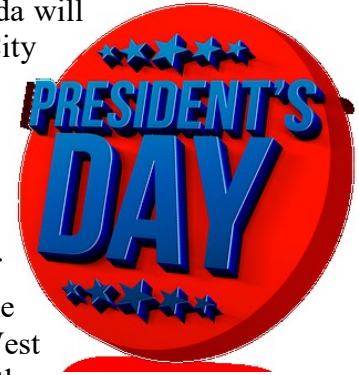


WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FEBRUARY 14, 2020

City Manager

- **Presidents' Day** - The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Feb. 17 for Presidents' Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in their trash, yard waste or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers will notice NO CHANGE in collection.
- **Plaque Dedication** – On Feb. 20 the City of Punta Gorda will host a plaque dedication in honor of the placement and display of the Consolidated Ice Plant Foundation remnant at 5:00 p.m. Members of the City Council and Historic Preservation Advisory Board invite the public to attend the ceremony in Linear Park at the corner of West Virginia Avenue and Berry Street. On street parking is available on the 300 block of Berry Street (between West Olympia and West Virginia) and along Palm Avenue (between Berry Street and Chasteen Street). Additional Public Parking is available at History Park and the Punta Gorda Library on Shreve Street. The concrete remnant is a part of the foundation of the Consolidated Ice Manufacturing 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 four 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 the First United Methodist Church for construction of the sanctuary.
- **Interstate Signage** – City Council Members, City staff, City Lobbyist, State Representative Grant and Punta Gorda residents have all been in communication with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff regarding interstate signage for the Vietnam Memorial Wall and Military Heritage Museum. FDOT has indicated that signage going north on I-75 is not a problem since there is room on the highway and Punta Gorda exit 164 ramp to direct vehicles onto State Road 17 and into the City where the memorial and museum are both located off Marion Avenue. However, FDOT has determined that placement of signage on the exit 164 ramp from I-75 south is an issue since there is no room, according to their engineering standards, for an additional sign. FDOT suggested elimination of a sign or changing of the message on an existing sign as possible solutions. Council will review the suggestions provided to the City's lobbyist at the Feb. 19 meeting. View the suggestions at <http://novuspublic.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=17725&MeetingID=1806>.
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** – The MPO 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. Feb. 26 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Library Meeting Room, 401 Shreve Street.



- **Long Range Financial Plan** – Also, at the Feb. 19 Council Meeting Council the FY2020-2024 Long Range Financial Plan will be reviewed. The report and ensuing conversation initiates the process towards the development of the FY2021 annual budget. The City will present several updates and conversations over the coming months in order to develop a financial plan for final approval in Sept. 2020. To review the plan visit <http://novuspublic.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=17731&MeetingID=1806>.

Upcoming Events

- **The Black Tie Express** – Vice Mayor Lynne Matthews and Nanette Leonard are heading up The Black Tie Express clothing drive on Monday, Mar. 16. Residents from all over our community can participate by donating formal gowns, tuxedos, suits and accessories, which will provide these young students in need who want to attend Charlotte High’s 2020 Prom the opportunity to go in style. Students from the Leo Club will decorate The Black Tie Express and will help with the donations. The Black Tie Express will make three stops in Punta Gorda on Monday, March 16:
 - 1) 10:10 a.m. Laishley Crab House 150 Laishley Ct.
 - 2) 10:40 a.m. City Hall (in front of building) 326 W. Marion Ave.
 - 3) 11:10 a.m. Bal Harbor Shopping Center 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd.

After the last stop in Punta Gorda, the Black Tie Express will pull into Charlotte High School’s parking lot where students from the Leo club will help unload all of the donations.

- **Fishermen’s Village Events** – can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>.

| Date | Event | Location | Contact |
|-----------|---|--|---|
| 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.svdop-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 |
| 2/22 | Punta Gorda Chamber Wine & Jazz Festival | Laishley Park | https://puntagordachamber.com/product/15th-annual-wine-and-jazz-festival-2020/ |
| 2/27-2/29 | Florida Frontier Days | Punta Gorda History Park | (941)769-1270 |
| 2/29 | 10 th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl | Various locations in Punta Gorda | http://puntagordapubcrawl.com/index.html |
| 3/1 | 13 th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda | Laishley Park | https://www.tasteofpuntagorda.org/ |
| 3/2 | Charlotte County Veg Fest | Laishley Park | https://charlotteveg.org/ |
| 3/7-3/8 | MY Promotions Spring Fest Arts & Craft Festival | Muscle Car City | http://www.mypromotions.com/ |
| 3/14-15 | Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Festival | Sullivan Street | https://puntagordachamber.com/ |
| 3/14 | City Wide Garage Sale | Comfort Storage 3811 Tamiami Trail | https://puntagordachamber.com/ |
| 3/14 | TEAM Punta Gorda Pedal & Play | Laishley Park | http://pedalandplayinparadise.com/ |

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas;
PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive)
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.)

