

Weekly Highlights Report Jan. 21, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – In 2017, the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, adopted its current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. This plan, produced by consultants Tindale Oliver, is based on an extensive data collection and analysis process that identified barriers to accessibility in various City operations, facilities, parks, and portions of the Punta Gorda Pathways system of trails. The plan serves as a roadmap for making improvements in these operations and facilities to reduce barriers to access, more fully comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide better service to our community.



Based on the recommendations contained in the ADA Transition Plan, the City of Punta Gorda has undertaken a five-year ADA Transition Plan capital improvement program (CIP). The CIP provides a dedicated funding source for undertaking the corrective actions recommended by the ADA Transition Plan. In addition to the CIP projects the city has already launched, each subsequent year the city re-adopts the plan to include an annual report containing improvements and any new projects undertaken. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, the total ADA available funding is \$668,473, resulting from carry-over and new funding. Carry-over are funds that were either designated or undesignated to a specific project(s) where the total funding was not used or not spent.

FY 2021 had several projects that could not be completed, and several projects are multi-phased designated projects and are scheduled to finish in the coming years. One of the ongoing projects is ADA and security enhancements at the City Hall Annex, Public Safety Building, and the Public Works and Utilities Campus. While construction was started in FY2021, completion has been delayed until FY2022 due to a shortage of materials. Work began on Nature Park in FY2021 and will continue this year with design, engineering, and permitting to be completed and construction to start on a small platform bridge, two observation decks, a fishing pier, and site furnishings to be put into place. Funds for an accessible entrance ramp and restroom improvements at the Public Safety Building carried over into FY2022. Wayfinding Signage in Fire Station II and Fire Station III, including the design and engineering has also carried over to the current year. Finally, the West William Street Sidewalk to connect the neighborhood to the adjacent shopping plaza will be constructed in the upcoming year.

A new project for FY2022 is the Laishley Park Playground that will include accessible and inclusive water playground equipment. Finally, to be determined, funds of \$45,635 are allocated to be used for any unforeseen infrastructure improvements relating to ADA access that may arise throughout the fiscal year.

The city has completed 42% of the line items included in the 2017 Adopted ADA Transition Plan to date. The city is committed to having all city buildings, parks, parking, pedestrian facilities, programs, and services remedied, so all of the accessibility deficiencies are corrected and compliant with all applicable Federal and State requirements. *Readers may reach [City Manager Greg Murray](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **FPL/Comcast Update** – 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 lmatthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.
- **Meridian Senior Living Progress Update** – The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, located at 2001 Aqui Esta Drive, will feature Supportive Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care services in a beautiful, new 116,000-square-foot community slated for completion in early 2023. The Welcome Center (1133 Bal Harbor Blvd, Unit 1123) will open its doors this Spring to prospective residents and families who wish to learn more and make a pre-open reservation as part of the community's Charter Resident Program. See the latest progress video here [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTt9Ev9UYpI>]. For more information about The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, visit www.themeridianatpuntagordaisles.com or call (941) 800-5567.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on Jan. 19 at 9 a.m. in the Historic City Hall. A few items of interest included:
 - Historic City Hall Project Update
 - US Bicycle 15 Southwest Florida Extension Proposal
 - American with Disabilities Act Transition Plan Update

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. 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.bsponline.org>.
- Jan. 29, 11th Annual Chili, Beer & Blues Festival, City Marketplace property. For more information, visit <http://www.smugglersevents.com/>.
- Jan. 30, YMCA Harbor Hustle 5K, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://www.ymcaswfl.org/events/harbor-hustle-5k>
- 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.illsnevents.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/>

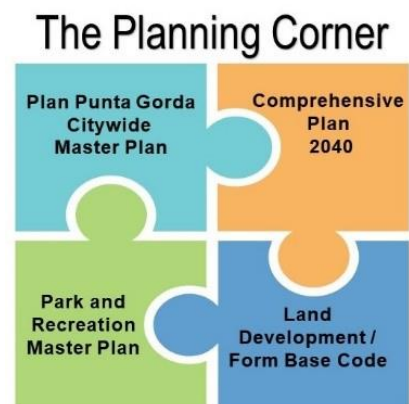
- Feb. 14, The Boys of D63 concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>.
- Feb. 14, through Apr. 18 Zimsculpt at the Peace River Botanical Gardens. For more information visit <https://peacrivergardens.org/zimsculpt>.
- Feb. 19, St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor, Gilchrist Park. For more information visit, <https://sacredheartfl.org/serving-the-poor/>.
- Feb. 25 and 26, Florida Frontier Days, History Park, 501 Shreve St. For more information contact, Frank Desguin, (941)769-1270.
- 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/>.
- March 6, Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://tasteofpuntagorda.org/>
- March 12, Punta Gorda ½ Marathon, beginning and ending in Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://www.puntagordahalf.com/>
- 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 has completed mowing the following areas:
 - Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Drive, Tripoli Boulevard, Madrid Boulevard, and Macedonia Drive).
 - Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).
 - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)
 - East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E Henry Street, and Cooper Street).

