



Florida's Harborside Hometown

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 27, 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.
- **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](mailto:janina.Stamoulis@charlottecountyfl.gov) for an application or for additional information.
- **Pickleball at Gilchrist Park** – Just a reminder that there are four Pickleball Courts available for play in Gilchrist Park. The courts open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. No temporary nets are allowed to be used on the courts. Back in Jan. of this year City Council approved a four-step, noise abatement plan for pickleball play in Gilchrist Park.
  - ✓ Once PicklePlex™ opened its first sixteen courts on the campus of Florida Southwestern State College (FSW), the number of courts in Gilchrist Park were reduced from eight to four.
  - ✓ The City prohibited parking on the grass on the north side of Retta from Gilchrist to Bayfront Center.
  - ✓ Bids were received and approved for sound barrier material that was installed at the pickleball courts.
  - ✓ A committee was formed and produced a report that looks at more long-term solutions to the issue including possible relocation of pickleball play to another suitable site in the City. The report can be accessed at [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=10205](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=10205).Please adhere to the rules of play and be considerate of the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Citywide Master Plan** – At its Dec. 4 meeting, City Council will review a draft scope of work to be given to Dover Kohl, in order for the planning firm to develop a project cost for comprehensive plan amendments, land development code changes and development of a form based code identified in the Master Plan. The Comprehensive Plan depicts a long-range plan that sets forth a vision for the City and lays out a path to achieve that vision. Form based codes speak to the predictable built results and a high-quality public realm by using physical form (rather than separation of uses) as the organizing principle for the code. The Comprehensive Plan and revised Codes must be consistent with each other. Therefore, Comprehensive Plan changes may be necessary prior to development of some of the form based code.
- **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-notice/flood-and-natural-disaster-information>.

- Julie Mathis Day** – The Board of County Commissioners have proclaimed Dec. 4, 2019 as Julie Mathis Day. Julie has served the business community as Executive Director of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce for over 26 years and dedicated countless hours to the service of area non-profits. The City of Punta Gorda wishes Julie all the best in her retirement years.



### Upcoming Events

- Holidays Around the World at Punta Gorda History Park** – Dec. 1, 15 and 22 from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. with Children’s Activities from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. There will be cookie decorating, shell painting, rock painting, ornament making, and clay crafting. For more information contact 941.505.0130 or 941.639.1887. Admission is \$8.00 per family or an individual rate of \$3.00. The public is invited to stroll the park. The Historic Homes will be decorated by the various cultures that make up our great town. Food trucks, cultural food offerings, performances, displays and vendors will be in History Park.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
11/30	Punta Gorda Great Tailgate	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.edgewatereventsllc.com/">https://www.edgewatereventsllc.com/</a>
11/30-12/1	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	<a href="http://puntagordachamber.com">http://puntagordachamber.com</a>
12/7	MHM Hosts “Fold 3 by Ancestry Event”	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
12/6	Light up the Night 2019	City Marketplace	<a href="http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/view/events-calendar/-curm-12/-cury-2019">http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/view/events-calendar/-curm-12/-cury-2019</a>
12/6-12/7	Holly Days Home Tour	First United Methodist Church	<a href="http://pggc.org/home-tour/">http://pggc.org/home-tour/</a>
12/6-12/7	Premier Auto Auction	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	<a href="https://premierauctiongroup.com/">https://premierauctiongroup.com/</a>
12/7	Girls on the Run of SWFL 5k	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.gotrswfl.org/">https://www.gotrswfl.org/</a>
12/7	MHM Hosts “Suncoast Wind Ensemble”	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
12/14	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagordachamber.com">frontdesk@puntagordachamber.com</a>
12/14	41 <sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Parade	Taylor Street	<a href="http://charlottecountychamber.org/">http://charlottecountychamber.org/</a>
12/14	Yoga in the Park	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.palmpoweryoga.com/">https://www.palmpoweryoga.com/</a>
12/15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Parade Christmas Fair	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.localdiessouthflorida.com/">https://www.localdiessouthflorida.com/</a>

### **Lot Mowing Program**

- The City will begin mowing the following areas Monday December 2, 2019:  
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 ( Magdalina Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).  
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).

### **Urban Design**

- **US41NB Pedestrian Bridge** – Many questions have been received from residents about the work going on to create a pedestrian bridge to cross the Alligator Creek. The history of the forward movement on the bridge starts in 2016 when the City of Punta Gorda had, as it had done for many previous years, requested Federal Transportation funding for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the north fork of Alligator Creek to connect the northern portion of the US 41 multi-use recreational trail (MURT) to those portions of the MURT that are south of the creek. This continued request was to provide additional connectivity in the City’s bicycle and pedestrian network and provide enhanced level of safety to all roadway users crossing the north fork of Alligator Creek on US 41. In 2016/2017 funds from the State of Florida SUN trails (<http://floridasuntrail.com/>) program became available for this project.

