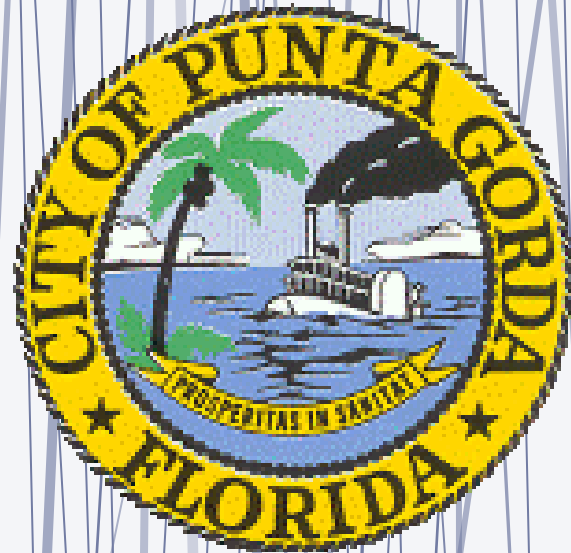


CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
Annual CRA Report
Fiscal Year 2014
Submitted: March 31, 2015

Prepared for:
City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency and City Council



March 31, 2015

Auditor General's Office
111 West Madison Street
Claude Denso Pepper Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1450

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased to submit the Annual Progress Status Report for the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (PGCRA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. Section 163.356(3)(c) requires the City to file with its governing body, on or before March 31 each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses of the end of such fiscal year. It is the philosophy of the PGCRA to keep all interested parties informed with respect to the activities of the PGCRA and encourage active participation in the development of redevelopment programs benefiting the entire community. We believe the data, as presented, is accurate in all material respects and that all disclosures necessary to enable the reader of this report to gain an understanding of PGCRA's operation and financial activity (included).

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Hilston

David C. Hilston, AICP
Urban Design Manager

The Mission



The Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency's mission is to create an aesthetically unique environment with high quality character while maintaining small town charm.

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What is the CRA?

A Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a taxing district established by local government for the purpose of carrying out redevelopment activities that include reducing or eliminating blight, increasing the tax base, and encouraging public and private investments in the redevelopment area. The members of the Punta Gorda City Council also serve as the Board members of the CRA along with 2 members at large and the City Manager, who serves as the CRA Executive Director.



Meet the CRA Members

Pictured Above Left to Right: Nancy Prafke, Vice Chair Kim Devine, Frank Weikel, Chair Carolyn Feeland, Jane Sturges, Tom Cavanaugh, and Rachel Keesling

City Staff

Howard Kunik, Director

David Levin, City Attorney

Karen Smith, City Clerk

David Hilston, Urban Design Manager

Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner

Mitchell Austin, Urban Planner

Cherry Cash Prewitt, Planner

Lisa Hannon, Events Coordinator

Julie Ryan, Urban Design Executive Assistant



Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE PUNTA GORDA COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

All interested parties are hereby notified that the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency has filed with the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, a copy of its Annual Status Report and Annual Financial Report highlighting projects, programs and CRA finances for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. Copies of these documents may be examined after March 31, 2015, in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, the Punta Gorda Urban Design Division, City Hall Annex, 126 Harvey Street, Third Floor, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950, during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or may be accessed, after March 31, 2015 on the City's website at ci.punta-gorda.fl.us.

This notice is being published in compliance with the requirements of Section 163.356(e)(c) of the Florida Statutes governing Community Redevelopment Agencies.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statute 286.26, if you are a person with disability who needs any accommodation in order to examine these documents, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Interpreters for the hearing impaired (TTY 941-575-5013) or non-English speaking citizens and any other special accommodations can be requested by contacting the Human Resources Manager/Non-Discrimination Coordinator whose address is 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, whose telephone number is (941) 575-3308, and whose email address is humres@pgorda.us, with at least two (2) business days notice.

Published Tuesday, March 31, 2015

adno=50470772

The Purpose



Pursuant to Section 163.356(3)(c) of Florida Statutes, the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (the “Agency”) is required to:

...file with the governing body, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of the filing of the report, the “Agency” shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice of the effect that such report has been filed with the municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city and in the office of the “Agency”.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to satisfy the requirements of Section 163.356(3)(C) and to provide the public with useful information concerning the Community Redevelopment Area and Agency.

