

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

City Manager

- Gilchrist Park Phase 2** – The City Council voted to reject the bid for Gilchrist Park/Harborwalk Phase 2. Council voted to direct staff to seek bids on just the Harborwalk portion of the project. This process will entail the design firm revising bid specifications, obtaining approval from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) regarding impact on stormwater, and obtaining new bids. Conversations will also be taking place with the Bayfront Center and Boat Club stakeholders regarding impact on their operations during construction.
- Gilchrist Park Activity Center** – Dover Kohl provided the City with the draft plan. Based on the financial analysis prepared by the consultants, Dover Kohl opines that the project has a financial feasibility gap for initial capital investment and on-going operational expenses. Increased operating costs would cause a newly constructed facility to lose money on an annual basis without consideration of the capital costs. Future operations would not generate enough funds to support the costs of building a new facility. As an alternate, the report offers an option that renovates both the Boat Club and Bayfront Center buildings and keeps such costs within FEMA guidelines. The entire feasibility report can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-manager/gilchrist-park-activity-center>.
- FY 2020 Budget Hearing** – On Sept. 4, City Council held public hearings on the proposed annual budget, general fund millage rate, Community Redevelopment Area budget, and special assessments for lot mowing and canal maintenance (Punta Gorda Isles and Burnt Store Isles). The tentative millage rate was approved at 3.4337 mills, which is 0.3816 mills over the rolled back rate of 3.0521. The rolled back rate brings in the same property tax revenues as the previous year sans new construction. The following assessments for FY 2020 were approved – lot mowing (\$170 per year); PGI canal maintenance (\$650 per single family lot); and BSI canal maintenance (\$555 per single family lot). The budget message and all funds summary can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/budget-686>.
- Buckley's Pass** – Payments totaling \$1,914,263.80 have been received through and including Aug. 28. An update schedule of the construction plans is available on the City's website project page at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/capital-projects/buckley-s-pass-additional-harbor-access>.



- **City Council Meeting Videos** – As a result of recent investments in technology to support government transparency, City Council and committee meetings are now available live streaming on YouTube. To access the videos simply visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw/videos. A complete list of upcoming meetings can be found at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-minutes>.
- **Economic Development Partnership Meeting** – Mayor Prafke, Vice-Mayor Matthews, Council Members Carey and Cummings, and the Communications Manager attended the Sept. 5 EDP meeting featuring guest speakers Dr. Jeffery S. Allbritten, President of FSW, DeeLynn Bennett, Director of Charlotte Technical College and Dr. Mike Martin President of FGCU. All the speakers touched on and reiterated their primary focus of educating students for careers available in the region and a focus on partnerships. Dr. Martin also shared that he views the programming at FGCU as, “A ladder to a better life”. Dr. Allbritten talked about the various bachelor’s degree and associate degree pathways that are offered to students at FSW and shared that the FSW Collegiate Charter High Schools are in the top five high schools in the state of Florida. Ms. Bennett announced three new programs that will be offered at Charlotte Technical College to support the local economy and the demand for trained workers that include; HVAC II, Hospitality and Tourism, and Photovoltaic Design, Installation and Maintenance and discussed the value of articulation agreements to students.
- **PLAN Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan Draft** – Just a reminder that it is available by clicking on the following link <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/citywide-master-plan>. The Economic and Fiscal Analysis is also available at the link above. Please take the time to review the documents, presentations and register your comments today.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
9/14	Nick’s Kid Show & Safety Day	Fishermen’s Village	www.fishville.com/events/
9/14-9/15	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	http://puntagordachamber.com
9/17	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
9/18	MHM Celebrates U.S. Air Force 72 nd Birthday	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
9/19	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
9/19	Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade	Taylor Street	http://chs.yourcharlotteschools.net/
9/20	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
9/20	Recovery Candlelight Vigil	Laishley Park	https://www.cbhcf.org/events/
9/21	Charlotte County Out of the Darkness Walk	Laishley Park	https://afsp.donordrive.com/
9/21	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
9/21	CHNEP & CHEC Paddle Cleanup	Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center	www.eventbrite.com
9/22	Punta Gorda Sweet Stroll	Downtown Punta Gorda	https://thegivingpartner
9/29	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers have completed mowing the following areas; Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.) and PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- Staff attended the monthly Gulf Coast Partnership (GCP) Stakeholders meeting. Discussion items included the following:
 - Discussion concerning the differences between the Baker Act and the Marchman Act and the appropriate use for each.
 - Report by the Chronic Homeless Return of Investment Task Force. Data has been collected from the Charlotte County Jail as well as Bayfront Health. Additional information is being collected from the Charlotte Correctional Institute and others.
 - Received a Grant Spending Progress Report for July 2019.
 - Received a status update on the State Department of Children and Families audit of the Gulf Coast Partnerships currently active grant contract with the Department.
 - Received a general overview of upcoming grant requests.
- City Council approved the "Friends of Gilchrist Park Playground Little Free Library Kiosk" project. Avant Construction will build the free "take one & leave one" library kiosk to be placed inside the Playground at Gilchrist Park. The Friends of Gilchrist Park Playground will be collecting new and lightly used children's books to stock it, and hope to see it installed in early October! Please contact Betzy Toro Blaustein at (941) 626-9054 if you are interested in donating a book - or a few!



