



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 13, 2012

### City Manager

- Government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2012 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Residents of the City will notice no changes in the trash, yardwaste or recycling collections as a result of this holiday closing.
- Year end passenger counts for the Punta Gorda Airport – 60% increase in 2011 (291,626) from 2010 (182,423). In addition, the new Air Traffic Control Tower has been certified and air traffic controllers are in training.
- Police Department is constructing a City-wide Traffic Safety and Enforcement Plan, which will serve to organize the police department’s traffic enforcement and education efforts to our City residents and business owners. Prior to preparing the written plan, we would like the opportunity to gain stakeholder input and feedback to ensure that the plan addresses all of the City’s needs and concerns. Staff has prepared a PowerPoint presentation that includes traffic-related statistical data on such things as crashes, citations, pursuits, and arrests, as well as available resources and more. Presentations will be held at the below listed dates and times. Although we have listed our target audience for each of the three upcoming dates, if you are a city resident or business owner, please feel free to attend any one of the presentations.

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Target Audience</b>	<b>Location of Presentation</b>
Wednesday 01-25-12 10:00 am	Burnt Store Isles Burnt Store Meadows Seminole Lakes	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church 11330 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Thursday 01-26-12 5:30 pm	Trabue Woods East Punta Gorda	Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
Monday 01-30-12 7:00 pm	Punta Gorda Isles Historic District	PGI Civic Association 2001 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950

- At the upcoming January 18 Council meeting, the following topics will be addressed:
  - ✓ Proposal to establish interim office space for the Punta Gorda History Center, Inc. in the former Main Street Punta Gorda area on the first floor of City Hall. The organization intends to use the space for meetings and administrative purposes in its pursuit of finding a location and raising funds to house historical records.
  - ✓ Proposal to provide flexibility to adjust downward or eliminate park rental fees for active duty military personnel.
  - ✓ Discussion regarding permitted accessory uses in the City Center and Neighborhood Center Zoning District – in other words, should outside vending be permitted at all or as an accessory use if the vending operation does not demonstrate a clear nexus with the already established business in place.
  - ✓ Revised proposals for redistricting based on Council direction to retain integrity of current neighborhood configurations.

- The first session of the Punta Gorda Citizens Academy was conducted. Over 30 participants were informed of the roles and responsibilities of City Council, City Manager, Legal, City Clerk and Finance. Slots are still available for the summer session to begin in May. You can sign up on the City's website [www.pgorda.us](http://www.pgorda.us) under *What's New*.
- **Reminder**...City Council initiated the FY 2013 strategic planning process by distributing a questionnaire pertaining to the City's mission, organizational goals, vision, shared values, trends, strengths and weaknesses. The City seeks input from the general community, neighborhood associations, businesses, non-profit agencies and other partners into improving the effectiveness of delivering services by developing priorities for the next strategic plan in sync with community desires. The questionnaire can be completed on the City's website. Responses are due 2/15/12.
- ***Building Permits online are now searchable.*** The Building Division and Information Technology added a new module to the online Permits allowing residents to search for permit applications and permits. You can search by owner, street address or contractor. The program will provide a list of results that match your criteria. Simply click on the permit number in the first column, and it will bring you to the Status Details page of that permit. From there, you can schedule an inspection, check on the status of an inspection, and view/pay fees associated with the permit. To access Building Permits Online, go to <https://www.puntagorda-online.com/Click2GovBP/Index.jsp>.

## **Public Works Department**

### **Engineering:**

- **Burnt Store Road Widening:** For public information inquiries, contact Charlotte County Public Works Project Manager, Gary Grossman at (941) 575-3600.
- **Aqui Esta Sidewalks from Magdalena to U.S. 41:** Procurement issued the Notice of Award to McLeod Land Services, Inc. Final award is contingent upon receipt of required documentation from the contractor, due by 1/25/12.
- **Harborwalk West Boat Ramp:** Staff received the final as-built drawings and receipt of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) close out documents submitted by the Engineer of Record.
- **Shreve St. Multi-use Recreational Trail:** Contractor submitted close out documents prior to final payment.
- **Mary St. Parking (9 parking spaces):** Work to commence the week of 1/16/2012. The scope of work includes nine parking spaces, sidewalk and ADA ramps.

### **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:**

- Seawall installation was completed at 1513, 1519 & 1522 Oriole Ct.
- Seawall cap work was completed at 3924-3926 La Costa Island Ct., 3406 & 3412 Nighthawk Ct. and 3600 Bal Harbor Blvd. Work has commenced to replace the seawall cap at 3418 & 3424 Nighthawk Ct. and 1513, 1519 & 1522 Oriole Ct.
- Backfill work underway at 3924-3925 La Costa Island Ct.
- Sinkholes were filled at 22 locations.

### **Right-of-Way:**

- Swale improvements at 28 & 29 Tropicana Dr. were performed.

## **Growth Management Department**

- Growth Management Director met with residents of River Haven Mobile Home Park to provide information on annexation.

### **Urban Design**

- Design Studio met with a resident regarding construction of a garage/carriage house in the historic district and a representative from the Conquistadors regarding an informational plaque for Gilchrist Park by the Ponce De Leon Monument Statue.
- Staff members continued with updating the City's Historic Resource Survey. The survey creates a database/inventory of structures that are 50 years or older taking into account all architectural features of the site and structure. Residents may notice a very slow moving, clearly marked, City vehicle from which the survey is being performed. Currently staff is working in the Southwest quadrant of the City's historic grid neighborhoods (West Olympia to Henry and US 41 to Shreve). As areas change, staff will announce new locations in the Weekly Information Reports. Should residents have any historical knowledge relating to their individual structures and would like to share that information with staff, please contact Urban Design at (941) 575-3372.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Charlotte Harbor Regatta is hosting the International Federation of Disabled Sailing (IFDS) World Sailing Championships in Laishley Park. Racing will take place daily through Jan. 14 (weather permitting). [www.IFDSWorlds2012.com](http://www.IFDSWorlds2012.com)



USA takes first place in a Friday afternoon race.