The History of the CRA

In July 1985, City Councilwoman Phyllis Smith was named to head a group of local residents, business people, and community leaders with the express purpose of encouraging the revitalization of Punta Gorda's historic downtown area. The committee began with a community-wide citizen survey that said the downtown area needed conveniently located parking, a broader range of retail/service businesses, preservation of its rich history, and a stronger lineage of the central business district to the Charlotte Harbor waterfront. The Committee turned its efforts to downtown revitalization and in 1990 the establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency with the aim of adopting a redevelopment plan for its downtown area and using tax increment financing to fund the projects and programs contained in the plan. The City of Punta Gorda has moved forward and has steadily implemented the projects and programs within the Redevelopment Plan (East Side and Downtown Planning Study) to achieve and realize the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Community Redevelopment Area City of Punta Gorda, Florida

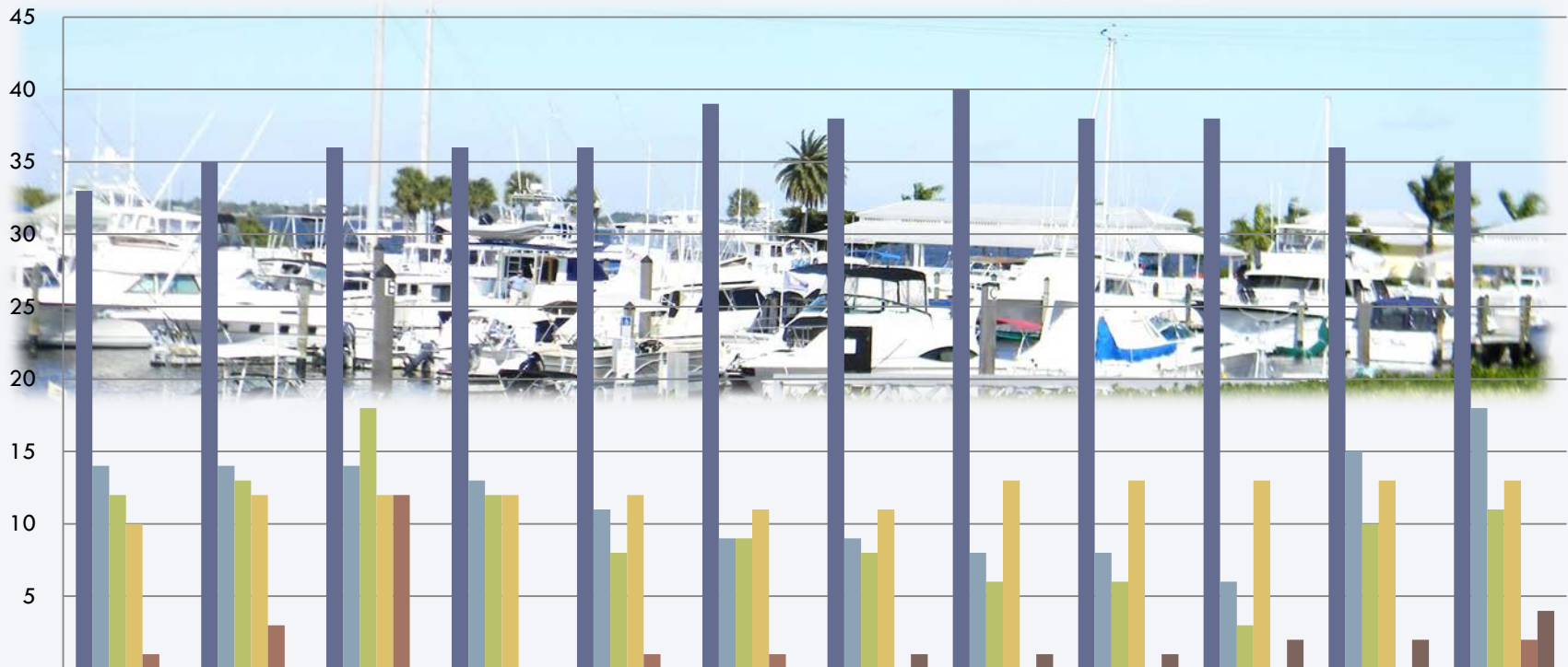


The CRA area is bounded on the North by the Peace River, on the West by Maud Street, on the South by Henry Street, and on the East by Cooper Street



