

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT MARCH 6, 2020

City Manager

- **FY 2020 Budget Public Input** – The City will hold a community conversation on Apr. 7 at 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to garner input into next fiscal year's budget priorities. The public is welcome to attend and provide their thoughts and suggestions for services, capital investment and neighborhood improvements. The video will be available on the City YouTube channel both live streaming and as a recording after the event. Staff will summarize input received for City Council consideration during the process to develop a FY 2021 financial plan.
- **Wings Over Charlotte Harbor** – City Council reviewed an event permit for Wings Over Charlotte Harbor to be held Oct. 23, 24, & 25. The main viewing area for the event will be at Fishermen's Village. There will be a food truck rally and spectator viewing at Gilchrist Park. Other viewing areas requested are Alice, Shreve, Pittman & Brown Parks. The applicant is also requesting to close W. Retta Esplanade from Harvey Street to the tidal creek bridge and working to secure off-site parking locations along with shuttle services to the viewing areas. Council tentatively approved the event including closing W. Retta and asked event organizers to work with the Punta Gorda Fire Department and Punta Gorda Police Department to develop a safety plan. The event permit will be revisited at the Mar. 18 Council Meeting.
- **Signs in the Right of Way** – City Council had a discussion about signs at the Mar. 4 meeting. City staff and the Board of Realtors and their representatives will work together to develop new sign protocol. In the meantime the City will not enforce the current sign ordinance regarding signs in the right of way on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays. Any signs that are picked up in the right of way Monday through Friday will be available for pickup at the Public Works/Utilities Campus south entrance Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please note that the signs are disposed of on the 1st and 15th of every month.



- **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** – The Coronavirus (COVID-19) is at the top of mind for many of our City residents and stakeholders. Fire Chief Ray Briggs leads the City's preparations for public safety and emergency situations and shares the following statement regarding the situation in Punta Gorda, "The Punta Gorda Fire Department has procedures and personal protective equipment in place to continue to provide quality customer service to the community at all times. Over the course of the next week our dispatchers will likely add new screening protocol for calls that will give first responders additional information about patient needing assistance." The City is creating posters that will be distributed in the community to highlight how to prevent infection with this virus and the seasonal flu. A question was raised by a resident about COVID-19 and the water supply. Utilities Director Tom Jackson assures, "The disinfection we use and the levels of disinfection we maintain will kill any pathogens that might get into the water." Other FAQ's and answers about COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>. Chief Briggs recommends following the advice of the Center For Disease Control (CDC) for prevention of COVID-19;



- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- ✓ Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- ✓ CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility). Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty. For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website. For information specific to healthcare, see [CDC's Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#). These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. CDC does have [specific guidance for travelers](#). The CDC also has information for Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19 available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>. The CDC also provides information for specific types of businesses such as hospitals visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/index.html> for more information. If you have any questions about the City's preparations regarding COVID-19 please contact Communications Manager, Melissa Reichert at 941-575-3394.

Upcoming Events

- **The Black Tie Express** – Vice Mayor Lynne Matthews and Nanette Leonard are leading The Black Tie Express clothing drive on 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 stop in Punta Gorda Mar. 16 at;
 - 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
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/
3/21-22	Peace River National Art Show	Laishley Park	https://visualartcenter.org/
3/28	Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran’s Event & Parade	Laishley Park & Gazebo	https://welcomehomevietnamvets2020.org/
4/18	Charlotte County Relay for Life	Laishley Park	https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR/RelayForLife/RFLCY19SER?pg=entry&fr_id=91259

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
PGI (Magdalina Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd).
PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive

Urban Design

- At the Mar. 4 City Council meeting, City Council endorsed the America In Bloom Project. America In Bloom is a national program dedicated to helping communities flourish. It is their belief that “communities are more welcoming and vibrant with colorful plants and trees in clean environments.” Their National Awards Program provides inexpensive consultation to prepare communities who are striving to improve. TEAM Punta Gorda and the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce will be partnering to bring the program to Punta Gorda. In the upcoming weeks Urban Design staff will be meeting with TEAM Punta Gorda members and the organizers to work on implementation of the design recommendations. Learn more about America in Bloom at <https://www.americainbloom.org/>.



