

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT DECEMBER 27, 2019

City Manager

- New Year's Day Holiday Closures** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. There is no change to the sanitation schedule. If you have any questions, please call the City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- City of Punta Gorda Website** – As a primary tool for residents, visitors and people considering relocation to Punta Gorda, the City's website contains valuable information that can easily be accessed. The primary device people are using to view the website is the desktop computer at 52% of the total. Mobile devices showed a slight increase to 38% this year and the tablet use declined slightly to 11%. Most visitors to the website come from Punta Gorda, followed closely by Port Charlotte and Tampa. New to the list of top 10 cities of origin for website traffic are Chicago and Atlanta. The percentages of people in each age group that view the website have not changed much over the course of the last year. 26% of all traffic comes from those aged 55-64. Followed closely by those over 65 at 24%. The number of males accessing the website is up 1% to 49% over the past year. The most popular pages over the past year have been employment opportunities, Buckley's Pass and the news pages. Although a major overhaul to the website is not slated until 2021, City staff will be meeting in January to work on additional enhancements that will aid in the ability to access information.
- City Council Meeting** – City Council meetings will be held on Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 because of the New Year's holiday falling on the first Wednesday of the month. At the Jan. 8 meeting City Council will be considering the adoption of the City of Punta Gorda ADA Transition Plan (FY 2019 Update). The City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan, originally prepared by consultant Tindale Oliver, was adopted in 2017. The Transition Plan is based on an extensive data collection and analysis process that identified barriers to accessibility in various City operations, facilities, parks, and portions of the Punta Gorda Pathways system of trails. It serves as a roadmap for making improvements in these operations and facilities by improving accessibility and to more fully comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and ultimately providing better service to our community. As part of the process, ongoing updates to this plan are necessary. The FY 2019 update includes the annual report which details the progress the City has made in implementing the recommendations outlined in the City's ADA Transition Plan. The entire ADA Transition Plan can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/about/city-of-punta-gorda-ada-transition-plan>. Council will also receive an update of the Swale Regrading/Drainage Program status and consider resurfacing of the tennis courts in Gilchrist Park. A complete agenda can be found on and after Jan. 3 by visiting the City's website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>.



- **City of Punta Gorda 1% Sales Tax Committee** – On Jan. 13 the Sales Tax Committee will reconvene at 1 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center. The group will hear and score the remaining City proposals including;
 - Gilchrist Harborwalk seating and shade
 - Henry Street property improvements
 - Trabue park improvements
 - Trabue park pickleball
 - Project management
 - Septic to Sewer

Upcoming Events

- Holidays Around the World Final Day, Sunday Dec. 29, Punta Gorda History Park. Because the inclement weather last Sunday, the final day of Holidays Around the World 2019, was moved to this Sunday. There will be more kids crafts, cultural holiday decorations in the historical houses, amazing lights in the park, and music! Kids are invited to make-and-take a holiday keepsake-- paint a rock, shell, or an ornament (while supplies last), make a parol lantern, and decorate and enjoy a creative cookie, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm (holiday decoration viewing continues until 8:00 pm). Rumors abound that a certain guy in red may be in attendance, as well! Free limited edition cultural quote coffee mug to the first 20 attendees, as well as our regular and custom-beaded t-shirts for sale! Tickets are \$8 per family (of any size) and \$3 per individual.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
12/29	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
12/31	New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks	Fishermen's Village	https://www.fishville.com/
1/3-1/5	Snowbird Celebration Arts & Crafts	City Marketplace	http://www.mypromotions.com/
1/11	Fishbowl Fiesta Fun Run	Charlotte High School	Teresa.hughes@yourcharlotteschools.net
1/11	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/12	Yoga in the Park	Laishley Park	https://www.palmpoweryoga.com/
1/16	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/17	MHM Hosts "Give 'em Hell Harry – A Biographical Play"	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
1/18	Peace River Pride	Laishley Park	https://www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/pride
1/18-1/19	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	http://puntagordachamber.com
1/20	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade	Taylor Street	http://www.macedoniaservices.org/org

Lot Mowing Program

- The City Lot Mowing crews will begin mowing a new cycle on Jan. 6.

Public Works

Engineering

- **Paving Schedule** – The contractor completed the punch list. Permanent striping will occur in Jan.
- **Riprap Consultant** – For several months, staff has been in discussions with FEMA funding and Army Corps of Engineer permitting for riprap along the seawalls. The PGI and BSI Canal Advisory Committees have given staff their recommendation to seek a qualified consultant to help with the extensive permitting issues. A scope is being prepared for procurement.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – The contractor has completed rough grading of the site and will begin concrete installation during the week of Dec. 30.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – No work until after the New Year. The multi-use trail will remain closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice. The project is on track to complete by Feb. 2020.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 577 properties totaling 436,800 square feet of grading/sodding. Work is underway in Burnt Store Isles and during the week of Dec. 30 work along Bordeaux Drive should be nearing completion.
- **Intersection ADA Improvements** – The following ADA ramp locations are complete: Myrtle and Narranja, Hazel and Myrtle, Ida and Cooper, Showalter and Mary, Showalter and Cooper, Fitzhugh and Booth, Booth and Virginia, E Helen and Mary and E. Helen and Milus streets.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** –
 - Marine Contracting Group has completed two of the 37 seawalls in PGI with five seawalls under construction.
- Crews filled 14 depressions and repaired four seawall caps.
- **Seawall Assessment Program** – The Seawall Assessment continues, crews are currently working in the NE zone. The assessment is expected to be completed by Feb.
- **Ponce De Leon Inlet Dredge Program** – The Ponce Inlet is scheduled to be dredged starting the week of Jan. 13. The work is expected to be completed by Jan. 31.

Buckley's Pass Additional Harbor Access

- Dredging of the pass is ongoing. The canal between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Boaters should use caution when operating in the area. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Drive to the Colony Point Drive spoil site continues.



Police Department

- **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

- The Punta Gorda Fire Department strongly encourages residents to avoid the use of illegal fireworks during New Year's Eve celebrations. We suggest that residents refrain from the use of fireworks during the holiday in order to prevent accidental injuries and/or fires in our community. As always please remember that in the State of Florida, it is illegal to use any firework that either goes boom, or leaves the ground. We recommend that residents attend public fireworks displays in lieu of private fireworks demonstrations. These public displays are put on by licensed professional vendors and are permitted on a case-by-case basis by local fire marshals, who ensure that the fireworks are used in a controlled and safe environment. Please remember these safety tips and have a safe and happy New Year's. For more information on firework safety contact the Fire Department at (941) 575-5529 or visit www.nfpa.org.

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

Week 75- High service pumps being replaced.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 30.2 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.3 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”, Dec. 2018 1.90”, Dec. 2019 2.40”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 19 ppm – Total hardness 304 ppm
- TDS for Dec. 26 – Current 481 ppm, Low 434 ppm, High 584 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 482 ppm
- Reservoir Dec. 26– Current 5.15’, Record Low 4.19’, Record High 6.17’, 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 alternate vacancy) 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.