2014 Activities

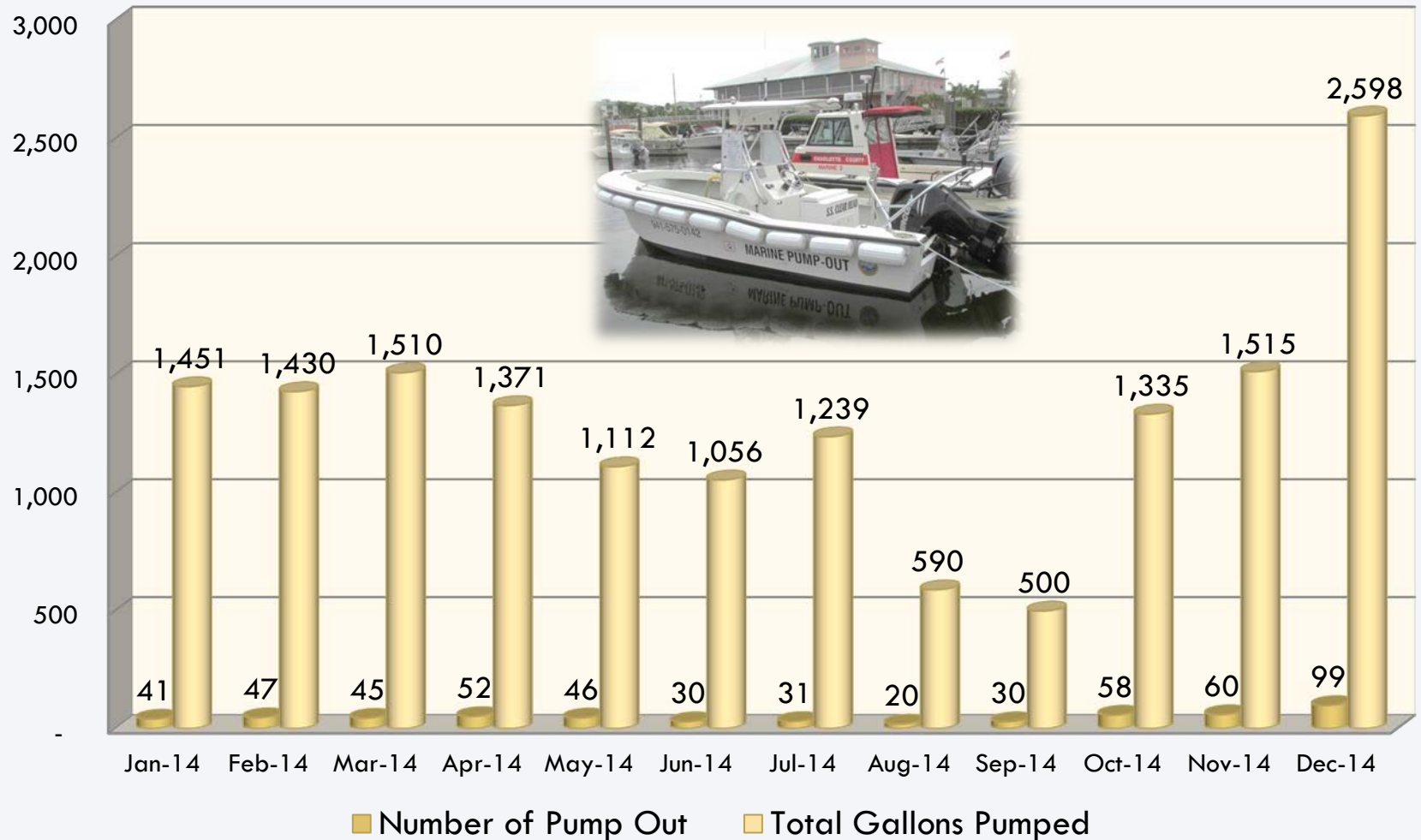
Laishley Park Municipal Marina



	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
■ Annual Contracts	33	35	36	36	36	39	38	40	38	38	36	35
■ Semi-Annual Contracts	14	14	14	13	11	9	9	8	8	6	15	18
■ Monthly Contracts	12	13	18	12	8	9	8	6	6	3	10	11
■ Commercial Contracts	10	12	12	12	12	11	11	13	13	13	13	13
■ Transient Contracts	1	3	12	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
■ Mooring Rental	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	4

94 permitted slips and 42 moorings

SS Clearhead Activity



Herald Court Centre Retail Space



Herald Court Centre, a mixed-use parking garage, is the most ambitious CRA project ever. The facility provides “free” parking for downtown shopping and events, and houses retail/restaurants such as Subway Restaurant; Artisan’s Atelier; the Foot Landing; Otherside Ink; the on-site campus for Florida Gulf Coast University. The CRA and CRA Staff continue to work to retain and recruit new business to develop the Downtown/CRA District.

