

Weekly Highlights Report Dec. 22, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – A vitally important committee to local municipal governance held their organizational meeting last week. The Charter Review Committee makes recommendations that define the organization, powers, functions, and essential procedures of city government. This independent committee sets the scope of work as defined by the charter. Their first order of business was to appoint a chair and vice-chair. William Leach was selected as chair, and Ashley Maher was elected vice-chair by acclamation. The rest of the committee providing critical input are former councilperson Nancy Prafke, Donna Peterman, William Dryburgh, Derek Rooney, and Mark MacMahon. The committee came to a consensus that City Attorney David Levin will be the legal advisor to the group.



The current City Charter mandates the City Council authorize the formation of a Charter Review Committee. The charter dictates that starting back in 2010 and every six years thereafter, the Charter Review Committee must be formed for the express purpose of conducting a complete review of the City Charter and proposing amendments to the electorate pursuant to Florida Statutes. The Punta Gorda City Council appointed members of the committee.

The Charter review committee will examine all aspects of the current City Charter. The committee will consider things they deem essential to the city's governance that are explicit in the charter. The initial discussion indicates that the length of terms of City Council will be discussed and cleaning up technicalities such as conflicting language with when new councilmembers are seated. Also up for discussion are the way the Mayor is elected, the makeup of the canvassing board, the legality of language requiring time that a candidate must have residency in the district or even if residency should be required, and single district voting.

The committee has requested minutes from the previous Charter Review Committee convened in 2016. That group developed nine ballot questions that residents of Punta Gorda voted on in November of 2016. The ballot questions included setting the council and Mayor salaries, the amount of time to fill a vacancy on City Council, and the number of meetings the City Council must hold in a calendar year. Also on the ballot was the method of service of special meetings to include phone and email and adopting employment discrimination language. This then changed the charter to reflect current federal and Florida Statutes and ethics compliance.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall and can be viewed on the city's YouTube channel. There is a public comment period at the meeting, and the meeting is expected to last approximately two hours. Any changes that the Charter Committee recommends will ultimately be decided upon by City of Punta Gorda residents at the November 2022 election.

Resident engagement continues to be strong in Punta Gorda. We are fortunate to have such a talented group of individuals willing to give their time to create a strong future for Punta Gorda. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **Happy Holidays** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Dec. 23, and Dec. 24, for the Christmas holiday; and 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 Dec. 24 will be collected on Dec. 23.
 - Residential services normally handled on Dec. 31 will be collected on Dec. 30.
 - Residential services normally handled on Dec. 25, will be collected on Dec. 24.
 - Residential services normally handled on Jan. 1 will be collected on Dec. 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.

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/>.
- 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. 15, CHNEP Vertical Oyster Garden Workshop, 10 am at 326 W. Marion Ave., Punta Gorda. For more information and to sign-up, visit <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>.
- Jan. 22, Fiesta Family 5K, Charlotte High School. For more information contact Teresa (941)575-5450 x 7031.
- Jan. 24, The Tribute Company concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>.
- Feb. 14, The Boys of D63 concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>.
- Mar. 14, Everly Set concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>

Lot Mowing Program

- The Dec. lot mowing cycle has been completed in time for the Christmas Holiday.
- **The Planning Corner – Historic City Hall** – Punta Gorda City Hall, located at the corner of W Marion Avenue and Harvey Street, is an iconic symbol of the City. Built in 1926 in a stately Neo-Classical Revival architectural style, this structure was listed, through the efforts of community volunteers, in 1990 as a contributing structure to the Punta Gorda National Register District.

Since 1927 this architectural icon has been in continuous use, housing various city functions. In 1978 the building underwent an extensive renovation which included the addition of the Council Chambers wing. In addition to hosting City Council meetings and the meetings of all City advisory boards and committees this historic structure houses the City Clerk's Office, City Finance Department and Coastal Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP).

Historic preservation refers to actively saving and conserving buildings, structures, objects, and certain landscapes having historic significance or value in the built environment. Preservation of historic resources are proven to add value to a community through economic, social, cultural and environmental performance attracting additional business activity, tourism and investment in adjacent residential areas.

The City is in the beginning stage of a complete rehabilitation of the Punta Gorda City Hall including the reconstruction of the Council Chambers wing. This project is intended to protect this iconic historic building and provide more efficient office work space, and better access to the public for City services and public meetings.

