

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2019



Florida's Harborside Hometown

City Manager

- **Punta Gorda: Journey to the Future** – A sellout crowd of over 700 people were in attendance at the January 7 event co-hosted by TEAM Punta Gorda, Charlotte Community Foundation, the Economic Development Partnership, Smugglers Foundation and the City of Punta Gorda. The theme of the day was Let's Learn Together. Participants viewed an artist's rendition of a Virtual Downtown presentation showing how particular properties in Punta Gorda's Downtown could look if they were developed using current Land Development Regulations. The Keynote Address was given by Allegiant Travel Company's President, John Redmond. Redmond's talk highlighted the Sunseeker Resort's creation of 650 full-time jobs that at the resort, and sustainability focuses including sustainable food and beverage operations, guest shuttles from airport, elimination of privately owned septic fields, and filtration of storm water runoff prior to release in the river. Presentations were also given by Rick Severance of Babcock Ranch, Tim Hernandez of New Urban Communities Corporation, a History Panel moderated by Lee Pitts featuring Gussie Baker, Dr. Martha Bireda, Chris Evans and Paula McQueen, and Victor Dover of Dover Kohl and Partners. This event was meant to offer best practices and new ideas for small cities like Punta Gorda, stimulate new thinking, bring people together and introduce new ideas into the master planning process.
- **Citywide Master Plan Next Steps** – Dover Kohl & Partners have started collecting background information necessary for the economic and budgetary analysis. They have also started the initial assessment of the current Land Development Regulations. The Public Design Charrette and community input sessions will be held March 11-15 at the First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda. Specific times and room assignments will be announced in the near future.
- **Pickleball** - At its January 2 meeting, City Council approved formation of a committee to explore and develop long-term solutions for pickleball play within the City. At its upcoming January 16 meeting, Council will consider the make-up of such a committee. If the focus is on City-owned land off West Henry adjacent to Hounds on Henry and the new Punta Gorda Library, staff suggests:
 - ✓ City Council Pickleball Liaison (1)
 - ✓ District 1 Historic District Homeowners Association (2) consisting of one pickleball player and one non player
 - ✓ District 2 Representative (1)
 - ✓ Punta Gorda Library (1)
 - ✓ General Pickleball Community (2)

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will receive two project updates at its January 16 meeting – a progress report on action items included in the FY 2019 Strategic Plan and ongoing Action Register. The documents for the Council meeting can be viewed on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-minutes>.
- **Fleet Captain and Crew Meeting** – Mayor Nancy Prafke and Public Works Engineering Manager Mark Gering presented information to over 70 people about seawall replacement progress, Buckley’s Pass and FEMA reimbursement at the Fleet Captain and Crew meeting at the Isles Yacht Club on January 10. The evening concluded with a lively question and answer session.

Upcoming Events-

- The PGIslander’s Boat Club will hold their annual canal clean-up on Saturday, March 9 at 9 a.m. The club has held the clean-up event every year since Hurricane Charley.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
January Events		Fishermen’s Village	www.fishville.com/events/
January Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/news.html
1/12	City Wide Garage Sales	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/17	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/19	Charlotte County Pride Fest	Laishley Park	http://www.charlottecountypridefl.org/
1/19	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
1/19 – 1/20	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
1/21	Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade	Taylor St	http://www.macedoniaservices.org/Contact_Us.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://musclearcity.net/events/
2/1-2/2	Share the Love For Kids Home Tour	Various Locations	http://beyondourselves.islessites.com

Urban Design

- City staff from Urban Design, Building, Fire and Police as well as Vice-Mayor Lynne Matthews met with over 100 residents of the Windmill Village neighborhood about the pros and cons of annexation into the City of Punta Gorda. A spirited crowd peppered staff with excellent questions. The next step for City staff is to obtain answers to questions that were not readily available at the meeting and to distribute them to the attendees.
- City staff attended the monthly meeting of the Peace River Community Housing Partners. Items discussed included:
 1. A discussion of Allegiant Sunseekers Resort service worker housing.
 2. A discussion of our first group project and the assignment of responsibilities.
 3. A discussion of Board member recruitment.
 4. A discussion of the groups next steps.



