

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JULY 3, 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 8 Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on July 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall. Items of interest include:
  - ✓ Consideration of an emergency ordinance, requested by City Council, requiring facial coverings to be worn by all persons over the age of two in indoor public places the City of Punta Gorda. All persons preparing or serving food would be required to wear a face covering. Some exceptions, among others; include persons exercising, persons with existing health conditions that a face covering would cause impairment and persons working in a business that do not have interactions with other persons.
  - ✓ A resolution to adopt the proposed FY 2021 millage rate at 3.4337 mills, which is the same as the current year. The proposed millage is 2.59% over the rolled back rate (3.3469), which is the rate that brings in the same amount of property tax revenues, sans new construction, as the previous year. With the proposed millage rate, the property tax increase for homestead properties would be \$12 for a home valued at \$150,000 and \$24 for a home valued at \$300,000.
  - ✓ Tentative FY 2021 levies for Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Canal Maintenance, Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Canal Maintenance and Lot Mowing. The BSI assessment of \$460 per single family residence is \$95 less than FY 2020; PGI assessment of \$550 is \$100 less than FY 2020; and lot mowing assessment of \$175 or \$5 more than FY 2020.
  - ✓ Incoming City Manager Contract will be presented to Council for discussion and possible approval.
  - ✓ Resolution to enact eminent domain for the necessary Boca Grande drainage area property acquisitions. There remain two properties that the City needs to acquire in order to provide sufficient retention areas for the project.
  - ✓ First reading of the Interchange Commercial Overlay District. In order to attract appropriate development within these areas, the creation of a new zoning classification, Interchange Commercial Overlay district will help achieve this goal and allow for the highest and best use of such properties.



- ✓ Special exception request for a substance abuse treatment center to be located at 610 East Olympia Avenue, located in the Neighborhood Center zoning district and within the Medical Overlay district. Said use requires special exception approval as it is not associated with a primary medical facility.
- ✓ Special exception request for a 94 unit assisted living facility with memory care and associated amenities to be located at 10211 Tamaki Trail. The parcel is in the Highway Commercial zoning district.
- ✓ Intent to vacate 9298 Mac Ever Street north of Jones Loop Road.
- ✓ Rezoning and Comprehensive Plan amendment for the property located at 11220 Burnt Store Road, a petition to rezone the subject property from its current zoning designation of Residential Estate one unit per acre/County to Neighborhood Residential 15 units per acre/City.

Complete information about all agenda items is available after 4:30 p.m. on July 2 at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>.

- **COVID-19 Testing Sites** – Charlotte Sports Park starting July 7 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. register at [www.coadfl.org](http://www.coadfl.org). Testing is also available at CVS <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing> and Walgreens <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing> by appointment.

#### 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:
  - Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
  - PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive).
  - 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).

#### Urban Design

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Survey** – Want to give your opinion on the current state of the Punta Gorda parks? Take part in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Survey! The survey is only 30 questions and will approximately take 9 minutes to complete. Help us get a better understanding of where you stand and if you have any suggestions. The survey will remain open until the first week of Oct. To take the survey, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTXP5X6>

**TAKE PART IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE SURVEY!**



- **The Planning Corner** – Do you ever wonder what Planners do? We heard from the City’s advisory board members and many residents requesting City staff to improve its communication and education. As a result Urban Design has created a new feature to be included in the Weekly Highlights Report called the “Planning Corner”. The feature will spotlight one or more projects such as [Plan Punta Gorda City-Wide Master Plan](#), the [Parks & Recreation Master Plan](#), Comprehensive Plan Amendments, and other topics happening. Our first release is an update on Plan Punta Gorda as it relates to the necessary changes to the [City’s Comprehensive Plan 2040](#) (Comp Plan). A Comp Plan is state mandated long range plan that sets forth a vision for the City. It allows for consistency in decision making, identifies challenges and opportunities, outlines goals, objectives, and policies (GOP’S), defines the City’s character and identity, and gives direction to development and sustainable growth. This past week, staff presented a [Master Plan update to the Planning Commission](#). This update provided an outline of the proposed revisions to the City’s Comp Plan, GOP’s with the desired outcomes identified in the Plan Punta Gorda City-Wide Master Plan. Each element references local regulations, in particular Chapter 26 Land Development Regulations (LDR). These proposed revisions will lay the foundation for the much anticipated form-based code to the City’s Land Development Regulations. If you have questions or have ideas for future topics contact [UrbanDesign@cityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:UrbanDesign@cityofPuntaGordaFL.com) .



## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Recovery after Hurricane Irma** – The City of Punta Gorda was awarded American Public Works Association 2020 Public Works Projects of the Year. View the video by visiting: [https://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/Inside\\_APWA.aspx?articleId=6760&utm\\_source=Informz&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Informz%20Emails&\\_zs=lgBAE1&\\_zl=qb5q5](https://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/Inside_APWA.aspx?articleId=6760&utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Informz%20Emails&_zs=lgBAE1&_zl=qb5q5).



- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 21 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are 10 projects under construction. Six seawall replacement projects have been completed in BSI and the work program for this fiscal year is complete. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - Crews filled depressions at 23 locations.
  - Crews performed one seawall cap and seam patches (15' linear ft.).
  - Crews performed one sonar recording for possible dredging (Sunfish Cove).

### Engineering

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – The contractor completed work at 418-434 W. Grace St; 403-409 W. Grace St. and 425-433 W. Ann St. During the week of July 6 work will begin along both sides of W. Ann St. between Berry St. and McGregor St. To date the contractor has completed work at 772 properties totaling 585,700 square feet of grading and sodding.
- **Laisley Boat Ramp repairs** – Beginning July 6 through July 10 (weather permitting) work is scheduled to remove asphalt and replace with concrete on one side of Laisley Park boat ramp at a time. One side of the boat ramp will remain open at all times.
- **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>.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - Subbase placement and compaction continues. Formwork and concrete placement to be scheduled. Pipe and drainage structures installations commencing. Irrigation coordination for installation is pending. Pedestrians and cyclists are restricted from the work area during construction. This project is anticipated to complete by the end of Sept. 2020.



### Sanitation

- **Yardwaste Disposal** – A reminder to Residents, the regular yard waste crew does not collect loose piles of yard waste that are larger than a wheelbarrow full. Residents will need to contact Public Works Sanitation at either (941) 575-5050 or [pubworks@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:pubworks@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com) to request bulk collection service of a large yard waste pile. Once a ticket is entered, the yard waste pile will be collected as soon as possible by the City's clamshell truck. Do not place yard waste piles near or under power lines or trees, telephone boxes, mail boxes, fire hydrants, etc. This could impede access to the yard waste materials.

## Police Department

- **See No Evil** – A crime documentary show entitled See No Evil, episode 15 Night Shift, features the tragic murder of Kyle Farishian at the 7-Eleven Convenience store in 2015 and the Punta Gorda Police Department's actions to solve the case. It is available at <https://www.investigationdiscovery.com/tv-shows/see-no-evil/full-episodes/night-shift>.
- **Alligator Patrol** – Officer Angelini and Lieutenant Chodakwsky assisted with trapping a wandering alligator on July 1. The alligator was transported to a location that was safer for everyone.
- **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 Set. 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.pgdjobs.com](http://www.pgdjobs.com) (941) 575-5571 or [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us) for additional information or to have an application package sent.



## Fire Department

- Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity thanks Fire Chief Briggs and Fire Marshal Jones-Molnar for arranging a volunteer group to help build on a very hot day in July. The Punta Gorda Firefighters came out on July 1 and July 2 to build with CC Habitat. They donated their hours of work to new home owner Aubree Law as part of her sweat equity hours of work requirement. Aubree is also the niece of Fire Marshal Molnar and extended fire family, as some of you may remember that Aubree was the expecting mother that almost gave birth during Hurricane Irma at the water plant sheltering. This Fabulous Firefighter Group combined their efforts to work on two houses that are side by side Habitat Homes under construction on Alder Rd in PG. New home owner Shaquisha Clayton was on site putting in her seat equity hours as well and was grateful for the additional help of the firefighters, as this was her wall raising day! Charlotte County Habitat is grateful to the Punta Gorda Firefighters for their dedication and service every day protecting our community. Habitat is blessed with their continued commitment to helping improve their community as volunteers with Habitat when they are not on duty.



- The Fire Department conducted pediatric airway management training this week. The training includes cricothyrotomy interventions and pediatric oxygenation. The City's Medical Director is on-site and participating in the training.



## **Utilities Department**

### **Utilities Administration**

The City flushes fire hydrants throughout the service area when required for the following:

- Routine maintenance and testing
- Adhere to strict regulations from regulatory agencies.
- Help find weaknesses in the water system
- Improvement of water quality
- Taste and Odor issues
- Water Sampling

The time involved in flushing can vary from a few minutes to several hours depending on the circumstances.

### **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 104: Operators moving into their new control room.

### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 34.6 MG 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 June 2019 7.30”, June 2020 13.10” July 2019 9.2”, July 2020 0.00”
- 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 July 1 – Current 328 ppm, Low 277 ppm, High 595 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 440 ppm
- Reservoir July 1 – Current 5.30’, Record Low 5.00’, Record High 6.93’, 55 Year Avg. 5.53’

## 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 consumer advocate and one contractor) 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.

## **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:
  - PG Social House, 124 Cross Street
  - Roxstar Hair Design, 425 Cross Street, #215
  - White Lotus Massage, 109 East Olympia Avenue, #309