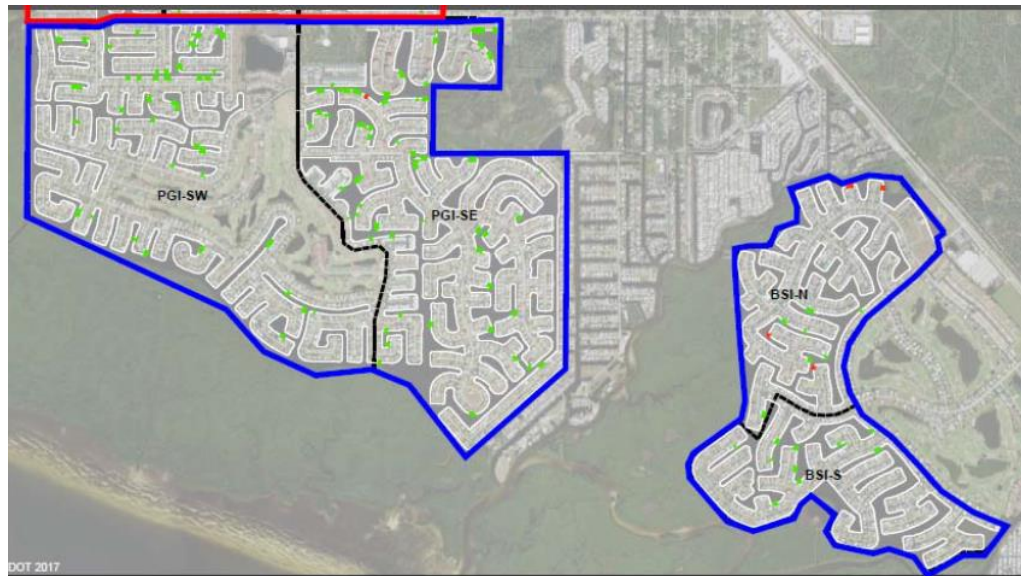


Public Works

- **Seawall Patching** – During the low tides, you may find the Canal Maintenance crews patching seawall panels. Patching seawall panels prevents depressions from forming.



- **Seawall Assessment** – City staff is currently 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 1139 points of data covering 69,696 lineal feet.



- Seawall Replacement Projects** – Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall replacement contractor has four projects under construction and four 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 20 locations.

Crews patched and repaired (20' linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.

Crews manufactured (20) 10' foot 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 engineering consultant has received additional survey data for the project and is incorporating it into the project. The engineer of record anticipates submitting the Environmental Resource Permit application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District in early January.
- 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 is nearing completion. The lights have been installed and are operational. Final grading and sodding remain to be completed.

Police

- **Wind Storm** – As a result of the wind storm the Punta Gorda Police Department has undertaken derelict vessel investigations. A sailboat broke loose from its moorings and one of its masts struck the Gilchrist bridge (southbound Rt. 41) causing it to break off. The vessel is now completely submerged in the navigable channel between the bridges. We are working to remove the vessel as rapidly as possible since it is a hazard for other boaters. Boaters should use caution when operating between the Gilchrist and Baron Collier bridges.
- **Wreaths Across America** – Chief Davis and members of the police department participated in the Wreaths across America at the Charlotte Memorial Funeral Home and Cemetery by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our veterans.



Fire

- **Holiday Safety** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department reminds residents as you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.
 - When picking a tree choose a tree with fresh, green needles
 - Before placing the tree cut off 2” at the base of the trunk
 - Keep tree at least three feet away from any heat source
 - Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit
 - Add water to the tree stand daily
 - Use lights that are for the indoors and never use candles
 - Turn off Christmas tree lights at night and when leaving home

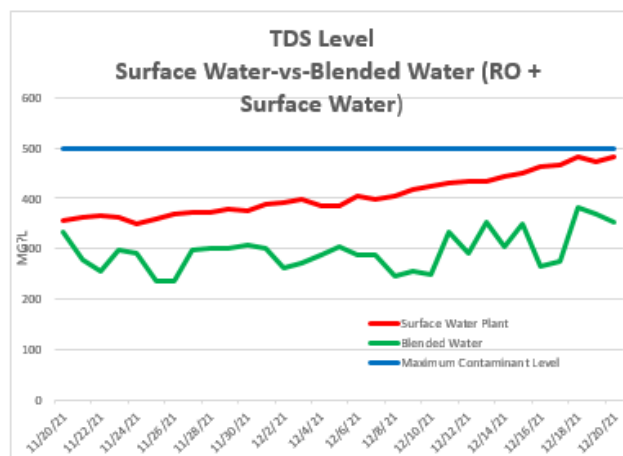


After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry.
- Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.
- Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Utilities

Groundwater R.O Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.5 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 1050 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall “Dec. 2020 2.80” “Dec. 2021 0.40”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm –Total hardness 172 ppm
- TDS Dec. 22 – Current 378 ppm, Low 248 ppm, High 585 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 444 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 22 – Current 5.10', Record Low 4.96', Record High, 6.41' 56 Year Average 5.18'.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue to mow fields one, three, and five. The contracted vendor continues the work of repairing the walls of the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Team members were able to empty out the sludge holding pond this week and haul and inject 154000 gallons of bio-solids to field two this week. Staff repaired several instrumentation problems that were related to Tuesday’s high winds and power failures, including replacing a failed level controller and rebooting the Power Control Unit at the master Pumping Facility. A voltage converter has also failed on the plant’s Hydro system and a new unit is on order.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.50 million gallons for a total of 15.02 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) Meet 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.