Planning

- **The Planning Corner** – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 – The City works directly with the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), <https://ccmpo.com/wp> and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1 <http://www.swflroads.com/> in the planning and development of transportation projects in or directly impacting the City of Punta Gorda. At the Jan. 19 City Council meeting staff made a presentation regarding various FDOT projects within the Punta Gorda area that are coming in the near future. These projects include Planning Studies, Engineering Design, and Construction projects which are funded within the next five years for one or more project phases. This project overview include following projects:
 - Tamiami Trail (US 41) Corridor Vision Plan
 - Tamiami Trail (US 41 NB) Downtown Project
 - US 41 – Payne Street to Rio Villa Roadway Resurfacing Project
 - US 17 – US 41 to Bermont Road Roadway Resurfacing Project
 - N. Jones Loop Road Feasibility Study
 - Harborview Road Widening (2L to 4L) Project



This presentation in its entirety is available for public review on the City's YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_FS0JnkMj8. City staff welcomes any community questions and comments regarding these projects. Any input received will be useful in the City's ongoing efforts to ensure that the vital components of the regional and State transportation network in our community provide maximum benefit for our residents, businesses, and visitors. Comments provided will also be directed to FDOT project staff and consultants at the planning, engineering design, project implementation, and/or system maintenance level as appropriate. UrbanDesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com

Finance

- **Billing and Collections Service Update** – For the QUICKEST response to inquiries or concerns about your utility account, please contact the Billing and Collections office by sending an email to pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com rather than trying to reach the office by phone. Due to an unprecedented staffing shortage, phone calls may go to voice mail and be subject to a delay in response time. Thank you for your patience and assistance.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Black Drum Fish** – City staff has received reports of drumming or vibrating noises coming from the canal system. This time of year it is very common for black drum fish to make excessive noises in the canals which can mimic drums and croakers. To produce the sound, sciaenids possess special muscles called sonic muscle fibers that vibrate against the swim bladder. These sonic muscle fibers run horizontally along both sides of a fish's body and are connected to a central tendon which surrounds the swim bladder. When the sonic muscle fibers are contracted against the swim bladder, they produce the drumming or croaking sound that gives drum and croaker their common name.
- **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 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 2,680 points of data covering 180,048 lineal feet.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – Punta Gorda Isles has 44 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall replacement contractor has seven projects under construction and five projects completed. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall contractor has two projects 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 18 locations.
 - Crews patched and repaired (63' linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.
 - Crews removed one large piling 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 February.
- **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 US 41.

Police

- **Pedestrian Rules** - With miles and miles of parks and recreational trails, Punta Gorda is a great place to get outside and take a walk, but please remember there are laws that apply to pedestrians. When crossing at an intersection with a traffic signal, pedestrians should follow any pedestrian signal provided. If a pedestrian signal is unavailable, pedestrians should follow the traffic signal and only cross when the light is green. When a sidewalk is available, pedestrians must use it and are prohibited from walking in the roadway. If a sidewalk is not available, pedestrians walking in the roadway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left shoulder facing traffic coming from the opposite direction. Please enjoy Punta Gorda safely!
- **Martin Luther King BBQ** – Chief Davis and staff, along with Mayor Lynne Matthews, City Council Member Jaha Cummings, and City Manager Greg Murray attended the Martin Luther King BBQ. The BBQ was put together by Big John Lloyd and was held at the Carmalita Horse Arena. (Photo by Dan Sutphin)



Open Positions

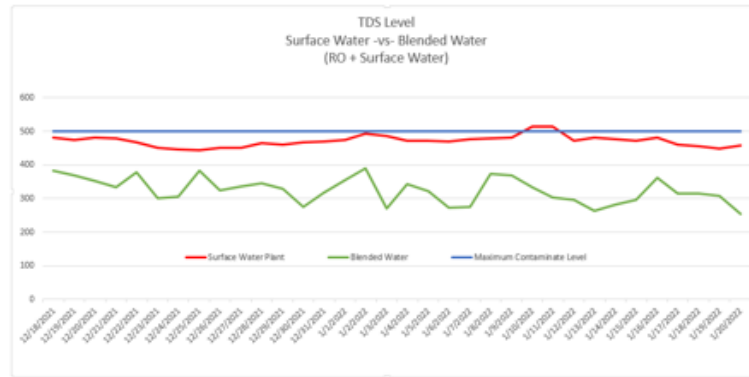
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Jan. 31.
- **Internship Program** - The police 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.

Fire

- **Fire Prevention** – A major responsibility of the City Fire Marshal’s Office is fire prevention. One method employed to reduce the number of fires is by conducting fire and life safety inspections. Staff inspects business and multi-family structures in accordance with federal and state regulations as well as the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. The goal is to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and amount of property loss from fire. We want to work with you to ensure that if a fire were to occur, the damage is limited as much as possible and firefighters can operate efficiently and safely. Think of it as an investment in the safety of you, the building and premises and the general public. You are encouraged to accompany the inspector during his/her visit. For more information, please contact the department at (941) 575-5529.

Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 54.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.8 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 1500 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Jan. 2021 0.20” Jan. 2022 1.20”
- 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 120 ppm
- TDS Jan. 20 – Current 254 ppm, Low 248 ppm, High 676 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 447 ppm
- Reservoir Jan. 20 – Current 5.09', Record Low 4.90', Record High, 5.87' 57 Year Average 5.18'.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The contracted vendor continues the work of repairing the walls of the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Team members were able to haul and inject 70000 gallons of bio-solids to field Seven this week. Staff started repairing several more damaged surface drain pipes in field 8 and 2 as well as clearing the remaining culverts of dirt and debris in these two fields. Crews replaced all ninety smaller air diffusers in the South Digested Sludge Storage Unit with larger type diffusers.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.73 million gallons for a total of 19.12 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 meetings are 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 Feb. 14 at 9:00 a.m. Topics for discussion at the next meeting include establishing how to stagger four-year terms, term limits, councilmember compensation and the candidate residency requirement. 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.
- **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:

- D&H Roofing – 3941 Tamiami Trail, Unit 3111
- Key Salt & Water Conditioning – 418 Dupont Street
- Suite Evolution – 1105 Taylor Street, Unit M