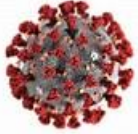


WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JULY 24, 2020

City Manager

- **COVID-19** – During the past week, we received inquiries regarding testing sites in the area and exemptions in the mask mandate ordinance. Please continue to refer to our website www.cityofpuntagordafl.com and click on COVID-19 on the main page. All pertinent information is included and updated on a continuing basis.
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- **City Council Meetings** – Part of July and Aug. City Council takes a brief hiatus. Regular Council meetings resume on Aug. 19 at 9 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at Historic City Hall. An extra Council meeting will likely be added on Aug. 26 at the same location and time because of additional agenda items needing priority attention. Sept. City Council meetings will be held on Sept. 9 and Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. and budget hearings will take place at 5:01 p.m. on those dates. All Council meetings are live streamed on the City's YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw?view_as=subscriber. Complete agendas and descriptions of items will be available the Friday before the Council meeting. Some of the upcoming agenda items include:
 - Annexation, land use and zoning designations for Nino's Bakery and Punta Gorda Self Storage on Cooper Street extension adjacent to the Public Works/Utilities Campus
 - Changing of portion of Terracap property (Mac Ever Street) along Jones Loop Road Future Land Use Map designation to High Density Residential for future multi-family development
 - Final Buckley's Pass navigational channel reconciliation of accounts and determination of refunds to property owners
 - Plan to restrict overnight parking in Historic District
 - Planning process update for Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - Update of Comprehensive Plan revisions associated with PLAN Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan
 - Enactment of eminent domain for remaining Boca Grande stormwater drainage property acquisitions
 - COVID-19 State of Emergency update
 - Utility Rate Study report
 - Seawall Construction Materials and Methods Study report
 - Interchange Commercial Overlay District second reading of ordinance
 - FDOT proposal to close one lane on US 41 in downtown; also a Master Plan recommendation
 - Homeless population outreach initiatives

- **Centennial Partners Meeting** – A Charlotte County Centennial Partners meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., July 29 at Tringali Park Community Center, 3460 N. Access Road, Englewood. The meeting is open to the public and will include an update on plans to commemorate the April 23, 2021 Centennial anniversary of the creation of the county. Community organizations are invited to share what they are working on and coordinate activities. The Centennial website, www.CharlotteCounty100.com, provides historical information about the county and features a central calendar of events submitted by community groups. People can also sign up to receive emails about the Centennial. A Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CharlotteCounty100, allows people to share information, events, photos and videos. For information about the Centennial planning meeting, contact Brian Gleason at Brian.Gleason@CharlotteCountyFL.gov or 941-743-1462.

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, East of 41, Burnt Store Isles, and Burnt Store Meadows were completed this week.

Urban Design

- The Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project ends this Sunday July 26th. If you haven’t had a chance to look into this project please go to www.pcsunrise.kiwanis.org . 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 website or you may donate a new pair of sneakers at one of our collection sites. There is a collection box outside of Council Chambers! Other sites are located at www.shoesforkidsproject.org . Your gift means so much to the youths of County. Helping just one, changes their lives...THANK YOU!



- **The Planner’s Corner** – What is a Comp Plan? For a municipality to sustain itself – economically, socially, and physically – and to maintain a high quality of life, communities must be proactive about planning for their future. A comprehensive plan sets forth a vision for the community – a glimpse of what a community aspires to be in 20 or more years – and lays out the specific path that, if followed, will achieve the vision. Without a vision for the future, a community can develop without foresight, without purpose, without consideration of all of the aspects that are essential to maintaining a high quality of life for residents. Finally, without a detailed road map for achieving the vision, community decision makers may not know how to make progress towards the end state that is desired by the community. The Comp Plan should act as a guide for planners, public officials, municipal department leaders and citizens for achieving the community’s goals. With the right goals, policies and procedures, a comprehensive plan can act as armor, protecting the community’s vision and strengthening its every step.



Why have a Comp Plan? Required by Florida Statutes 163.3177, the comprehensive plan shall provide the principles, guidelines, standards, and strategies for the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of the area that reflects community commitments to implement the plan and its elements.

