

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT AUGUST 14, 2020

City Manager

- **Aug. 19 City Council Meeting** – City Council will resume meeting on Aug. 19 at 9:00 a.m. in Historic City Hall. Items of interest include:
 - Amended pre-annexation agreements for Nino's Baker and Punta Gorda Self-Storage to rebate 50% of the City portion of the property tax bill for two years, per Council policy for commercial property annexations; and Public Hearings regarding annexation, land use and zoning for the two aforementioned properties.
 - Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing regarding amending the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designation for a 22.8 acre parcel on Mac Ever Street (Jones Loop Road area) from Highway Commercial Corridor to High Density Residential/City to pave the way for a multi-family housing development.
 - Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) discussion regarding Centennial Bridge banners. Charlotte County is in discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation on installing Centennial banners on the US 41 (Collier and Gilchrist) bridges and has received promising guidance that this can be done using the existing brackets. The County is looking for feedback from the City and CRAs on either side of the bridge. Also, specifically for the City, County staff needs know if the City needs specs or graphics for any Centennial banners/flags/etc. for display in the City.
 - Final Accounting for Buckley's Pass project that reflects a final project cost of \$2,660,836 which is a reduction of \$76,356 from the original project estimate. Staff is recommending a refund of \$27.50 per water access unit to be refunded to the current property owner as listed in the County's records because assessments run with the land, not an individual.
 - Eminent domain resolutions and quick take proceedings to secure the remaining properties needed for the Boca Grande Drainage Project.
 - Loan request of \$340,000 by the Punta Gorda Housing Authority (PGHA) for the City to partner with the PGHA in its request for state funding for construction of a 56 unit multi-family affordable housing project that will provide 20 one-bedroom units, 22 two-bedroom units and 14 three-bedroom units. 100% of the units will be set aside for families at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI), with 10% of the units being set aside for families earning at or below 40% AMI. The project is located next to the Verandas I & II on Airport Rd. PGHA and its developer partner, Norstar Development USA (Norstar) have already completed the initial two phases of the Verandas in 2017 providing 120 units of affordable senior housing. PGHA and Norstar also completed the Gulf Breeze 171 unit complex on Cooper Street. In total PGHA and Norstar have successfully completed 291 affordable units to replace the public housing units lost by Hurricane Charley. The proposed Verandas III development will enable PGHA to replace the remaining units lost from Hurricane Charley.

- Appropriation of \$93,980 for the Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Fund to pay off perimeter dredging debt in FY 2020.
- Update on COVID-19, the Declared State of Emergency, and a discussion about Halloween and the Dec. Tree Lighting.
- U.S. 41 Northbound Lane Repurposing Study Application – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be designing a "3R" project on US 41 northbound from Williams Street to the Peace River Bridge in FY 2021. The "3R" stands for roadway resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation. This particular project is slated to include several features which go beyond the normal "3R" project, including intersection reconfiguration at Carmalita Street, new traffic signal at Retta Esplanade, historic brick removal between Virginia Ave and Marion Ave, and drainage reconstruction between Virginia Ave and Olympia Ave. The purpose of the Lane Repurposing Study is to look comprehensively at the existing and potential roadway configurations and account for all the inherent complexity through a complete analysis from the perspectives of safety, traffic operations, bicycle and pedestrian activity, sales tax and property value, the natural environment, emergency evacuation & response, freight, and other technical concerns.
- Second 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.

An additional meeting has been scheduled for Aug. 26 to receive updates on both the Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Parks & Recreation Master Plan amendments, as well to review the Utility Rate Study and Septic to Sewer Implementation Plan. Next month, the Council will meet on Sep. 9 and 23. The meetings are also available live at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw.

- **Punta Gorda Life Brochure** – A new publication is available to help acquaint new residents with the City. It is a great resource for realtors, homeowners associations, and apartment managers to provide to new residents to familiarize themselves with Punta Gorda Life. If you would like a supply of brochures to distribute to your customers or members please contact Melissa Reichert at (941) 575-3394 or email mreichert@cityofpuntagordafl.com.



