

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 31, 2020

### City Manager

- **State of the City** – Mayor Prafke gave the State of the City address at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association for the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce’s luncheon. The entire City Council including Vice-Mayor Matthews, Councilmembers Carey, Miller and Cummings along with the City Manager, Assistant to the City Manager/Paralegal, Communications Manager, and command staff of our Police Department were in attendance, along with a large crowd of members of the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. The presentation focused on 2020 as the Year of Changes and Choices and some of highlighted areas include;
  - Employees Giving Back
  - Financial Status of the City
  - Economic Trends
  - City Improvements
  - Land Development Regulations & Code Changes
  - City Manager Recruitment



Video is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WGFWBCA5Gs&feature=youtu.be>

- **Laishley Park Playground** – The Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA) will look at options for the replacement of playground equipment in Laishley Park. The options include:
  - Increasing the playground and surfacing budget
  - Converting playground space to a covered picnic pavilion
  - Expanding the splash pad with additional water related features
- **January Strategic Plan Update** – City Council adopted the Strategic Plan for FY 2020 on Oct. 2, 2019. The Strategic Plan sets overall goals for the City, provides direction to City Departments and creates the basis for each year’s annual budget. The division and department heads are responsible for updating the progress on the Strategic Plan on a periodic basis. Highlights through Jan. 2020 include;
  - Strategic Plan FY 2021 Workshop held Jan. 24 with City Council
  - Impact Fee Ordinance set for Public Hearings
  - Contract with Dover Kohl & Partners LLP ready for Council review
  - Code Red has been replaced with Everbridge for emergency communications
  - Property acquisition for Corto Andra/Boca Grande Drainage Improvements underway
  - Buckley’s Pass progress continues with anticipated April completion date
  - Local Options Sales Tax Committee reviewed 41 potential projects
  - Quality Independence Group is managing and operating agripreneur garden

The complete January Strategic Plan Update can be read at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=10789>

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
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>
2/14-2/16	Big Boy Toyz Expo	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	<a href="https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events/2019/2020-big-boy-toyz-expo">https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events/2019/2020-big-boy-toyz-expo</a>
2/15	St. Vincent De Paul Walk for the Poor	Laishley Park Pavilions	<a href="https://www.svdp-dov.org/charlotte/cc_walk/">https://www.svdp-dov.org/charlotte/cc_walk/</a>
2/21-2/23	Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival	City Marketplace	<a href="https://www.paragonartevents.com/S-97-Punta+Gorda+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival.html">https://www.paragonartevents.com/S-97-Punta+Gorda+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival.html</a>

## Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin mowing the following areas on Feb. 3: PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive). Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).

## Zoning and Code Compliance

- Right-of-Way** – Code Compliance is continuing to address the violations of signs being placed in the right-of-way. The following will take place:
  - Staff will continue to work periodic weekends covering as much of the City as possible
  - Removal and disposal of any signs that are in violation of the City Code (garage sales, open house signs, etc )
    - If a generic sign is found it will not initiate a Code case as no information may be obtained. The sign will be removed and disposed.
    - When a sign has an address or contact info (ie realtor, address agent Company etc) staff will take photos document and initiate an irreparable violation code case which will be presented to the Code Enforcement Board. This allows a fine of up to \$5,000.00 per sign as each sign is a separate violation.
  - Note that some signs (garage sales & open house) may require staff to cite the property/homeowners for the placement in the R-O-W.
  - Proper documentation for a code case hearing will take additional time for staff to process.

## Urban Design

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization** – The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (CC-PG MPO) Board hosted the annual joint meeting with the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization Board on Jan. 27 at the Charlotte Harbor Events and Conference Center. This annual joint meeting is a product of the substantial regional cooperation undertaken by CC-PG MPO. Items of statewide importance and regional mutual interest were discussed including:
  - Florida Transportation Plan update – <http://floridatransportationplan.com/>
  - M-CORES – Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance – <https://floridamcores.com/>
  - I-75 Southwest Connect North Corridor – <https://www.swflinterstates.com/i75-connect-north-corridor/>
  - River Road Regional Interstate Connector
- **Garden Talks 2020** – “A Rose is a Rose is a Rose... It’s Also an Herb!” presented by the PGI Green Thumbs will be held at Nature Park on Feb. 21 at 9:30 am. Master Gardener Dolly Tomalinas is known for her expertise in many aspects of gardening, but none more so than roses and herbs. Dolly designed the park’s herb bed, and specifically chose to position a rose bush in a prominent spot in that bed. The rose’s beauty is one great reason to add it. Less well known is that roses are also used as herbs. Success depends very much on selection of one of the very limited rose varieties that can thrive in our local climate. Whether you grow your own or just want to learn about the history & local relevance of these plants, Dolly will provide a wealth of insight and advice. Other scheduled Garden Talks include: Bromeliads on Mar. 20 and Why Prune? Friday Apr. 17. As the Garden Talk lectures take place outside, please bring a chair, seating is limited, a hat, sunscreen, mosquito repellent and water.