Public Works Department

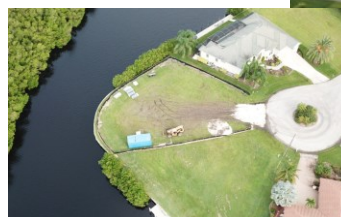
Engineering

- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Pile driving operations are complete. The template and casings are removed and hauled away. Excavation continues. Erosion control measures and Maintenance of traffic devices are in place.
* The Contractors Work Area is north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US41 NB.
**For pedestrian and cyclist safety the Work Zone is "Restricted" from Public access.
- **Harborwalk at Justice Center Boardwalk and Pier** – Work has resumed following demobilization for Hurricane Dorian.
- **Interior Wayfinding** – A pre-construction meeting was held Aug. 27 and included site visits to City Hall, City Hall Annex and Public Safety Building. Sign installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of Jan. 2020.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 475 properties totaling 350,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 417-426 Vitex. Work next week, weather and conditions permitting will include several punch list locations in the PGI Bird section and then move back into Burnt Store Meadows on Clusia Rosea.
- **Goldstein Street curb and street bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – Right of Way staff is nearing fifty percent complete with sand and brick placement. A Historic street bricking party date and time are to be determined, weather depending.



Canal Maintenance


- **Mangrove Trimming** – Due to Hurricane Dorian the mangrove trimming was postponed. Mobilization has started, mangrove trimming to start at Nature Park, and Sancho Panza. (Weather and Equipment permitting)
- **Seawall Replacement Program** – The list of properties identified in the 2019/2020 Seawall Replacement Work Program can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=9999>. This list is subject to change if there are seawall failures at locations not on the list.
- **Seawall Restoration Project** – Contractors continue restoring staging sites.
- **Repairs** – Crews filled 11 depressions and performed two seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Buckley's Pass** – Clearing of the channel alignment is ongoing and the staging locations are established.



Police Department

- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Oct. 14. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4 p.m. Oct. 7. To apply visit www.pgpjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **Do the Right Thing** – This program is working to instill positive attitudes and self-esteem in local youth by publicly recognizing them for their achievements. It recognizes students for their achievements in things like academics, athletics, community service, conservation, and any other effort where a child is doing their best to “do the right thing”. Every month five local Charlotte County students are selected from a pool of nominees for their outstanding efforts. All five students receive trophies, certificates, and a “Do the Right Thing T-shirt. The “Do the Right Thing” winners for September are Emma Giordano, Carlye Mahler, Lucas Blanchette, Nathan Pizzuro, and Taylor Gerich.

Fire Department

- **Season is Coming** – Before you know it our friends from the north will be arriving before cold weather sets in. With that, our roads will be busier and the chance of being involved in a crash will also increase. It is important to not drive aggressively or in a pushy manner without regard for the safety of yourself or others. The following are some tips to keep you safe and help you avoid becoming a crash statistic:
 - ✓ If you begin to feel stressed or irritated, try some relaxing music to calm you down.
 - ✓ Give the roadway your full attention and don't allow yourself to become distracted.
 - ✓ Give other motorists the benefit of the doubt.
 - ✓ Refrain from driving slow in the left lane.
 - ✓ Don't take other people's driving behavior personally, it has nothing to do with you.
 - ✓ During season, remember to give yourself a little extra time to get where you're going. You know the road will be busier.
 - ✓ Never make hand gestures or other gestures that may irritate other drivers.
 - ✓ If another driver wants in front of you, let them.If you are confronted by an aggressive driver, make every reasonable attempt to get out of their way and ignore any gestures they may make.

Finance

- The Finance Department has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. This is the 13th year that City has received the award. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as; a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated “proficient” in all four categories, and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.

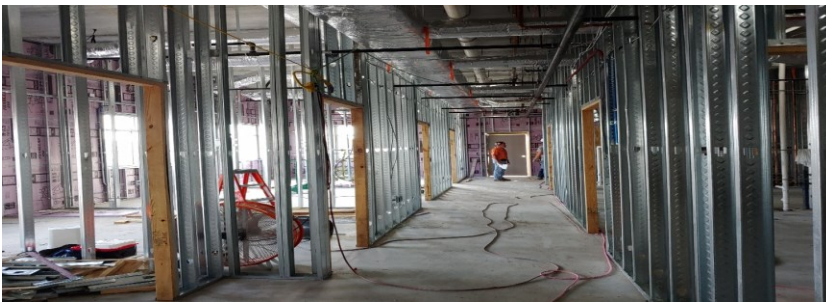
Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- Week 62



Degasifier being installed.



Interior walls being installed.



Switch gear placed.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.7 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.5 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of 2.0 million gallons per day, started Jul. 16.
- Rainfall in Aug. 2018 15.1” and Aug. 2019 8.26” Sept. 2018 8.26” and Sept. 2019 .01”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “slightly hard” – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm – Total hardness 170 ppm
- TDS for Sept. 5 – Current 329 ppm, Low 193 ppm, High 368 ppm, Year Avg. 296 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 5 – Current 5.48’, Record Low 5.10’, Record High 6.65’, 54 Year Avg. 5.63’

City Clerk

Election Information

- Candidate Campaign Treasurer's Reports for all 2019 General Election reporting periods through Sept. 6 (due date Aug. 30) are available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (941)575-3369 or pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One 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.
- Code Enforcement Board – (Two vacancies) Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – max. of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Building Board (One regular vacancy and one alternate) - Meets the 4th 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.
- Utility Advisory Board – (One regular vacancy) Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board. Three-year terms, maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board – (One alternate vacancy) Meets the 4th Thursday 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. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.

New Businesses

- Renewal Notices for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year have been emailed to all current active businesses. Due date for payment is Sept. 30.