



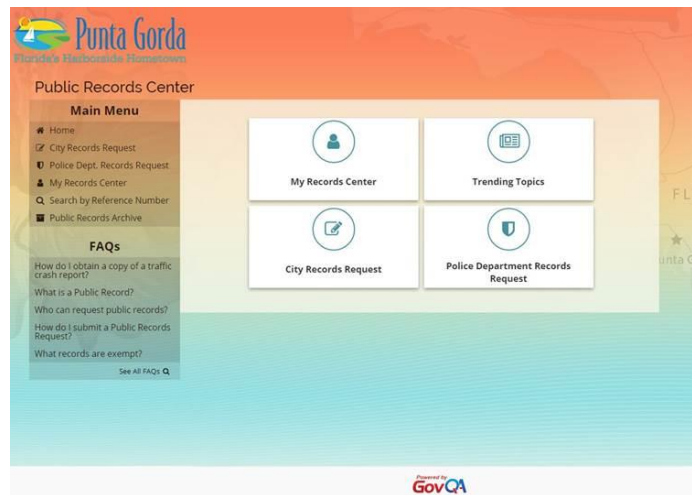
Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT APRIL 17, 2020

City Manager

- **2020 City Election Information** – The next General Election for the City of Punta Gorda will take place on Nov. 3 and will include City Council Districts 1,2 and 4 (to be included on the County's ballot). Councilmembers serve a two (2) year term. Candidate packets are now available through the City Clerk's Office by calling (941) 575-3305. Candidate information and forms are also available online on the City's website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/elections-and-voting>, as well as from the Department of State Division of Elections website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>. Filed candidates for City district seats must obtain a minimum of 25 but not more than 50 signatures from registered voters in their district to qualify to put their name on the ballot. Qualifying begins Jun. 8 (at noon) and ends at noon on June 12. Petition forms must be obtained from the City Clerk. For information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3305 or email pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com. Questions regarding voter registration, vote-by-mail ballots or precinct and polling information should be directed to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400.
- **Debt Refinancing** – City Council approved a refinancing of debt associated with two Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) projects, Laishley Park and Herald Court Centre. The refinancing resulted in a lower interest rate (approximately 1.78%) and savings of \$565,000 or 4.62% of the remaining loan amount. The average annual savings in debt service costs is \$76,753 and helps cushion the CRA's ability to meet debt obligations during economic uncertainty. The debt is paid for with tax increment financing funds received by the CRA from both the City and County.
- **FY 2021 Budget** – The community conversation aimed to garner input into development of FY 2021 budget priorities scheduled for Apr. 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 Apr. Staff is planning to present a budget update at a City Council meeting in May.
- **Wildlife Center** – City Council approved a ground lease with the Peace River Wildlife Center (PRWC) which will allow them to relocate its non-hospital operations including a new public education center to City-owned land on West Henry adjacent to Hounds on Henry. The 50-year lease, renewable for another 50-year term, now provides the Center with a defined, permanent location enabling the organization to raise the necessary funds to make relocation a reality.
- **COVID-19 Microsite** – The City of Punta Gorda's COVID-19 microsite continues to provide information about the impact and resources available to the community during these uncertain times. In the last seven days 2,354 visits have been logged to the COVID-19 microsite. Information is continually updated including debunking rumours associated with the situation. Visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/advanced-components/covid-19-microsite>.

- **Pathway Etiquette** – A friendly reminder to be courteous when using the Harborwalk and Punta Gorda Pathways. Don't use the wrong side of the path. An unwritten rule is: whichever direction you're heading, use the same side of the path a car would use on the street. If you need to use the other side, try to stick to the edge of the path as much as possible. Please, don't stop in the middle of the path. Especially so, if you're more than one person. Move off the path if it's safe to do so, or as close to the edge of the path as possible. Don't walk in the middle of the path. Do put your dog on a (short) leash. Do go single file if there's not enough room. If you're a group of two or more people, make sure you're not encroaching on the opposite side of the path. Do look behind you when passing—and look ahead, too.
- **Special Announcement - Online Records Requests Portal Now Available** – We are excited to announce that public records requests can now be submitted online by visiting www.copgrecords.com. We encourage requestors to submit their requests online via the portal as it will help to ensure efficient and timely processing of requests during this time while many staff are working from home and access to City buildings is restricted in accordance with the Governor's Safer At Home Order. Public records requests can also be submitted by mail to City of Punta Gorda, 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 or via email to pr@cityofpuntagordafl.com. All responses to most requests, regardless of how they are received, will be provided via the new public records portal.