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>

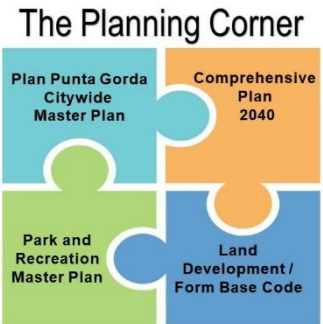
Lot Mowing Program

- 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

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan** – Don't forget to participate in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan General Survey. Let us know how Punta Gorda's Place to Play can improve! It is a 30 question survey that takes approximately 9 minutes to complete. Your input will be used to shape the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Let your voice be heard and take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTXP5X6>. For more information, please visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/punta-gorda-pathways/park-recreation-master-plan>.
- **Comprehensive Plan Elements Update Future Land Use Element & Density** – The [Future Land Use Element](#) governs the use of land within the City through a series of land use categories that are arranged on the [Future Land Use Map](#) as various colored areas. The colors on the map describe where certain land uses are to be located as the community grows. The description or key to what the colors or Future Land Use Categories on the map mean are delineated in the Goals, Objectives and Policies within the text of the Future Land Use Element.



The State of Florida began requiring Comprehensive Plans in the mid 1980's. From the 1980's until 1997 the City and Charlotte County had a joint Comprehensive Plan. So, Future Land Use categories were by design quite vague Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural and a range of Residential uses. These general categories worked quite well for the unincorporated areas of Charlotte County where uses were widely separated following a suburban model. However, within the incorporated [City limits](#) these broad categories did a fairly poor job of describing the historic patterns of development. Recognizing this the City created its own stand along Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1997. This plan acknowledged the more mixed use nature of the historic downtown and adjacent commercial areas of the City. However, Residential (only) categories and the newly established Mixed Use categories did not fully and clearly account for the density of residential uses that were permissible and historically present.

Density

Residential density is the number of homes per area of land permitted by a Future Land Use Category. Residential density is generally expressed as a number of units per acre. In typical suburban development the density usually corresponds to the type of homes one would expect to be constructed. Using the City's existing categories as an example Low Density Residential would usually be single family detached homes like photo A and High Density Residential would generally be homes grouped in to a multi-family building or group of buildings like photo B.

However, in historic areas of the City detached single family houses occur on much smaller lots than typical suburban standards like photo C. Also found within Punta Gorda are two-family and small scale multi-family residential types on small lots, Photos D & E. These traditional housing types are largely unaccounted for within the existing Future Land Use Categories.

				
Photo A Detached Single Family 5 Units per Acre	Photo B Multi-Family 15 Units per Acre	Photo C Small Lot Detached Single Family 12 Units per Acre	Photo D Small Lot Two- Family Attached 22 Units per Acre	Photo E Small Scale Multi-Family 25 Units per Acre

In the photo series above only Photo A and Photo B are recognized as desirable and permissible under the current Comprehensive Plan. As acknowledged in [Plan Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan](#), it is important to zoom in and identify the patterns of development that give Punta Gorda its unique traditional small town feel if the community wishes to maintain that feel under the reality of continued development pressure. When examining the traditional pattern that exists it becomes evident that the current range of residential densities permitted in the Comprehensive Plan cannot return the types of development found here within the historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 26 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are nine 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 eight locations.
 - Crews performed 82 seawall cap and seam patches (28' linear ft.).
 - Staff replaced a visual aid mirror on a piling at the end of Ponce Inlet across from Sancho Panza Point
 - Storm Inlet booms were replaced in Burnt Store Isles. Outfall drainage structures that directly discharge stormwater into the canal contain baskets and boom material (filter) to collect debris, oils, metals, etc. from roadway, preventing the pollutants from entering the waterway. These baskets/booms are inspected and cleaned twice a year. The condition of the boom material and amount of debris is documented as required by permit.

Engineering

- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** – During the week of Aug. 10, work was complete at 103-119 Colony Point Dr. and 2501 Rio Largo Ct. To date the contractor has completed work at 795 properties totaling 603,000 square feet of grading and sodding. Work next week will include locations along Padre Island Dr., and near the intersection of Ryan Blvd. and Crooked Island Dr.
- **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.)** - The retention pond construction is near complete. Perk sand has been delivered and installed. Irrigation and electrical work continues. Grade and site work continues. Landscape trees and materials continue to be recieved, planted and watered in. The far western sidewalk formwork and concrete placement is scheduled next week. Pedestrians and cyclists are restricted from the work area during construction.