- January 14, join the Punta Gorda Chamber for the City Wide Garage Sale, 401 Taylor Street from 8 a.m. to noon. Contact (941) 639-3720 or [www.puntagordachamber.com](http://www.puntagordachamber.com).
- Join the Benjamin J. Baker Community Development Corporation for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Community Parade Celebration, Monday, January 16. The parade will step off from the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center at 11 a.m., travel down Taylor St. to Charlotte Ave., on to Mary St. and disband at the Church and Cooper Street Recreation Center (650 Mary St.). There will be a celebration festival at the Rec Center after the parade. For information, contact Rev. Haddock at (941) 916-0282.
- The annual Winter Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Show is being held January 21-22, on Sullivan St. between W. Retta Esplanade and W. Virginia Ave., show hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily. Contact the PG Chamber (941) 639-3720 or [www.puntagordachamber.com](http://www.puntagordachamber.com).

- T-N-T Events, Inc. is hosting the Fishermen's Village Arts & Craft Show, January 21-22, at Fishermen's Village. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and Noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, contact Andy (352) 875-4437 or [www.tnteventsinc.com](http://www.tnteventsinc.com).
- Join the Southwest Florida Honor Flight for the 3rd Annual Collector Car Show, Sunday, January 22, in Laishley Park. For additional information, contact Don (941) 685-9163.
- January 28, join the St. Vincent De Paul for the annual Walk for the Poor at Sacred Heart Church, 211 W. Charlotte Avenue. For information, contact Joe (941) 286-8045.
- The Punta Gorda CRA and Charlotte Harbor CRA request your presence at the 4th Annual Hands Across the Harbor 8K Run/5K Walk, with 10 and 20 mile bicycle rides, on January 28, 2012. For information and registration forms, contact Ron at (941) 505-8880 or visit <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/fest/festival.html>.
- Festa! Italia is back for their 2nd year in Laishley Park, January 28-29. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information, contact Michael (941) 769-2221 or [www.festaitalianapg.com](http://www.festaitalianapg.com).

## **Police Department**

- Animal Cruelty Investigator conducted a ride-along with Captive Wildlife Investigator Larry Gregory of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Larry Gregory is one of thirteen investigators statewide and is responsible for covering five counties alone. The ride-along is intended to enhance the officer's general knowledge and investigative skills in the areas of animal investigations and exotic species, as well as provide a networking opportunity and enhanced relationship with FWC.
- Five new volunteers received training from the Employee Development Coordinator for assignment to the Volunteers on Patrol initiative. The two day training consisted of instruction on traffic control and direction, parking enforcement consistent with agency philosophy, standard operating procedures, and city ordinances. These volunteers will be patrolling the city streets as soon as February 1, 2012.
- Patrolman First Class Jonathan Mendel has been selected as the Police Department's new Canine Handler after a selection process concluded last week. Officer Mendel was officially transferred on Monday, with the transfer of Canine Jedi taking place mid-week.

## **Fire Department**

- Volunteer and on duty personnel participated in "Kids First, Safety Day" hosted by Wells Fargo. The event was well attended and gave Fire Department personnel the opportunity to educate attendees on the dangers associated with fires and injuries during the winter season.
- City Manager, Fire Chief and Operations Chief attended the Charlotte County Commission meeting at which the Commission voted unanimously to approve the City's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN). The County COPCN is required before we can file our application with the State for the City to initiate Advanced Life Support services. It is anticipated that State approval will occur later in February, at which time the program can begin. Kudos to the County Commission and County staff for working as a partner in this endeavor.

## Utilities Department

- **Bal Harbor Construction:** On 6/17/11, the City began utility work to include construction of new 12” water main and new 12” wastewater force main on the east side of Bal Harbor Blvd. between Marion Ave. and Aqui Esta. Final completion was anticipated in February 2012; however, staff is working with the contractor to resolve timeline concerns & delays.

### Two Week Look Ahead

Week of January 16: Continue Phase 2 water main, continue Phase 2 water services, testing Phase 2 water main, continue Phase 2 force main to Aqui Esta.

Week of January 23: Connect Phase 2 water main to existing water mains at Aqui Esta and Bal Harbor, testing Phase 2 force main.

## **Water Treatment Plant**

- **Plant Operations:** Dec 2010 Rainfall- 0.90 and Dec 2011 Rainfall- 0.20”. Jan 2011 Rainfall- 2.60” and Jan 2012, so far, Rainfall- 0.00”. Currently the treated water has 17 grains of Total Hardness. Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. At the current level the City’s water is considered “very hard”.
- **Reservoir Information:** Current Level – 5.08’; Record High for Jan 12 – 5.88’; Record Low for Jan 12 – 4.92’; and 45 Year Average for Jan 12 – 5.18’.

## City Clerk

- Volunteers interested in serving on the City’s Advisory Boards & Committees can download an [Appointment Information Form](#) from the City’s website and submit same to the City Clerk’s Office for consideration.

## **Current Board & Committee Vacancies**

- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (1 vacancy) - Meets the 3rd Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. 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 recommendations on petitions for special permits to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) 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:

Cool Scoops Ice Cream & More – 418 E Virginia Ave  
JRA Bicycle Company – 117 Herald Court  
Valentina Designs – 1205 Elizabeth St.