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.).
 - 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).
 - Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr).

Urban Design

- City staff attended the regular Technical Advisory Committee virtual meeting of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The focus was the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP is updated every five years and provides the vision and plan for transportation projects throughout the County. The project is in a technical modeling data and analysis phase right now; however, public input is still being sought online via an interactive mapping tool at: <https://wikimapping.com/charlotte-county-LRTP.html>

Code Compliance

- **Lawn Watering** – Just a reminder that the City of Punta Gorda has lawn watering restrictions in place. Lawn watering is limited to twice per week (if needed) by property address and must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and at any time using a shut-off nozzle on their hose.

Lawn Watering Schedule Table

Addresses	Current Watering Day	May Also Water
Ending in 0 and 1	Monday	Thursday
Ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday	Friday
Ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday	Saturday
Ending in 6 and 7	Thursday	Sunday
Ending in 8 and 9	Friday	Tuesday
Addresses that end with a letter instead of a number will water on:	Friday	Tuesday

Punta Gorda’s water restrictions, go to

[Water Restrictions | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)

Public Works

Engineering

- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - The Substantial Completion Walkthrough is complete. Contractor is working on punchlist with Final Completion scheduled on or before May 15.
- **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 716 properties totaling 533,700 square feet of grading/sodding. Work completed during the week of April 13 included 506-518 St. Girons Ct., 3823 St. Girons Ct. and 3853-3865 Bordeaux Dr. Work is underway at 801-841 Monaco Dr. and 3818-3840 Bordeaux Dr.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry)** – The Preconstruction Meeting was held last week. The contractor is in the process of obtaining City permits and submittal documents. Construction is anticipated to commence the first week in May 2020.
- **Sullivan Street renovation** – The bid opening is scheduled on April 20.



- **FDOT - US 41 Carmalita Street to Marion Ave. within City of Punta Gorda -**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
US 41 From Carmalita Street to Marion Avenue
Signalization Improvement Project in Charlotte County

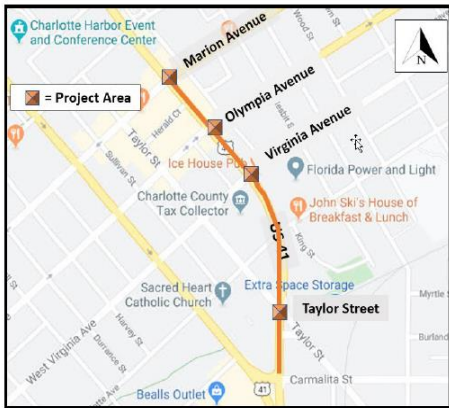
Financial Project ID: 440670-1-52-01,440670-1-52-02 April 2020

The Florida Department of Transportation's contractor, Highway Safety Devices, will begin work late April 2020 to install new signals on US 41 from Carmalita Street to Marion Avenue in Charlotte County. The project area is identified on the project location map. The construction will take place Monday through Friday during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours, weather permitting. Lane closures may occur during daytime hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

START DATE: Late April 2020
ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Early Fall 2020
PROJECT COST: \$1.3 million
CONTRACTOR: Highway Safety Devices

For more information about the project, contact:

Lisa Macias Community Outreach Manager (239) 337-1071 Lisa.Macias@dot.state.fl.us	Zachary Burch Communications Manager (239) 225-1950 Zachary.Burch@dot.state.fl.us
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Canal Maintenance

- **Bonefish Bayou Dredging** – Dredging in the Bonefish Bayou is complete and the staging site has been restored.
- **Mangrove Trimming** – Annual mangrove trimming is underway. Work has commenced in Burnt Store Isles.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed ten seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are eight projects under construction. Three seawall replacement projects have been completed in BSI and there are two projects under construction. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 14 locations.
 - Crews performed four seawall cap and seam patches (84' linear ft.).
 - Crews completed one sonar survey for debris under water.
 - Crews installed one waterway sign at Buckley's Pass & Alligator Creek.

