



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

City Manager

- **City Council Agenda** – The Sept. 18 City Council Agenda contains many items of interest, which are highlighted below:
 - ✓ Mayor's Medal presentation to John Burrage to honor his years of service to the City.
 - ✓ Support of legislative priorities proposed by Charlotte County for presentation to the Charlotte County Legislative Delegation that will take place on Oct. 8.
 - ✓ Approval of change order for the Buckley's Pass seawall installation due to rock incurred during construction that was unforeseen during the bid process. The increased costs of \$289,025 are still within the overall estimate originally prepared by the Engineering Consultant.
 - ✓ Appropriation of funds for bollards to be located around the mural along the Harborwalk under the US 41S bridge to mitigate vandalism of the mural.
 - ✓ Adoption of the FY 2020 Strategic Plan.
 - ✓ Discussion regarding whether to accept federally funded Local Agency Program dollars to construct Harborwalk West Area 3. This project is along Retta Esplanade from just west of Berry Street to Linear Park/tidal canal crossing. Proposed improvements include a multi-use pathway with decorative lighting, landscaping, site furnishings, and two foot bridges. Acceptance of federal funds brings along increased costs associated with both design and construction.
 - ✓ Consideration of Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) relocation from Ponce de Leon Park to City-owned property on West Henry. Current plans call for relocation of the Wildlife Center onto one acre of land within Ponce Park. Several years ago, the PRWC explored the City-owned open space off West Henry adjacent to Hounds on Henry and the new Punta Gorda Charlotte Library as a potential site for its new building and operations. That idea was discussed with City Council and ultimately rejected due to perceived or potential impact on the surrounding uses and neighborhood. It has recently been suggested that the Wildlife Center and City Council reconsider this concept, especially in light of the estimated costs to rebuild Ponce Park.
 - ✓ Consideration of redesign alternatives for Ponce de Leon Park that could reduce construction estimates, if the decision is to retain PRWC within park environs.
 - ✓ Change order for Gilchrist Park Phase 2 based on previous Council rejection of the bid to complete the Harborwalk connection and park renovation as one project. Council directed staff to meet with the Engineer to determine an estimated cost for a new proposed scope & fee by pulling out the Harborwalk from the plans as an independent biddable project. The proposed cost is \$27,325 with a 91 day project timeline.
 - ✓ Additional agenda items can be found at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-minutes>.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and can be viewed on YouTube Live Streaming at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw.

- **FY 2020 Budget** – The final public hearing on the millage rate and overall budget will be Sept. 18, 5:01pm in the City Council Chambers. For detailed information contained in the financial plan, you can review the City Manager’s budget message at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/2950/605>
- **FEMA Seawall Restoration Reimbursements** – FEMA has approved Governor DeSantis’s request to increase the percentage of the Hurricane Irma storm reimbursements based on reaching a higher threshold of damage from Hurricane Irma. The FEMA share increases from 75% to 90%. This is being reported as a \$4.2 million dollar increase. However what isn’t mentioned is that the State of Florida’s share will be reduced from 12.5% to 5%. This will be a \$2.1 million decrease on the State side. The net amount the City will expect to receive due to this change is approximately \$2.1 million. The good news is that the City portion is also reduced to 5%.
- **Patriot Day Program** – Patriot Day occurs on Sept. 11 of year in remembrance of the people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks of the year 2001. Chief Davis and Chief Briggs spoke at the Patriot Day program at the Military Heritage Museum along with other community leaders and first responders. The event was also attended by City Council, City Manager and members of both the Police and Fire Departments.



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: PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd, PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia). Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree). The area east of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.). Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.).

Urban Design

- Urban Design Planner Mitchell Austin attended the American Planning Association Florida Annual Conference, where as a member of the APA Florida Chapter, he presented the outstanding planning projects in the State of Florida at the annual conference. The program provides APA Florida members with the chance to see and learn about development, conservation, government, or environmental projects, where planning has had a positive impact on the outcome. The Project Awards Committee looked at innovativeness and quality, and the



potential for use in other areas.

