

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT OCTOBER 13, 2023

City Manager

- Starting on Oct. 16 the relocation of the City's Urban Design Division takes place. The relocation is necessitated due to the damage on the third floor of the City Hall Annex caused by Hurricane Ian and the start of Historic City Hall renovations. Urban Design, Zoning, and Code will be located at 2705 Tamiami Trail, unit #113. Offices will be closed to the public from Oct. 16-18 to set up equipment. Permit requests, park rentals, and plans reviews may be delayed by a few days during this time. Many of the forms serviced by Urban Design are available online at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/apply-for>.



Florida City Government Week is celebrated from Oct. 16-22, 2023. In celebration of the occasion, the City of Punta Gorda is hosting a Photo Contest to engage residents in sharing the beauty of Punta Gorda. The photo contributions will be used to create a library of photos for city publications. Staff will narrow the nominations down to five finalists that will be voted on by liking on Facebook. The top three winners will receive a City gift basket. To submit an entry and view contest rules, please visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-manager/city-communications>.

We are grateful to be celebrating once again in the City of Punta Gorda this fall. The Historic District in Punta Gorda will host trick or treating in 2023. The wonderful neighbors in the Historic District plan our very popular Halloween event downtown. While it is not an official city-sanctioned event, the City and the downtown residents go all out for fabulous displays in their yards and provide a fun event for kids and their parents. Hundreds of people descend on the downtown residential streets in the Historic District to trick or treat, and some just come downtown to see the cool house decorations. The City invites the public to join us to celebrate Hometown Halloween on Harvey Street to see some of the equipment our employees use to serve the residents of Punta Gorda and receive some tasty Halloween treats. The Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments will promote safety in the downtown Historic District on Halloween.

The City of Punta Gorda is delighted to promote "Light up the Night: A Magical Christmas Event" in Downtown Punta Gorda, a cherished tradition led by Carlene Zeches and Jackie Mays, set to come alive on Dec. 1. Light up the Night is one of Downtown Punta Gorda's most beloved Christmas spectacles. Brace yourselves for a dazzling experience as the committee illuminates the heart of our City with the annual lighting of a magnificent Christmas tree. This enchanting celebration unites our community in a joyous display of holiday spirit, featuring delectable food, captivating Christmas-themed activities, and a warm, inviting ambiance for families. Light up the Night starts at 5:30 p.m. on W. Marion Avenue and Taylor Street.

We invite you to gather around the majestic Christmas tree as anticipation fills the air. At 7 p.m., watch the tree come to life in this enchanting moment, illuminating the park with a stunning array of colors. To enhance the magic, gentle snowflakes will fall from above, creating a whimsical winter scene. The event will continue with live music performances and holiday cheer until 9:30 p.m. For complete event details, please visit <https://www.lightupthenightpg.com/>.

Punta Gorda remains the one Florida municipality that offers the best American, small-town attributes, in what may be the states most picturesque, enjoyable, and accessible waterfront destination. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or (941) 575-3302.

- **What's up With the Clock and Lights on W. Marion Ave.?** – The City clock as well as the lights on the north side of Marion Ave., are out because of the wall that fell during Hurricane Ian, it landed on the power supply for that area. The business responsible for repairing all the damage is working on completing the restoration including the damage caused to the power supply.
- **Southwest Florida Honor Flight** – On Oct. 10, a warm and heartfelt reception awaited Veterans and Guardians as they returned from their journey with the Southwest Florida Honor Flight at PGD. The community, alongside residents, honor guards, family members, and community leaders, came together to welcome them home. During their visit, these honored individuals explored some of the nation's most significant landmarks and memorials, including the Iwo Jima Memorial, the WW II Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. They also paid their respects at Arlington National Cemetery and the solemn Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Their final stop was at the Military Women's Memorial, where special recognition was extended to those who have valiantly served our nation. The flight carried a remarkable group of veterans, with the eldest among them representing the heroic generation of WW II veterans, now a centenarian at 100 years old. The City of Punta Gorda takes immense pride in acknowledging the efforts of our dedicated staff members who played a crucial role in ensuring that this experience became a cherished memory for all. We extend our gratitude to Alicia Oates, Alex Davenport, Tammy Sherkus, Heather Shaughnessy, and Bill Klossner for their outstanding contributions. For those interested in learning more about upcoming events and opportunities to participate in such meaningful journeys, please visit <https://www.swflhonorflight.org/>.
- **City of Punta Gorda Announces Relocation of Urban Design Division** – The City of Punta Gorda is excited to announce the upcoming relocation of the Urban Design Division, Zoning, and Code Departments. This move, scheduled to begin on October 16, 2023, has been necessitated due to the damage sustained on the third floor of the City Hall Annex, caused by Hurricane Ian, and the commencement of the much-anticipated renovations at the Historic City Hall. During this relocation, the Urban Design, Zoning, and Code Departments will operate from its new location at 2705 Tamiami Trail, Unit #113. The move will require the temporary closure of our offices to the public from Oct. 16 to Oct. 18, allowing us to set up equipment and ensure a smooth transition for our staff. We understand that this temporary closure may affect our services, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Permit requests, park rentals, and plans reviews may experience slight delays during this transition period. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to improve and streamline our services for the benefit of our

