

## Weekly Highlights Report Nov. 19, 2021

### City Manager

- City Manager Column** – Construction projects in the City of Punta Gorda happen as the result of many the efforts of many different departments. From City Council, the Office of the City Manager, Finance, Procurement, Urban Design, Public Works, and Utilities each generally have a role to play in creating positive change in the community. Every day there are projects at various stages that are strategically moved through the process towards completion. I'll highlight a few of the projects that are underway this fall.



If you have paid a visit to the City Hall Annex, you will have noticed the relocation of several departments. The City Hall Annex is undergoing a variety of security and American's

With Disabilities Act accessibility projects. The project has had a slight delay due to the availability of materials but is still on track for 2022 completion.

On West William Street, a much-needed sidewalk is in development. This sidewalk will connect many residential properties with commercial properties in the neighborhood. Surveying, legal property easements, and outside utility relocation have been completed. Funding for the sidewalk comes from the 1% Sales Tax program.

The Boca Grande and Corte Andre area drainage improvement project continues to make progress. A hearing to obtain the last property needed for a retention area is scheduled for January. Public Works has received 90% design plans. Staff continues to work on permits and grant opportunities for funding this 5.7 million dollar project.

Harborwalk West Area 2B is the next phase of the multi-year project at Gilchrist Park. This portion of the project will provide park improvements to Gilchrist Park and streetscape enhancements to W Retta Esplanade. They include on-street parking, parking lot improvements, and site furnishings. These are designed to increase accessibility and functionality within the park and improve roadway safety and parking. The project is currently out for bid solicitation, the bid will be opened on Dec. 3, and it is funded through the 1% Sales Tax program.

Laishley Park playground replacement involves adding additional splash pad features, new playground area, and equipment. The final plans and construction checklist have been received. The bid solicitation is being prepared, and construction should begin in early 2022.

The A. C. Freeman House is a historic home owned by the city, located at 311 West Retta Esplanade. The city contracted with Parker Mudgett Smith Architects to prepare a comprehensive building evaluation of the necessary architectural design, engineering, landscape, and construction documents to complete the structure's

rehabilitation. The required architectural details will restore the historic character of the building. The Comprehensive Building Evaluation is complete. This building evaluation includes recommendations from the architectural project team on how to proceed with the rehabilitation to maximize the potential of the intended home museum, office, and small events space uses. The next step is to design the space and concurrently applying to place the A.C. Freeman House on the National Historic Register.

These are just a few of the projects staff of the City of Punta Gorda currently has in progress. These projects further the city's mission 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. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **FPL/Comcast Update** – In the last two weeks, FPL has pulled several duplicate poles on Aqui Esta, Magdalena and Coronado in PGI. They will be working on Bal Harbor Blvd. and Tripoli Blvd. after these are complete, as well as several of the individual locations we notified them about over the last couple of months. Specific locations have been provided to them. We have asked them to focus on the main artery roads now so it does not interfere with high season traffic flows. Comcast relocated wires on several poles, including 800, 812, 1650 and 1699 W. Marion Ave., 361 and 198 Shreve St., 198 Berry St., 3663, 3687 and 3681 Tripoli Blvd. and 362 Santander Ct. 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 [lmattthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:lmattthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com). The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.
- **City Council** – City Council met on Nov. 17 some of the actions included;
  - Set meeting dates for 2022
  - Approved vacation of a portion of Orange Road aka Mac Dine Road
  - AC Freeman House Rehabilitation Project direction to staff to pursue design plans and registry on the Historic Register
  - Charter Review Committee appointed Donna Peterman and Bill Leach as at-large members

## **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. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information, visit [www.bsponline.org](http://www.bsponline.org).

