

Weekly Highlights Report Jan. 7, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The calendar year is off to a very busy start, especially for the Sanitation Department. The windstorm two weeks ago created a tremendous amount of yard waste. A usual week results in the 25-30 special pickups scheduled. Over the past two weeks, we have had calls for over 300 special pickups due to residents completing storm clean-ups. In addition to our terrific regular sanitation crews, we have enlisted the assistance of staff from other departments to assist with getting the refuse collected to bring our community back to its usual high standards. If you need information about sanitation schedules or to view frequently asked sanitation questions, visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/sanitation>. Thank you to all staff who helped with the massive clean-up and our residents who take pride in keeping their yards beautiful and free of debris.



I have mentioned before that the budgeting process really never ends. This week City Council took on the first significant budget task of the year, the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) review. Annually, staff presents the City Council with a comprehensive status report of the CIP's as one of the strategic objectives. The status report highlights progress to date on projects, sources of project funding, and timelines for completion. This year, Finance Director, Kristin Simeone, presented 56 pages of projects in the update to the City Council. Each of the projects is funded by a specific funding source or sources. Of the projects, it is essential to note that 13 of these CIP projects are dependent on sales tax, demonstrating how vital the resident support of the 1% sales tax is to the City of Punta Gorda. If you missed the live stream of the meeting, I encourage you to visit our YouTube page at <https://bit.ly/31pAVs9>. All council, boards, and commission meetings are posted immediately following their live stream.

Communication with residents and visitors will remain a priority in 2022. Just a reminder that the city has a tool available called Text My Gov to connect with residents. It uses a mobile phone's regular text messaging service to allow people to quickly find links, documents, or text that answers their questions. No app download is needed. Residents and visitors can report issues such as code violations or city infrastructure issues twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Users can upload a picture when reporting a problem or violation. The service immediately sends the information to city staff to resolve the issue. To use the service, simply text "hi" to (941) 347-0747. Answers to common questions are available 24/7 through website searches and preprogrammed responses. Don't have an immediate answer? The question will go to a designated mailbox to ensure you get a timely response.

If texting isn't your preferred method of communication, the City of Punta Gorda has the Staff Directory on our website with both phone numbers and email addresses readily available at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/find/a-city-phone-number>. However you choose to communicate, we welcome your input and assistance in working together to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

- **FPL/Comcast Update** – Comcast reports that wires were fixed at 615 Palm Ave., on Muscovie Ct. and at 512 and 518 Monaco Dr. They also rehung a fiber cable belonging to MCI at Airport Rd. and U.S. 41. 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 lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.
- **Punta Gorda Developments** – An update on development projects planned and in construction in the City of Punta Gorda is available at <https://conta.cc/3EO3xZK>.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on Jan. 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall. A few items of interest included:
 - Capital Improvements Plan Update and Discussion
 - Laishley Park Splash Pad Update and Funding Allocations
 - Punta Gorda Fire Department Contract Approval



PUNTA GORDA DEVELOPMENTS

Punta Gorda Winter Developments 2022

PROJECTS IN PLANNING

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/>.
- 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.bigboytoyexpo.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 and 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.

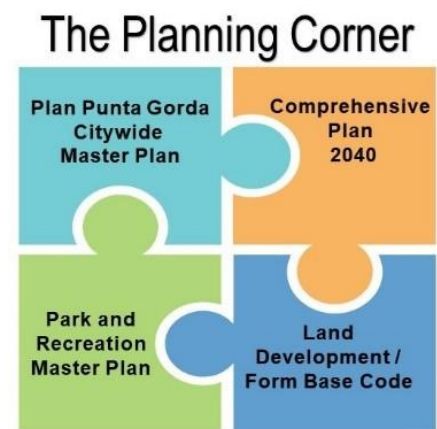
Planning

- **The Planning Corner – Public Private Partnerships –** Partnership and collaboration opportunities are integral to the City's strategic planning priorities. These opportunities embody how the organizations deliver additional services to the community. While a city government doesn't necessarily have to provide all services, it should be a catalyst for action.

In this vein, the City of Punta Gorda works with numerous public, private and non-profit agencies that provide a wide variety of recreational, cultural, educational, administrative, and operational services to the community. These partnerships promote community support and pride within our City and may further increase efficiency, thereby reducing costs.

Public-private partnerships involve collaboration between a government agency and a private-sector company or volunteer group to complete and enhance projects. Financing a project through a public-private partnership can allow a project to be completed sooner or make it a possibility in the first place.