## Public Works

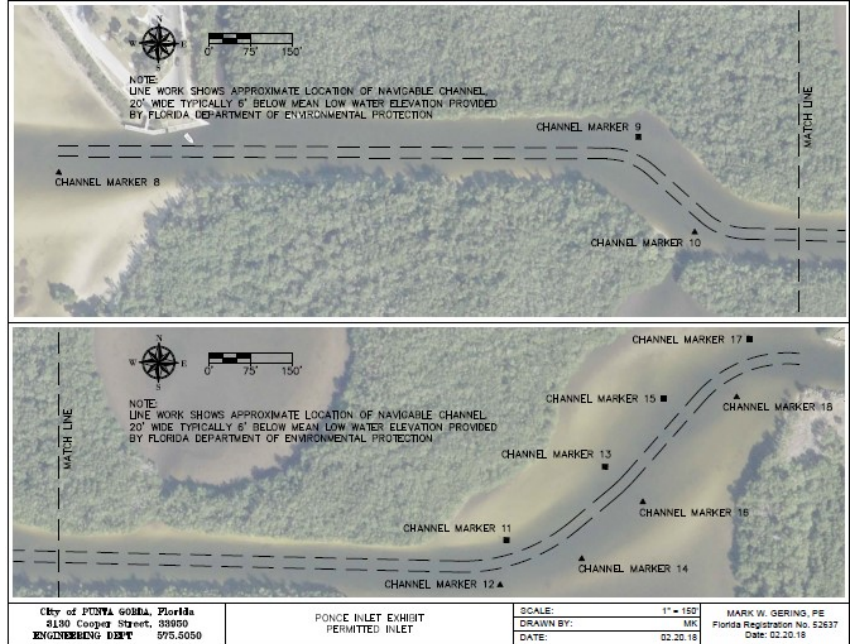
### Engineering -

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** – A Change Order for missing signs is in process along with a time extension for production and completion of sign installations. This project is 98% complete.
- **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.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Pay Application four and the FDOT reimbursement request is in process. The contractor is installing handrail, the lights have been installed and electrical work is occurring. Sod is complete. Coordination with FPL is occurring to schedule placement of a service pole and power connection.






- 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.



- City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 626 properties totaling 468,275 square feet of grading/sodding. Work areas during the week of Feb. 3 will include work that is underway at 4000-4040 Maltese Ct., 636 Maltese Dr. and then will move to 4001-4029 San Massimo Dr.
- Consolidated Ice Plant** – City staff relocated rock remnant from the Consolidated Ice Plant. The Consolidated Ice Plant was a large structure on Berry Street that was demolished in the early nineteen hundreds and was the second largest ice plant in the United States.





## Consolidated Ice Plant

Located on Blocks 26 & 50 of the Trabue Plat  
1903 to 1914

This block of concrete is a foundation remnant of the Consolidated Ice Manufacturing, Refrigeration and Fish Co., which once occupied two full city blocks. Built in 1903 to supply cooling for fish products, the ice plant was the second largest in the country. The company produced only one 96-ton run of ice before declaring bankruptcy in January, 1904. Tragedy struck the ruins in 1908 when a 4-year-old boy was killed by a falling timber. In 1914, the city took the property by eminent domain & demolished the ruins. Bricks from the demolition were donated to First United Methodist Church (507 W Marion Ave) for construction of the sanctuary.

- **Harborwalk 2A** – City staff are reviewing the draft bid solicitation documents.

- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - The contractor has mobilized to the site and commenced with excavation. Pipe has been delivered on site. The work area is from the western drive of the Burnt Store Publix Plaza to US 41 SB. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2020. 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 thru Friday.