- Nov. 20, Twins Tot 5K, Gilchrist Park, for more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/TwinsWalk5K>.
- Nov. 20-21, MY Promotions Season Opener Arts & Craft Show, City Marketplace Property, 115 Tamiami Trail. For more information, visit <http://www.mypromotions.com/>.
- Nov. 27-28, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, downtown, for more information, visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- 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. 11, Charlotte County Chamber Annual Christmas Parade, downtown Punta Gorda. For more information, visit <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>.
- Dec. 11-12, Blue Ribbon Events Holly Jolly Market, Gilchrist Park, for more information, visit <https://daniellesblueribbonevents.com/>.
- Dec. 12, Local Ladies Social Network Craft Fair, Laishley Park, for more information, visit <https://www.llsnevents.com/>.
- Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Services, Laishley Park, for more information, visit <https://deepcreekcommunitychurch.com/>
- Dec. 18, CHNEP Audubon Christmas Bird Count Volunteer Event, 9 a.m. at Ponce de Leon Park. <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>.
- 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/>.
- Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Celebration, Fishermen's Village. For more information, visit <https://www.fishville.com/events/>.

### Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
  - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, W. Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).

### Planning

- **Permits** – The City has seen an increase in new single-family permits along with new homeowners. It is also the time of year in which we welcome back our seasonal residents. City Staff would like to remind our residents that permits are required for many different activities within residential and commercial zoning districts. The following are examples of activities which require a permit through the Code Compliance division: garage sales, parking in the right-of-way, recreational vehicle parking, watercraft parking, moving vehicles, dumpsters, PODs, business events, business promotions and grand openings. In addition, many outdoor home improvement projects, such as paver patios, sidewalks, landscape walls, etc., may require permits through the Building and/or Zoning and Code Compliance division. Staff invites residents to contact Zoning and Code Compliance while in the planning stage of a project, prior to commencing construction to determine if permits will be required, [pgcode@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:pgcode@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com) or (941)575-3352.



- **Staff Appointment** – City of Punta Gorda Principal Planner, Mitchell Austin was re-elected this week as Chair of the Charlotte County - Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is an advisory committee composed of technical staff from Charlotte County, the Airport Authority, the Sheriff's Office, the City of Punta Gorda, and the City of North Port. The TAC serves as an advisory role to the MPO Board on matters related to its role in transportation planning policy and projects which use Federal or State funding. For more information on the Charlotte County - Punta Gorda MPO please visit their website at: <https://ccmpo.com/wp/>

## **Public Works**

### **Canal Maintenance**

- **Canal Odor** - Don't be alarmed if you have noticed an odor floating up from your canals. The water in our canals and ponds is on the move - vertically! The surface water, which was warmed by the hot summer sun, has been cooling down as the temperatures drop causing the water to 'flip' or 'turn'. This means that the bottom (including silt, decomposing plant material and miscellaneous debris) comes to the surface bringing with it a smell of stagnant water, while the surface water goes to the bottom. This is a natural occurrence and typically lasts approximately two weeks then returns to normal.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall replacement contractor has six 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 32 locations.  
Crews manufactured 20 (10' linear feet) seawall panels  
Crews patched and repaired 65' linear feet of seawall cap/seam.  
Crews removed one large piling from the waterway
- **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**

- **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.
- **Harbor Walk West End Lighting** – The installation of five additional decorative lights street 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 be installed by the end of next week.

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly design project update meetings continue. The Engineer of record submitted the 90% plans to Southwest Florida Water Management District for review.
- **Paving Program Street Resurfacing** – The contractors work continues with Milling and resurfacing through Dec. 1 weather and operations depending. Milling and resurfacing is complete on: S. Seagrape, N. Seagrape, N. Blue Sage, Clusia Rosea, Scarlet Sage, Scarlet Sage Ct., Rock Dove, White Ibis and Woodthrush. Milling is complete on Knighthawk, Owl, Wren and Raven. The paving program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Engineering [Paving Program | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://punta-gorda.fl.us). For additional information please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Punta Gorda Public Works at (941)575-5060.