No matter what the group, public-private partnerships build trust, align incentives, establish transparency and accountability, ensure public interest objectives are being met, and optimize proactive relationships at all levels. The City is grateful and appreciative of all the partnerships established over the years that contribute to making Punta Gorda, Florida's Harborside Hometown.



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 (37' linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.
- Crews removed a palm tree and three pilings from the canal
- **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

- **Loose Yard Waste Piles** – As a reminder, please do not place loose yard waste piles near or under power lines, trees, telephone boxes, fire hydrants, etc. This could impede access to the yard waste materials and cause damage to property. In the picture below, the Lumen terminal was buried underneath a loose yard waste pile. The clamshell truck operator has no way of knowing what is underneath the pile and in this case the Lumen terminal was destroyed. The property owner is responsible for properly placing the yard waste pile in the right-of-way.



Police

- **Holiday DUI Campaign** – The police department participated in the 2021 Holiday Season “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” National Enforcement Mobilization, which resulted in four arrests for driving under the influence and 105 traffic citations issued for other traffic infractions.



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 employeevelopment@pgorda.us.**

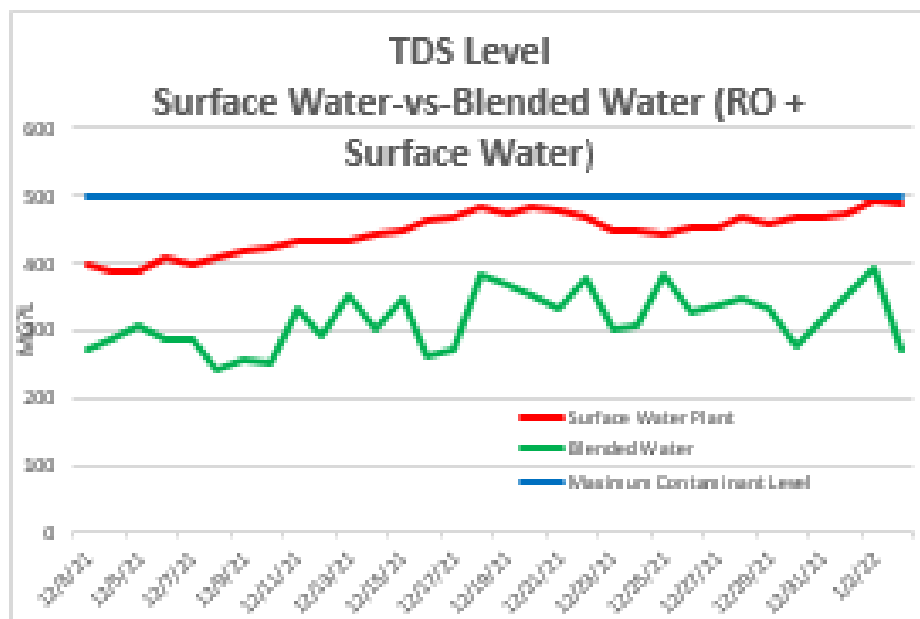
Fire

- **Did you know ...?** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department has a smoke detector battery change out program to assist residents with replacing old batteries. Residents can call and schedule a service appointment and a crew will come out and replace your old batteries. All you have to supply is new batteries and leave the heights and ladder climbing to the professionals! Crews will also test the detectors after installation to ensure they are functioning properly.



Utilities

Groundwater R.O Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 49.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.0 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 Jan. 2021 0.20” Jan. 2022 1.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm –Total hardness 132 ppm
- TDS Jan. 6 – Current 273 ppm, Low 219 ppm, High 616 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 471 ppm
- Reservoir Jan. 6 – Current 5.09', Record Low 4.92', Record High, 5.88' 57 Year Average 5.15'.

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 350000 gallons of bio-solids to field two this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.67 million gallons for a total of 18.70 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 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** – (two alternate) Meets monthly on 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.
- **Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – (one regular) Meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District residency required. Five-member board. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to provisions of Section 2-1(c) of Chapter 6, City Code of Ordinances.
- **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.
- **General Employees’ Pension Board** – (one City resident member) Meets quarterly and as called in City Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two general employees and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms, no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.

- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** - (one alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- **Police Officers’ Pension Board** – (one City resident member). Meets quarterly and as called in City Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two general employees and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms, no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.

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:
 - Lux MedSpa 403 Sullivan Street
 - Rapha Health & Wellness LLC – 2085 El Cerito Court
 - Unfiltered (coffee shop) – 321 Taylor Street
 - DG Ace Hardware – 208 W Marion Avenue
 - Napa Auto Parts – 1810 Tamiami Trail