

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

JANUARY 25, 2019



Florida's Harborside Hometown

City Manager

- **State of the City Address** – Mayor Prafke presented the 2019 State of the City before the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. Entitled “The Year of Engagement”, the address focused on financial and economic updates, project status highlights and upcoming community engagements. The presentation can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/hFskRkTenrM>.
- **Journey to the Future Recap** – TEAM Punta Gorda conducted a survey from attendees regarding their perception of event sessions and relevance. Results from 257 respondents to the survey are highlighted below:
 - ✓ 91% rated the event sessions as excellent or very good in usefulness and relevance
 - ✓ 96% rated the presenters excellent or very good in their knowledge and delivery of information
 - ✓ 78% rated the virtual downtown presentation as excellent or very good
 - ✓ 84% rated the developing award winning towns presentation as excellent or very good
 - ✓ 78% rated the history and culture of Punta Gorda presentation as excellent or very good
 - ✓ 91% rated the great cities and towns presentation as excellent or very good
 - ✓ 77% rated the best practices in community development presentation as excellent or very good
 - ✓ 78% rated the Sunseeker presentation as excellent or very goodThe overall impression from attendees represents a positive start to our Citywide Master Plan process, which has already begun with budgetary and economic analysis as well as an initial review of the City’s land development regulations. All of the presentations can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=9030>.
- **Citywide Master Plan Charrettes** – Join us for an informative presentation on city planning & community revitalization. Following this presentation community members will work with members of the Dover-Kohl team to draw and describe their ideas for the future of Punta Gorda. Base maps, visual preference exercises, and other design tools will be used to facilitate the discussion. At the end of the workshop, a spokesperson from each table will report their table’s findings and major points to the entire assembly. The same workshop will run two times on March 11, at the First United Methodist Church. To register for the 9 a.m. session use the following link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/punta-gorda-citywide-master-plan-charrette-kick-off-meeting-tickets-55367162674>. To register for the 6 p.m. session please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/punta-gorda-citywide-master-plan-charrette-kick-off-meeting-tickets-55367740402>.
- **News recognition** – Punta Gorda was recently named the number one destination for baby boomers looking for a sweet spot to retire. The entire article can be viewed at <https://www.realtor.com/news/trends/fastest-growing-retirement-towns/>.
- **Vietnam Wall Parking** – The Vietnam Wall parking on E. Retta is under construction. The parking lot has been funded by the Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida Board, with the ADA compliant parking space provided through a grant from the Charlotte Community Foundation and design engineering provided by City Staff. This is the first of six projects for which the Vietnam Veterans Board is raising funds to complete phase two of the Veteran’s Park renovation and is a great example of a public-private partnership that benefits all.



- **Toward Smarter Communities** – Council Member Cummings attended the Innovation Workshop, January 23-24, designed for city and county decision-makers and industry partners to look at what makes smarter communities. The event brought together people, ideas and technologies for two days of learning, exploring and celebrating the possibilities of technology and innovation.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
January & February Events		Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
January & February Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/news.html
1/26	Charlotte Harbor Chili, Beer, & Blues Fest	Laishley Park	https://www.smugglers.com
1/27	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
2/1-2/2	Share the Love For Kids Home Tour	Various Locations	http://beyondourselves.islessites.com
2/2	February St. Vincent Rummage Sale	The Society of St. Vincent De Paul	http://www.svdpusa.org/
2/7-2/10	Cirque Italia	City Marketplace	https://cirqueitalia.com/
2/15-2/17	Big Boy Toyz Expo	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	http://www.charlotteharborecc.com/
2/15-2/17	Funk Fest Punta Gorda	City Marketplace	www.edgewatereventsllc.com/
2/16	SVDP Walk for the Poor	Laishley Park	www.svdppuntagorda.org/newsandevents.html
2/16	Muscle Car City Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	For more information call Muscle Car City at 941-575-5959
2/17	Drug Free Punta Gorda 5k	Charlotte High School	https://www.drugfreepg.com/