- **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. 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 6 p.m. until 7 a.m. and all day and night on weekends. Vehicle traffic should be unaffected. 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.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – The contractor has begun the final phases of concrete installation at the NE, NW and SW corners of the intersection of Nesbit St. and E. Retta Esplanade. The contractor has revised the completion date for concrete and paver installation to Feb. 12 with overall substantial completion of the project to Feb. 25.

#### 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.



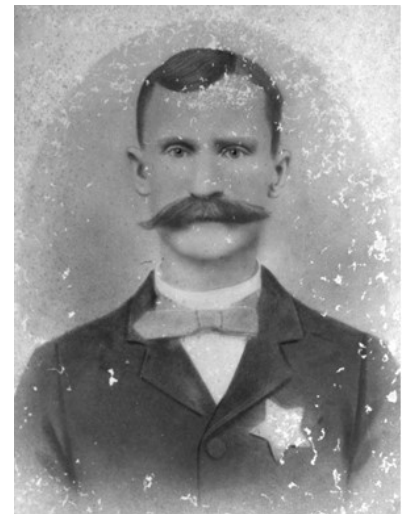
- **Seawall Assessment Program** – The Seawall Assessment is ongoing; staff has collected over 6,413 points to date. Crews are currently working in the Bird Section of Punta Gorda Isles. Seawall Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of February.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** –
  - The seawall replacement contractor has completed seven seawall replacement projects and has three projects under construction in PGI and 1 under construction in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - Crews filled depressions at 18 locations.
  - Crews performed six seawall cap and seam patches (26' linear ft.)
  - Crews removed one piece of debris from canal
  - Crews posted one sign at Sailfish bridge
- **Buckley's Pass** – Please visit the City's YouTube channel to view drone footage taken of the Please visit the City's YouTube channel to view drone footage taken of the construction progress. The video playlist link is:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEEdownKc85\\_W-fSqI5](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEEdownKc85_W-fSqI5) Dredging

operations are nearing completion in the canal along Sea Edge Drive. Boaters NEED to stay out of the new pass until construction is completed which is scheduled to occur in April. Damage to vessel propulsion systems is very likely to occur if they enter the pass. The canals between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive and Sea Edge Drive will be closed to through traffic during dredging operations. Boaters should use caution when operating near the construction area. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Drive to the Colony Point Drive spoil site continues. Residents NEED to stay out of the Colony Point Drive spoil site and off of the spoil piles. Heavy equipment is being used in the area and injury is likely to occur.



## **Police Department**

- **Honoring a Punta Gorda Police Department Hero** – On Jan. 29, 1903, City Marshal John Bowman was murdered in front of his wife and four children when a suspect fired a shotgun through the front window of Marshal Bowman's home. The suspect shot Bowman as revenge for his tough stance against drinking and gambling. The suspect was arrested and sentenced to death, but the sentence was later commuted to life in prison. The men and women of the Punta Gorda Police Department will always remember the sacrifice Marshal Bowman made to our community.



- **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@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com).
- **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@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.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

- **The Dangers of Canned (Compressed) Air** – There are many brands of this commonly used item in homes and offices. It is canned air, used to clean dust from equipment such as computers, phones, keyboards, printers, shredders and more. Although these products are often used without causing any incident, they can be dangerous. Canned air when not properly used has been known to cause flash fires and injuries. Canned air when used improperly has also been known to cause frostbite, asphyxiation and toxicity. Canned air is not just air. It is made of gas that is compressed into a liquid and canned. The following safety precautions (along with all provided instructions) should be considered before using any type of compressed air:
  - Make sure the area where it is used is properly ventilated.
  - Read the entire label:
    - ✓ If it is flammable, switch to a nonflammable alternative
    - ✓ Determine whether use of eye, face, or skin protection is needed
  - Make sure all users read the entire label and follow all instructions for proper use
  - Keep Material Safety Data Sheets available for complete information



## 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 82- Work being done on the bleach storage area.

### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.3 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 – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Jan. 2019 4.90” Jan. 2020 0.90”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 18 ppm – Total hardness 308 ppm
- TDS for Jan. 30 – Current 476 ppm, Low 229 ppm, High 663 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 498 ppm
- Reservoir Jan. 30 – Current 5.12’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 6.71’, 54 Year Avg. 5.23’

### 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.

#### 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:
  - The Purple House Salon, 312 Sullivan Street