community. In the meantime, we would like to remind the public that many of the forms and services offered by the Urban Design Division are conveniently available online at our official website: [Apply for | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(CityofPuntaGordaFL\)](#). Our dedicated staff will continue to process online submissions during the relocation period. The City of Punta Gorda is committed to providing efficient and high-quality services to our residents and businesses. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you from our new location at 2705 Tamiami Trail, Unit #113.

- **Florida Department of Transportation** – US 41/Tamiami Trail from Payne Street to Rio Villa Drive. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours while crews resurface the roadway, construct curb, gutter, and sidewalk, lanes widenings, and drainage, signage, Street Light, and signalization improvements. Motorists should expect intermittent southbound and northbound lane closures from Aqui Esta Drive to Payne Street during daytime hours from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during nighttime/overnight hours from 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Motorists should use caution as crews work on the roadway. The expected project completion is late fall 2023.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on Oct. 18. A few of the items of interest include:
 - Consideration of approval and transmittal of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Light up the Night Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Event
 - Discussion of Perley Cable Constructions Inc.'s installation of HyperFiber
 - Lease discussion Cooper Street
 - Discussion of short term rentals

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 [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)
- Oct. 13, Girls on the Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact Kristen.manomat@girlsontherun.org
- Oct. 14, Charlotte County out of the Darkness Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information please contact wthompson@afsp.org
- Oct. 28, Rotary Club of Charlotte Harbor Walk-a-Thon, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information please contact anthonybethelstmark@gmail.com
- Oct. 31, Harvest Party, 507 W Marion Ave, for more information contact becca@newlifeforall.church

- Oct. 31, Downtown Historic District Halloween, for more information visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/events-festivals/trunk-or-treat>.
- Dec. 1, Light up the Night, community celebration featuring music, children's activities, food and beverages and the Christmas Tree Lighting visit <https://www.lightupthenightpg.com/> for the complete schedule.
- Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, Punta Gorda Garden Club hosts the Holly Day Home Town Tour in the Historic District visit <https://pggc.writing.io/posts/2023-holly-days> to learn more.

Lot Mowing Program

- The current lot mowing cycle is currently under way, and is scheduled to be done Oct. 16.
- The following lots are completed at this time:
 - 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).
 - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, West Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).

- **Planning Corner – Planning Corner** – Last week, Urban Design staff attended a living shorelines workshop. The workshop educated staff on the benefits of shoreline stabilization through the use of natural elements such as marsh and mangrove plantings, and oyster reef cultivation. Staff also learned how to complete a site assessment, evaluate design options, and navigate the permitting process. The workshop instructed staff on how to implement a living shoreline project with vegetation and breakwater materials and conduct follow-up inspections and maintenance. Understanding the basic principles and practices of living shorelines projects are critical to the continued maintenance and future expansion of the City's living shoreline projects. Living shorelines align with the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan goals of creating more ecologically sound and sustainable community that is more resilient to hurricanes and other coastal flooding hazards.



Public Works

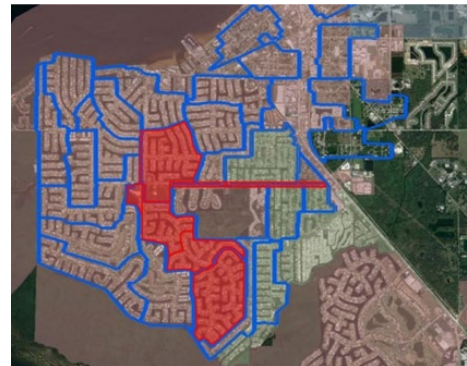
Canal Maintenance

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Canal Maintenance crews manufactured 50 seawalls, repaired four seawall caps, repaired seawalls at three locations and filled depressions at 11 locations.
- **Dockside Dredging** – Property owners that are listed on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list will not be allowed to have dockside dredging performed adjacent to the seawall until the seawall has been repaired. Any dredging along the damaged seawall may cause damage.
- **Stabilizing Erosion** – Just a friendly reminder for property owners to regularly check the condition of their tarps or plastic that is protecting the eroded areas. Tarps and plastic tend to become brittle in the sun and may start falling apart. Our area is still experiencing rain events and plastic will help keep the soil in place preventing further erosion.