Urban Design

- The City hosted an event with the Southwest Florida District of the Urban Land Institute (<https://swflorida.uli.org/about-us/>) at the Charlotte Harbor Events and Conference Center this Thursday. The event was the first in a series about redevelopment in Southwest Florida's historic downtowns. Over 40 professionals involved in development from both the public and private sector gathered together to hear from Mayor Nancy Prafke, TEAM Punta Gorda CEO Nancy Johnson, and Chief Planner Mitchel Austin about some of the things that make Punta Gorda's downtown so unique. There was also a lively panel discussion moderated by local land use attorney Geri Waksler which included President of Florida Premier Contractors Rob Humpel, local restaurateur Chris Evans, Planning Manager for Weiler Engineering Jason Green, and landscape & visual designer firm Topo Graphic's Lauren Robie. The panel offered their varied and unique perspectives on the opportunities and challenges presented by Punta Gorda's historic downtown.

- At the City’s Design Studio this week City staff had discussions regarding the potential uses for a parcel of land on E Charlotte Avenue; signage for a building currently under construction in the downtown on Cross Street (US 41 SB); the construction of a new single family home on a vacant lot in the National Register District; and the possible annexation of a couple of parcels on Burnt Store Road near the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church.

Lot Mowing

- The mowing in the following areas have been completed: Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree), the area E. of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.).

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,994 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 71.8% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 57.2% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace of the contractors is 4,100 feet per month. Crews filled 18 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched eight sea wall caps and removed three debris articles from canals.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	37-39, 43-47	1-36, 40-42	91
PGI-NE2	46-55	1 – 45	83
PGI-NW1	28, 29, 31-33	1 – 23, 25-27, L1	55
PGI-NW2	29-44, L1-L3	1- 28	87
PGI-SE	21, 31-35, 37, 38, L2, L4 – L11	1 – 29, L1, L3	55
PGI-SW	18, 33-36, 38,47	1-27, 29-32	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	0	4	11
BSI-S	4, 6-10	1-3, 5	11

Parks & Grounds

- Crews have begun removal of the Christmas decorations. Please take special care when driving in the City to be aware of Public Works employees removing holiday decorations.

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

Right of Way

- Crews continue installing sidewalks along Milus and E. Charlotte Streets.

Engineering

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – JRL Construction has completed excavating/grading along the north side of Madrid Blvd. between 100 Madrid Blvd and Tripoli Blvd., sodding work was scheduled for completion this week however the rainy weather on Thursday has caused delays on that work. During the week of January 28, punchlist repairs will be completed at 16 of the 276 locations completed to date before work resumes in the PGI Bird section around February 1.
- **Vietnam Memorial E. Retta Parking** – Work is underway to construct parking along E. Retta at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Staff is currently evaluating options to relocate or "armor" an existing 4" irrigation system water main prior to the installation of curbing, sidewalks and the asphalt parking area.

- **Gilchrist Park Playground Restrooms** – The Final Pay Application, Checklist, and support documentation to close out the project were submitted for processing.
- **Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – A Pre-Construction Meeting was held with: City, Engineering firm, Contractor and Sub-contractor staff to discuss kick-off of the project. Project Meeting Minutes are being prepared for distribution. The contractor will submit for permitting accordingly. Prior to construction commencement a Press Release will be issued.

Police Department

- The department often receives questions and concerns regarding crosswalk safety. Most often these questions are about crosswalks where there are no signals for pedestrians or drivers, such as the crosswalk on West Marion Avenue near the Visual Arts Center. Florida law states that at crosswalks where there are no signals, pedestrians waiting to cross (standing on the sidewalk) must yield to vehicles. However, once a pedestrian has safely entered the crosswalk and is in the process of crossing the roadway, vehicles are required to yield to those pedestrians.



