

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

JANUARY 4, 2019



Florida's Harborside Hometown

City Manager

- Punta Gorda: Journey to the Future – Reminder for registrants, the event is Monday, January 7 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center from 8am to 2pm. Following the lunch/keynote speech from John Redmond, President of Allegiant Travel Company, the City Manager will summarize the day's sessions and discuss next steps in development of the City's Master Plan.
- City Council approved a four-step, noise abatement plan for pickleball play in Gilchrist Park.
 - ✓ Once PicklePlex™ opens its first sixteen courts on the campus of Florida Southwestern State College (FSW), the number of courts in Gilchrist Park will be reduced from eight to four.
 - ✓ The City will prohibit parking on the grass on the north side of Retta from Gilchrist to Bayfront Center.
 - ✓ Bids will be received for sound barrier material to be installed at the pickleball courts.
 - ✓ A committee will be formed to look at more long-term solutions to the issue including relocation of pickleball play to another suitable site in the City.
- Council also approved an allocation of \$43,000 to provide water and sewer service to the new PicklePlex™ complex at FSW. These courts will be open to public, and Phase 1 is projected for completion in the February/March time frame.
- At the monthly investors meeting of the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), a 2018 Year in Review was provided to attendees. The ten-year old organization has grown from 50 members last year to 62 starting in 2019. They published an eight page spread focusing on economic development initiatives in the Charlotte Harbor Business Magazine reaching 50,000 copies. EDP will also become involved in the upcoming 1% Local Option Sales Tax referendum scheduled for November 2020. Mayor Prafke, Vice Mayor Matthews, Council Member Cummings and City Manager were in attendance.
- Ponce de Leon Park Redesign – City staff met with Weiler Engineering onsite to initiate the design process including review of existing conditions and location of future amenities.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
	January Events	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
	January Events	Burnt Store Presbyterian	https://www.bsponline.org/news.html
1/4 – 1/5	Snowbird Arts & Crafts Show	City Marketplace	http://www.mypromotions.com/index.html
1/12	City Wide Garage Sales	Taylor St	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/17	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/19	Charlotte County Pride Fest	Laishley Park	http://www.charlottecountypridefl.org/
1/19	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
1/19 – 1/20	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/21	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade	Taylor St	http://www.macedoniaservices.org/Contact_Us.html
1/26	Charlotte Harbor Chili, Beer, & Blues Fest	Laishley Park	https://www.smugglers.com
1/27	Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/

Lot Mowing Program

- Crews completed mowing the following areas: Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).

Urban Design

- Staff attended the monthly stakeholders meeting of the Gulf Coast Partnership. Items discussed included:
 - Pros and cons of a Continuum of Care merger possibilities;
 - Discussed annual “Point in Time” Homeless Count to take place on January 24.
 - Internal grant tracking through dashboard reporting to ensure that each new client is processed into the existing Coordinated Entry system.

There will be no monthly stakeholder meeting in February due to the 2019 Leaders Breakfast honoring people/organizations who have helped in the homeless community. The date of this event is February 1, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am at the Isles Yacht Club.

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- Seawall work continues in all six zones of PGI and two zones in BSI. The table summarizes the status of the program. The corresponding sequence maps can be found on the City’s website: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/storm-related-seawall-failures>

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	37-44	1-36	91
PGI-NE2	46-49	1 – 45	83
PGI-NW1	19-23	1 – 18	55
PGI-NW2	29-39 L1-L3	1- 28	87
PGI-SE	21, 24-34, L1-L11	1-20, 22-23	55
PGI-SW	18, 28, 32-36	1-17, 19-27, 29-31	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	0	4	11
BSI-S	4-9	1-3	11

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

Sanitation

- **Disposal of Christmas Trees** – Place real trees at the curb for collection on your regular yardwaste day. All decorations and lights should be removed before placing the tree out for collection. Artificial trees will be collected on your regular household trash day. As collection times may vary, residents are reminded to have all materials out to the curb NO LATER than 6 a.m. If you have any questions, call the Public Works at (941) 575-5050.

Right of Way

- Crews are installing sidewalks along Charlotte and Booth Streets.

Engineering

- **Citywide Drainage Swale regrading** – JRL Construction has to date placed 175,300 square feet of sod at 265 properties. Work was completed this week at 1207-1231 Swan Ct. Grading is underway at 1206-1236 Swan Ct. and will then move to north side of Madrid Blvd. between offices at 100 Madrid Blvd and Tripoli Blvd.
- **Gilchrist Park Playground Restrooms** – The contractor is working on the punch-list items. A final walk-through document is pending. Completion is anticipated on or before January 22.