**Punta Gorda Welcomes the following
New Businesses ...**

Downtown Gatorz

**The
Turtle Club**

**Draper
Law Firm**

**Carmelos Italian
Ristorante**

Go Fish Inc.

**Mom & Pop
Pet Shop LLC**

**Fitness
Habit**

Suncoast One Title & Closings

Punta Gorda Laundry Convenience store

**The Pottery
Place**

Dollar General

Robert M Mandelkorn MD, Inc.

Daily Grind Unwind

**Hurricane Charleys
Raw Bar & Grill**

Suzanne Spross PhD

**Gulf Coast
Urology**

Cheney Brothers Breaks Ground in Punta Gorda

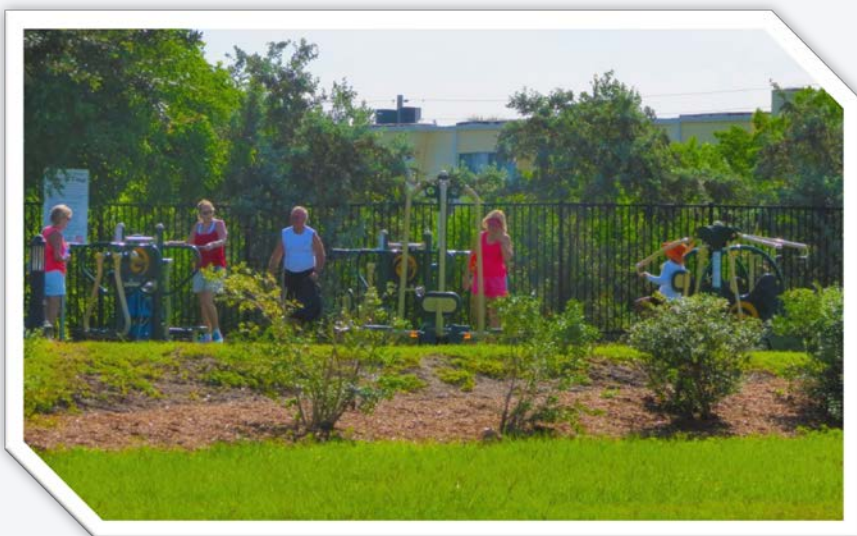
On Wednesday, March 4, 2014, Cheney Brothers, one of the largest food distributors in the nation, broke ground for a \$40 million dollar facility in Punta Gorda, Florida. When completed this facility will produce nearly 400 jobs to Punta Gorda. The facility is anticipating being ready for business in late summer/early fall of 2015.



Downtown Flood Mitigation – Phase II



Community Garden



“Punta Gorda Fitness Zone”

“Fitness zones are a powerful way to provide enhanced fitness opportunities to our residents and visitors. We hope to have more exercise machines in the future, we have the room.”

- Howard Kunik, City Manager



No costly membership... Open 24/7... The Punta Gorda Pathways “Fitness Zone” is accessible to anyone walking or riding along the Punta Gorda Pathways. The City of Punta Gorda partnered with the Punta Gorda Rotary Club and The Punta Gorda Home Depot to purchase and install an outdoor gym with a variety of fitness exercise equipment.

Laishley Park Drainage & Irrigation



Beautiful Bikes in Paradise

“Beautiful Bikes in Paradise” a project of TEAM Punta Gorda’s Beautification Committee that refurbishes and paints discarded bicycles bright, colorful colors. These “works of art” are placed in front of various businesses and shops.