In June 2017 the City engaged the services of Agenor & Campbell Structural Engineers of Clearwater Florida to provide design engineering services for this proposed bridge. This bridge design contract including permitting, mitigation (Mangrove) and testing (hazardous materials) cost the City \$235,227.02 of this figure \$215,000 was reimbursed to the City via the SUN trails grant (State funds). Agenor & Campbell was selected by the City thru a competitive procurement process as specified by Florida Statute, local ordinance, and policy. One of the many considerations in this selection process was the skills, experience, and proven success of the firm in producing designs for similar projects. Agenor & Campbell had recently completed bicycle/pedestrian bridge designs for a path in Sarasota County along US 41 crossing over similar tidally influenced creeks to our Alligator Creek. These projects in addition to their similarity in physical conditions were also similar in terms of the regulatory approval processes involved. Thru the bridge design process there are many considerations and analysis that drive the final design including a Bridge Hydraulics Report, Drainage Report, and Geotechnical (soils & sub-soil conditions) Testing. The technical analysis results in the creation of the Bridge Development Report.

The Bridge Development Report recommended that due to various factors including the flow maintenance requirements on Alligator Creek, other environmental concerns, and project cost, was to design a single span 100 foot pre-stressed concrete bridge using standard Florida-I 45 beams. It is also important to note that in addition to the City, the bridge design required review and approval from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). FDOT’s approval was required as they provided the grant funds; the bridge facility is within the public right-of-way that FDOT maintains; and any bridge in on a Florida public right of way must meeting FDOT standards for bridge design and construction. FDEP interest is both within the realm of the SUN trails network a designated statewide system of shared use non-motorized paths, and in the permitting process for Mangrove mitigation required by this project. The ACOE interest was in the protection of the wetlands of the United States and ensuring that any wetland loss was appropriately mitigated in accordance with Federal standards.

Construction wise the budget for this project including required design engineer construction services, construction, engineering & inspection (CEI) services, material testing, utilities work, and contingency funds totaling \$1,121,340. Of this construction budget \$782,000 is grant funding from the SUN Trails (FDOT) program with the remainder coming from local expenditures from the 1% sales tax (\$139,340) and transportation impact fees (\$200,000).

Including design and construction the grand total for this project is \$1,356,567.02 with \$997,000 coming back to the City from the State of Florida in the form of SUN trails grants.

- Staff prepared the draft scope of services for the necessary proposed comprehensive plan changes and land development rewrites identified in the accepted 2019 Plan Punta Gorda City Wide Master Plan. Under the current Master Service Agreement with Dover, Kohl & Partners, the City of Punta Gorda is requesting planning services to assist in the development and preparation of a Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) that will align with the changes to the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

## Public Works

### **Parks and Grounds**

- **Holiday Decorations** – City crews have completed decorating the tree and all areas throughout the city.

### **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)** – The concrete bridge deck has been poured. 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 543 properties totaling 411,100 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in Burnt Store Isles and started along Macedonia Drive on Nov. 26.
- **Intersection ADA Improvements** – The demolition and concrete work is complete at Virginia Ave and Taylor St. The ADA mat placement will be scheduled the week of Dec. 2 - Dec. 6.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Electrical work is underway and gazebo painting has begun. Seating wall and column caps have been delivered to the job site.
- **Taylor Street Streetscape** – The project is substantially completed as of Nov. 27. The eight benches for the four seating areas have been ordered and should be delivered in early Jan. City staff will be replacing the six street lights next week.

#### **Canal Maintenance**

- Crews filled 16 depressions and performed two seawall cap and seam patch.
- Crews trimmed trees and mowed the BSI locks and removed debris from canal.

#### **Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access**

- Seawall work is complete and dredging has started. Boaters should use caution when operating in the area.

#### **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](http://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**

- **Holiday Decorating** – With the holidays fast approaching, now is the time to start thinking about staying safe when decorating this holiday season. U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated 860 home structure fires per year that began with decorations. This does not include Christmas trees, which increases that number by approximately 210 per year. People should think about sifting through and tossing out old holiday decorations. Some items over time may become major fire hazards, and extension cords that may be frayed or damaged should be replaced as these pose a serious risk of fire. This should also be done with holiday lighting. If the cords are damaged, light bulbs are missing or loose, they should also be replaced. Safety continues into the actual decorating process. If you are hanging lights, avoid damaging cords by using clips instead of nails and check for a UL rating. If lights say “90-day use”, they are meant to be used only for a 90-day period. Also note whether your lights or other electrical decorations are meant for indoor or outdoor use. Use them in the appropriate locations. When choosing new holiday decorations make sure they are flame resistant or flame retardant and keep decorations away from doors and windows. For further information about holiday safety, visit the National Safety Council at <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday>. Stay safe this holiday season!



## **Utilities Department**

### **Groundwater R.O. Construction Update**

Week 74- ASR wells continue to be converted to water production wells.



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 37.9 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.7 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 0.80”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 13 ppm – Total hardness 273 ppm
- TDS for Nov. 27 – Current 469 ppm, Low 409 ppm, High 530 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 463 ppm
- Reservoir Nov. 27– Current 5.09’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 6.09’, 54 Year Avg. 5.17’

## 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.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One regular and one alternate) 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.
- Building Board (One regular vacancy) - Meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 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.
- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (one regular vacancy) - Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven 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