

## Weekly Highlights Report Nov. 24, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The holiday season is getting into full swing and is an opportunity to express gratitude. I am thankful for so much in the City of Punta Gorda. Thankful to work with a City Council that cares about our citizens. Grateful for our staff that has once again made our Harborside Hometown safe and attractive for the holiday season. Thankful for each of our 290 employees working hard every day to accomplish the city's goals.

Beyond city operations, the list of things to be thankful for continues. The many non-profits and faith-based organizations that continue to help residents meet their basic needs deserve a heartfelt thank you. I am thankful for the businesses that drive our economy. Grateful for the quality healthcare services available here. Thankful to live in a community that has so much resident engagement. Thankful that Punta Gorda in Bloom has added beauty to the downtown this holiday season.

Punta Gorda is the perfect place to celebrate the holidays, and the magic of lights appeals to the youthful spirit of all. Don't miss Light Up the Night on Dec. 3, starting at 5:30 p.m. This unforgettable, family-fun event in Downtown Punta Gorda takes place on the corner of West Marion Avenue and Taylor Street. NBC2 Anchor Stacy Deffenbaugh Meyer emcees the event with the Christmas Tree Lighting taking place at approximately 7 p.m. Music, food, bounce houses, and Santa Claus all make this a don't miss event.

Also, on Dec. 3 and continuing on Dec. 4, take part in the Holly Days Christmas Dreams Garden Tour, hosted by the Punta Gorda Garden Club. For information, visit <https://pggc.org/home-tour/>. The fun continues on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5 at the Visual Arts Center's Peace River National Art Festival, held in Laishley Park. For more information about this juried art show, call (941) 639-8810. Then on Dec. 11, the Charlotte County Chamber Annual Christmas Parade takes place in downtown Punta Gorda. The parade steps off at noon. For more information, call (941) 672-2222.

Fisherman's Village is a favorite stop to enjoy the Festival of Lights in an open-air complex featuring shopping, dining, entertainment, and unique accommodations. Over one million lights and holiday-themed Christmas decorations are available for viewing free of charge through Dec. 31. Also available at Fishermen's Village are the ever-popular King Fisher Fleet Christmas Lights Canal Tours. These family-orientated one-hour cruises tour the residential canals to view Christmas lights, displays, and decorations on homes, boats, seawalls, and docks from the comfort of a double-decker tour boat. Tickets are required and can be purchased online or while visiting Fishermen's Village.

Christmas Card Lane, courtesy of the Punta Gorda Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Club of Punta Gorda-After Hours, is another long-standing holiday tradition in Punta



Gorda. Gilchrist Park will play host to a delightful display of beautiful seasonal greeting cards produced on signboards for viewing while enjoying the beauty of Charlotte Harbor.

I covered just a small sampling of all we have to look forward to during the holidays in Punta Gorda. I hope everyone has had a safe and happy Thanksgiving and has taken the time to thank those that make their life just a little brighter. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council** – City Council meet on Dec. 1 at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic City Hall some of the items include;
  - Community Redevelopment Agency update
  - Variance request for pool deck, pool and screen enclosure at 410 Bal Harbor Boulevard
  - Variance request for replacement of fence at 1385 Elizabeth Street
  - Consideration of an ordinance to add the Property Rights Element to the Comprehensive Plan
  - Consideration of Mac Ever Street ordinance
  - Discussion of Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Inter Local Agreement

### **Urban Design**

- **Punta Gorda in Bloom** – The Punta Gorda in Bloom volunteers accomplished a lot last week with the delivery of new planters along Marion and over 450 red and white Poinsettias. Additional pots were ordered to assure a truly amazing display along Marion Ave. Those pots were delivered on last Friday. Work began on Monday to install the irrigation, planting the poinsettias and installing the solar lights on each pot. There are twenty pots, two floral fountains, close to 500 plants overall, and 9,600 solar lights – all beautifying our city in splendid fashion! THANK YOU to all the volunteers who participated in this phase of the America in Bloom project!



### **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.charlottecountycommerce.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. 27-28, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, downtown, for more information, visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Nov. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information, visit [www.bsponline.org](http://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. 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. 18, CHNEP Audubon Christmas Bird Count Volunteer Event, 9 a.m. at Ponce de Leon Park. <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>.
- Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Services, Laishley Park, for more information, visit <https://deepcreekcommunitychurch.com/>
- 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:
  - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, 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).