For Drivers: The issue that comes up most often is about drivers who see pedestrians waiting to cross and come to an abrupt and unexpected stop in order to allow them to enter the roadway. The majority of the time drivers do this either because they believe that they are required to stop or in attempt to be courteous to pedestrians. And while courtesy certainly goes a long way on the road, often this can cause an unintended safety concern. Remember that traffic laws primarily exist to ensure that the actions of drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians are predictable to one another. With the exception of emergency braking it is always important that you ensure that you plan ahead and provide enough time to signal your intention to slow or stop to those around you.

For Pedestrians: Pedestrians also have a great deal of responsibility when it comes to crossing at a crosswalk safely and legally. When using a crosswalk without a signal pedestrians should remain on the sidewalk and yield to oncoming traffic, crossing only when safe to do so. Florida law states that pedestrians should not “suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.” There is no easy way to determine how far away a vehicle needs to be since speed, size, and other factors play a role in how quickly a vehicle can safely stop. If you are not absolutely sure if the vehicle can stop safely, it is always best to let the vehicle pass and wait for the next opportunity.

- **Neighborhood Watch program** - Vice Mayor Matthews met with the Police Chief and Command staff recently to discuss a resurrection of the Neighborhood Watch program. As there have been reports of various incidents occurring across our area in the past couple of weeks, we discussed how we might be able to get the program back up and running. It was decided that we would reach out to residents in the City limits to see who might be interested in serving as Block Captains for the program, which would be for information sharing with neighbors to keep everyone safe, and would not involve any intervention or interaction on the part of residents in stopping crimes. If you would have any interest in learning more about this or participating as a Block Captain for your area, please email Lieutenant Justin Davoult at jdavoult@cityofpuntagordafl.com.



Fire Department

- Space Heater Safety! As the temperature drops, we urge citizens to be cautious when using space heaters and other supplemental heating sources. Citizens should always remember that: **Space Heaters Need Space!** The Fire Department recommends you follow these safety tips when using supplemental heating sources:
 - ✓ Make sure you have a working smoke alarm in the room.
 - ✓ Never leave children unattended in a room with a space heater - Children may knock over space heaters especially if they are placed on top of tables or stools and near where the children play. Children may also stick paper or toys in the grates of the space heaters.
 - ✓ Keep all combustible materials, including yourself at least 3 feet from the heater.
 - ✓ Open face heaters should have a screen.
 - ✓ Never overload outlets or breakers.
 - ✓ Don't use extension cords for the heater. If the cord is hot to the touch, turn off the heater and unplug it.
 - ✓ Electric heaters permanently installed in the wall or ceiling should have lint and dust removed regularly as lint and dust will burn.

Utilities Department

- **R.O. Project Week 30** – Framing continues on the RO process area and Installing a 12” drain line for the 2.0 MG water storage tank.



Jones Loop Force-Main project update

- The Jones Loop Contractor, Giannetti, installed 1,906 feet of force main between the Seminole Gulf Railroad and Indian Springs Drive this week. Combined with previous work, 3,826 feet of pipe has been installed. This is approximately 40% of the pipe installation portion of the project

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 32.8 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.7 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 January 2018-2.75” January 2019-0.60”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 17 ppm – Total hardness 290 ppm
- TDS for January 24 – Current 497 ppm, Low 317 ppm, High 662 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 507 ppm
- Reservoir Information January 24 – Current 5.10’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 5.80’, 54 Year Average 5.19’

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 January 18, 2019, 7,457 meters have been changed out and 4,219 meters have been retrofitted. Approximately 13,000 meters will be upgraded as part of this project. The project is approximately 90% 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.
- Code Enforcement Board (one regular and 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.

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:
 - Linda's Health Quest LLC, 418 Durrance Street
 - Thornberry Custom Builders Inc Model Home, 2713 Magdalina Drive
 - Sandstar Homes LLC Model Home, 601 West Henry Street