

Weekly Highlights Report Dec. 30, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – As 2021 comes to a close, we are fortunate to have been able to celebrate the holiday season in such a beautiful tropical paradise. Our Sanitation Department has had quite a busy holiday week with a condensed work week and a significant wind event last week. The Public Works staff members are working extremely hard to rid our parks and pathways of fallen branches and debris. Just a reminder that for the disposal of real Christmas trees, place the tree at the curb for collection on your regular yard waste day with all the decorations and lights removed before placing the tree out for collection. Artificial trees will be collected on your normal household trash day. I appreciate the efforts of residents and visitors to help keep our community beautiful by taking special care to dispose of waste appropriately.



Many of our special celebrations, traditions, and holiday lighting displays were held again this year and drew thousands to the area. It is nice to see so many people enjoying the parks, shopping in our local businesses, and partaking of our restaurants' many food options. It is exciting to see all of the events and festivals returning to our city.

In 2022, I look forward to City Council finalizing, adopting and implementing amendments to the city's comprehensive plan and form-based codes. These changes will ensure the realization of the vision to continue to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability.

I look forward to walking the Ponce de Leon Park boardwalk with completed improvements this year. Nature Park Improvements to the boardwalk and fishing pier design plans will pave the way for future construction. This year, we will also see a completed design for the wastewater treatment plant. All of our capital projects will be discussed in more detail at the next Council meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing all our marina docks at Laishley Marina repaired and in usable condition. The attention being paid to Gilchrist Park will continue in 2022 as the final scheduled renovations are slated for construction.

The design and future renovations of the Historic City Hall are exciting new beginnings for the New Year. I hope to finally see wayfinding signage with the city logo throughout the community. The design of the A.C. Freeman House is also anxiously awaited in this coming year, as we continue to tackle the funding challenges and decisions necessary to move this project forward. I also look forward to acquiring the final properties necessary to begin construction on the Boca Grande draining improvements.

Finally, I can't wait to see the smiles on my grandchildren's faces when they play in the soon-to-be-constructed splash pad at Laishley Park. There is so much to accomplish and look forward to in 2022. Together we will 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. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpungordaf1.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on Jan. 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall. A few items of interest include:
 - Capital Improvements Plan Update
 - Laishley Park Splash Pad
 - Punta Gorda Fire Department Contract

Urban Design

- 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. 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. 7, 8 and 9, MY Promotions Arts & Craft Festival, City Marketplace property. For more information, www.mypromotions.com.
- 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. 15-16, Punta Gorda Chamber Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Festival. For more information visit, <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-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>.
- Jan. 29, 11th Annual Chili, Beer & Blues Festival, City Marketplace property. For more information, visit <http://www.smuggersevents.com/>.
- Feb. 4 and 5, Beyond Ourselves Home Tour, various addresses. For more information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Feb. 5 and 6, Local Ladies Social Network Arts and Craft Fair, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <http://www.llsnevents.com>.
- Feb. 5 and 6, The Invitational Arts & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park. For more information, visit <https://daniellesblueribbonevents.com/>.
- Feb. 11 and 13, Big Boy Toy Expo, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. For more information, visit <https://www.bigboytoyzexpo.com/>
- Feb. 14, The Boys of D63 concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>.
- Feb. 19, St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor, Gilchrist Park. For more information visit, <https://sacredheartfl.org/serving-the-poor/>.
- Feb. 26, 11th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl. For more information and tickets, visit <https://puntagordapubcrawl.com/index.html>.
- Feb. 26, Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County Farm to Table Fundraiser, Laishley Park. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.bgcofcc.org/>.
- Mar. 14, Everly Set concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>

Lot Mowing Program

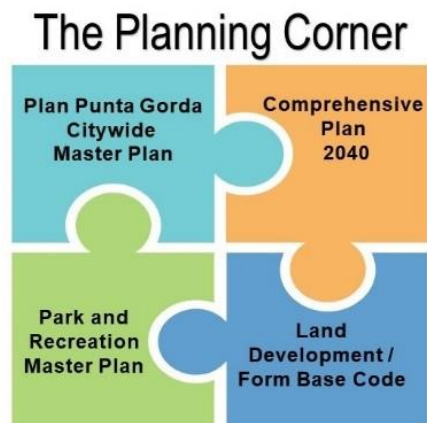
- The City will begin a new mowing cycle on Jan. 10.

Planning

- **The Planning Corner** –Just a reminder, you must give your name and address before we can accept your complaint per Florida Statute Chapter 162, 162.06 (1) (b); and 162.21 (3) (b):

A Code Enforcement Officer may not initiate enforcement proceedings for a potential violation of a duly enacted code or ordinance by way of an anonymous complaint. A person who reports a potential violation of a code or an ordinance must provide his or her name and address to the respective local government before an enforcement proceeding may occur. If a complainant states that he or she has a substantial fear of retaliation or of status-based legal jeopardy, **which must be expressed by the complainant**, then: The complainant **must be advised**

