

## Weekly Highlights Report Dec. 10, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – If you spent time in Punta Gorda last weekend, you likely discovered what makes the community such a special Harborside Hometown. The weekend kicked off with the Light up the Night tree lighting in the downtown. Many have described the event as “Rockwellian” in nature. An event where the community comes together to watch performances, listen to music, have a visit with Santa Clause, and perhaps experience snow for the first time in Florida. This traditional celebration would not be possible without the hard-work and dedication of the Light up the Night Committee. Under the volunteer leadership of Cathy Getz, the evening was well organized, fun, and reflected very well on the city. This valued contribution, coupled with the efforts of city staff and the dedication of the City Council to light the tree in style, contributed to the magic of the evening.



Saturday was also filled with good family fun. The Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments hosted the second annual family fun day from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex. The event featured a bounce house, dunk tank, crafts, lunch, and more! Kids enjoyed learning how to use a firehose, exploring the firetrucks, and sitting on the police cruiser motorcycle as a part of this free event. Thanks to all that came out to celebrate family fun day.

The fun associated with celebrating the holiday season doesn't stop there. This Saturday is the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Parade. Punta Gorda plays host to various parades during the year, but this is traditionally the biggest parade in the city. The theme this year is Toys, Trains, and Candy Canes. The parade route leaves the Charlotte Performing Arts Center at noon, heads north on Taylor Street, and disbands at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. Bring your family, lawn chairs, or a blanket and find your spot of choice along the route. Free parking is available in the Herald Court Centre parking garage.

The Holly Jolly Market welcomes visitors to Gilchrist Park on Saturday and Sunday. The Kiwanis Christmas Card Lane is also set up in Gilchrist Park and accessible for public viewing. The Ladies Social Network Craft Fair calls Laishley Park home on Sunday. Don't forget to plan lunch and shop at one of our fabulous downtown restaurants or shops if you come to participate in the events. Fishermen's Village has the perfect holiday gifts and great food, entertainment, and drinks as well.

These are just a tiny sampling of the festivities that make Punta Gorda unique during the holiday season. It takes the work and engagement of all of our residents, business and organizations 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*

## **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/.](https://pgica.org/)
- Dec. 11, Charlotte County Chamber Annual Christmas Parade, downtown Punta Gorda. For more information, visit <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>.
- Dec. 11, Girls on the Run 5K, Laishley Park, for more information, visit <https://www.gotrswfl.org/>
- 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. 17, AMH Christmas Sing-along In the Park, Laishley Park. For more information contact Bruce (941) 676-2615.
- Dec. 18, Annual Saturday before Christmas Eve Boat Parade. For more information, visit <http://puntagordaboatparade.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/>.
- Jan. 22, Fiesta Family 5K, Charlotte High School. For more information contact Teresa (941)575-5450 x 7031.

### **Lot Mowing Program**

- The next lot mowing cycle will begin on Dec. 13.

## Planning

- **Planning Corner aka Doggie Corner** – Staff would like to remind our residents and visitors that the City of Punta Gorda has a ‘Pooper Scooper’ Ordinance (No. 1468-07) requires any owner or person in control or having custody of any canine to immediately remove the fecal matter of such an animal from:
  - the street, sidewalk, swale, bike path, park area or any other public property;
  - Any private property to which the owner or person having custody or control of the canine does not have a legal interest.

Enforcement provision shall be through means of citations issued for non-criminal infractions as provided for in the Punta Gorda Code, [Chapter 5, Sec. 7](#) and highlighted below. Any person who violates the provision of this section shall be assessed a civil penalty as follows.

- A fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for a first violation;
- A fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a second violation;
- A fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each additional violation.

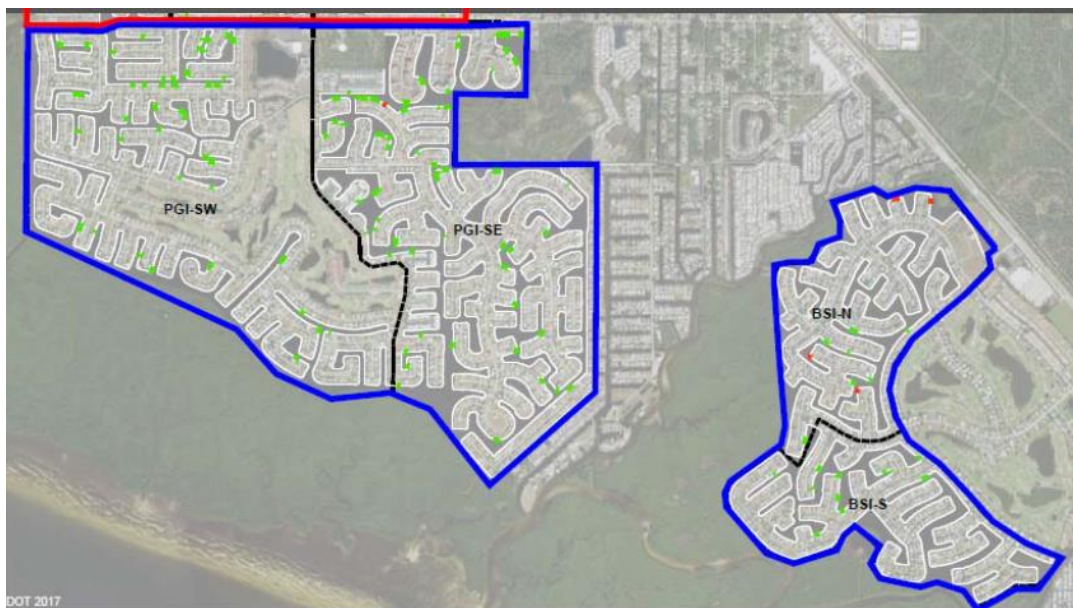
Leashes are required for dogs per the Punta Gorda Code, [Chapter 16, Sec. 16-4 \(g\)](#). *Leashed* dogs are permitted in Laishley Park, Alice Park, Pittman Park, Nature Park and on the Punta Gorda Pathways. Dogs *must* be under physical control at all times and shall not interfere with other pedestrians or bicyclists. Dogs are permitted *without* leashes *only* in that area that has been fenced and delineated as the City’s dog park, otherwise known as “Hounds on Henry.”



## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Assessment** – City staff is currently be performing the Annual Seawall Assessment during low tide periods through March. City staff will be inspecting an estimated 303,868 lineal feet of 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. To date staff has collected 588 points of data covering 34,584 lineal feet.



- **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 and two projects completed. 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 21 locations.
  - Crews patched and repaired (20' linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.
  - Crews re-established the seawall berm under an outfall pipe on West Marion.
  - Crews mowed and trimmed the Burnt Store Isles Lock and Sancho Panza Pass.
- **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 continues to prepare plans and application documents for the Environmental Resource Permit.
- **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** – Milling and resurfacing are complete. Stripping to be scheduled for installation. 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 between Shreve Street and the tidal bridge at the west end of Retta Esplanade is nearing completion. The lights have been installed and are operational. Final site cleanup will be completed by early next week.

## Sanitation

- Christmas Holiday and New Year's Holiday Schedule – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Thurs., Dec. 23, and Fri. Dec. 24, for the Christmas holiday; and Fri., Dec. 31, for the New Year's holiday. These closures will affect residential collection services for Friday and Saturday customers only. **There will be no changes to residential recycling services.** All residential services including household trash and yard waste normally collected on Fridays will be collected on the preceding Thursday. Please refer to schedule below:
  - Residential services normally handled on Friday, December 24 will be collected on Thursday, December 23.
  - Residential services normally handled on Friday, December 31 will be collected on Thursday, December 30.
  - Residential services normally handled on Saturday, December 25, will be collected on Friday, December 24.
  - Residential services normally handled on Saturday, January 1 will be collected on Friday, December 31.

Commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in collection service during this holiday. For the disposal of real Christmas trees, place the tree at the curb for collection on your regular yard waste day. All decorations and lights must be removed before placing the tree out for collection. Artificial trees will be collected on your regular household trash day. As collection times may vary, based on the amount of trash placed out to be collected, residents are reminded to have all materials out at the curb NO LATER than 6 a.m. on the day of collection. If you have any questions, please call the City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941)575-5050 Mon. – Fri., between the hours of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Police

- **Bicycle Safety** – Just a reminder that bicycles are considered pedestrians when on sidewalks and vehicles when on the roadway. Bicyclists who are riding on the sidewalk must follow the same rules as pedestrians and bicycles who are riding on the roadway must follow the same rules as drivers, including coming to a complete stop at stop signs and stopping to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- **Family Fun Day** – Our annual Family Fun Day was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who assisted in putting it together and for our community who came out and celebrated the beautiful day with us! We love Punta Gorda! Photo's courtesy of Steve Lineberry-Photography.





- **Marine Operation** – The Marine Unit conducted a special operation during which five anchor light citations were issued.

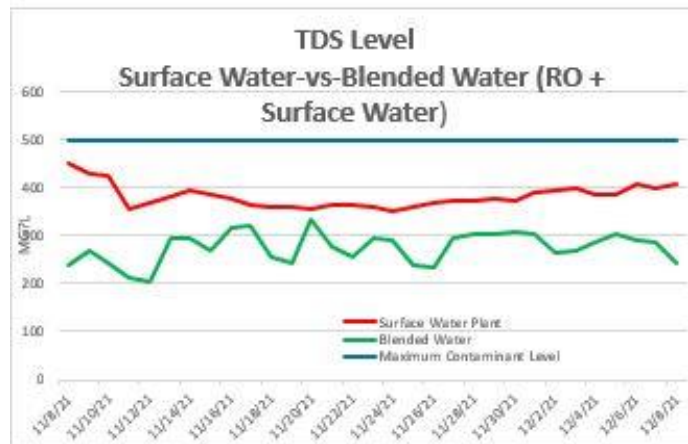
## Fire

- **Training** – The Fire Department conducted Aerial Operations training this week. Crews worked on aerial ladder placement, laddering building techniques for both fire suppression and rescue operations as well as safety while working from a ladder. The department currently has a 75’ aerial ladder equipped with an adjustable fog nozzle master stream device capable of delivering 1500 gallons per minute.



## Utilities

### Groundwater R.O Update



### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 52.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.4 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 750 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Nov. 2020 4.70” Nov. 2021 3.95” “Dec. 2020 2.80” “Dec. 2021 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 128 ppm
- TDS Dec. 9 – Current 256 ppm, Low 222 ppm, High 564 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 446 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 9 – Current 5.17', Record Low 4.87', Record High, 5.47' 56 Year Average 5.14'.

## Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members have started mowing fields one, three, and five. The fields are being mowed as high as possible in an effort to minimize weed growth while increasing hay growth. 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 217000 gallons of bio-solids to field two this week. Just a reminder to use caution while you are driving in the early hours of the day, especially if you are in the area of the W.W.T.P. There seems to be an abundance of wildlife on the move this time of year as seen in this early morning picture on the plant’s roadway.



- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.46 million gallons for a total of 17.25 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 on variances to City Code.
- **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:
  - Charlotte Quality Car Sales LLC, 127 Carmalita Street, Unit 111
  - Charlotte Quality Tires, LLC, 127 Carmalita Street, Unit 111
  - Raices de mi Tierra LLC, 127 Carmalita Street, Unit 111