### Planning

- **City Council Workshop** – On Nov. 19, City Council held a Public Workshop to discuss the proposed changes to the City of Punta Gorda, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, Land Development Regulation. Urban Design staff provided a presentation focusing specifically on Building Height, Community Benefits Program, Architecture and Implementation. You can view the presentation and listen to the discussion at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj3rsgGxv-8>. The following questions were proposed:  
*What is the height of the Hospital, Medical Offices, and Condominiums?*



Bayfront Health Punta Gorda (809 E Marion Avenue) was built in 1956 thru 1981 in several phases. The approximate building height is 48 feet, and is a three story hospital. The Bayfront Medical Office Building (713 E Marion Avenue) was built in 2006. The building is 65 feet, with three stories of habitable space over one level of parking and is used as a medical office. The Peace Harbor Condominiums (900 E Marion Avenue) were built in 2006. The building is 60 feet to the top of the tower and 50 feet to the top of the roof. It is residential with three habitable stories over one level of parking. The Harbor Walk Condominiums (200 Harbor Walk Drive – at Laishely Park) were built in 1999 – 2001 in three phases. The building height is 65 feet. It is residential with four stories of habitable space over one level of parking. The Charlotte County Justice Center (350 E Marion Avenue) was built in 1999. The building is 114 feet to the top of the tower and 76 feet to the top of the courthouse wing. The five story building's use is government - courthouse (Zoned Planned Development – Public).



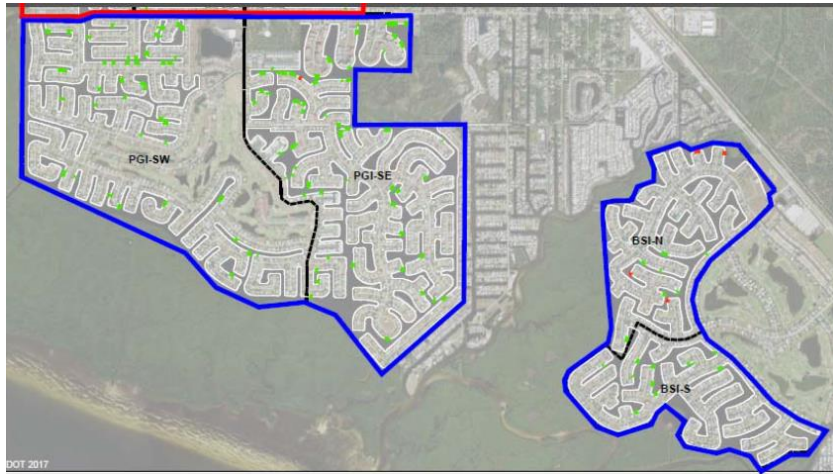
***Was there any type of traffic study completed for the proposed Flex Commercial and Medical Districts?***

In 2018 the City of Punta Gorda completed a Transportation Build Out Study in preparation for the upcoming Citywide Master Plan process. This 2018 study looked at anticipated travel demand to 2045. This study used population and employment projections based on existing conditions and anticipated growth. The travel demand model used to generate the anticipated traffic conditions is the same one used by the Florida Department of Transportation. The study did not identify any major roadway failures. A roadway failure from a traffic/transportation planning perspective is when anticipated volume, number of vehicles per hour or day, exceeds the roadway capacity, based on roadway condition factors, by a factor of 20 percent or more. Within the roadway network within and immediately adjacent to the City only the US 41 Northbound bridge over Charlotte Harbor exceeds the 120 percent of capacity threshold for a major traffic volume failure. Within the downtown and east of downtown area all roadway segments for 2045 traffic volumes were under 80 percent of roadway capacity. The full report is available on the City website at: [2019 Transportation Build Out Study](https://www.cityofpuntaforda.com/2019-Transportation-Build-Out-Study). If you have specific questions about the proposed update to the Land Development Regulations that you would like to see answered here please email Urban Design Staff at [UrbanDesign@cityofpuntaforda.com](mailto:UrbanDesign@cityofpuntaforda.com)