Public Works

- **Hounds on Henry** – As a friendly reminder, Hounds on Henry is closed every Wednesday for weekly maintenance. Normal hours of operations are Monday thru Tuesday and Thursday through Sunday from 7:30 a.m. until dusk.
- **Gilchrist Park Tennis Courts Closure** - Gilchrist Park Tennis Courts will be closed until Mar.13. The tennis courts will be closed for approximately 7 – 10 business days. If you have any questions, please contact Art Brewster, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5041 between the business hours of a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Engineering

- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - Construction continues. Pending is the delivery and installation of the catch basins. 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, 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.
- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - Completion of the final signs in the City Hall, Annex and Public Safety Building are scheduled for installation by next week. The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are being manufactured. Installation is anticipated to commence the beginning of March and complete by mid-May.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridge along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** - The project is construction complete with exception of the power supply to be scheduled with FPL to service the decorative light fixtures and poles. The pedestrian bridge is open for public use.
- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - To date JRL Underground has completed work at 672 properties totaling 501,300 square feet of grading/sodding. Work completed during the week of Mar. 2 included 4000-4011 Castellanos, 334 Santander, 5007 Oviedo, 300 Segovia and 307-325 Segovia.
- **Harborwalk PH II - W Retta from Maude to Berry St** - The Bid opening was held on Mar. 4. Procurement is reviewing the documents.
- **Sailfish Bridge Construction** - Effective Mar. 4, Sailfish Bridge is open to boat traffic. The waterward construction is completed. The contractor will continue to clean up and restore the sod on the vacant lot adjacent to the bridge. Vehicle traffic should remain unaffected.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** - The project is near substantial completion, remaining is the installation of the handrails around the gazebo and ramps. These handrails shipped on Mar. 3 and installation should be completed by Mar. 11. Staff developed a punch list inspection report this week.



Canal Maintenance

- **Bonefish Bayou Dredging** - Beginning the week of Mar. 16 through Mar. 31 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Bonefish Bayou is scheduled to be dredged. This canal is located between Ocean Dr. and Palm Tree Dr. The contractor will off load dredge material at the vacant lot on Palm Tree; 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.
- **Ponce Inlet Dredging** – Project complete.
- **Seawall Assessment Program** – Project complete.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed nine seawall replacement projects. There are two projects under construction in PGI and three under construction in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 23 locations.
 - Crews performed eight seawall cap and seam patches (86' linear ft.).
 - Crews removed one piece of debris from the canal (12' piling).
- **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. The dredging of Alligator Creek has begun. Placement of rip-rap along the mangrove planting areas is complete. 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

- **Swearing-in and Recognition Ceremony** – The police department recognized two new professional staff employees, Employee Development Coordinator Glen Ritta and Public Safety Dispatcher Ryan Daymude, swore in two new police officers, Officer Amber Gray and Officer Thomas Vetri, and swore in newly promoted Corporal Matthew Woelk at a ceremony at the Public Safety Complex.
- **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@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **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@cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- **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

- **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department has organized a meeting with representatives of the local Faith Based Community to share best practices for prevention of the spread of COVID-19. In addition to the CDC and World Health Organizations information, Johns Hopkins CSSE has created a web tool that offers live tracking of the COVID-19 virus at



<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>. The resource tracks the number of confirmed cases, total deaths and total recoveries from the virus.

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 87 – Ammonia system to the blend basin tied in and tested.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.7 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 Feb. 2019 3.40” Feb. 2020 0.90” Mar. 2019 1.70”, Mar. 2020 0”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 17 ppm – Total hardness 290 ppm
- TDS for Mar. 5 – Current 473 ppm, Low 308 ppm, High 652 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 512 ppm
- Reservoir Mar. 5 – Current 5.11’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 6.01’, 54 Year Avg. 5.21’

City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** (One 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.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – (One 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 regarding, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.

- **Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – (One 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 of Ordinances.