

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

FEBRUARY 7, 2020



City Manager

- **Citywide Master Plan** – At its Feb. 5 meeting, City Council approved contracts with Dover Kohl to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations (LDR’s) in concert with the PLAN Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan. The LDR’s will focus on form-based codes which speak to predictable built results and a high-quality realm by using physical form as the organizing principle for the code. Council reiterated its position that the new codes address height in terms of feet as opposed to merely stories. The entire effort could take at least eighteen months, since the Comprehensive Plan changes will need State review and approval.
- **Fair Share Impact Fees** – At the Feb. 5 public hearing, City Council approved implementation of impact fee increases for parks, mobility and public safety at the full (100%) level recommended in the 2019 Development Impact Fee Study. Also included in the ordinance is a waiver for affordable housing projects that qualify as affordable for a period of at least ten years after the building permit is issued. If approved at second reading, the fee increase will be effective May 20, 2020. Impact fees are intended for new construction (residential and commercial) to assist in paying for growth-related impacts on public facilities.
- **Lashley Park Interactive Fountain and Playground** – The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) approved moving forward with a bid process to replace the playground equipment, filter system and fountain and add splash pad features. Staff will obtain costs to undertake these projects and bring it back for CRA consideration.
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) US 41 Corridor Vision Plan** – Representatives from FDOT presented its plan at the Feb. 5 Council meeting and summarized stakeholder issues, concerns and needs from previously held community input sessions. The issue of a lack of a northbound turn off Madrid onto US 41 was raised once again with no resolution forthcoming from FDOT. City Council will discuss the matter at its upcoming Feb. 19 meeting.
- **City Manager Recruitment** – The search has started for Punta Gorda’s next City Manager — application deadline is Apr. 1. City Council will be forming a community panel representative of our residential, business and non-profit sectors to assist with the interview process that will take place in late May. The goal is to negotiate a contract with the top ranked candidate by Jul. 8, and for the new City Manager to start employment on Oct. 5, 2020. More information on the position can be found on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/human-resources/employment-opportunities>.
- **MPO Public Participation Opportunity** – The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization will be holding a series of community outreach workshop events to solicit public opinion, ideas, and comments on the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Topics such as congestion management, transit, Environmental Justice and bicycle/pedestrian safety will be included. The South County event is scheduled for Feb. 26, 2020 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Library Meeting Room, 401 Shreve Street, Punta Gorda. For additional information, please call (941) 883-3535 or email office@ccmpo.com.
- **Parking along West Retta Esplanade** – At its Feb. 5 meeting, City Council discussed options for parking enforcement along West Rest from Harvey to the Tidal Creek Bridge. Consensus is to concentrate on no parking along the south side of Retta from Harvey to Shreve during events in Gilchrist Park. The event manual will be revised to reflect this directive.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2/4-2/9	The Great Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium	City Marketplace	www.mrswindles.com
2/5	Word of Life	Laishley Park	http://www.wolm.net/
2/8	2020 Charlotte County Heart Walk	Laishley Park	https://www.heart.org/en/
2/8	City Wide Garage Sales	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
2/9	Vendor & Craft Fair at Laishley Park	Laishley Park	http://www.localladiessouthflorida.com/
2/12	World War II; The Journey to Victory Remembering the Tuskegee Airmen	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
2/12	Word of Life	Laishley Park	http://www.wolm.net/
2/14-2/16	Big Boy Toyz Expo	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events/2019/2020-big-boy-toyz-expo
2/15	St. Vincent De Paul Walk for the Poor	Laishley Park Pavilions	https://www.svdp-dov.org/charlotte/cc_walk/
2/21-2/23	Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival	City Marketplace	https://www.paragonartevents.com/S-97-Punta+Gorda+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival.html

Urban Design

- Planning staff attended an educational forum presented by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) titled Industry Drivers in Charlotte County. The program included presentations on development of Babcock Ranch, Sunseekers Resort, the Punta Gorda Airport, Cheney Brothers Incorporated, and the Florida Department of Transportation. The ULI is a non-profit organization founded in 1936 with over 40,000 members worldwide representing the entire spectrum of land use and real estate development disciplines working in private enterprise and public service. The local Southwest Florida District Council carries out the ULI mission of providing leadership in the responsible use of land and creating sustainable thriving future for our communities thru education, networking, and professional engagement activities.