### **Sanitation**

- **Thanksgiving Holiday** - The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Nov. 25 and Nov. 26, for Thanksgiving holiday. Residents and Commercial customers will notice NO CHANGE in the collection of trash, yard waste or curbside recycling. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

### **Parks and Grounds**

- **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**

- **K9 Competition** – Officer Burga and K9 Sadie represented Punta Gorda in North Carolina for the National K9 Competition. The competition will be televised later this month on ESPN.
- **Veterans Day Program** – Police department Command Staff participated in the Charlotte County Veterans Day Program and groundbreaking ceremony for the First Responders Memorial and Military Serve Memorial at William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park.
- **Family Fun Day** – The Punta Gorda Police Department and the Punta Gorda Fire Department will be holding our second annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex, located at 1410 Tamiami Trail (across from the Golden Corral). There will be a bounce house, dunk tank, crafts, lunch, and more! The entire community is invited to come out and enjoy this completely free event!





- **Watch Out for Gift Card Scams** - Please remember that legitimate businesses, organizations, and government entities will **NEVER** ask you to make a payment using gift cards. If anyone calls you and requests that you make a payment by purchasing gift cards and providing the numbers, please hang up the phone! Gift cards are nearly impossible to trace and the chances of identifying the scammer and returning the money spent on them is very low. If someone asks you to purchase gift cards to pay a past due bill, provide money for a loved one in trouble, to pay back taxes, or for any other reason, please call 941-639-4111 and ask to speak with an officer before making any purchases.

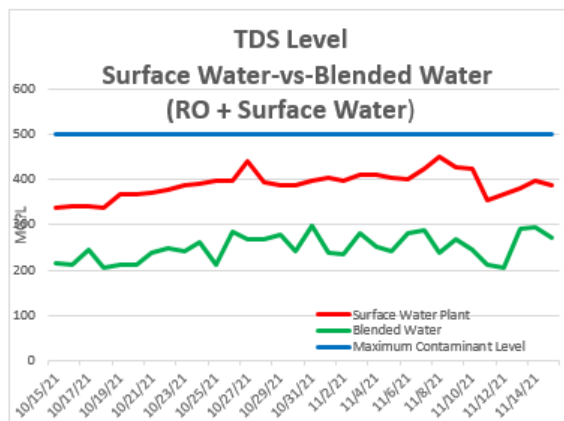
## Fire

- **Helping out in the Community** – The fire department was asked by our local Sallie Jones Elementary School to assist in unloading a semi-truck full of holiday foods from a fundraiser the school participated in. The fire department sent one crew over to help along with some other off duty and volunteer firefighters that came in to help out. The fire department is proud to serve our community whenever they are called upon.



## Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update** –



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 62.3 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.9 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 2,430 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Nov. 2020 4.70” Nov. 2021 3.75”
- 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 120 ppm
- TDS Nov. 18 – Current 254 ppm, Low 188 ppm, High 510 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 406 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 18 – Current 5.39', Record Low 4.94', Record High, 6.26' 56 Year Avg. 5.20'

## Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members have finished erecting all of the sections that make up the new Filter Press building and will now start the very long process of tightening the thousands of nuts and bolts that secure the 20 sections together.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.89 million gallons for a total of 20.21 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.



## City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (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.
- **Punta Gorda Housing Authority** – (one regular) Meets the third Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at 340 Gulf Breeze Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. Must be a resident of Charlotte County or the City of North Port. At least one commissioner shall reside within the Housing Authority's jurisdiction and receive rent subsidy through a program administered by the Authority. Seven member board. Four-year terms, no term limits. The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide quality, affordable housing that is well maintained and free from drugs, violent crime, and discrimination while serving residents with the highest degree of professional courtesy, empathy and respect.

### 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:
  - Sweet Spot Medi Spa, 109 E. Olympia Ave.
  - Unfiltered, 321 Taylor St.
  - Carla Nix Vacation Rental, 950 W. Olympia
  - Center for Sight, 314 Tamiami Tr.