) out of hundreds of applicants as one of only ten teams that will compete nationally in the drug detection category in Raleigh, North Carolina. The competition will be held from Nov. 13-16 and will air on ESPN later this month.



- **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 Girbralter 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.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer Semester and Fall Semester of 2022. 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. Spots fill up quickly and the selection process can be competitive, so we encourage potential interns to apply today! The deadline for Summer Semester of 2022 is Mar. 15.
- **Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program** – The police department has an active and diverse volunteer program including vehicle patrol, bike patrol, marine patrol, community services, and more. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers. 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.

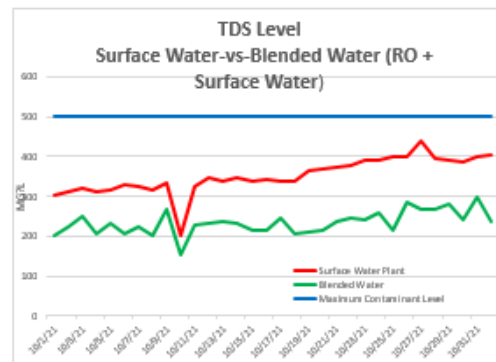
Fire

- **Training** – The fire department conducted fire ground skills training while utilizing the all new MSA air packs. These packs are lighter and have many more built in safety features to help keep our firefighters safe when entering into hazardous environments. The training included; forcible entry, salvage and overhaul, aerial ladder climb, a maze, and a confined space drill where a rapid intervention team was used to simulate a firefighter out of air.



Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update –**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 61.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.8 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 1.10" Oct. 2021 0.90" Nov. 2020 4.70" Nov. 2020 0.00"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm –Total hardness 112 ppm
- TDS Nov. 4 – Current 252 ppm, Low 252 ppm, High 504 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 375 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 4 – Current 5.16', Record Low 5.03', Record High, 5.63' Year Avg. 5.22'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members have started to assemble the steel open ended building that will cover the Filter Press. Once the pieces are assembled on the ground they will be lifted and bolted together to form the building. The contracted vendor has entered and started the task of removing the old interior coating from the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. The City's contracted hay vendor has bailed fields two and four. They are now in the process of removing all the bails. Once the bails are removed our crew will start hauling sludge from the Digested Storage Units to these fields for disposal.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.52 million gallons for a total of 17.64 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (one 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.
- **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:
 - Corrina Adams, Otherside Ink, 117 Herald Court, #117
 - Hong Le, Lovely Nails, 3941 Tamiami Trail, #3453
 - Shauna Eltzroth, Spago, 201 W Marion Ave #1311