

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 22, 2019

City Manager

- **Holiday Closure** – City government offices will be closed on Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be NO CHANGE in residential or commercial sanitation services for City of Punta Gorda customers as a result of the holiday closure.
- **Council Election & Reorganization** – John Miller (District 3) and Nancy Prafke (District 5) were sworn in for a two-year term at the Nov. 20 Council meeting. The City Council elected Nancy Prafke as Mayor and Lynne Matthews as Vice Mayor for the coming year.



- **Zoning Amendment** – Waterfront Overlay District zoning amendment relating to Fishermen's Village Phase 1 was denied. Staff was directed to have this issue incorporated into new Land Development Regulations and the Comprehensive Plan amendments.
- **Golf Carts on Tidal Creek Bridge** – At the Nov. 20 Council meeting the second reading of GA-08-19 was approved. This ordinance allows 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. Appropriate signage will be installed by the City.
- **FEMA Map Update** – FEMA will be hosting a Public Open House at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 to answer questions from any impacted individuals. More information about the FEMA mapping update can be found on the City's website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/legal-notices/flood-and-natural-disaster-information>.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
11/23	CAST for Kids Charlotte Harbor	Laishley Park	https://castforkids.org/events/
11/23	“Service Academy Information Day”	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
11/23-11/24	Season Openers Arts & Crafts Show	City Marketplace	http://www.mypromotions.com/
11/24	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
11/30-12/1	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	http://puntagordachamber.com
12/6	2019 Light up the Night	City Marketplace	www.facebook.com/pgtreelighting
12/6-12/7	Holly Days Home Tour	First United Methodist Church	http://pggc.org/home-tour/
12/6-12/7	Premier Auto Auction	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	https://premierauctiongroup.com/
12/7	Girls on the Run of SWFL 5k	Laishley Park	https://www.gotrswfl.org/.
12/7	“Sun Coast Wind Ensemble”	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
12/14	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagordachamber.com
12/14	41 st Annual Christmas Parade	Taylor Street	http://charlottecountychamber.org/

Lot Mowing Program

- City has completed mowing east of US 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion, E. Olympia, Narranja, E. Henry, Cooper) as well as the Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion, W. Olympia, Shreve, Harvey.).

Urban Design

- Quality Independence, Inc., a non-profit organization offering adult day training programs, worked at the Agripreneur Garden located E. Virginia Ave. to it clean up and prep for upcoming planting season. The group is interested in taking over operation of the garden; staff will develop an agreement for City Council consideration.



Public Works

Parks and Grounds

- Crews continue to work on the downtown Christmas tree and holiday decorations. On street parking spaces at the corner of Marion Ave. and Taylor St. will be coned off during the day for safety of staff and equipment operation; however, will be available on nights and weekends.

Engineering

- **Paving Schedule** – Beginning Dec. 2 through Dec. 20 (weather and equipment operation permitting), milling and pavement resurfacing is scheduled on the following streets:
 - Aruba Ct. from Ryan Blvd. to the cul-de-sac
 - Padre Island Dr. from Carmichael Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Roseau Dr. from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Caya Largo Ct. from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - St. Croix Ct. from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Curacao Ct. from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Deborah Dr. from Bal Harbor to the cul-de-sac
 - Wyatt Circle from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Charlotte Amalie from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - St. David’s Island Ct. from cul-de-sac to cul-de-sac
 - Paul Place from Deborah Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 - Bonaire Ct. from Ryan Boulevard to the cul-de-sac
 - Socorro Dr. from Aqui Esta to the cul-de-sac

Each street will be open to local traffic only. Detours and impact to traffic are to be anticipated. Hours of operation will be between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. When driving in the area, motorists are encouraged to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the rights-of-way.

- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Block wall and backfill continue. The bridge deck is being prepared for concrete placement, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 27. Lane closures are to be anticipated while work continues. The contractors work zone encompasses the multi-use trail and over Alligator Creek parallel to US41 NB. The multi-use trail remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading:** To date JRL Underground has completed work at 539 properties totaling 408,200 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is concluding in Punta Gorda Isles and will begin in Burnt Store Isles starting on Macedonia Nov. 25.
- **Intersection ADA Improvements:** Contractor has demolished and placed concrete on the western quadrants of the Taylor St. and Virginia Ave. intersection to meet required standards.
- **Veterans Park Phase II:** Decorative light pole bases and concrete work will be completed at various locations the week of Nov. 25.
- **Taylor Street Streetscape:** Electric and irrigation conduits have been installed. Work is underway on the decorative lighting foundations and bench seating areas; paver installation began Nov. 22.

