

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JUNE 26, 2020

City Manager

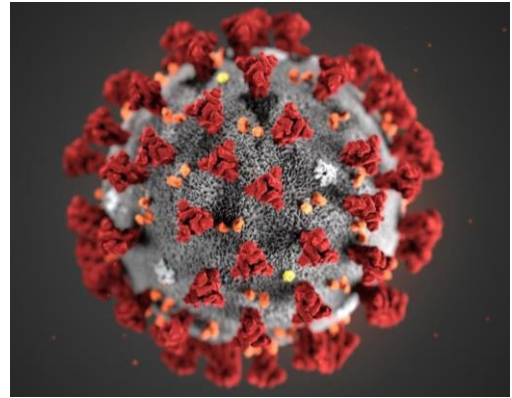
- **July 4 Holiday** - The City of Punta Gorda government offices will be closed on July 3 for the Independence Day holiday. Residents and commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO** change in trash, recycling or yard waste collections. If you have any questions about your scheduled pickup, please contact Public Works at (941) 575-5050.
- **July 1 Council Meeting** – In addition to the FY2021 budget items listed below the City Council or CRA agenda includes:
 - Pickleplex® discussion regarding their intent to charge for memberships.
 - Wayfinding update
 - Incoming City Manager, Gregory Murray, contract negotiations update.
 - Centennial Bridge Banners



Complete agenda will be available at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-meetings>.

- **FY 2021 Budget** – The July 1 Council meeting will consist of numerous budget updates in the following areas:
 - **General Fund** – includes reduction in revenue projections and favorable health insurance increase.
 - **Community Redevelopment Area Fund** – Five year proforma continues to show increases in reserves for debt service payments related to Herald Court Centre and Laishley Park; Operations revenues from land lease rent payments, loan repayment and interest income along with reserves earmarked for Laishley Park playground replacement, wayfinding signage replacement, and existing infrastructure maintenance.
 - **Gas Tax Funds** – Revenues estimated at 7.5% reduction resulting in slight reduction in annual paving program (\$25,000).
 - **Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Fund** – Proposed budget calls for reduction in annual assessment from \$555 to \$460 per single family lot due to elimination of dredging related debt service payment.
 - **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Fund** – Proposed budget calls for reduction in annual assessment from \$650 to \$550 due to completion of Hurricane Irma related seawall repairs, sans rip rap mitigation.
 - **1% Local Option Sales Tax** – Discussion regarding whether to add traffic signal at Burnt Store Road and Home Depot at an estimated cost of \$1.1 million, thereby necessitating adjustments to approved project list to fit within projected revenues.
- **Hounds on Henry** – The Hounds on Henry dog park will be closed on July 1 and July 2 for landscaping and other maintenance. The work was unable to take place this week due to an inavailability of sod.

- **COVID-19** – Effective immediately, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation has suspended the consumption of alcohol at bars statewide. The reason for suspending alcohol sales is due to the increase in younger individuals testing positive for COVID-19 in June. Some of the cases involving younger individuals are suspected of having originated from visits to bars, pubs, or nightclubs who have disregarded the restrictions set for in Phase 2 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan for Florida’s Recovery. The non-compliance is believed to be such a problem that individualized enforcement efforts would be impractical and insufficient to curb the problem. Restaurants may continue selling and allowing the consumption of alcohol on their premises as long as they derive 50% or less of gross revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages. Read the order at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=11271>.



Upcoming Events

- Fishermen’s Village Events – available at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Military Heritage Museum Events – available at <https://freedomisntfree.org/upcoming-events/>.
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Events – available at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Events – available at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events>

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.) East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, and Cooper St). PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive). PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd). Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr). Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

Urban Design

- The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is currently working on the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This LRTP update, called Route to 2045, provides the long range vision for the County’s transportation system. Route to 2045 will guide Federal and State transportation funding on projects. The MPO is actively seeking your input online. June 30 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. the MPO will host a virtual public workshop. To find out more information and make sure your voice is heard please register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7071142204484954637>. Additionally the MPO is seeking public input through an online survey, which is open now through July 3 and is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2045LRTPCostFeasiblePlanSurvey>

Code Compliance

- We would like to remind our residents that trash and yard waste containers can only be set out near the road on trash day and twenty-four (24) hours prior to trash day.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 19 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are 10 projects under construction. Five seawall replacement projects have been completed in BSI and there is one project under construction. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 39 locations.
 - Crews performed three seawall cap and seam patches (28' linear ft.).