Lot Mowing Program

- Crews have begun mowing in Punta Gorda Isles in the areas of Bal Harbor Blvd., Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd., Suzi St., Casey Key Dr., Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge (US 41 NB-FDOT Right-of-Way)** – Contractor is installing handrails; the lights have been installed and electrical work is occurring. Coordination with Florida Power & Light is occurring for placement of a service pole and power connection.



- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Contractor has completed work at 637 properties totaling 476,750 square feet of grading/sodding. Work areas during the week of Feb. 10 will include 4015-4025 San Massimo Dr. and then will move to 407-433 Panarea Dr.
- **Madrid Sidewalk** – Excavation, pipe placement and compaction of fill material continues. The work area is from the western drive of the Burnt Store Publix Plaza to US 41 SB. Project is scheduled to be complete by the end of May 2020.
- **Sailfish Bridge (second bridge on Marion Ave.)** – Bridge repairs started on Jan. 29, 2020 and will last approximately 30 days. Vessel passage will be restricted during construction to three times during the workday —9 a.m., 12 noon and 3 pm. 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 area will be fully open to vessel passage on weekdays from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. and all day Saturday
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Paver and light pole installation is underway. Concrete work at the E. Retta Esplanade and Nesbit intersection should be complete by Feb. 11, weather and conditions permitting. Contractor has indicated that substantial completion of the project will be Feb. 25.

Canal Maintenance

- **Ponce Inlet** – Dredging is underway and expected to last through the end of February. As a reminder, 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 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.
- **Seawall Assessment Program** – Staff has collected over 6,505 points to date. Crews are currently working in the Bird section of Punta Gorda Isles. The assessment is expected to be complete by the end of February.
- **Seawalls/Caps/Depressions** – Contractor has completed seven seawall replacement projects. There are three projects under construction in Punta Gorda Isles and two in Burnt Store Isles. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed. Crews filled depressions at 26 locations and performed one seawall cap and seam patches (12’ linear ft).
Buckley’s Pass – Visit the City’s YouTube channel to view drone footage of the construction https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEEdounKc85_W-fSqI5. Dredging of the pass from the Punta Gorda Isles canal system to Alligator Creek is nearing completion. The contractor is verifying the channel depth and removing any high spots; this work can be seen by viewing the Part Two of the Feb. 5 drone video. Boaters must stay out of the pass until construction is complete; damage to vessel propulsion systems is very likely to occur if vessels enter the construction area. Dredging of Alligator Creek will occur towards the end of the project. The Almar, River Bay, and Sea Edge canals will be closed to through-traffic during dredging operations. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Dr. to the Colony Point Dr. spoil site continues. Public access to the spoil site, including the atop the piles, is prohibited. Heavy equipment is being used and injury is likely to occur if unauthorized persons are in the area.