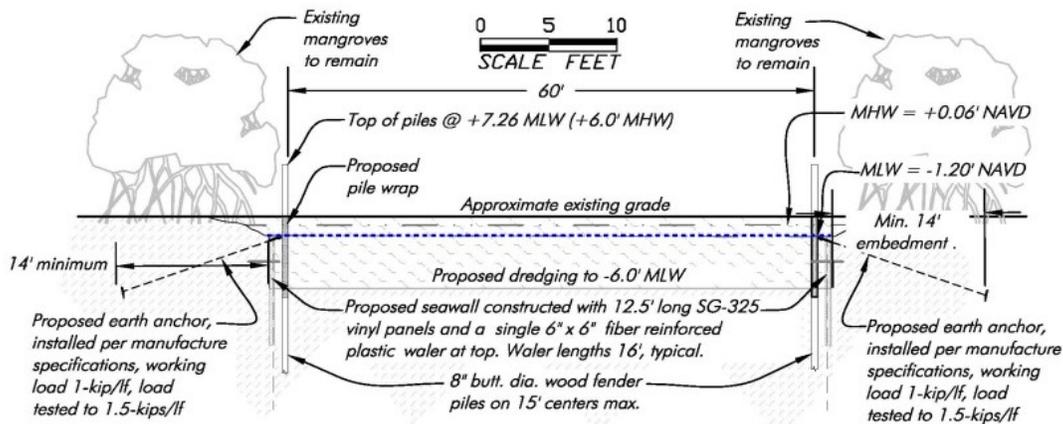
Canal Maintenance

- Crews filled 29 depressions and performed 1 seawall cap and seam patch.
- Staff has completed a sonar study of the Burnt Store Isles perimeter canal to determine if any areas of the canal have silted in since the 2017 dredge. The data is under review.

- The Seawall Assessment Program is scheduled to commence the second week of December. Staff will be inspecting all seawalls by boat and collecting data utilizing GPS (Geographical Information System) equipment. The inspection is performed with the input of the exact locations on a computerized map as well as the condition data for each segment of wall and cap. The completion of the annual assessment allows the division to continue to forecast the estimated wall and cap longevity and create future work programs. This work is accomplished during low winter tides and is estimated to be completed by February.

Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access

- Dredging of the channel is ongoing. The canal between Almar Dr. and River Bay Dr. will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Boaters should use caution when operating in the area. The seawall will be under water most of the time due to the top of wall elevation being placed equal to the mean low water elevation. This design will allow the water to flush through the mangroves in a natural fashion and keep six feet of channel depth along the mangrove edge. The Cross Section shown below depicts the final layout of the channel. The blue line is the mean low water elevation.



Cross Section A-A



The latest drone footage can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw.

Police Department

- **Alert Punta Gorda** – The City has implemented 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.



- **Employment Scams** – We have recently received several reports of employment scams. One of these scams works by the victim being "hired" by the scammer as a secret shopper. The scammer will send the victim a check and advise them to cash the check at their bank and make a purchase of gift cards at a store during their evaluation. The scammer will usually advise the victim that they can keep the gift cards and any remaining money as payment for their services, but that they must send a photo of the gift cards and receipts along with their evaluation of the store. The scammer will then use all of the funds on the gifts cards and the victim will discover that the check was fraudulent, leaving the victim out all of the money. Please remember, legitimate employment opportunities never involve an employer sending a check that needs to be cashed by the employee in order to perform their job. If anyone you do not know sends you a check for any reason, always make sure the check clears the bank prior to spending any of the money.
- **9PM Routine** – Locking car doors at night could have prevented nearly all vehicle burglaries in the City of Punta Gorda in the past year. Most criminals are only interested in easy access and will not force entry into a vehicle unless valuables are clearly visible. Follow the 9PM Routine and check to make sure your valuables have been removed from your vehicles and your vehicle doors are locked each night before bed to help prevent crime in our city!



Fire Department

- **Deep Frying a Turkey** – When it comes to deep frying turkey, you want to take every precaution to keep your family and your home safe. Fried turkeys are delicious, but they come with a slew of safety issues. Thousands of fires as well as many injuries happen each year due to turkey fryer fires. The Punta Gorda Fire Department advises against using a turkey fryer. If you decide to do it anyway, these precautions should be followed.
 - ✓ Fryers should always be used outdoors, on a solid level surface a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials.
 - ✓ Never use a fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage or enclosed space.
 - ✓ Do not overfill the fryer.
 - ✓ Never leave the fryer unattended because, without thermostat controls, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
 - ✓ Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use or after use as the oil can remain hot for hours.
 - ✓ Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts and wear long sleeves and safety goggles to protect from splatter.
 - ✓ Make sure the turkey is completely thawed before it is placed in a fryer.
 - ✓ Keep all-purpose fire extinguishers nearby.
 - ✓ If a turkey fryer fire occurs, call 911 immediately.

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 on the City's web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update



Week 73- ASR well 4 being changed to a production well.



Week 73 – ASR 4 with the well head installed.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 36.6 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.2 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 Nov. 2018 1.8”, Nov. 2019 0.40”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 18 ppm – Total hardness 307 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 21 – Current 472 ppm, Low 391 ppm, High 533 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 451 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 21– Current 5.09’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 6.60’, 54 Year Avg. 5.19’

City Clerk

- **Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency** is seeking one member to fill a position expiring on Dec. 31. Appointee must be a Charlotte County resident and shall serve for a four-year term. The purpose of the Agency is to implement the policies, projects & programs contained in the Punta Gorda Downtown Redevelopment Plan. Please contact Nina Stamoulis, Commission Office at (941) 743-1300 or janina.Stamoulis@charlottecountyfl.gov for an application or for additional information.

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.
- 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:

Leonard Custom Stonework, 24300 Airport Road, Lot 164