- **Canal Maintenance Seawall Failure Update** – Construction schedules have been updated and are posted on the Canal Maintenance website for the next six-month look ahead. There are 21 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 13 projects completed, and seven projects under construction with one completed in Burnt Store Isles.
- **Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Placing the sod is the final phase of seawall replacement construction. As per the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for establishing the sod after it has been placed and the City will not reimburse the owners for their water usage.
- **Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with seawalls being damaged. City code states that the operation of vessels in the canals shall be Slow Speed Minimum Wake in the waterways within the City limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlet are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.
- **Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has created a program that connects boat owners who need a temporary relocation of their boats with owners that have available dock space. This information can be found at [Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://PuntaGordaBoatersAlliance.org) click on the Dock Match button for information.

Engineering

- **Swale Regrading** – The swale contractor has completed the swales on North Plum Tree, Scarlet Sage, Panarea Dr., Madrid Blvd, Tripoli Blvd, South Crete Ct., Narranja St, W. Ann/Lemon St., W. McKenzie/Lemon St., E. Virginia Ave, Rum Cay Ct, La Mancha Ct., Bayshore Ct., Casey Key Dr. / Bal Harbor Blvd and La Costa Island Ct. They will be watering the sod on for the next 30 days. They have excavated approximately 68,325 SF of material and re-sodded all areas with sod. The contractor is now working on Antigua Dr. and will be excavating approximately 3200 SF of material and re-sodding these areas at the proper elevations. Once Antigua Dr. is completed the next location will be on Towhee Ct.
- **Ponce de Leon** – The contractor has been installing the frame work to keep the wire mesh in place to the posts on the East/West side of the boardwalk. The contractor has completed the entire rehab of the bridge and will be starting on the Fishing Pier handrails and the bump outs for ADA. Please take extra caution while driving thru the park due to construction personal and equipment.
- **Fiber Optic Internet Network** – The fiber optic internet provider HyperFiber has been issued permits for a portion of the construction project to install a citywide fiber optic internet network within the city right of ways. Their construction continues in "bird section" of the City. This citywide project will be under construction during the next six months as they install the network citywide. They are currently working in the areas of the "bird section" and along Aquí Esta Drive, highlighted in red on the map to the right. The blue areas are where installation will be taking place as the project progresses. Initially you will see utility markings within the City right of way, followed by the directional drilling of the fiber optic conduit.



Fiber optic boxes will be installed in the right of way or easement at the edge of your property. Once the installation of the underground and service points has been completed for the entire sector, crews will then return to individual locations for the restoration of sod. This will take place at the end of construction in each sector. Please be patient and allow time for the restoration. The City engineering department will be performing spot inspections during construction as well as a final inspection when the restoration is complete to ensure the contractor's restoration meets the City's requirements. HyperFiber has provided a telephone number to call if citizens have questions or concerns about the project and installation. Please contact HyperFiber's Scott Jackson at (239) 887-5379. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

Right of Way

- **Cleanup** – Crews have completed the clean up between Narranja St. and Taylor Rd.
- **Street Signs** – Crews are continuing to install street signs across the City. Additional personnel have been helping to complete this process as well

Sanitation

- **Regular Yard Waste** – Just a friendly reminder that regular yard waste is collected once per week and must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4” in diameter or 4’ in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds. Shrubbery, grass clippings and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. The regular yard waste crews are unable to pick up large loose piles and the clamshell truck will be required.
- **Yard Waste Pile Special Collection Guidelines** – As a friendly reminder, vacant lots, undeveloped properties, tree removal, lot clearing and oversized piles are **NOT** included in the regular yard waste service provided by the City. If you have a large quantity of loose yard waste, branches, etc. that is a wheelbarrow full or larger, you will need to schedule a special collection by calling (941)575-5050 or [Schedule a Special Pick Up | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/transportation/special-pick-up).

Police

Open Positions

- **Police Officer Testing** – We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. We will be holding a virtual testing process in Nov. Applications must be received by Nov. 3. The written exam will be completed online anytime between Nov. 10, and Nov. 17 with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on Dec. 4. We are accepting applications from certified and non-certified candidates.
- **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. We will be holding a testing process in Dec. Applications must be received by Dec. 1. The exam will be held on the morning of Dec. 7, beginning at 9 a.m.



- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester of 2024. 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! **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.**

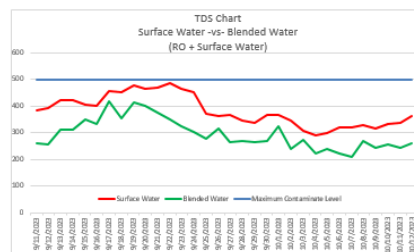
Fire

- **Emergency Services Leadership Institute (ESLI)** – Fire Department Operations Chief J. Tyler Canfield recently completed the ESLI program sponsored by the Florida Fire Chief’s Association. The focus of the program is to address contemporary leadership issues that affect mid-level and Chief Fire Officers. Comprised of six courses, Human Resources and Labor Relations; Personal Qualities, Leadership and the Organization; Government Relations and Public Policy; Marketing Fire and Emergency Services; Finance and Budgeting; and Emergency Management, the content is consistent with upper-level academic achievement and addresses are either not prominent in other curricula or not structured in a manner that allows for an integrated learning experience over a two-to-three-day period per course per the FFCA’s syllabus.



Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Administration

- **Leaks** – If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 54.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.7 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 700 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1388 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Oct. 2022 0.00” Oct. 2023 .55”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 6 –Total hardness 108 ppm
- TDS Oct. 11 – Current 261 ppm. Low 185 ppm, High 431 ppm. 13 year average 304 ppm.
- Reservoir Oct. 11 – Current 5.43', Record Low 5.10', Record High, 6.61' 58 Year Average 5.44'

City Clerk

City of Punta Gorda 2023 General Election

- Per Florida Statute 97.055, the voter registration book will close for the Nov. 7, General Election on Oct. 10. Once the voter registration book closes, the only allowable changes to a registration for the 2023 General Election are to update a voter's name, address and signature. New voter registrations after book closing will be accepted for subsequent elections. Citizens can check their registration status at the [Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections website](#) and register to vote online through the [Florida Department of State's website](#).
- Did you know your signature can change significantly over the years? Stop by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections' Office (226 Taylor Street, Unit 120, Punta Gorda, FL 33950) to update your signature on record. In order to be used for verification of a voter certificate, the signature update must be completed before the voter's ballot is received by the supervisor or, in the case of a provisional ballot, before the voter's ballot is cast.
- Vote-by-mail ballots began being mailed to voters with a current vote-by-mail ballot request on Sept. 28. The deadline to submit a request for a vote-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m. on Oct. 28. Vote-by-mail requests can be submitted in person at the Supervisor of Elections' Office, by calling the Supervisor of Elections' Office at (941) 833-5400 or by sending a written and signed request to the Supervisor of Elections. Requests for a vote-by-mail ballot must include the voter's name, date of birth, address and Florida driver's license or identification card number or the last four digits of the voter's social security number. Vote-by-mail requests can also be submitted online at the [Charlotte County Supervisor of Election's website](#).
- On-demand ballots will be available beginning on Oct. 9, and continuing through Nov. 6. These ballots must be voted and returned immediately after they are received. In order to receive an on-demand ballot, voters must bring valid photo identification and identification including the voter's signature per [Florida Statute 101.043](#). Please see the statute for the full list of acceptable forms of identification.

City Clerk

- **Current Board and Committee Vacancies** – If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application at <https://puntagorda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>.
 - **Donation Review Committee** (one arts representative) – Meets at 10 a.m. in City Council Chambers on the fourth Thursday of Jan., April, July and Oct., or as needed, immediately following the meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Charged with review of all non-monetary gift donation proposals/letters of intent received by the City, in accordance with the review process and established criteria identified in the Non-Monetary Donation Policy. Makes recommendations to the City Council for the acceptance or rejection of non-monetary gift donations.
 - **Firefighters' Pension Board** (one resident representative) – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two pension plan members and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no

- maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the Firefighters' Pension Fund.
- **General Employees' Pension Board** (one resident representative) – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two pension plan members 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 regular and two alternate) – Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member Board with two alternate members. 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.
 - **Planning Commission** (one regular and one alternate) – Meets the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member Board with two alternate members. City residency required. 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.

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 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:
 - Age Well NP, 265 East Marion Avenue, Unit 115
 - Footprints In The Sand, 121 East Marion Avenue, Unit 111
 - Interiors By Design, 3941 Tamiami Trail, Unit 3111
 - Wet Wash Pressure and Power LLC, 310 Nesbit Street
 - Gator Apartments, 10050 Burnt Store Road
 - Isles Fitness, 1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard, Unit 1111
 - Winesett House, 130 West Marion Avenue