Fire Department

According to *Injury Facts 2017*, choking is the fourth leading cause of unintentional injury death. Of the 5,051 people who died from choking in 2015, 2,848 were older than 74. Food is often responsible for choking incidents in the elderly. Living alone, and having dentures or difficulty swallowing can increase risk. A few simple behaviors, like chewing food slowly and not drinking too much alcohol, can help prevent choking. Children, however, tend to choke on not only food, but toys and other household items. To prevent choking in children, keep small objects out of reach, cut food into small pieces and don't let them have hard candy. Young children should be supervised while eating and playing. If you see someone clutching their throat, coughing, gagging, wheezing or passed out, do you know what to do?

The Heimlich Maneuver

If a person is coughing forcefully, encourage continued coughing to clear the object. A person who can't cough, speak or breathe, however, needs immediate help. Ask if they are choking and let them know you will use abdominal thrusts, also known as the Heimlich maneuver, to prevent suffocation. The procedure is not recommended for children younger than 1. **The first step always is to have someone call 911.**

- Stand behind the victim with one leg forward between the victim's legs
- For a child, move down to their level and keep your head to one side
- Reach around the abdomen and locate the navel
- Place the thumb side of your fist against the abdomen just above the navel
- Grasp your fist with your other hand and thrust inward and upward into the victim's abdomen with quick jerks
- For a responsive pregnant victim, or any victim you cannot get your arms around or for whom abdominal thrusts are not effective, give chest thrusts from behind; avoid squeezing the ribs with your arms
- Continue thrusts until the victim expels the object or becomes unresponsive
- Even after choking stops, seek medical attention

Unresponsive Victims and CPR

- If the victim is or becomes unresponsive, lower the person to the ground, expose the chest and [start CPR](#).
- Look inside the mouth and remove any objects.
- Tilt the head and lift the chin to open the airway
- Compress the chest about 2 inches deep, at a rate of at least 100 per minute
- Continue compressions until the victim wakes up, [an AED is brought to the scene](#) or professional help arrives

Sign up for the Punta Gorda Fire Department FREE Family and Friends CPR class by visiting www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/fire/fire_enroll.html today.

Police Department

- On Thursday, January 3, at approximately 3:00 pm, a Punta Gorda Police Officer was flagged down by a motorist. The motorist stated they just observed a female near the train tracks on Boca Grand Boulevard. The female appeared to be carrying a rifle. Officers began searching the last known location of the individual when sounds believed to be gunshots were heard in the same area. Officers immediately set up a perimeter to contain the area. The Charlotte County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit and deputies responded to assist with searching the area. Neighboring businesses and daycares were notified. After thoroughly searching the area by the aviation unit, officers, and a K-9 unit, no individual was located. While it is believed that there is no threat to public safety, the Punta Gorda Police Department will continue to actively patrol the area.

Utilities Department

- **R.O. Project Week 27** – 30” inlet pipe for 2.0 Million Gallon Tank installed.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 35.9 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.1 MG daily average.
- During the rainy season the plant treats low total dissolved solids water from the creeks and stores approximately 200 million gallons in Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells located at the plant site. This is known as the injection cycle. The last injection cycle began June 7, and ended September 6; Injection Total 198 Million Gallons. Current condition is storage.
- Rainfall in December 2017-1.00” December 2018-1.53” January 2018-2.75” January 2019-0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 16 ppm – Total hardness 273 ppm
- TDS for January 3 – Current 552 ppm, Low 432 ppm, High 604 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 491 ppm
- Reservoir Information January 3 – Current 5.14’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 6.03’, 53 Year Average 5.16’

Finance Department

- The City is in the process of transitioning from water meters that need to be read physically onsite to a new or retrofitted water meter that can be read remotely. The new system increases billing accuracy and decreases operational costs. As of December 28, 2018, 7,180 meters have been changed out and 4,008 meters have been retrofitted. Approximately 13,000 meters will be upgraded as part of this project. The project is 86% complete.

City Clerk

Current Board & Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- Board of Zoning Appeals (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms - maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.
- Building Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Four members must be involved with the building industry and three members must be consumer advocates who are not, nor ever have been, involved with building industry. Makes recommendations to City Council on the minimum qualifying requirements for obtaining Certificates of Competency in the various construction

trades and the fees for same. Periodically reviews and holds public hearings on all building, electrical, plumbing, housing, gas, fire prevention and other related codes. Reviews enforcement of all codes relating to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.

- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee (One vacancy) - Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.