

## **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JULY 10, 2020**

### **City Manager**

- **July 8 Council Meeting Recap –**
  - An emergency ordinance was put into place 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 are required to wear a face covering. Some exceptions, among others; include persons exercising, persons observing continuous social distancing, 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. Our Police and Code Officers distributed prototype signage and copies of the ordinance to non residential buildings throughout the City. The complete ordinance can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=11311>.
  - Incoming City Manager Contract was approved. Mr. Greg Murray comes to the City with over 10 years experience as the Washington County Maryland, County Administrator. As an experienced and mature leader he has used his skills to move not only Washington County forward, but also the nine municipalities within the County by assisting with issues at the local, State and Federal level during times of economic uncertainty. No stranger to the type of intergovernmental collaboration required in the City of Punta Gorda, his previous County was viewed as a model in the region. Learn more about Mr. Murray at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=11309>.
  - First reading of the Interchange Commercial Overlay District was approved. 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 was approved. 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 (adjacent to Muscle Car City) was approved. The parcel is in the Highway Commercial zoning district.
  - Intent to vacate 9298 Mac Ever Street north of Jones Loop Road was approved. This action is in conjunction with a potential future multi-family development.
  - 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 was approved.

All of Budget Hearings will take place on Sept. 9 at 5:01 p.m. All City Council meetings are live streamed and archived for viewing On the City of Punta Gorda YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14LgLZE\\_GOG&t=13412s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14LgLZE_GOG&t=13412s).

- **Special July 10 Council Meeting** – Due to an issue with State TRIM certification dates an additional meeting was held on July 10.
  - 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. The second year of the Buckley’s Pass assessment for those property owners who have not paid in full is \$399.95 per water access unit.
- **New Mural** – The Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society has announced that Pages From Our Library’s Past mural located on the Punta Gorda Library has been completed. Learn more about the new mural and access an interactive mural map at <https://puntagordamurals.org/>.
- **Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA)** – Punta Gorda utility customers are receiving a second letter with information about optional exterior water or sewer service line repair plans available through SLWA. The program is completely voluntary and is administered by SLWA, not the City. The Exterior Water Service Line Coverage is available for \$5.75 per month and an Exterior Sewer/Septic Line Coverage plan is available for \$7.75 per month, and an Interior Plumbing and Drainage is available for \$9.99. Services are billed, monthly, quarterly or annually directly through SLWA. SLWA plan holders have access to a repair hotline that is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and repairs are performed by local, licensed, and insured contractors. Punta Gorda homeowners can learn more about these optional plans and SLWA by visiting [www.slwofa.com](http://www.slwofa.com) or calling toll-free 1-866-922-9006.

### 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

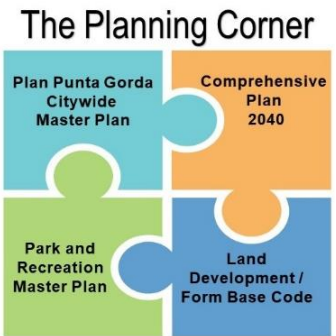
- Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.)
- East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, and Cooper St).
- Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr). Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

## Urban Design

- Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project begins on June 21 and runs through July 26. This project provides new, properly fitted sneakers for children in the Charlotte County Public School System (CCPS). You can make a monetary donation thorough the Kiwanis webpage ([www.pcsunrise.kiwanis.org](http://www.pcsunrise.kiwanis.org)) or donate a new pair of sneakers at one of our collection sites. Sites are located at [www.shoesforkidsproject.org](http://www.shoesforkidsproject.org). Your gift means one youth will not have to wear duct tape, not have to curl their toes, not have to wear plastic bags over their socks. Helping just 1, changes their lives...THANK YOU!



- **The Planning Corner** – Did you know July is National Park and Recreation Month? America has celebrated July as the nation’s official Park and Recreation Month for over 25 years and in 2009 the U.S. House of Representatives officially mandated July as “Parks and Recreation Month.” What is Park & Recreation? [According to the National Recreation and Park Association](#), a “Public Park” is any area or portions of areas dedicated or designated by any federal or local agency primarily for recreational use. The City is currently in the process of updating the 2009 [Parks & Recreation Master Plan](#) the plan is a requirement under the [Recreation & Open Space Element](#) of the [City’s Comprehensive Plan](#). The update will review the City’s current and future delivery of recreation services as it relates to the City’s growing population and as a vital component of the continued economic sustainability of the City. As part of the review, the Urban Design Department has released a [Parks and Recreation Master Plan General Survey](#). The 30 question survey that takes approximately 9 minutes (or less) to complete and we are encouraging everyone to let their voices be heard! In addition, City Staff will be hosting “Park Pop-Ins” as a form of collecting public input in person. On Friday, July 10th, staff held its first Park Pop-In at Laishley Park. Additional Park Pop-ins will be held at:
  - Gilchrist Park, July 17 from 9-11AM and 1:30-2:30PM
  - Ponce de Leon Park, July 24 from 9-11AM and 1:30-2:30PM
  - Bailey Brother’s Park, July 31 from 9AM-10AM
  - Downtown at the corner of Marion and Taylor, July 31 from 11AM-1PM