## 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 Assessment** – Beginning Dec. 2, City staff will be performing the Annual Seawall Assessment during low tide periods until Mar. 2022. City staff will be inspecting seawalls in the southerly half of Punta Gorda Isles and all of Burnt Store Isles (blue zone) 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** - 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 17 locations.
  - Crews manufactured 20 (10' linear feet) seawall panels
  - Crews patched and repaired 15' linear feet of seawall cap/seam.
  - Crews removed one large piling from the waterway
  - Crews installed bridge height signs on Aqui Esta Bridge
- **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** – Bi-weekly design is approaching 90 percent review. The Engineer of record has submitted 90% plans to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for review. A Water Quality grant submittal meeting was conducted this week with the South Florida Water management district staff reviewer.
- **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** – The contractors work continues with Milling and resurfacing. Milling of existing asphalt is occurring on Almar Drive and Muscovie Court. Paving is complete on: Owl Court, Wren Court, Raven Court, Coldeway Dive and Lewis Circle. Paving is scheduled on Almar Drive, Muscovie Court within the next week. Harborside Avenue is scheduled for milling and resurfacing within the next week or two. 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.



- **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 continues. The underground conduits and light bases have been installed. Due to weather and the holiday workweek, the electrical wiring installation has been delayed and should be complete by week of Dec. 6.

## 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.

## Police

- **Underage Alcohol Sales Sweep** – The Punta Gorda Police Department and the Division of Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (ABT) Bureau of Law Enforcement teamed up for an enforcement sweep targeting the sales of alcoholic beverages to minors. Seven of the eight establishments checked were in compliance with the law.
- **Stay Updated on PGPD News** – Did you know that you can sign up to receive press releases via email from the Punta Gorda Police Department by visiting [www.pgpdfnews.com](http://www.pgpdfnews.com)? You can also see our press releases newsfeeds on Facebook or Twitter by following us on those platforms (@pgpdf1).
- **Family Fun Day** – The Punta Gorda Police Department and the Punta Gorda Fire Department will be holding our second annual Family Fun Day on Dec. 4, 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!
- **Marine Enforcement** – The Punta Gorda Police Department’s Marine Unit conducted extra enforcement on the waters and issues five citations for anchor light violations.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Jan. 31.
- **Police Officer Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. We will be holding a virtual testing process in January. Applications must be received by Jan. 5. The written exam will be completed online anytime between Jan.7, and Jan. 13, with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on Jan. 24, and Jan. 25. We are currently only accepting applications from candidates who are currently law enforcement certified or Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible
- **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 to apply for the Summer Semester of 2022 is March 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](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).

**To apply for employment or for more information, please visit [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).**

## Fire

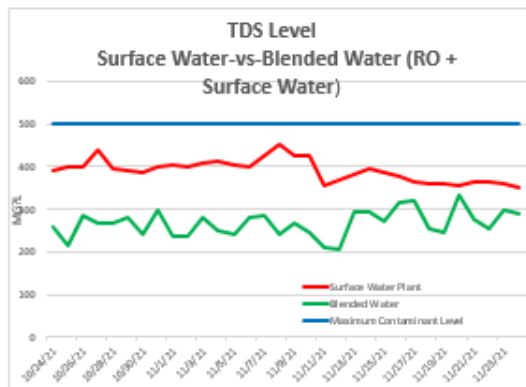
- **The fire department would like to extend some Thanksgiving Safety Tips –**

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking so you can keep an eye on heat sources
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently
- Keep children away from the stove
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids
- Keep knives out of reach of children
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife or plate warmer are not dangling
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Never leave children alone in a room with lit candles
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids or toys
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working



## Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update –**



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 52.6 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 750 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Nov. 2020 4.70” Nov. 2021 3.95”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm –Total hardness 290 ppm
- TDS Nov. 24 – Current 290 ppm, Low 212 ppm, High 519 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 422 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 24 – Current 5.31', Record Low 4.91', Record High, 6.30' 56 Year Avg. 5.18'



## **Wastewater Treatment**

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue the process of tightening the thousands of nuts and bolts that secure the 20 sections together on the new Filter Press building. The contracted vendor continues to remove the old interior coating from the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Team members were able to haul and inject 196000 gallons of bio-solids to field two this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.63 million gallons for a total of 18.41 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.
- **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:
  - Melissa Zanussi, Otherside Ink, 117 Herald Court
  - Odyssey Nail Studio, 2825 Tamiami Trail
  - Spago Hair Salon, 201 West Marion Avenue, #1309
  - Trisha Phan Nguyen, Lovely Nails, 3941 Tamiami Trail, #3153
  - Center for Sight, 314 Tamiami Tr.