

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JULY 17, 2020

City Manager

- **Sales Tax** – For the past 20 years, a 1% local option sales tax has been collected upon taxable transactions occurring within Charlotte County for the purpose of funding infrastructure. Initially levied in 1994, voters have since approved extensions of sales tax four times. On November 4, 2014, Charlotte County voters approved an additional 6-year extension of the 1% local option sales tax. In July of 2019 the City of Punta Gorda 1% Local Options Committee, made up of a cross section of the community, began deliberations to create a list of projects for the 2021 Sales Tax for the Nov. 3 ballot. Projects are divided into two tiers. Tier one projects are based on projected sales tax revenues and Tier two projects would be funded if revenues come in higher than projections. The proposed Sales Tax Projects for the cycle starting in 2021 are highlighted;

Public Safety Projects-

- **Expansion of the Public Safety Building-** Creates additional office space to accommodate the growth in the police department including a new training room and reconfiguration of living and office space for the fire department. \$4,432,000 in Tier one and \$159,000 in Tier two.
- **Historic District Infrastructure-** Provides enhanced street lighting, sidewalk connections, and drainage that will enhance the safety and security of the residents in the area and facilitate infill development. This will encourage utilization of the infrastructure and increase the accessibility and capacity of the facility to enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors. \$1,038,000 in Tier one and \$1,250,000 in Tier two.
- **American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements-** To ensure that all individuals are provided reasonable access to all City facilities, programs, services and activities, and to identify and create a plan to mitigate deficiencies within all City facilities, programs, services and activities that may pose an obstacle to individuals that have a disability. \$779,000 in Tier one.
- **Henry Street Crosswalks-** Provides safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing points to popular dining and recreation to expand access and reduce vehicular traffic near Fishermen's Village. \$249,000 in Tier one.
- **Henry Street Sidewalk-** Installation of sidewalk on Henry St. between Shreve St. and US 41 to provide safe access for pedestrians and children along this heavily used route. \$156,000 in Tier one.
- **Shreve Street Complete Street Improvements-** Widens the existing five foot sidewalk on Pompano Terrace from US 41 to Shreve Street and the addition of lighting along the Shreve St. path from Pompano Ter. to History Park to complete the link from the Shreve St. path to the US 41 Path. \$130,000 in Tier one.
- **Traffic Signal at Burnt Store Road and Home Depot-** Enhances traffic ingress and egress from the Burnt Store Isles commercial center, reducing the burden of cut-thru traffic experienced by the Burnt Store Isles neighborhood. \$345,000 in Tier two.

- **Cooper Street Complete Street Improvements-** A continuation of Punta Gorda Pathways; this "leg" of the project would be the East Punta Gorda connection. The addition of path lighting will enhance safety and security of the pathway encouraging more utilization in the sunrise and twilight hours. \$991,000 in Tier two.

Public Safety and Water Quality Projects-

- **Drainage Improvements Boca Grande Area-** To ensure efficient and effective service delivery and quality aesthetic appeal, as well as maintaining and enhancing the City's capital assets to better address drainage issues in the Boca Grande/Corto Andra area. \$2,076,000 in Tier one and \$900,000 in Tier two.

Preservation of Infrastructure-

- **Historic City Hall Preservation-** To rehabilitate and preserve the buildings aging infrastructure and increase the accessibility and capacity of the facility to enhance the quality of life for City residents and visitors. Replace aging infrastructure and prevent further deterioration of the structure. \$2,953, 000 in Tier one and \$655,000 in Tier two.
- **Freeman House Preservation-** Conduct an assessment on the Freeman House to determine repairs needed and estimated costs. \$208,000 in Tier one.
- **Bayfront Activity Center-** Retains the current building and provides renovations to windows, cabinets, appliances, flooring, roofing, plumbing, painting and pergola. \$343,000 in Tier one.

Quality of Life-

- **Henry Street Property Improvements and Connecting Points of Interest-** Property improvements to this site will provide a parklike setting and additional amenities to increase site usage, and connectivity to attractions on-site including, Hounds on Henry (dog park), Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, History Park, Community Garden, Peace River Wildlife Center (coming soon) and enhance the quality of life. \$1,817,000 in Tier one and \$1,000,000 in Tier two.
- **COVID-19** – Just a reminder that an emergency ordinance is in 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. The ordinance along with other COVID-19 information can be accessed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/advanced-components/covid-19-microsite>.