If you plan on attending one or more of the Pop-In’s we ask that you pre-register at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2706319302803683/>. Be sure to check out our weekly video updates on the [City’s YouTube Channel](#)! If you have questions or have ideas for future topics contact [UrbanDesign@cityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:UrbanDesign@cityofPuntaGordaFL.com).

## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Spoil Site Hauling** - Beginning July 14 a contractor will be hauling fill material from the City Spoil site located on Colony Point Dr. Dump trucks will be hauling material to Placida, Charlotte County. The trucking route will be traveling along Colony Point Dr. to W. Marion Ave. to U.S. 41 (Tamiami Tr.). Hauling is expected to be completed by July 17. For additional information on this project, please contact Catherine Miller, Canal Maintenance Supervisor, City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 21 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are 11 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 28 locations.
  - Crews performed eight seawall cap and seam patches (90' linear ft.).

### **Engineering**

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – The contractor is nearing completion of the annual drainage work program with work on Berry Street and McGregor Street. The contractor will resume work after Oct. 1 when new funds become available in the next fiscal year.
- **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 continues. Pipe and drainage structures installations are 85% complete. Irrigation coordination is anticipated to commence next week. Pedestrians and cyclists are restricted from the work area during construction. This project is anticipated to complete by the end of Sept.



### **Right-of-Way**

- **Laishley Park Boat Ramp Revised** – Effective July 9, (weather permitting) work scheduled to remove asphalt and replace with concrete on one side of Laishley Park boat ramp at a time has been extended until Friday, July 24. The boat ramp construction will impact one side of the ramp. One side of the boat ramp will remain open at all times. When in the area, motorists and pedestrians are encouraged to use extreme caution and be alert for workers in the right-of-ways. For additional information on this project, please contact David Meyers, Right-of-way Supervisor, City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

### **Police Department**

- **Body Worn Camera Project Update** – This week department staff attended administrator training for the body worn camera system and Evidence.com. Evidence.com is a cloud-based digital evidence storage system where body worn camera footage as well as other digital evidence will be stored. Officer training is scheduled to begin July 21 and body cameras should be fully operational in Aug.



- **New Officer and Dispatcher** – On July 8 the Punta Gorda Police Department held a swearing-in and recognition ceremony for our newest Police Officer, Sarah Frisk, and our newest Public Safety Dispatcher, Ramon Colon. Congratulations to the newest members of the department and welcome to the Punta Gorda Police Department family!



- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Dept. 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

- **New Hire Training** – “Practice Makes Perfect” Punta Gorda Fire Dept. conducts new hire training with firefighter Jadilyn Duenas on connecting to fire hydrant water supply quickly and safely with the hydrant pack.



### Utilities Department

#### **Groundwater R.O. Construction Update**

- The project is nearing completion. The City is blending the RO water with the treated water from the surface water plant and is sending the blended water to the City distribution system.  
Week 105: Equipment testing still in process



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 46.4 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 July 2019 9.2”, July 2020 0.20”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm – Total hardness 137 ppm
- TDS for July 9 – Current 320 ppm, Low 214 ppm, High 561 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 409 ppm
- Reservoir July 9 – Current 5.20’, Record Low 5.10’, Record High 6.80’, 55 Year Avg. 5.50’

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- The contracted vendor has finished installing the new Sodium Hypochlorite injection system and the old Chlorine gas system has been taken off line. The vendor also trained operations and maintenance staff members on the new system.

### **City Clerk**

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

- **Building Board** – (One consumer advocate) 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.
- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (One alternate) 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.

#### **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:
  - Harbor Scoops, 150 Laishley Court, Unit 1111
  - Pomegranate & Fig Gift Boutique, 208 Tamiami Trail, Suite 111