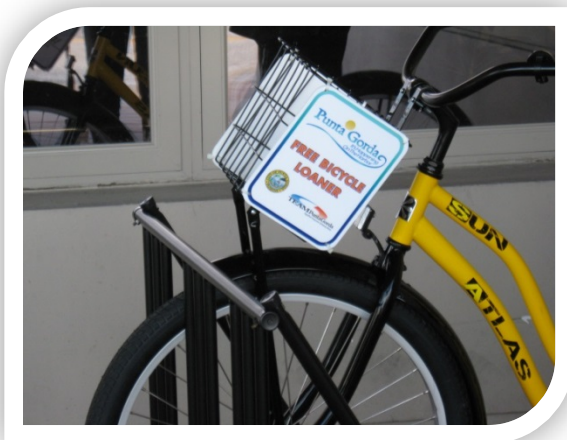
Community Partner Day

City Council proclaimed August 13, 2014, as Community Partner Day, to recognize the many dedicated businesses, organizations and individuals who devote their time, talent and treasure in support of the City's vision to make Punta Gorda a better place to live, work and visit. A thank you to everyone who has contributed to the City's revitalization over the past 10 years.



Bike Loaner Program

With the addition of a new hand-crank tricycle the Punta Gorda Bicycle Loaner Program expands and makes bicycling Punta Gorda and Regional Trails possible for persons with disabilities. The **free** loaner program is a cooperative effort between TEAM Punta Gorda, City of Punta Gorda and area businesses, and has been well-received by both the local community and visitors to the area.



This new tricycle is now available for use at the Lashley Park Municipal Marina location.

Special Events



Downtown Punta Gorda is also a place for numerous events. The scenic waterfront open space hosts public festivals, concerts, and fishing tournaments. These events bring a steady stream of people to the downtown area and generate interest in the Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Area (PGCRA).



In 2014
Punta Gorda Hosted
Over 100 Special Events
With Attendance
Exceeding
110,000!

Punta Gorda, FL

- ❖ 1st Annual Habana Cigar Fest
- ❖ 21st Annual Holly Days Home Tours “Christmas in Paradise”
- ❖ 36th Annual Charlotte County Chamber Christmas Parade
- ❖ 40th Annual Peace River Regional Car Show
- ❖ 4th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl
- ❖ 5th Annual Pedal & Play in Paradise Bicycling Event
- ❖ 5th Annual St Vincent De Paul Walk for the Poor
- ❖ 6th Annual Hands Across the Harbor
- ❖ 6th Annual Pirate Festival
- ❖ 9th Annual Wine & Jazz Festival, Laishley Park
- ❖ American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Punta Gorda
- ❖ American Heart Association Heart Walk
- ❖ Annual Freedom Swim
- ❖ Antique Show at the History Park Farmer’s Market





The City of Punta Gorda
CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
1994-2014



Arbor Day
A Planting Tradition

The 20th annual Arbor Day Celebration was held in Laishley Park on April 25, 2014, hosting over 300 First Grade Students from local elementary schools. The Arbor Day Celebration is a result of partnerships cultivated by the CRA, City Staff, and Community Organizations.

- ❖ Banyan Bluegrass Band Free Concert
- ❖ Big Crush Distribution Bavarian Bash
- ❖ Chabad Torah Dedication
- ❖ Charlotte County Pride Fest
- ❖ Charlotte Harbor Behavioral Center, Mental Health Awareness Walk
- ❖ Charlotte Harbor Coastal Awareness Day
- ❖ Charlotte Harbor Nature Fest, Outdoor Recreation Expo & National Marina Day
- ❖ Charlotte Harbor Super Boat Grand Prix Parade and Static
- ❖ Christmas Lights at the Park
- ❖ Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade
- ❖ Cirque Italia
- ❖ Corvettes on the River Car Show
- ❖ Diocese of Venice Youth Rally & Walk
- ❖ Downtown Gatorz Benefit Event
- ❖ Downtown Merchants Association 7th Annual Oktoberfest
- ❖ Downtown Merchants Association “Arbor Day People Choice Award”
- ❖ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade





- ❖ Farr Law Firm 90th Anniversary
- ❖ Fire Ant Follies Car Show
- ❖ Florida Antique Tackle Collectors Show
- ❖ Florida International Airshow
- ❖ Funk Fest V, Here Come the Mummies Concert
- ❖ Hibiscus Festival
- ❖ Holly Days Downtown Tree Lighting
- ❖ Hurricane Charley's 10th Year Anniversary
- ❖ JACD Twin Tot Walk
- ❖ Key Lime Festival
- ❖ Kiwanis FREE Concert in the Park
- ❖ Laishley Crab House 5th Anniversary Event
- ❖ Living Well with MS Car Show
- ❖ March of Dimes March for Babies
- ❖ Marine Dynamics Boat Show
- ❖ Memorial Day Veteran's 5K & 10K Run
- ❖ Military Heritage 4th of July Roof Top Party
- ❖ Mustang Club Car Show
- ❖ MY Promotions Arts & Craft Shows
- ❖ Nature Conservancy Coastal Awareness Day
- ❖ Night of Chanukah, Lighting of the Menorah



- Pedal and Play is 5 exciting bicycle tours that includes:
- 62 mile Metric Century Tour
- 30 mile Tour
- 15 mile Tour
- 10 mile Mystery Tour
- City Manager's/History Tour

The 4th Annual Pedal and Play in Paradise benefited the Leukemia & Lymphoma society and Team Punta Gorda's Bicycle Friendly Community Initiatives.