Police Department

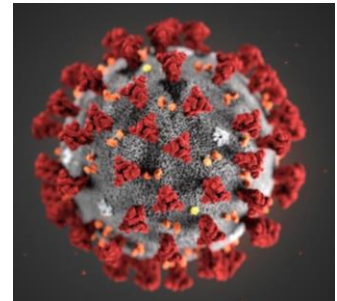
- **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week** – This week was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week when we take the time to show our appreciation for our dispatchers, the “unseen” heroes of the public safety community. We have an amazing team here in Punta Gorda who do an amazing job keeping our officers, firefighters, and community safe! Thank you dispatchers for the difficult job that you do every day!
- **Beware of Stimulus Scams** – Make sure not to fall for phone calls, text messages, email, or website that ask for personal or financial information in order to receive your stimulus money. The IRS will never contact you to request personal information. If you have questions or concerns regarding your stimulus payment, please visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus.



- **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** – Fire Chief Ray Briggs and Mayor Nancy Prafke provided input for a USA Today article written by Josh Salsman. The article entitled, “A Tale of Three Cities: COVID-19 in Florida’s most vulnerable populations” contains the following; *“In Punta Gorda, an almost all white retirement community in Southwest Florida, city leaders knew to expect the worst due to the average age of the population. The city of about 20,000, where senior citizens account for 56% of the population, ordered supplies amid the state’s first confirmed cases in early March – nearly a month before the statewide stay-at-home orders. We have this really at-risk community, so we took notice very early,”* said Ray Briggs, Punta Gorda’s fire chief and emergency manager. *“We understand the risk of our population – we really do.”* Briggs had some leftover protective equipment from the Ebola outbreak in 2016. And before the crisis took deep hold in Florida, he put in an order of N95 masks, eye protection, gowns and other supplies – beating out the statewide rush. To limit exposure, Briggs also postponed all nonessential services and enforced a “no boots” rule in the fire station, which is cleaned with bleach solution three times daily. No visitors are allowed, not even families. After a substantial outbreak at a Washington State nursing home claimed the lives of residents in February, Punta Gorda officials had meetings with assisted living facilities and local churches to get the message out to seniors. Officials also are trying to help elderly citizens who already suffered from isolation and depend on social services. *“It’s devastating everyone”* Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke said. *“Most seniors are watching, and paying attention, and doing what they can to weather this.”* The complete article is available at <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2020/04/13/coronavirus-florida-cities-populations-facing-increased-covid-19-risks/5135524002/>.



Finance Department

- The Billing and Collections office would like to remind our customers about our FREE automatic bank draft service that can save you time, money, postage and give you one less thing to remember during this trying time. Simply click this link to access the bank draft authorization form <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=2> . As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact our office at pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com or 941-639-2528.

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 93- Improvements to drainage at existing surface water plant

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 40.3 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.8 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 20 ppm – Total hardness 342 ppm
- TDS for April 16 – Current 570 ppm, Low 377 ppm, High 622 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 532 ppm
- Reservoir April 16 – Current 4.98’, Record Low 4.79’, Record High 5.85’, 55 Year Avg. 5.12’

City Clerk

- Due to the COVID-19 situation, all City board and committee meetings continue to be suspended. However, the City Clerk's Office will continue to announce vacancies and accept new Board Appointment Information Forms (available online at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/boards-committees>) from interested citizens for City Council consideration so that we are prepared to resume meetings with a full quorum of members when it is safe to do so.

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.
- Building Board – (Two consumer advocate seats) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – 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.
- 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 – 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:
 - ✓ Gulf Coast Jewish family and Community Services, 103 West Marion Avenue, #208