- Councilman Cummings and staff attended the monthly meeting of the Peace River Community Housing Partners (PRCHP). Items discussed included:
 - An announcement was made that the PRCHP application to Charlotte County Human Services, qualifying to participate in future releases of surplus lands for the purpose of maintaining and increasing the stock of affordable housing has been approved.
 - Lengthy discussion concerning the Charlotte County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and its role in promoting affordable housing. The AHAC currently has four (4) vacancies. If you are interested in applying, please contact Colleen Turner, Senior Manager, Charlotte Human Services Department at (941) 833-6502.
- The Public Hearing before the Punta Gorda Planning Commission for the Citywide Master Plan Resolution is being withdrawn so additional comments can be made at the Oct. 2 City Council meeting. This will ensure all comments may be considered in the final draft plan.
- In 2018, the City applied for and received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 2018-2019 Florida Resilient Coastlines: Resiliency Planning grant, administered by FDEP. The City contracted with Taylor Engineering, Inc. in Feb. 2019 to conduct a vulnerability analysis for city-owned critical infrastructure and prepare an addendum to the 2009 City of Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan with a Living Shoreline Element. The 2019 City of Punta Gorda Adaptation Plan Update is an addendum to the 2009 Plan. The Plan will be presented at the Oct. 2 City Council Meeting and at the Oct. 23 Planning Commission meeting. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-manager/climate-adaptation-plan>.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Goldstein Street Bricking Party between Marion and Olympia Aves** – The City and our community partners are scheduled to hold the Historic Street Bricking on Goldstein St. between Marion and Olympia Avenues starting at 8 a.m. on Sept. 4. Join us for a great time as city residents, friends and visitors join in laying paver bricks on Goldstein Street in Historic Punta Gorda. Over the years, folks from near and far have gathered to install these century old historic paver bricks in the streets of Punta Gorda. Help us continue this tradition. Come anytime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Excavation and back fill continues with placement of bedding stone. Erosion control measures and Maintenance of traffic devices are in place. The segmental wall delivery is scheduled for Monday. Electrical and fiber utility conflicts have been encountered and are being addressed for relocation outside of the bridge footprint. Six US 41 NB roadway lights will be out temporarily until rewiring can take place.
- **Harborwalk at Justice Center Boardwalk and Pier** – Work has been completed; the pier and boardwalk will reopen Sept. 13.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 481 properties totaling 356,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 306-330 Clusia Rosea and 7175 N. Blue Sage. Work is underway at 301-335 Clusia Rosea.
- **Minor Paving** – A cost proposal has been received for maintenance repair of the northern leg of asphalt at Carmalita and Taylor Rd. Staff is preparing a Statement of Work and requisition for Purchase Order issuance. Pending also is a schedule from the contractor.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Preconstruction meeting held on Sept. 12 with Stevens and Layton.



Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs** – Crews filled 25 depressions and performed six seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Buckley's Pass** – Clearing of the channel alignment is ongoing and the contractor has started to set sea wall panels.



Police Department

- **Police Officer Testing** – Twenty applicants tested this week for the position of Police Officer with the Department. Fifteen applicants successfully passed the testing process. The next testing process will be held on Jan. 13, 2020 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 14, 2020 and Jan. 15, 2020. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com.
- **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. on Oct. 7. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com

Fire Department

- **Sky Lanterns** – Although Sky lanterns are a popular way to celebrate, are prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements, and therefore, are also prohibited in the City of Punta Gorda. The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper and bamboo, which is highly flammable. If you include the candle/wax fuel and the wind, it's easy to see the dangerous combination. The wind can blow the hot air out of the lanterns before it reaches its full height. This will send the lantern back to the ground prematurely, causing them to land on surfaces such as rooftops, fields, trees, and powerlines before the flame is fully extinguished. The likeliness of this starting a fire is extremely high.



Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- **Week 63** – Overview of RO Project



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 33.3 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.8 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 8.3.60” and Sept. 2019 .02”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “slightly hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for Sept. 12 – Current 322 ppm, Low 141 ppm, High 349 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 277 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 5 – Current 5.48’, Record Low 5.10’, Record High 6.65’, 54 Year Avg. 5.63’

City Clerk

- 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.

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

- Building Board (One regular vacancy (consumer advocate) 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.
- 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.
- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee – (One regular vacancy) 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.

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.
- 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 this week:
 - B&B Pool Repairs LLC, 701 Aqui Esta Drive
 - Harbor Neurosurgical Associates, 517 Tamiami Trail
 - Minute Clinic #406, 2400 Tamiami Trail (Inside CVS)
 - Thorne Vacation Rental, 612 Macedonia Drive
 - We Insure – Debbie Reynolds Insurance, 210 Wood Street