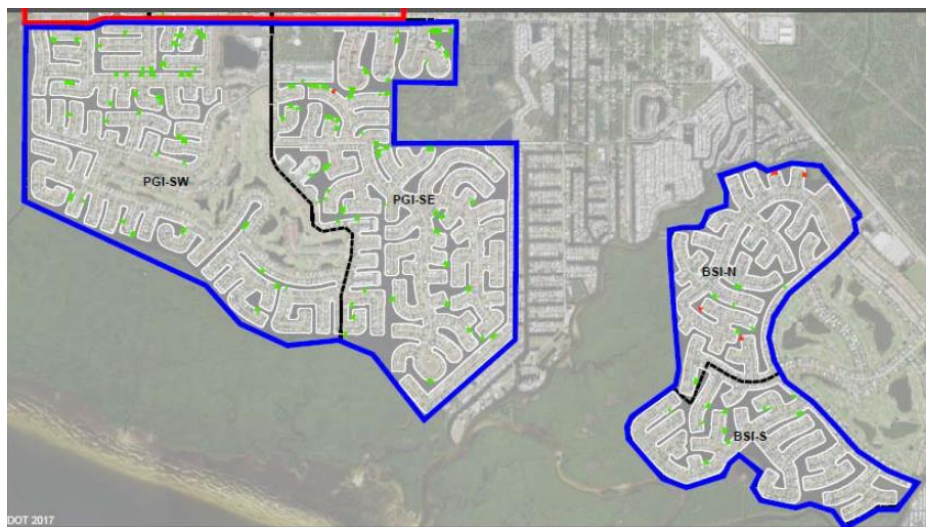
that if the claim is a false claim of fear of retaliation or of status-based legal jeopardy, then they are liable for all costs incurred by the City of Punta Gorda in investigating the claim of violation, including costs of personnel, equipment, testing, and reasonable costs and attorney fees if the City of Punta Gorda brings an action to prosecute the complainant or to collect amounts made payable.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **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 1,325 points of data covering 82,980 lineal feet.



- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall replacement contractor has five projects under construction and five projects completed. Burnt Store Isles has seven seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall contractor has one project under construction at this time. 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 13 locations.
 - Crews patched and repaired (67' linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.
- **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.

Sanitation

- **New Year's Holiday Schedule** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Fri., Dec. 31, for the New Year's holiday. **There will be no changes to residential recycling services.** All residential services including household trash and yard waste normally collected on Fridays and Saturdays will be collected on the preceding day.

Please refer to schedule below:

- Residential services normally handled on Dec. 31 will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 30.
- 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.

Police

- **New Year's Eve** – The Police Department will have extra enforcement out on New Year's Eve to assist in calls for service as well as a DUI enforcement team.

- **Marine** – PGPD is aware of the sunken vessel between the Gilchrist and Baron Collier bridges. The other sunken vessel that was near the powerlines on the east side of the Baron Collier bridge has been moved to an area east of the mooring field to make it safer for other boaters. Both vessels have been marked by Corporal Trufan with orange buoys. The owners have been working with Sea Tow to remove the vessels from the water, but there have been delays due to the holiday closures. They will be removed as soon as possible.

Open Positions

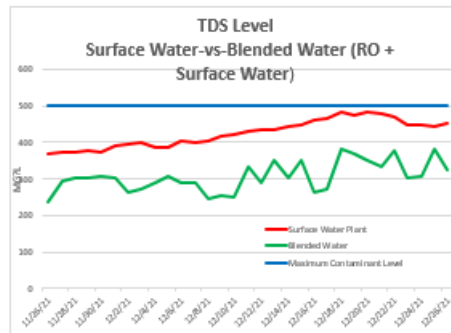
- **Police Officer Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. We will be holding a virtual testing process in January. Applications must be received by 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.
- **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.
- **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. **To apply for employment or for more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.**

Fire

- **Securing Vessels** – In light of the recent wind storm event, the fire department would like to share some tips on securing your vessel during a storm.
 - Check the weather forecast. Be aware of how long you have to prepare for the upcoming storm.
 - Double the lines on your boat. Use spring lines to limit boat movement.
 - If possible, do not stay aboard your vessel during a storm.
 - Double wrap your lines around the tie rail. Install chafe gear where the mooring lines touch the pilings, boat or tie rails.
 - Add fenders to prevent boat from bouncing off the dock or your neighbor, more is better!
 - Clean bilge of debris and check all pumps to ensure they are functioning correctly.
 - Secure all loose gear and clear any items which may clog scuppers and drains.
 - Secure and lock all hatches and port lights. Remove or secure anything which may increase wind resistance: Biminis, canvas covers, antennas, deck-stowed anchors, sails, running rigging, booms, life rings, dinghies and so on. Besides reducing windage, you eliminate the probability of these items being damaged or blown away.
 - Check your battery to ensure it is working correctly and that your shore power cord is plugged in, twist locked, and secured to the pedestal

Utilities

Groundwater R.O Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 46.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.7 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 164 ppm
- TDS Dec. 29 – Current 330 ppm, Low 210 ppm, High 598 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 459 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 29 – Current 5.10', Record Low 4.92', Record High, 6.06' 56 Year Average 5.16'.

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 63000 gallons of bio-solids to field two this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.53 million gallons for a total of 17.71 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

- **Charter Review Committee – Review** of the City’s Charter, a process that occurs once every six years, is underway. Video of the Committee’s first meeting is available on the City’s [Agendas and Meetings page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). The Committee’s next meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall (326 West Marion Avenue) on Jan. 10 at 9:00 a.m. Topics for discussion at the next meeting include councilmember term length, the canvassing board’s composition, election dates and candidate residency requirements. All meetings of the Charter Review Committee are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

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.