- ❖ Ogden's Office 4th of July
- ❖ Ogden's Office Christmas Event
- ❖ Ogden's Office Grand Opening Event
- ❖ Old Florida Style Seafood Fest
- ❖ Peace River National Arts Festival
- ❖ Pedal & Play in Paradise
- ❖ PGCC 25th Annual Lighted Boat Parade
- ❖ PGCC Fall Sullivan St Art Fair
- ❖ PGCC Garage Sale Series
- ❖ PGCC It's a Knock Out
- ❖ PGCC January Sullivan Street Craft Fair
- ❖ Pink Heals National Fire Truck Tour
- ❖ Punta Gorda Block Party
- ❖ Punta Gorda Chamber's 10th Anniversary Event
- ❖ Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival
- ❖ Punta Gorda Historical Society Annual Chili Cook-off
- ❖ Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda
- ❖ Rudolph Chase 5K
- ❖ Running of the Elves Mural Run
- ❖ Salute to Veteran's Music Fest to benefit the Vietnam Wall of SW Florida





It's an adventurous weekend loaded with bountiful booty and extraordinary treasures that can be seen and purchased while you wander through more than a quarter mile of shaded corridors and breezeways at this amazing covered venue.



FOX NEWS
JUNE 2014

Best summer beach festivals in the US

Summertime is the season of beaches and all things wet and wild. Throw in a festival and you've got yourself a classic summer tradition. From kite flying to pirate invasions here are some of the most popular -- and fun -- summer beach festivals around the U.S. this year.



1. Pirate Problems

Got a few scallywags in your family? They'll appreciate the Fisherman's Village Pirate Fest held annually at Punta Gorda, Fla. Each year the Mayor of Punta Gorda officially proclaims the city "a quaint little fishing village with a pirate problem." Click here to [READ MORE](http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2014/06/27/best-summer-beach-festivals-in-us/)

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2014/06/27/best-summer-beach-festivals-in-us/>

- ❖ Smuggler's 4th of July Festival & Fireworks
- ❖ Smuggler's Haunting on the Harbor
- ❖ Smuggler's Chili Challenge
- ❖ Southwind Bluegrass Band Free Concert
- ❖ Sullivan Street Fall Arts & Craft Fair
- ❖ Super Boat Grand Prix Parade
- ❖ Walk for the Poor
- ❖ Taste of Punta Gorda
- ❖ The Southwind Bluegrass Band Free Concert
- ❖ TNT Arts & Craft Show



- ❖ Towles Plaza Backpack for Kidz
- ❖ Tuba Christmas Holiday Concert
- ❖ Two Brothers Blues Fest
- ❖ Two Brothers July 4th Event
- ❖ Two Brothers Ladies Bike Night
- ❖ Two Brothers Tab Benoit Concert
- ❖ Two Brothers Tribute to America
- ❖ Veteran's Appreciation Parade 2014
- ❖ Veteran's Motor Car Club Car Show
- ❖ Walk to End Alzheimer's
- ❖ WINK TV Anniversary Special
- ❖ YMCA Winter Wonderland 8K Run/1 Mile Walk

Looking to the future

- Veteran's Park and Vietnam Wall
- New Seawall in Gilchrist Park
- Community Park
- Community Garden Co-op
- Stormwater Mitigation
- Sidewalk Improvements
- Harborwalk West
- Pickleball Courts
- New Playground at Gilchrist Park
- Fitness Zone, Phase II
- US 41 SB Underpass Improvements
- Harborwalk at Laishley Park Municipal Marina
- Sullivan Street Decorator Lighting
- Marion Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (Bricking)...





What are they Saying?





