

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 18, 2019



City Manager

- **Martin Luther King Holiday Closure:** The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Monday, January 21st for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in their trash, yard waste or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers will notice **NO CHANGE** in collection service during the holiday. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- **Neighborhood Watch program** - Vice Mayor Matthews met with the Police Chief and Command staff recently to discuss a resurrection of the Neighborhood Watch program. As there have been reports of various incidents occurring across our area in the past couple of weeks, we discussed how we might be able to get the program back up and running. It was decided that we would reach out to residents in the City limits to see who might be interested in serving as Block Captains for the program, which would be for information sharing with neighbors to keep everyone safe, and would not involve any intervention or interaction on the part of residents in stopping crimes. If you would have any interest in learning more about this or participating as a Block Captain for your area, please email Lieutenant Justin Davoult at jdavoult@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **Explorepuntagorda.com** – A number of positive news stories have been written about the Punta Gorda area over the past couple of months. A new section has been created on explorepuntagorda.com to highlight these accolades and accomplishments.
- **Pickleball committee** – At its January 16 meeting, City Council approved formation of a committee to develop long-term solutions for pickleball play in Punta Gorda. The committee will consist of seven members – one from each Council district, two at-large pickleball players and must be City residents. The process to apply to be on such a committee will be advertised shortly.
- **Help for those affected by Federal Government shutdown** – The City has implemented a program similar to Charlotte County Utilities for unpaid federal employees affected by the federal government shutdown. It will allow these property owners to defer payment on their water and wastewater bill until one month after a federal budget is approved. Anyone seeking to participate in the program should visit the City's billing and collections office at 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. Bring your current pay stub or federal identification card. Unpaid federal employees who are a tenant of a property owner, may qualify with authorization from the customer. For more information, call (941) 639-2528, or email pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com.



Upcoming Events-

- TEAM Punta Gorda Annual Community Meeting is January 29 at 6 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. Can (941) 627-8326 for more information.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
January & February Events		Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
January & February Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/news.html
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
2/2	February St. Vincent Rummage Sale	The Society of St. Vincent De Paul	http://www.svdpusa.org/
2/7- 2/10	Cirque Italia	City Marketplace	https://cirqueitalia.com/

Urban Design

- Consultants hired by the Florida Department of Transportation are conducting a Project Development and Environmental Study (PD & E) for a proposed shared use pathway on Taylor Road from US 41 (near Burnt Store Meadows) to Airport Road. The PD & E is the first step in the process for constructing this project with Federal transportation funds. The PD & E Study will take approximately 18 months and include a public input meeting sometime in fall of 2019 or winter of 2020. Following the PD & E will be Engineering Design (2023/2024) and Construction (no date yet) phases. This project was requested by Charlotte County thru the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The City of Punta Gorda supported the prioritization of this project as it will benefit the residents and visitors to all of South Charlotte County including City residents by connecting to the Punta Gorda Pathways at US 41

Lot Mowing Program

- The mowing in the following areas were completed: PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd) and Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia Dr.).

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,916 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 69.5% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 53.3% 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. Crews filled 32 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched six sea wall caps and removed three debris articles from canals.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	37-47	1-36	91
PGI-NE2	47-55	1 – 46	83
PGI-NW1	29, 31, 32,	1 – 28, L1	55
PGI-NW2	31, 33-42, 44, L1-L3	1- 30, 32	87
PGI-SE	30, 32-35, 37, 38 L2, L4 – L11	1 – 20, 22 – 23, 25-27	55
PGI-SW	18, 28, 32-36	1-29, L1, L3	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	0	4	11
BSI-S	4, 6-10	1-3, 5	11

Parks & Grounds

- Crews will begin removal of the Christmas decorations on January 22. Please take special care when driving in the City to be aware of Public Works employees removing holiday decorations.

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

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 Milus and E. Charlotte Streets.
- Sidewalks completed at E. Charlotte and North SR 41.