Urban Design

- **Design Studio** – Design Studio is an informal meeting held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Design Studio provides property owners, developers, builders, and design professionals with an opportunity to have zoning, planning and other staff available to answer questions regarding the City requirements for the development and use of property. This week’s agenda included meetings regarding:
 - Architectural requirements for rehabilitation of a historic single family house
 - Zoning and setback questions for three separate waterfront properties
 - Site improvement requirements for a used car dealership
- **History Park Community Garden (HPCG)** – Staff attended the HPCG gathering on Feb. 11. The Guest Speaker was Dillon Hart, Permaculture designer/consultant/ engineer, who discussed “How to Feed the Soil, and Why It Matters”. In addition to the HPCG group, staff brought Angela Pennington, Quality Independence owner, to the meeting so she could be introduced to the group of community gardeners. The HPCG have offered to assist the Agripreneur Gardeners with solarization of the planting beds.
- **The Agripreneur Garden** – Quality Independence has established a worm composting planter bed to aid with amending the soil in the other planters. Worm composting is using worms to recycle food scraps and other organic material into a valuable soil amendment called vermicompost, or worm compost. Worms eat food scraps, which become compost as they pass through the worm's body. Compost then exits the worm. To understand why vermicompost is a benefit for the plants, remember that the worms are eating nutrient-rich fruit and vegetable scraps, and turning them into nutrient-rich compost. This supports the growth of the plants and vegetables throughout the garden. The group can already see an increase in the number of worms in the planter.



Public Works

Engineering

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are being manufactured. Installation is anticipated to commence the beginning of March.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** - The contractor continues installation of handrail, installation of the lights and electrical work. Coordination with FPL is occurring to schedule placement of a service pole and power connection.

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - To date JRL Underground has completed work at 647 properties totaling 483,250 square feet of grading/sodding. Work areas during the week of Feb. 17 will include 406-440 Valletta Ct and 425-441 Valletta Ct.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - Excavation, pipe placement and compaction of subbase continues. The work area is from the western drive of the Burnt Store Publix Plaza to US 41 SB. This project is scheduled to complete by the end of May 2020. If you have any questions, 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 6:00 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.
- **Sullivan Street renovations** - The core sampling and testing of existing materials is complete. The Scope of Work, Construction Bid Checklist package has been prepared and is under review by staff.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** - Light pole installation and concrete placement is complete. Paver installation along Nesbit St is scheduled for completion by Feb. 17. The contractor has indicated that overall substantial completion of the project remains Feb. 25.



Canal Maintenance

- **Ponce Inlet Dredging** - Ponce Dredging continues and the spoil material is being staged at the end of Colony Point and will be transported to the spoil site. Dredging is expected to be completed by the end of February. 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 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **Seawall Assessment Program** - The Seawall Assessment is ongoing; staff has collected over 8,223 points to date. Crews have completed the assessment in Punta Gorda Isles and are currently working in Burnt Store 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. There are three projects under construction in PGI and two under construction in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 30 locations
 - Crews performed six seawall cap and seam patches (41' linear ft.).
 - Crews performed three debris removals from the canals.



- **Buckley's Pass** - Please visit the City's YouTube channel to view drone footage taken of the construction progress. Check out the very popular playlist by visiting: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNfEdownKc85_W-fSqI5 Dredging

operations of the pass from the PGI canal system to Alligator Creek are complete. The dredging of Alligator Creek will happen towards the end of the project. Temporary piles have been installed to aid in the placement of rip-rap along the mangrove planting areas. Boaters NEED to stay out of the new pass until construction is completed which is scheduled to occur in April. DO NOT open the turbidity curtains to gain access through the pass. 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 may be closed to through traffic during construction 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

- **The Punta Gorda Neighborhood Watch Program** – On Feb. 11 Lieutenant Justin Davoult, Punta Gorda Police Department shared a presentation about the Punta Gorda Neighborhood Watch Program at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. Participants learned how our police department is working in concert with citizens to keep our community safe. The Neighborhood Watch program allows officers easy communication with block captains who volunteer to share important information with their neighbors using technology to aid in the communication.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on May 18 with oral board interviews scheduled on Tuesday, May 19 and May 20. 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 May 11. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on Thursday, Apr. 30. 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

- The Punta Gorda Fire Department gave a presentation to the Seminole Lakes Property Owners Association on Fe. 10. Five fire department personnel in attendance, including Chief Ray Briggs, Fire Marshal Jennifer Molnar and Operations Chief Holden Gibbs. A demonstration was provided and safety materials were given to the group of sixty residents.



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 84- Constructing driveways and parking lot.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 32.0 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.6 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 Feb. 2019 3.40” Feb. 2020 0.70”
- 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 Feb. 13 – Current 481 ppm, Low 269 ppm, High 640 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 502 ppm
- Reservoir Feb. 13 – Current 5.16’, Record Low 4.89’, Record High 5.90’, 54 Year Avg. 5.21’

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.