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.charlottecountycommerce.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.) The area East of 41 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 through the Kiwanis webpage (www.pcsunrise.kiwanis.org) or donate a new pair of sneakers at one of our collection sites. Sites are located at 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 nine 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 July 10 staff held the first Park Pop-In at Laishley Park with 50 people stopping by to share their ideas. Additional Park Pop-ins will be held at:



- ✓ Ponce de Leon Park, July 24 from 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- ✓ Bailey Brother’s Park, July 31 from 9-10 a.m.
- ✓ Downtown at the corner of Marion and Taylor, July 31 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

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/>. Walk ups are also welcome. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, you can still make your voice heard by taking the [Parks and Recreation Mini Survey](#). It is a 5 question survey regarding any park of your choosing. 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.

- **Virginia Garden** – Even in the heat the garden is growing. Watermelon plants are looking great. Test plants have been added to see what can handle the heat. We will keep you posted on what plants can stand the test of the Florida sun.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Spoil Site Hauling** - Trucking fill material from the City Spoil site located on Colony Point Dr. began July 14. Hauling is expected to continue until July 17. 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.).
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 21 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are 13 projects under construction. Six seawall replacement projects have been completed in BSI and the work program for this fiscal year has been completed. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 15 locations.
 - Crews performed three seawall cap and seam patches (80' linear ft.).
 - Crews mowed and trimmed trees at the Burnt Store Isles lock and Sancho Panza Point.

Engineering

- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - Subbase placement and compaction continues. Formwork and concrete placement continues. Pipe and drainage structures installations are near complete. The wet tap for irrigation occurred with coordination for installation of the meter and backflow device. Electrical conduit placement is 75% complete. Pedestrians and cyclists are restricted from the work area during construction. This project is anticipated to complete by the end of Sept. 2020.



- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - The contractor completed work along the east side of Berry St. between W. Ann St and W. Grace St. To date, the contractor has completed work at 774 properties totaling 588,300 square feet of grading and sodding.
- **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>.

Right-of-Way

- **Laishley Park Boat Ramp** – 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 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.

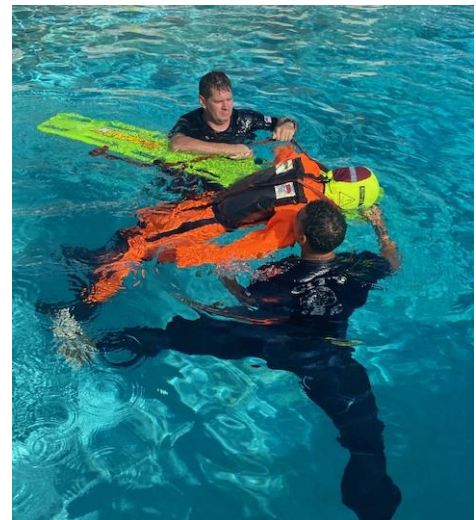


Police Department

- **Derelict Vessels** – The Punta Gorda Police Dept. is aware of the at risk and derelict vessels in our waterways. Corporal Trufan is actively investigating and working with our partner agencies, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND). Once the derelict vessel legal requirements are met, the boats will be removed. Corporal Trufan will continue to issue “At Risk” violation citations to identified owners in an attempt to combat the vessel abandonment issues. The department is also preparing another initiative to inspect anchor lights for vessels moored in the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor.
- **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.pgjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Fire Department

- **Dive Training** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department conducted Rapid Diver and surface water rescue training this week. The training included donning and doffing the rapid diver system and practical uses. The surface water rescue training focused on recovering a conscious and an unconscious victim from a body of water utilizing a water rescue backboard. All department personnel participated in the three day training which builds confidence and the repetition needed to make a save should they be called upon.



Utilities Department

Administration

- The City currently has a Drinking water variance from the Department of Environmental Protection to exceed the current 500mg/l standard for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) to a level of 1,000 mg/l. The variance was requested because the characteristics of the raw water sources reasonably available to the public water system cannot meet the TDS standard. The City initiated the design and construction of a new Reverse Osmosis water plant to comply with the TDS standard. Effective July 1 the City began blending the RO plant water with the treated water from the surface water plant. Following is a comparison of the TDS levels for the surface water plant vs the blended water.

TDS LEVEL (mg/l)		
	14-Jul	15-Jul
Surface Water Plant	591	604
Blended Water	371	392

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- Week 106 – The RO plant is online and sending blended water to your homes. Here is a link to a time lapse construction video. https://youtu.be/cUq_50PIK1s



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 41.7 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.0 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of two million gallons per day, started July 13.
- Rainfall in July 2019 9.20”, July 2020 0.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm – Total hardness 171 ppm
- TDS for July 16 – Current 424 ppm, Low 235 ppm, High 535 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 394 ppm
- Reservoir July 16 – Current 5.21’, Record Low 5.04’, Record High 6.07’, 55 Year Avg. 5.48’

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:
 - Boho Jewels, 223 Taylor Street, #129
 - Vacation Rental, Sea Level Property Management, 1484 Aqui Esta Drive