Engineering

- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - Subbase placement and compaction continues. Formwork and concrete placement continues with 180 yards of concrete placed to date. Pipe and drainage structures have been received, with installations commencing. Pedestrians and cyclists are restricted from the work area during construction. This project is anticipated to complete by the end of Sept. 2020. 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://youtu.be/EVNAOyO3CHQ>.
- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – The contractor completed work to establish positive drainage along the West side of Berry St. between the tidal canal South of W. Virginia Ave. and the intersection of Berry St. and W. Grace St. Work is underway at 418-434 W. Grace St; 403-409 W. Grace St. and 425-433 W. Ann St. To date the contractor has completed work at 761 properties totaling 567,000 square feet of grading and sodding.
- **Shreve St (MURT)** – Lighted bollards have been ordered.
- **FDOT - US 41 Carmalita Street to Marion Ave. within City of Punta Gorda** - The Florida Department of Transportation's contractor, Highway Safety Devices, continues work to install new signals on US 41 from Carmalita St. to Marion Ave. 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. For complete details, contact information and map <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/engineering>.



Police Department

- **Officer Richards** – Officer Richards received the Enrique Camarena Award from the BPO Elks in Orlando. He was nominated for this award by the Punta Gorda Elks. Congratulations Officer Richards!
- **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.
- **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.



- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for 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.

To apply for any of these positions or for more information please visit www.pgjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

- **Body Camera Project Update** – The Punta Gorda Police Department has received all of our body camera equipment this week. We have already begun the implementation process and will be holding training for our officers and staff in July.



Fire Department

- **July 4 Pet Safety Tips** –

- ✓ Leave your pets at home when you go to parties, fireworks displays, parades and other gatherings. Loud fireworks, unfamiliar places and crowds can all be very frightening to pets, and there's great risk of pets becoming spooked and running.
- ✓ Consider putting your pets in a safe, escape-proof room or crate during parties and fireworks.
- ✓ Keep horses and livestock in safely fenced areas and as far from the excitement and noise as possible.
- ✓ If you're hosting guests, ask them to help keep an eye on your pets to make sure they don't escape. Placing notes on exit doors and gates can help both you and your guests remain vigilant.
- ✓ Keep your pets inside if you or your neighbors are setting off fireworks.
- ✓ Keep sparklers, glow sticks, fireworks, charcoal and kabob skewers away from curious pets.
- ✓ Don't let pets get near your barbecue grill while it is in use or still hot.
- ✓ Remember that too much sun and heat (and humidity!) can be dangerous to pets. Keep them inside when it's extremely hot/humid; make sure they have access to shady spots and plenty of water when outdoors; don't leave them outside for extended periods in hot weather; and know the signs that your pet may be overheating.
- ✓ Never leave your pet in the car when it's warm outside. Vehicle interiors heat up much faster than the air around them, and even a short time in a locked car can be dangerous to pets.
- ✓ If you're travelling out of town for the holiday, consider leaving your pets at home with a pet sitter or boarding them in a kennel. If you need to bring them with you, be sure you know how to keep them safe.
- ✓ Follow safe food handling and hygiene practices to protect your family and guests.



Utilities Department

Utilities Administration

- If you are a customer that has previously participated in in the Lead and Copper sample collection program, the City of Punta Gorda will be calling you to schedule sample collection for the end of July. Samples are collected by the homeowner, to determine the contribution of faucet fixtures, household pipes and/or solder to the lead and copper levels in their tap water. This sampling effort is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and is being accomplished through the cooperation of homeowners. Previous participants are also welcome to call the Water Treatment Plant to get scheduled at (941) 639-2057 or (941) 575-5004.
- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) continues at the sample site located at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values is on the City's web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values are below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- The project is nearing completion. The actual startup of the new RO facility will be a measured and gradual process. We are testing to ensure all the components including pumping, controllers, sensors and chemical feed systems are functioning as designed to ensure the water produced meets all regulatory standards. We expect the new RO facility to begin providing water to the City's customers by the end of June/July.



Week 103 – testing our new chemical feed pumps.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 34.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 4.9 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 June 2019 7.30”, June 2020 13.10”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 11 ppm – Total hardness 188 ppm
- TDS for June 25 – Current 416 ppm, Low 247 ppm, High 590 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 434 ppm
- Reservoir June 25 – Current 5.55’, Record Low 5.01’, Record High 7.31, 55 Year Avg. 5.54’

City Clerk

- **Current Board and Committee Vacancies** ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))
Several City Boards have resumed holding meetings in June (only those with time sensitive or urgent business to address). Please check the City's web calendar for schedule. The City Clerk's Office will continue to announce vacancies and accept new Board Appointment Information Forms (available 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.
- **Building Board** – (One alternate vacancy) 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.