Engineering

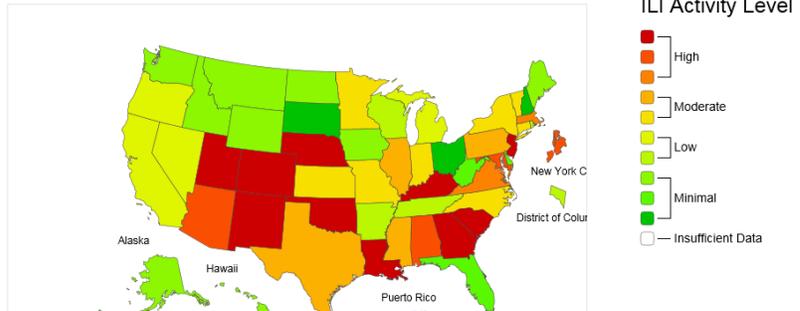
- City wide Drainage Swale regrading:** JRL Construction is currently excavating/grading along the north side of Madrid Blvd. between 100 Madrid Blvd and Tripoli Blvd. This grading work should be substantially completed by January 21. Sodding is scheduled for completion on or before January 25. Also during the week of January 21 punchlist repairs will begin at approximately 15 of the 276 locations completed to date before work resumes in the PGI Bird section.
- Vietnam Memorial E. Retta Parking:** Work is underway to construct parking along E. Retta at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Thus far drainage improvements that have been completed include installation of a catch basin and 40 LF of storm sewer pipe. Sidewalk removal/replacement along the existing concrete sidewalk between the gazebo and memorial wall that meets ADA requirements is also complete. During the week of January 21 installation of curbing and sidewalks adjacent to the parking area will be completed.
- Gilchrist Park Playground Restrooms:** The final walk through was held January 14.

Fire Department

- **FIGHT FLU-** Take time to get a flu vaccine.



2018-19 Influenza Season Week 1 ending Jan 05, 2019



*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.
*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.
*Data displayed in this map are based on data collected in ILINet, whereas the State and Territorial flu activity map are based on reports from state and territorial epidemiologists. The data presented in this map is preliminary and may change as more data is received.
*Differences in the data presented by CDC and state health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the state likely being the more complete.
*For the data download you can use Activity Level for the number and Activity Level Label for the text description.

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- While there are many different flu viruses, a flu vaccine protects against the viruses that research suggests will be most common. (See Vaccine Virus Selection for this season's vaccine composition.)
- Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations.
- Everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine as soon as the current season's vaccines are available.
- Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.
- Vaccination also is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to them.
- Children younger than six months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.

Police Department

- The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 1210.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of December 2018. The department currently has 99 volunteers. Our Volunteers on Patrol contributed 295.5 hours and conducted 394 directed patrols. Our Community Services and Special Event units contributed a total of 131 hours. Our Marine Volunteers patrolled 442 nautical miles of Punta Gorda waterways and contributed 285 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 244.5 hours and generated \$437.50 in fingerprinting revenue. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 254.5 hours. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly!

Utilities Department

- **R.O. Project Week 29** – Decking installed for the roof on the blend basin and backfilling of R.O. building slab subgrade.



Jones Loop Force-Main project update

- 1: Burnt Store Road end of project 420 ft. Bell and Spigot Pipe.
 - 2: Indian Springs directional drill fusible pipe installed 320 ft.
 - 3: Walmart entrance directional drill fusible pipe installed 300 ft.
 - 4: Taylor Rd and Jones Loop directional drill fusible pipe installed 360 ft.
 - 5: Pilot and Wendy's entrance directional drill fusible pipe installed 520 ft.
- Total Pipe installed 1,920 ft. to date. This represents 20% of the total pipe to be installed.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 35.9 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 16 ppm – Total hardness 274 ppm
- TDS for January 3 – Current 500 ppm, Low 437 ppm, High 605 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 491 ppm
- Reservoir Information January 17 – Current 5.10', Record Low 4.91', Record High 5.91', 53 Year Average 5.20'

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 11, 2019, 7,368 meters have been changed out and 4,219 meters have been retrofitted. Approximately 13,000 meters will be upgraded as part of this project. The project is approximately 89% complete.

City Clerk

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals (One alternate vacancy) - 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.
- 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.

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:
 - Elysium Tattoo and Piercing – 1205 Elizabeth Street, Suite F1
 - Parlade & Schaefer CPA's PA – 201 West Marion Avenue, Unit 1204

Relocated Business

- Vicky's Hair Studio has moved to 318 Tamiami Trail

Metropolitan Planning Organization vacancies open to Punta Gorda Residents

- MPO – Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) are seeking two Charlotte County residents to serve as a West County Representatives - (applicant must live West of the Myakka River); and an At-Large Representative – may live anywhere in Charlotte County. The CAC reviews and makes recommendations on transportation plans and projects that the MPO Board will consider.
- MPO - Charlotte County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB) is seeking one volunteer representing the Disabled Representative. The purpose of the LCB is to identify local service needs and to provide information, advice, and direction to the Community Transportation Coordination of service to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The deadline for submitting an application is March 12. Please go online at www.ccmppo.com or contact the MPO for an application. The MPO mailing address is: Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, 25550 Harbor View Road, Suite 4, Port Charlotte, FL 33980. Fax: (941) 883-3534 Email: office@ccmpo.com . The MPO Board will elect the above positions at its March 25 meeting.