

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 24, 2020

### City Manager

- **E-Notification Service** – Did you know that you can sign up to receive press releases and news from the City of Punta Gorda? Just visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/advanced-components/misc-pages/enotification/e-notification-sign-up>. It is easy to sign up and you can opt out at any time.
- **Burnt Store Isles Undergrounding** – The Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Undergrounding Committee held a community meeting Jan. 21 at the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church to present the results of an FPL electric undergrounding and all elements involved in the project. The cost assumptions were based on the 1,246 property accounts that were surveyed in the previous poll to fund the initial study. The one-time prepayment estimate came in at \$9,215.26 or an estimated \$712.50 per year over 20 years. A straw poll will be conducted in Mar. of 2020 with results being presented to City Council for project consideration in Apr. or May. Complete project details can be accessed at <http://www.bsia.net/bsi-underground-initiative.html>.
- **Sailfish Bridge Construction** – Effective Jan. 29 for approximately 30 days, Sailfish Bridge will be under construction to repair erosion damage under the bridge. Sailfish Bridge is also known as the 2nd Bridge on Marion Avenue and is located between Gulfview Road and Maria Court. Boat passage will be restricted Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Much of the work will be done by divers so it is imperative that boats be excluded from the area. Boats will be allowed to pass three times during the workday – 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. If any boats are waiting to pass at these times, the contractor will cease operations and allow boats to pass. The contractor will be issuing weekly updates throughout the project to notify boaters should there be breaks in the work schedule where boats can pass more freely. The passage will be fully open weekdays from 6pm until 7am and all day and night on weekends. Vehicle traffic should not be affected. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Gering, City Engineer at (941) 575-5030 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **Peace River Wildlife Center** – City Council approved moving forward with negotiating a lease with the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) on city-owned land at West Henry. The agreement, once developed, will still allow room for potential expansion or reconfiguration of the Hounds on Henry Dog Park.



- **PicklePlex®** – City Council approved a request from PicklePlex® to partner with the City in order to be eligible to secure funding from Charlotte County. The City has received a cost proposal from PicklePlex® for its Phase two project to include the addition of nineteen courts, concession stand and restroom. The estimate is \$915,065. Charlotte County has provided two legal opinions pertaining to such a request and whether the County could use public funds to construct Phase 2 improvements. This partnership is pending the County’s commitment to fund the project.
- **Hounds on Henry** – City staff held dog park user input sessions on Jan. 17 at Hounds on Henry. There was a great turnout of dog owners to provide feedback. The suggestions and options for Council to consider will be presented at a Feb. Council meeting.

Some of the suggestions included:

- ✓ Small dog area expansion
- ✓ Look at ground cover alternatives
- ✓ Provide a handicap accessible port a potty or restrooms
- ✓ Add a sign with address for emergencies and no smoking sign
- ✓ Add a fan in shelter area
- ✓ Remind owners to pick up dog waste- signs Your Dog Your Duty Pick Up
- ✓ Relocate handicap parking closer to gates
- ✓ Add a Tiki bar
- ✓ Add a first aid kit
- ✓ Add dog climbing toys
- ✓ More shade trees, pergolas or FPL shade structures
- ✓ Add a Little Free Library
- ✓ Larger or more pools that are made for dog parks
- ✓ Add a splash pad
- ✓ Move fence North for more playroom
- ✓ Add fog horns to distract fighting dogs
- ✓ Add a ramp to the wash tub area
- ✓ Create a membership for fundraising
- ✓ Add an obstacle course
- ✓ Fix latches



- ✓ Keep small enough to connect with people
- ✓ Larger shelters in the event of storms
- ✓ Spray for bugs more frequently
- ✓ Add bulletin board
- ✓ More benches
- ✓ Add lights
- ✓ Love the idea of a campus
- ✓ Relocate entrance doors to separate where big and small dogs enter or screen from view
- ✓ Hydration station
- ✓ Cement pools with filtering system
- ✓ Outside of fence walk way for walking dogs
- ✓ Add another dog park in BSI or BSM
- ✓ Apply for grants
- ✓ Add additional chairs or benches
- ✓ Add donation boxes
- ✓ Make sure mulch is safe for dogs

