



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT APRIL 10, 2020

City Manager

- **Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on April 15 at 9 a.m. at the City Hall. Items of action and or discussion include; City Manager recruitment, Peace River Wildlife Center Henry Street lease, Burnt Store Isles speed limit signs, Community Redevelopment Authority debt refinancing, and Gill St Parking. The complete agenda can be viewed <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-meetings>. The following provisions will be in place at the meeting; The City's Emergency Management Director shall determine and enforce social distancing as recommended by any federal, state or local agency and deemed necessary by the Emergency Management Director under the then existing circumstances. Actions may include but are not limited to;
 - ✓ Reduced room capacity
 - ✓ Minimum seat spacing
 - ✓ Restricted access to council chambers and the lobby area
 - ✓ Disinfection of podiums, microphones, or other surfaces
 - ✓ Removal of any person(s) exhibiting symptoms of illness.
 - ✓ Members of the public not able to attend in person due to the foregoing limitations will be instructed as to how to watch meetings by means of live-streaming. You are able to watch the April 15 9:00 a.m. meeting via live stream at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw/featured?view_as=subscriber.

Due to emergency attendance limitations, City Council will accept written comments on any scheduled agenda item received by the City Manager in advance of the meeting. Submissions will be read into the record by a city staff member. Written comments must clearly identify the related agenda item and include the submitter's full name. Written comments may also be provided on any matter, but such comments must be received by the City Manager prior to the start of the meeting. All written comments must be limited in length so that they may be read into the record in approximately three (3) minutes. Written comments may be submitted prior to the start of the meeting to the City Manager by email to citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com, regular mail to 326 W. Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, or document drop off located inside the City Hall Annex lobby at 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda FL 33950.

- **Parks Usage Update** – Please keep in mind that City park areas are not available for sitting in lawn chairs, on benches, tables and seawalls, in accordance with State guidelines. Active recreational activities such as walking, biking or running are allowed with appropriate social distancing. Since April 3, our police officers have had to request 318 park patrons to vacate the premises since they were not engaging in what are deemed essential recreational activities. Again, people are not allowed to lounge, picnic or sit in lawn chairs in the park until further notice because of the COVID-19 situation. Park amenities such as playgrounds, gazebos, pavilions, sports courts and benches also remain off limits. Please do your part to model appropriate social and physical distancing behaviors if using the Harborwalk and Linear Parks.

- **FY 2021 Budget** – The community conversation aimed to garner input into development of FY 2021 budget priorities scheduled for April 7 has been cancelled due to COVID-19 social distancing and meeting protocols. However, the City is still seeking public input into budget priorities. Please email your suggestions to citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com through the month of April Staff is planning to present a budget update at a City Council meeting in May.
- **Buckley’s Pass Signage** – Here is the current situation as to signage. The Florida Wildlife Commission must approve any speed sign changes. Charlotte County Public Works has the responsibility of placing signs on Alligator Creek. The SLOW SPEED signs on Alligator Creek were moved inland (upstream) after the Buckley’s Pass permit was issued. The SLOW SPEED signs used to be downstream of Buckley’s Pass and that is what is now being requested by residents. The signs were moved by the County at the direction of FWC about the time when the County dredged Alligator Creek. The City of Punta Gorda is responsible for the Buckley Pass signage. The City was told that FWC would review signage needs once Buckley Pass was finished. Now that the pass is opened, Charlotte County has agreed to pursue the signage matter with FWC. The current speed situation is this. On Alligator Creek, the minimum wake sign is a ways INLAND from the Buckley Pass - Alligator Creek intersection. Therefore boats currently using Buckley Pass may encounter boats on plane in Alligator Creek as the current signage allows that. In addition, there are no SLOW SPEED signs as you enter Buckley Pass because when the project was permitted, the SLOW SPEED signs on Alligator Creek had not yet been moved upstream so Buckley’s Pass was intended to be SLOW SPEED. A temporary, “informational” slow speed sign has been installed at Buckley’s Pass. The sign is located on the left side of Buckley’s Pass at the intersection of Alligator Creek and is facing the creek.



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Code Compliance

- **Relief for Businesses** – In order to provide relief to the City’s local businesses, Code Compliance staff is issuing no-charge business event banner permits for up to 30 days. Normally a business event banner permit is valid for 5 days and limited to 12 permits per year. The City is striving to be proactive by allowing the local businesses notify customers that they are open. This permit is **not** limited to restaurants, it is for all open businesses, which are considered essential per the Governor’s order. Business owners can contact the City of Punta Gorda Code Compliance division at (941)575-3352 or <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/permits-applications-forms/code-compliance-permits/business-event-permit> to request the permit.

Lot Mowing Program

- Barring any changes in the Stay at Home Order, the City will begin a new mowing cycle on Monday April 13, 2020. At that time crews will begin mowing the following areas:
Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- Dover Kohl & Partners and City staff conducted technical stakeholder interviews with City Councilmembers and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Advisory Board. These interviews were conducted via video conference.
- City staff met with several members of Florida Department of Transportation Staff via video conference to discuss future possible configurations for US 17 (E Marion & E Olympia) and US 41 (Tamiami & Cross) thru Downtown Punta Gorda. These discussions are in related to future planning.

