



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 8, 2019

City Manager

- **Veteran's Day Holiday** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Monday, November 11, for the Veteran's Day holiday. Residents and Commercial customers will notice NO CHANGE in the collection of trash, yard waste or curbside recycling.
- **Election Results** – The results of the City's General Election for District 3 have been certified. With 5,009 total votes cast, Mr. John Miller has been elected to the District 3 seat with 3,347 votes (66.82%). Ms. Shaune Freeland received 1,662 votes (33.18%). Congratulations to Mr. Miller on being elected as our newest Councilmember and to both candidates for a well-run race.
- **Citizens Academy** – Citizens Academy 2020 Session is filling up quickly; we still have **5 spots** available Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming 2020 Citizen Academy. This is a free, eight session courses of interactive classes designed to provide insight into City government and to develop future leaders through well informed and civically engaged residents. Sessions will take place on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month between Jan. 7 and Apr. 15. Attendance is limited to 30 participants who reside or own a business within the City of Punta Gorda. To register, please visit the www.cityofpuntagordafl.com and navigate to "I Want to... Register for Citizens Academy" The deadline for registration is 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 27. For more information, please call (941) 575-5050 or email hpetkus@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **Golf Carts on Tidal Creek Bridge** – At the Nov. 5 Council meeting the first reading of GA-08-19 was approved. The proposed ordinance intends to allow golf carts to cross over the culvert commonly referred to as the tidal creek bridge. Upon crossing the bridge to West Retta Esplanade, golf carts must immediately exit the public sidewalk. The carts may be operated on West Retta until the intersection of Shreve Street. The primary reason for the ordinance amendment is to allow the golf carts to shuttle the public between the former Impac University site and Fishermen's Village. Redevelopment of the former university property is either underway or proposed for such uses as the Military Heritage Museum, condominium units and a hotel and offices. The second reading of the ordinance is at the Nov. 20 Council meeting.
- **Strategic Communications Positioning** – With the discontinuation of the contract with Aqua Communications, the marketing activities for the City have been taken in house. The first initiative of the new fiscal year is the investment in advertising at the Punta Gorda Airport. This gives the City prominent viewing positioning for 1,577,164 passengers that go through the Punta Gorda airport on an annual basis. The display will be ready for the peak travel months of Feb., Mar., and Apr. and will encourage people to make Florida's Harborside Hometown their home as they visit the many amenities the City of Punta Gorda has to offer.
- **Citywide Master Plan** – City Council accepted the Plan at its Nov. 6 meeting and gave direction for staff to develop a contract amendment with Dover Kohl to produce comprehensive plan changes and revised land development regulations based on a form based code in the following areas as identified in the Master Plan: Downtown, Downtown Flex, Flex Commercial Corridor, Neighborhood Center (downtown area only), Traditional Neighborhood and Jones Loop Road. Once the scope of work is drafted, staff will schedule its consideration by Council at a future meeting (either Nov. 20 or Dec. 4).

- **1% Local Option Sales Tax** – At the monthly investors meeting of the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), attendees received a presentation from Charlotte County Assistant Administrator regarding the County’s sales tax committee, projects reviewed to-date and future schedule. 33 projects exceeding \$280 million have been scrutinized, and the County anticipates receiving approximately \$20 million per year from tax proceeds. Mayor Prafke, Vice Mayor Matthews, Council Member Cummings and City Manager were in attendance. The City’s Sales Tax committee has reviewed 20 potential projects to date. The Nov. 18 meeting will feature an additional 11 projects for consideration. Should voters approve the sales tax approximately \$2.45 million per year would likely be available for projects within the City limits of Punta Gorda.

Upcoming Events

- **Punta Gorda Tree Lighting** – Dec. 6 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Punta Gorda City Center (Marion & Taylor). This exciting night of holiday cheer will be emceed by NBC 2 morning anchor, Stacey Deffenbaugh and features singing, dancing, photo opportunities with Santa, Olaf and Elsa, as well as the City Council lighting of the tree. Food trucks will be offering delicious items for purchase and a performance by the band Storyline rounds out the night. Complete event details can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/pgtreelighting/>
- **Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival** – The Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) is thrilled to present the 20th CHNEP Nature Festival! We will celebrate the splendor of Central and Southwest Florida with environmental educators, live animal exhibits, engaging speakers, guided nature walks, games, and food trucks! Please join us on Nov. 16 from 10 a.m - 3 p.m. at Laishley Park in Punta Gorda.



Date	Event	Location	Contact
11/8	Patriotic Concert	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/
11/9	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
11/9	Paddle Punta Gorda	Ponce De Leon Park	https://teampuntagorda.org
11/9	Veteran’s Appreciation Parade	Taylor Rd	http://www.puntagordaelks.org/
11/9	Nykol’s Rescues 2019 Benefit	Leroy’s Southern Kitchen	https://leroyssouthernkitchenandbar.com/
11/9	Harbor Nights	Laishley Park	http://www.swflymca.org/
11/10	Mustang Car Club Show	Fishermen’s Village	http://www.fishville.com/events/
11/11	Vintage Motor Car Club of America Veteran’s Day Car Show	Fishermen’s Village	http://www.fishville.com/events/
11/11	MHM Hosts Veteran’s Day Events	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
11/13-11/17	Mystik Magic Show	City Marketplace	http://www.forzaent.com/
11/16	Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival	Laishley Park	https://www.chnep.org/
11/16	Mindi & Friends	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	https://puntagordachamber.com/
11/17	Twin Tots Walk/Run 5k	Gilchrist Park	http://justagainstchildrendrowning.org/

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed edging the following areas:
PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive), PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive), Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.). Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr), East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, and Cooper St), Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.).
- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive).