Movoto Real Estate Blog names
Punta Gorda one of the 10 safest
places to live in Florida

Punta Gorda accolades continue with new healthy rating

By **BARBARA BEAN-MELLINGER**
SUN CORRESPONDENT

Originally reported in May.

For at least the past decade, Punta Gorda has been receiving accolades as being among the best places to live. It has garnered spots on lists of the top 50 and top 100 places to live, one of the best small cities, among the hottest retirement spots and one of the best places to live in Florida.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY STEVE PADGETT

Phase 2 of the Linear Park trail ends at Cross Street in the vicinity of East Charlotte Avenue. It's a good place to get a feeling for the ambience the trail will provide.



Florida Department of Health's Healthiest Weight Florida Initiative names Punta Gorda one of 37 communities to receive the 2014 Healthy Weight Community Champion Title



Sunday, March 9, 2014

Leave car behind as you play in Punta Gorda

We decided to do an experiment. We wondered how much "playing in Punta Gorda" we could do without expending any fossil fuels.

Step one in our experiment was to park our car in the lot at Fishermen's Village, a delightful mall of quaint shops and restaurants on Charlotte Harbor in Punta Gorda. At the marina office we stopped by and checked out the free (very YELLOW) loaner bicycles provided through a program sponsored by the city and an all-volunteer organization called Team Punta Gorda.

OK, step one complete.



Team Punta Gorda

Bill Welsch

Now where do we go to play?

We take off on our bikes, but don't make it very far, because we are curious about the building across Marion Avenue from Fishermen's Village called the Visual Arts Center. As we enter the building, we

Continued on page 14



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BILL WELSCH

A couple of folks take advantage of Team Punta Gorda's free loaner-bike initiative.

Punta Gorda On A Tankful

Cycling through Florida's vast wilderness



Get some exercise and enjoy the landscape in Punta Gorda



A playground for parents in Punta Gorda





Southern Business & Development Magazine - Choses Punta Gorda as one of the Ten Highly Creative Places to Live in the South & Reshore your Manufacturing Operation

National Federation of Independent Businesses Name Punta Gorda in the Top 10 places for small business in America



SUN PHOTO BY BETSY WILLIAMS
Fishing is a nice way to spend the morning or any time of day or evening on the pier at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda.





Financial Matters

How is the CRA Funded?



Activities in the CRA are predominantly funded by tax increment. Tax increment is calculated based on the dollar value of all real property in the Community Redevelopment Area at the time the CRA district is created, also known as the “frozen value”.

Taxing authorities who contribute to the tax increment continue to receive property tax revenues based on the frozen value. However, any tax revenues from increases in real property value, referred to as “increment”, are deposited into the Community Redevelopment Agency Trust Fund and dedicated to the redevelopment area. Tax increment revenues can be used immediately, saved for a particular project, or bonded to maximize the funds available. Any funds received from a tax increment financing area must be used in accordance with the Redevelopment Plan for specific redevelopment purposes within the targeted area, and not for general governmental purposes.

Financial Matters

The Community Redevelopment Agency budget and financial reporting activities are part of the City's comprehensive financial process. The following tables contain the City of Punta Gorda CRA Financials for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014.

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA			
BALANCE SHEET			
Community Redevelopment Agency			
September 30, 2014			
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		\$	1,499,197
Accounts receivable			234
Total assets		\$	1,499,431

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
BALANCE SHEET
Community Redevelopment Agency
September 30, 2014

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Accounts payable	\$	12,608
Retainage payable		8,015
Deferred revenue		18,741
Total liabilities		39,364
Fund balances		
Capital improvement and maintenance		
CRA District (Downtown)		1,460,067
Total Fund Balances	\$	1,460,067
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$	1,499,413