Public Works

Engineering

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are being manufactured. Installation is anticipated to be completed by mid-May.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** - Properties are currently in the acquisition phase for pond usage which will determine design completion.
- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - To date JRL Underground has completed work at 709 properties totaling 529,300 square feet of grading/sodding. Work completed during the week of April 6 included 3600-3629 Kassandra Dr. and will then move to 3236-3254 Tripoli Blvd. Work is underway at 506-518 St. Girons Ct., 3823 St. Girons Ct. and 3853-3865 Bordeaux Dr.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry)** – Preconstruction tele-conference April 9, to discuss schedule and items related to the project.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - Concrete sidewalk, curb and grade work 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.
- **Sullivan Street renovation** – The bid opening is scheduled on April 20.



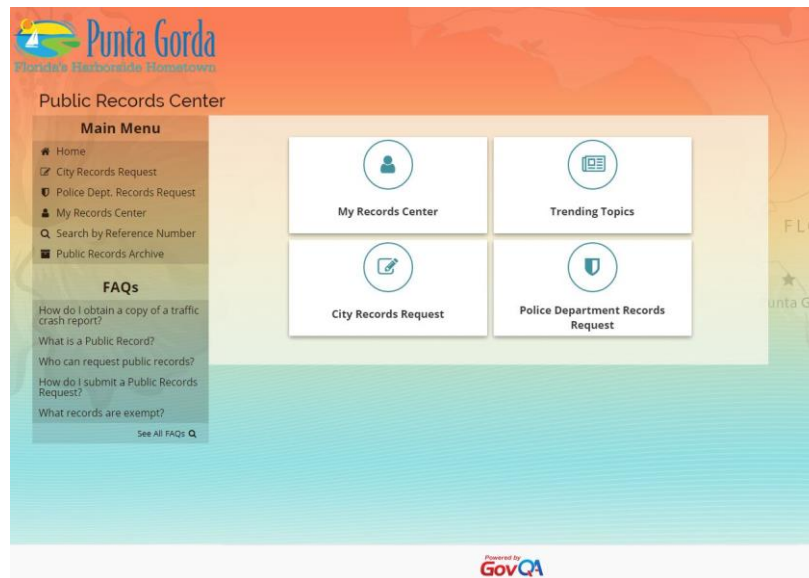
Canal Maintenance

- **Bonefish Bayou Dredging** – Dredging in the Bonefish Bayou is completed and the contractor is hauling spoil material to the staging site on Colony Point.
- **Burnt Store Isles Perimeter Canal Dredge** – Dredging in the Burnt Store Isles Perimeter Canal is completed.
- **Mangrove Trimming** – Annual mangrove trimming is underway. Work has commenced in Burnt Store Isles.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed nine seawall replacement projects. There are seven projects under construction in PGI and three under construction in BSI. There is two completed seawall replacement project in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 25 locations.
 - Crews performed five seawall cap and seam patches

- **Buckley’s Pass** – Buckley’s Pass is complete and open to boaters. Boaters with deep draft vessels should use caution when operating through Alligator Creek until the captains “know” the local conditions. Alligator Creek was dredged by the County a few years ago to the same depth as Buckley’s Pass. The staging lots are being restored. 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=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNfEdounKc85_W-fSqI5 .

Police Department

- **Online Records Requests** – You can now submit public records requests for the Punta Gorda Police Department online by visiting www.pgpdrecords.com. We encourage everyone to submit requests online, especially during this time while the public safety lobby is closed. Public records requests can also be submitted by mailing your request to PGPD Records Unit, 1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.



- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Sept. 14 with oral board interviews scheduled on Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact the Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.
- **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 Sept. 21. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact the Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall Semester of 2020 and the Spring Semester of 2021. 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 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Fire Department

- COVID-19 Update from Chief Briggs, *“I remain cautiously optimistic, our days remain filled with constant updates highlighting positive cases and quarantines. We participate in a daily conference calls with stakeholders ranging from Department of Health to all first responder agencies including our local hospitals. Our current status remains stable, we continue to assess our processes and make changes that will ultimately increase the safety of our personnel while providing essential care to our residents. I remain encouraged as I communicate with our local hospitals and nursing facilities they remain stable and are utilizing best practices as well. The community as a whole is doing well, residents continue to practice social distancing and encourage each other to make healthy decisions.”* Resources for understanding COVID-19 are available at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/advanced-components/covid-19-microsite>.

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 92- Work continues on the R.O. skids

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.2 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 April 2019 1.30” April 2020 .60”
- 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 April 9 – Current 549 ppm, Low 431 ppm, High 637 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 544 ppm
- Reservoir April 9 – Current 5.03’, Record Low 4.85’, Record High 5.79’, 55 Year Avg. 5.15’