How does the Comp Plan relate to the Plan Punta Gorda Master Plan? In order to implement a form-based code and architectural guidelines for key areas in the City that will ensure future development corresponds closely with the qualities and intent of areas detailed within the plan it is necessary to update and/or modify the 2040 Comp Plan goals, objectives, and policies. **A comp plan and zoning codes are two separate tools that are used in conjunction with one another. A comp plan acts in a guiding role and provides recommendations on how land should be utilized to meet the needs and desires of the community, whereas a zoning code regulates land uses as recommended by the plan. Over the next several months the City will be seeking public input on the proposed changes to the [City's Comprehensive Plan](#) below



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Spoil Site Hauling** - Trucking fill material from the City spoil site located on Colony Point Dr. was completed on July 16. Spoil material was hauled to Placida, Charlotte County to be used on a project
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 22 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 20 locations.
 - Crews performed six seawall cap and seam patches (92' linear ft.).
 - Channel Marker #12 from the Ponce Inlet was damaged over the weekend. Staff removed the broken piling and set a temporary floating marker in its place. Boaters are advised to be cautious while navigating through the area.

Engineering

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - During the week of July 20, the contractor began work along the north side of W. Ann St between 434 and 440 W. Ann St. Work will then move to between 402 and 408 W. Ann 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>.
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - Formwork and concrete placement continues. Pipe and drainage structures installations are near complete. Electrical conduit placement continues. The irrigation contractor is scheduled 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. 2020.



Right-of-Way

- **Curb Painting** - City crews have been painting curbs yellow along W. Marion Ave. from Goldstein St. to Berry St. in areas which are within 30' ft. of a stop sign. The yellow paint is used to prevent motor vehicles from parking within 30' ft. of a stop sign.
- **Laisley Park Boat Ramp** - The boat ramp construction is complete and both sides of the boat ramp are now open. 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 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Police Department

- **Body Worn Camera Project Update** – This week police officers received training from Axon on the use of body cameras. Training has begun and the majority of officers are currently equipped and using body worn cameras. We are planning to have all officers trained and using the new cameras by the beginning of Aug.
- **Anchor Light Enforcement Initiative** – Our Marine Officer and Community Engagement Unit members conducted an anchor light enforcement initiative this week for vessels mooring in the harbor. This operation resulted in three warnings and three citations being issued for vessel owners not in compliance of the anchor light law.

- **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 (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Fire Department

- **When the Thunder Roars Go Indoors** – According to the National Weather Service, lightning strikes the United States approximately 25 million times a year and kills an average of 47 people annually in the United States. Hundreds more are severely injured by lightning with a noticeable increase during the summer months. The following safety precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of death or injury from lightning:



- Thunder is caused by lightning so when you first hear thunder, head indoors or seek other shelter.
- Stay indoors for at least 30 minutes after hearing the last sound of thunder.

Monitor the weather if you plan on spending time outdoors. There are weather apps that will notify you when lightning strikes in your area. If you are caught outdoors during a thunderstorm, the following is recommended by NOAA:

- Lightning is likely to strike the tallest object in any given area; don't be that object.
- Avoid isolated tall trees, utility poles, cell phone towers, ladders, and scaffolding
- Avoid open areas such as fields and never lie flat on the ground
- Seek dense areas of smaller trees that are surrounded by larger trees or find a low-lying area like a ditch but watch for flooding.
- Immediately get out of water and move away from pools or lakes.

If lightning should strike your vehicle during a storm, you should also take precautions:

- Pull over and turn off the engine.
- Put your hands in your lap and wait for the storm to pass.
- Do not touch anything metal inside your car, such as a CB radio, window cranks, radio knobs, etc.

Potential damage to your vehicle could include electrical or blown tires, but trying to inspect this damage in the middle of the storm is not advised. When the storm has passed, make the assessment and then call for help if needed.

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- 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

- 49 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.0 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 1.20”
- 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 23 – Current 339 ppm, Low 225 ppm, High 516 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 373 ppm
- Reservoir July 23 – Current 5.22’, Record Low 4.98’, Record High 6.20’, 55 Year Avg. 5.50’

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.