Police Department

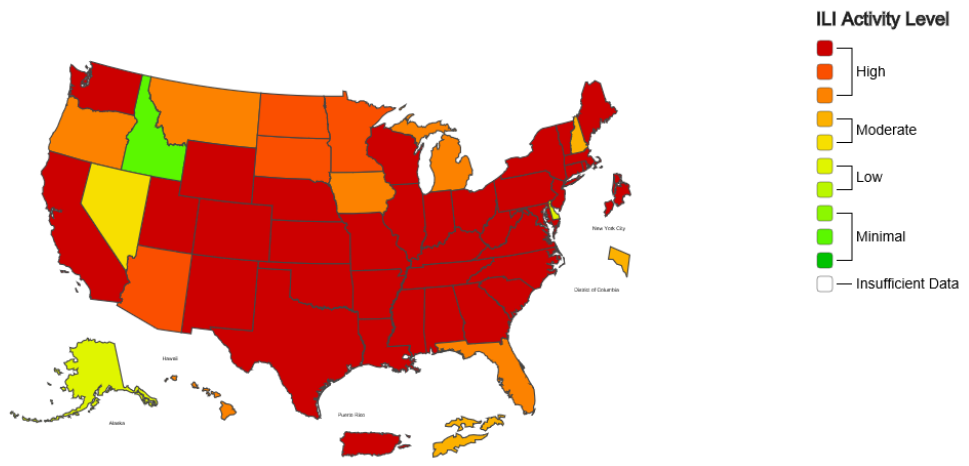
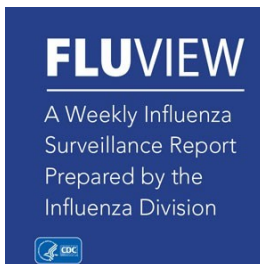
- Locking car doors at night could have prevented nearly all vehicle burglaries which took place within the City of Punta Gorda in the past year. Most criminals are only interested in easy access and will not force entry into a vehicle unless valuables are clearly visible. Follow the **9PM Routine** and check to make sure your valuables have been removed from your vehicles and your vehicle doors are locked each night before bed to help prevent crime in our city
- **Police Officer Testing** – The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 with oral board interviews scheduled on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 and Wednesday, May 20, 2020. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@pgorda.us
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on Thursday, Apr. 30, 2020. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@pgorda.us.
- **Internship Program** – The 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

- **Cold and Flu Season Prevention Practices** – Influenza activity is high in the U.S. and expected to continue for weeks. Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine each season. In addition to getting vaccinated, you take everyday preventive actions like staying away from sick people and washing your hands to reduce the spread of germs. If you are sick with flu, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading flu to others. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread this way. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germ.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

2019-20 Influenza Season Week 5 ending Feb 01, 2020



Utilities Department

Administration

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) has been conducted at 601 Shreve St. A table of the resample values is on the City's website, www.cityofpuntafordafl.com, under Utilities Department. All resample values at this sample site as well as throughout the water system are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.
- **Jones Loop Force Main Project** – Completed as-built surveying with Johnson Engineering for Interstate 75 crossing and lift station valve arrangements.
- **Scenic View Storage** – Installed fire hydrant water line and hydrant for project.
- **Coral Ridge Sewer Project** – Contractor installed approximately 70% of 2-inch force main pipe for project.
- **Waterford Estates** – Contractor televising sewer main line for defects prior to paving. Began installing concrete pads around water main valve boxes.

Groundwater (RO) Plant

- Week 82 – Work being done on the bleach storage area.

Water Treatment Plant

- 28.0 million gallons of water (MG) was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.0 MG for a daily average
- Peace River Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of 0.5 MG per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall for Jan. 2019 4.90", Jan. 2020 – 0.90", Feb. 2019 -3.40", Feb. 2020 = 0.70".
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. At its current level, the City's water is considered "very hard" – Grains of Hardness 19 parts per million (ppm) and total hardness 324
- Total Dissolved Solids – Current 481 ppm, Low 266 ppm, High 656 ppm, 12 Year Average 496 ppm
- Reservoir Information - Current Level 5.14', Low 4.87', High 6.02', 55 Year Average 5.21'
- The Peace River Manasota regional Water Supply Authority Interconnect pipeline is close to being tied-in at the City's Water Plant.



City Clerk

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals (1 alternate vacancy) – Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms with a maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.
- Building Board (1 alternate vacancy) – Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency not required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms with a 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.
- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee – Meets the third Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven-member board. Three-year terms with a 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 under the provisions of Section 6-6(c, Punta Gorda Code.
- Utility Advisory Board – Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board. Three-year terms with 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 and specifications.

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:

Daniel Bell Enterprises, LLC, 252 W. Marion Ave. #1124
Fero Construction and Remodeling, 490 Bal Harbor Blvd.