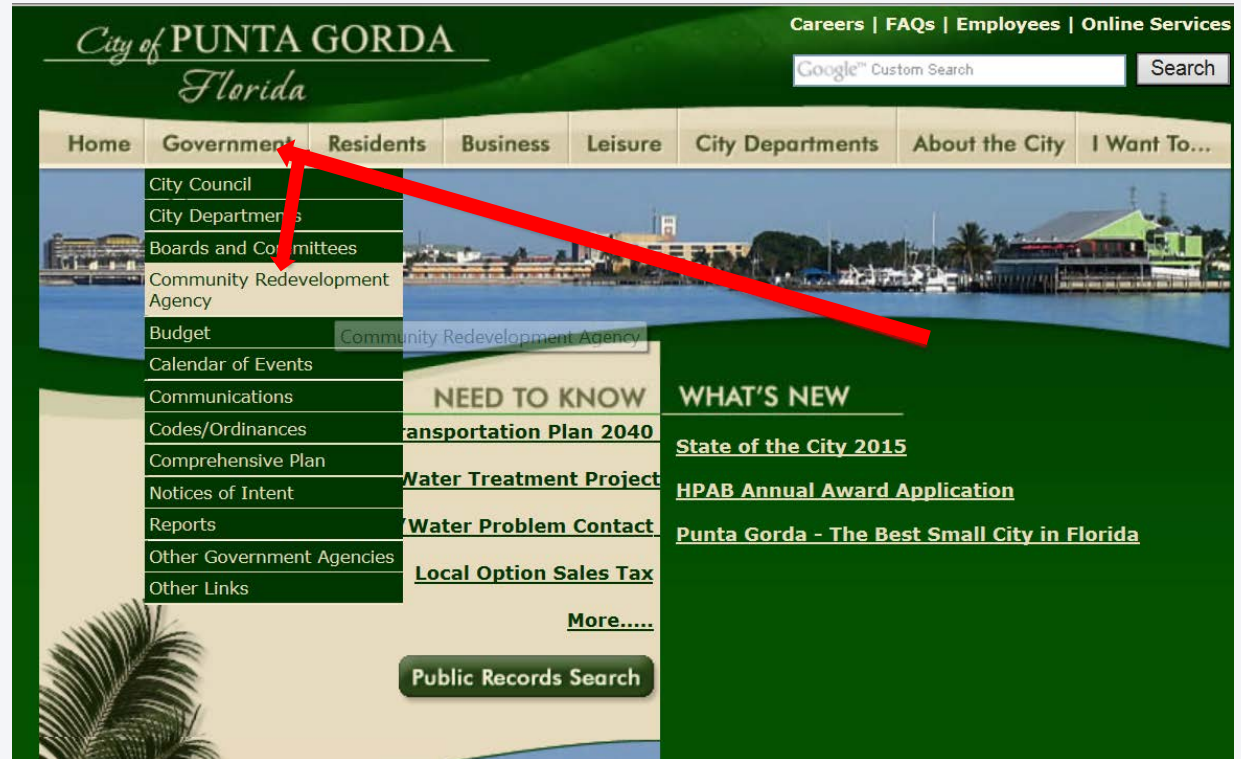
CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
Community Redevelopment Agency
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014

Revenues		
Intergovernmental revenues	\$	902,447
Miscellaneous		235,845
Total Revenues	\$	1,138,292
Expenditures		
Economic environment		327,740
Total expenditures		327,740
Excess Revenues over expenditures		810,552
Other financing sources (uses)		
Transfers in		458,101
Transfers out		(1,282,466)
Total other financing sources (uses)		(824,365)
Net change in fund balances		(13,813)
Fund balances, October 1, 2013		1,473,880
Fund Balances, September 30, 2014	\$	1,460,067

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUND
For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2014

	Budgets		Actual	Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Intergovernmental revenues	\$ 907,573	\$ 907,573	\$ 902,447	\$ (5,126)
Miscellaneous	296,980	304,248	235,845	(68,403)
Total revenues	1,204,553	1,211,821	1,138,292	(73,529)
Expenditures				
Economic environment	474,815	635,131	327,740	307,391
Total expenditures	474,815	635,131	327,740	307,391
Excess revenues over expenditures	729,738	579,690	810,552	233,862
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	462,249	462,249	458,101	(4,148)
Transfers out	1,282,466)	(1,282,466)	(1,282,466)	-
Total other financing uses	(820,217)	(820,217)	(824,365)	(4,148)
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ (90,479)</u>	<u>\$ (243,527)</u>	<u>\$ (13,813)</u>	<u>\$ 2,259,714</u>
Fund balances, October 1, 2013			<u>\$1,473,880</u>	
Fund balances, September 30, 2014			<u>\$1,460,067</u>	

Finding Us on the Web



The Community Redevelopment Agency is at your service 24 hours a day / 7 days a week at www.pgorda.us you will find a wealth of information including meeting dates; latest happenings and events; maps; and much more!

Any Comment or Questions?

Contact:

David C. Hilston, AICP
Urban Design Division
City of Punta Gorda
326 West Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Email: Dhilston@pgorda.us
Phone: 941-575-3372