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
1/24	Return to Hardwick: Documentary with Director Michael Sellers	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8e5d5338aa485ebdc693bd0bfa8a9d60">https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8e5d5338aa485ebdc693bd0bfa8a9d60</a>
1/25	Dave Bray USA with Opening Act Nate Winkler	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8c02511f8e796979b16f638d74c40fc4">https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=8c02511f8e796979b16f638d74c40fc4</a>
1/30	25th Anniversary Punta Gorda Mural Society Celebration	Visual Arts Center	<a href="https://puntagordamurals.org/25th-anniversary-celebration-jan-30th/">https://puntagordamurals.org/25th-anniversary-celebration-jan-30th/</a>
2/1	Gulf Theater Comedy Night with Derek Richards	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=fe144af4b0d458fa68ace36d73599cbe">https://red.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&amp;e=fe144af4b0d458fa68ace36d73599cbe</a>
2/1	Healthy You, Healthy Planet 5k	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.greenlivinggreenplanet.com/">https://www.greenlivinggreenplanet.com/</a>
2/1 & 2/2	Arts & Crafts Show	City Market	<a href="http://www.tnteventsinc.com/">http://www.tnteventsinc.com/</a>
2/4-2/9	The Great Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium	City Marketplace	<a href="http://www.mrswindles.com">www.mrswindles.com</a>
2/5	Word of Life	Laishley Park	<a href="http://www.wolm.net/">http://www.wolm.net/</a>
2/8	2020 Charlotte County Heart Walk	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.heart.org/en/">https://www.heart.org/en/</a>
2/8	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
2/9	Vendor & Craft Fair at Laishley Park	Laishley Park	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/localladiessouthflorida/">https://www.facebook.com/localladiessouthflorida/</a>
2/12	World War II; The Journey to Victory Remembering the Tuskegee Airmen	Military Heritage Museum	<a href="http://www.militaryheritagemuseum.org">www.militaryheritagemuseum.org</a>
2/12	Word of Life	Laishley Park	<a href="http://www.wolm.net/">http://www.wolm.net/</a>

## Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas: Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree). East Side 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.).

## Public Works

### Parks and Grounds

- Christmas Decorations** – The areas outlined in red (see picture) at the intersection of Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be blocked off to allow access for City crews and equipment to remove Christmas tree. Parking spaces along Marion Avenue and Taylor Street will be opened up in the evening and on the weekends. Crews will begin removal of the Christmas decorations on Jan. 21. Please take special care when driving in the City to be aware of Public Works employees removing holiday decorations.