Public Works

Parks and Grounds

- **Christmas Wreaths and Tree Installation** – The areas outlined in red (*see picture*) at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be blocked off to allow access for City crews and equipment to begin installing the Christmas tree. Parking spaces along Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be opened up in the evening and on the weekends.

Engineering

- **Taylor Street Streetscape** – Thus far all sidewalk replacement and tree well installations are complete. During the week of November 11 electric and irrigation work will begin. Placement of pavers will begin during the week of November 18.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Stevens and Layton Inc. has completed construction of the mural, plaque and seating walls. During the week of Nov. 4 work will begin on irrigation and electric and possibly relocation of the flagpole. The project is still set for a mid-Dec. 2019 completion.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Cap has been placed with slopewall concrete installation underway. Beams will be placed beginning November 7, after setting the beams the crane will be dismantled and de-mobilized. The Contractors Work Area is north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US41 NB remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.



- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 529 properties totaling 397,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in the southwest portion of PGI at two more locations that could not be completed earlier in the program due to conflicts with other construction activities. Work in Burnt Store Isles is now projected to begin during the week of Nov.18.

Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs** – Crews filled 26 depressions and performed seven seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Buckley’s Pass** – Helical anchor testing is in progress. Backfilling behind the seawall is complete. The pilings that will line the channel have been installed. View the latest video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6_ViY5Vlxk.



Police Department

- **Do the Right Thing** – Congratulations to this months Do the Right Thing award recipients:



- **Ryder Butler** (Kindergarten at Charlotte Harbor Center)
- **Isla Lawson** (2nd Grade at Deep Creek Elementary)
- **Kaelyn Manomat** (4th Grade at Liberty Elementary)
- **Brantley Phebus** (2nd Grade at Deep Creek Elementary)
- **Brantley Putman** (11th Grade at Port Charlotte High School)
- **Lock Your Vehicle** – Nearly every vehicle burglary that has occurred in Punta Gorda in the past year has involved a criminal entering unlocked vehicles in the middle of the night. If every resident simply locked their vehicles at night we could almost eliminate vehicle burglaries from our city. Make the **9PM Routine** a habit and check to make sure your vehicles are locked and valuables removed before bed each night. We need everyone to do their part to help keep crime low in our city!
- **Specialty Team Grant** – The Punta Gorda Police Department has been approved a grant from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Justice Assistance Grant. This grant funding will be used to provide needed equipment for department specialty team members including the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Search and Recovery Dive Team, and Honor Guard. In addition, a portion of this grant funding will be used to offset budgeted costs for department technological improvements.
- **Alert Punta Gorda** – The City has implemented Alert Punta Gorda, a new public safety emergency alert and community notification system. Alert Punta Gorda will allow the Punta Gorda Police Department and Punta Gorda Fire Department to contact the community in emergency situations that require the public’s immediate attention and to make community notifications. Sign up by visiting www.AlertPuntaGorda.com and creating an account.



ALERT
PUNTA GORDA

Sign up by visiting

- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Jan. 13 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 14 and Jan. 15. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Feb. 10. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester. 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. Please contact the internship program coordinator at (941) 575-5571 for additional information or to have an application package sent. The deadline for the upcoming semester is Dec. 7.

Fire Department

- **Presentation** – Punta Gorda Fire Department made a presentation to PGlanders Boat Club. About 70 people were in attendance. Presentation highlighted department fire/medical responses and outreach programs. Outreach programs include Family and Friends CPR, Operation Medicine Cabinet, Sharps Program, Smoke Detector Battery Change Out, Red Dot Program, and Extinguisher Demos, followed by questions and answers.
- **Stop the Bleed** – In the wake of a traumatic event, uncontrolled bleeding is one of the most frequent causes of death. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness initiative intended to encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. The fire department has developed a training class which is typically combined with our “Friends and Family” CPR class, this training initiative will help prepare residents for all types of mass casualty incidents. Residents who are interested in attending one of these training sessions can contact the Fire Department at (941) 575-5529 during normal business hours.



Utilities Department

Administration

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) continues at the sample site located at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/2997/17>. All resample values are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- Week 71 – RO skids continue to be installed.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 39.8 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.6 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Oct. 2018 .05” Oct. 2019 5.02”, Nov. 2018 1.8”, Nov. 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 271 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 7 – Current 452 ppm, Low 307 ppm, High 524 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 408 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 7– Current 5.11’, Record Low 4.98’, Record High 5.90’, 54 Year Avg. 5.21’

City Clerk

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

- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 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.
- Police Officers’ Pension Board (One regular vacancy) - Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at large, two police officers and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Charged with management of the Police Officers’ Pension Fund.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (Two alternates) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4 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.

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:
 - ✓ Sun Realty USA, Inc., 223 Taylor Street, #122