Lot Mowing Program

- The mowing in the following areas have been completed; PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive) and PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.).

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,916 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 68.5% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 52.7% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace of the contractors is 3,850 feet per month. Seawall work continues in all six zones of PGI and two zones in BSI. The table summarizes the status of the program. The corresponding sequence maps can be found on the City’s website: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/storm-related-seawall-failures>

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	37-47	1-36	91
PGI-NE2	47-54	1 – 46	83
PGI-NW1	19 – 29, 31, 32, L1	1 – 18	55
PGI-NW2	29-41 L1-L3	1- 28	87
PGI-SE	21, 24, 28 – 34, L1 – L11	1 – 20, 22 – 23, 25-27	55
PGI-SW	18, 28, 32-36	1-17, 19-27, 29-31	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	0	4	11
BSI-S	4-9	1-3	11

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

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Crews filled 22 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched 2 caps/seams.

Sanitation

- **Disposal of Christmas Trees** – Place real trees at the curb for collection on your regular yard waste day. All decorations and lights should be removed before placing the tree out for collection. Artificial trees will be collected on your regular household trash day. As collection times may vary, residents are reminded to have all materials out to the curb NO LATER than 6 a.m. If you have any questions, call Public Works at 941-575-5050.

Right of Way

- Crews are installing sidewalks along East Charlotte and SR 41 North.

Engineering

- **Citywide Drainage Swale regrading** – JRL Construction has to date placed 182,400 square feet of sod at 276 properties. Work was completed this week at 1206-1236 Swan Ct. and 3728-3758 Spoonbill Ct. Grading is underway along the north side of Madrid Blvd. between offices at 100 Madrid Blvd and Tripoli Blvd. That grading work will continue during the week of January 14 and January 21 as will them addressing punchlist repairs from work completed to date.
- **Gilchrist Park Playground Restrooms** – The restrooms are open. The contractor continues to work on the punch-list items. A Final walk-through is scheduled on or before January 22.

Fire Department

- Chief Briggs and his family have returned from Guatemala. Chief Briggs shares the following, *“Once again the trip proved to be so much more than we ever expected. Our team, which included my family and eight other members were able to accomplish all of the projects planned. We installed five wood burning stoves which will benefit not only those families but also many members of the community. Additionally, we were able to complete several needed projects at the orphanage, which served as our home base. Nearly 100 pair of reading glasses were provided to the clinic which will be distributed during outreach opportunities during site/home visits. Additionally, we were able to bring approximately 80 pounds of medication and supplies to be utilized by local missionaries. The people of Guatemala are truly amazing. Most people we met were truly struggling to meet their basic daily needs, but they were still cheerful and so resilient. They truly have a special place in my heart. Our team delivered so much more than medications and supplies; we were able to deliver love, compassion, and hope to communities that all too often feel forgotten. Thank you again for helping make this possible.”*



Utilities Department

- **R.O. Project Week 28** – Work continues on the RO process area and the blend basin.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 35.5 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.1 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 2019-0.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 15 ppm – Total hardness 256 ppm
- TDS for January 3 – Current 500 ppm, Low 437 ppm, High 605 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 491 ppm
- Reservoir Information January 10 – Current 5.12’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 5.75’, 53 Year Average 5.16’

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 4, 7,239 meters have been changed out and 4,091 meters have been retrofitted. Approximately 13,000 meters will be upgraded as part of this project. The project is 88% complete.

City Clerk

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals - Meets the fourth 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 alternate 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.
- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee - Meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five 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.
- Code Enforcement Board (One regular and 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.
- 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:
 - Fisherman’s Outfitter, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., #1135
 - Universal Wireless, 2310 Tamiami Trail, #1101