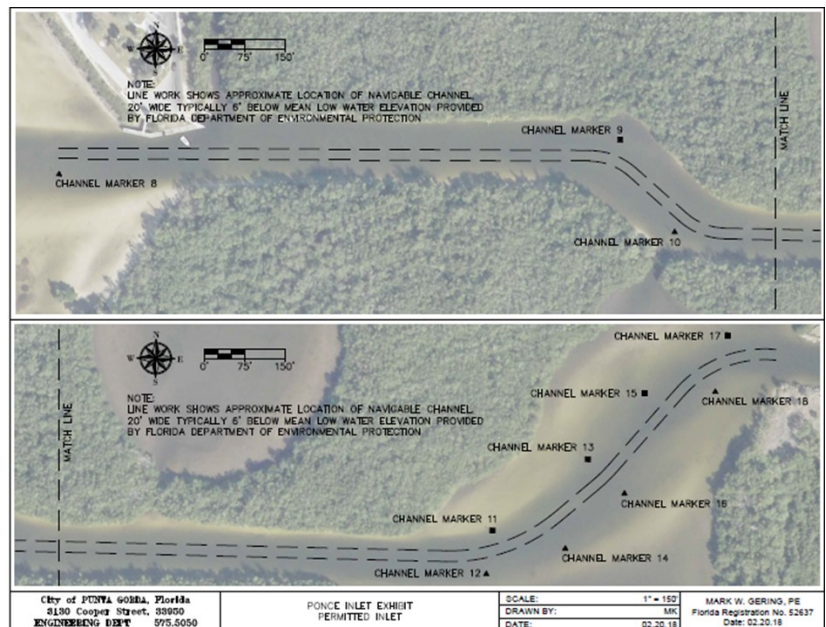


## Engineering

- **Veterans Park Phase II** – The contractor has completed approximately 90% of concrete sidewalk installation. Concrete sidewalk and curb work is yet to be complete at the NE, NW and SW corners of the intersection of Nesbit St. and E. Retta Esplanade. The contractor has indicated that the concrete work as well as paver installation should be completed by Jan. 31. The project is on track to reach substantial completion by Feb. 7.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Sod is near complete with handrail and electrical work pending. The multi-use trail will remain closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 622 properties totaling 464,975 square feet of grading/sodding. Work areas during the week of Jan. 27 will include swales at 606-618 and 636 Maltese Drive as well as 4000-4040 and 4043 Maltese Ct.
- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** – This project is on target to complete by the end of the month. A Pay Application for work complete to date has been submitted for payment.
- **ADA Ramp Improvements** – The contractor is near complete at the following intersections: Showalter at Milus and Fitzhugh at Mary. To be completed are placement of the ADA mats and sod. To date this will complete 14 intersection ADA ramp updates.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** – Beginning the week of Jan. 27 through May 29, weather permitting, construction is scheduled for: a 5' sidewalk on the southern side of the Madrid Blvd to US 41 SB, curbing and drainage improvements. Travelers are requested to use extreme caution while workers are present in the right of way and allow additional time for travel while work is performed. Temporary delays are to be anticipated. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5060 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Boater's Beware

- This winter we are experiencing some extreme low tides, combine that with a northern wind and even more water is pushed out of the canals. It can be a challenge navigating through the canal system without proper planning. Canal Maintenance has received some calls from boaters that frequently use Ponce inlets are hitting bottom. Even though the channel markers are 50' to 70' apart, the navigational width of the Ponce inlet is only 20' wide. Below please find a map locating the approximate location of the navigational channel within the Ponce Inlet.



## Canal Maintenance

- **Ponce Inlet Dredging** – Due to extremely low tides the work to dredge Ponce Inlet has been delayed to the week of Feb. 3 through Feb. 28 (weather and equipment operation permitting), However you may see construction crews setting up the spoil staging area as soon as Jan. 30. The contractor will off load dredge material at the vacant lot at the southerly end of Colony Point; then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. For additional information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



- **Seawall Assessment Program** – The Seawall Assessment continues, crews are currently working in the NE zone. The assessment is expected to be completed by Feb. 2020.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** –
  - The seawall replacement contractor has completed three seawall replacement projects and has five projects under construction. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - The Seawall Assessment is ongoing; staff has collected over 4,845 points to date. Seawall Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of Feb. A little more than half of the Punta Gorda Isles section is complete.
  - Crews filled depressions at 17 locations and performed seven seawall cap repairs.

## Police Department

- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on May 18 with oral board interviews scheduled on May 19 and May 20. You can apply to participate by visiting [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com).



- **Punta Gorda Elks Lodge Award** – Congratulations to Officer Jesse Richards was recognized as the Officer of the Year by the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge along with Lieutenant Alex Davenport who was recognized as Firefighter of the Year. We thank the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge for their continued support of both Punta Gorda’s finest and Punta Gorda’s bravest!



- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 881 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of December 2019. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 287 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 206 hours. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 176 hours. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering with the police department are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at [vip@pgorda.us](mailto:vip@pgorda.us) or (941) 575-5536.



- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Feb. 10. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4 p.m. on Feb. 5. To apply visit [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com). For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or [drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntagordafl.com).
- **Internship Program** –The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer and Fall Semesters of 2020. Our internship program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Please contact the internship program coordinator at (941) 575-5571 for additional information or to have an application package sent.

## **Fire Department**

- **Fire Prevention** – A major responsibility of the City Fire Marshal’s Office is fire prevention. One method employed to reduce the number of fires is by conducting fire and life safety inspections. Staff inspects business and multi-family structures in accordance with federal and state regulations as well as the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. The goal is to reduce the number of deaths, injuries and amount of property loss from fire. We want to work with you to ensure that if a fire were to occur, the damage is limited as much as possible and firefighters can operate efficiently and safely. Think of it as an investment in the safety of you, the building and premises and the general public. You are encouraged to accompany the inspector during his/her visit. For more information, please contact the department at (941) 575-5529.

## **Utilities Department**

### **Utilities Administration**

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) has been conducted at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values is on the City’s web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values at this sample site as well as throughout the water system were below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

### **Groundwater R.O. Construction Update**



Week 81- Overview of plant.

### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 39.3 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.6 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Jan. 2019 4.90” Jan. 2020 0.10”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 19 ppm – Total hardness 324 ppm
- TDS for Jan. 23 – Current 475 ppm, Low 293 ppm, High 668 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 505 ppm
- Reservoir Jan. 23 – Current 5.07’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 5.80’, 54 Year Avg. 5.18’

### **City Clerk**

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One alternate 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.