Police Department

- **Body Worn Camera Project Update** – Officers have received training and all body cameras have been deployed in the field and are being used. This has been a long and challenging process, but we are thrilled to have our body worn camera program implemented and operational!
- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Dept. is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Jan. 11 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13.
- **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.pgdjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.



Fire Department

- **Excited Delirium Training** – Field Training Officer Justin Bala conducted Excited Delirium training which focuses on treatment and safety concerns when dealing with patients who may be agitated or aggressive due to a various number reasons. The training included the use of the department’s protocol, medication administration and the use of soft restraints as a last resort to help protect not only the first responders but also the patient from any harm.



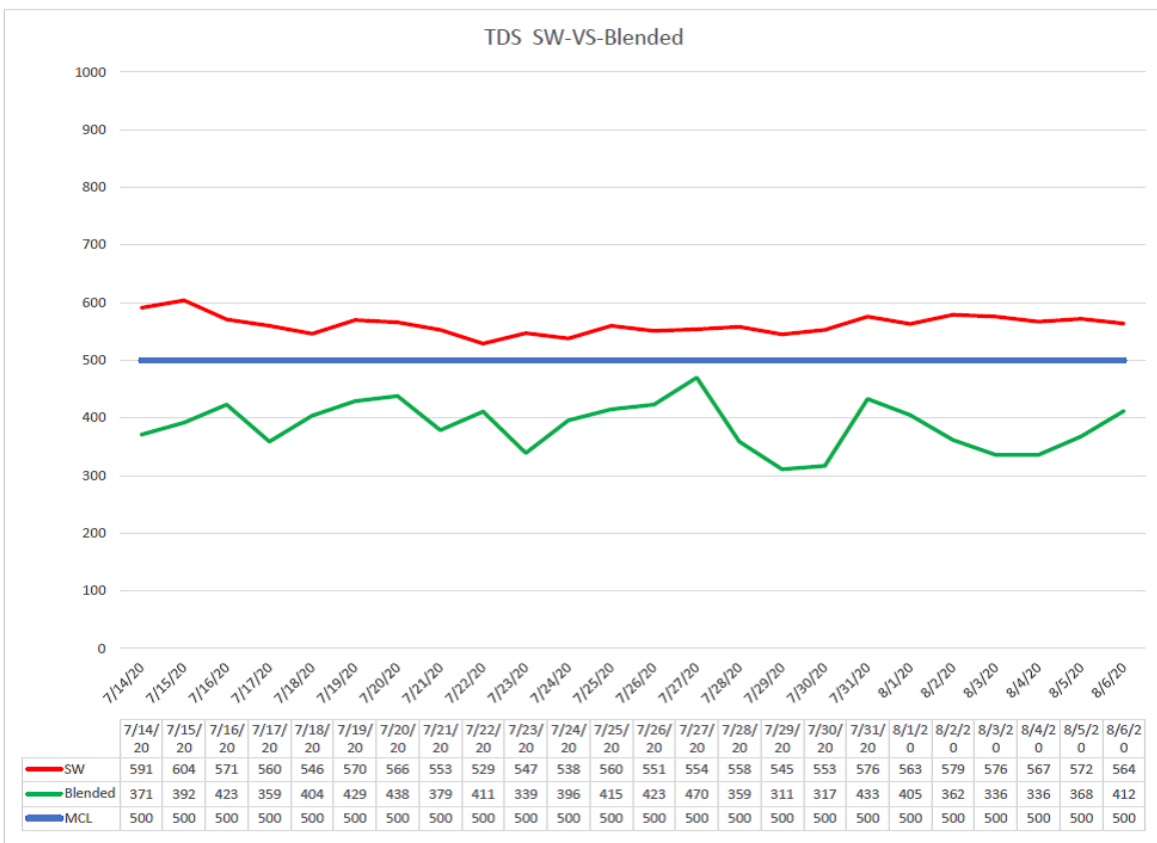
Utilities Department

Utilities Administration

- **Hydrant flushing** – 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.

- **Ground Water RO Update**



500 is the maximum contaminant level allowable by law.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 48.3 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.9 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 Aug. 2019 8.26” Aug. .50”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 13 – Current 347 ppm, Low 208 ppm, High 468 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 330 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 13 – Current 5.29’, Record Low 5.03’, Record High 6.20’, 55 Year Avg. 5.55’

City Clerk

Business Tax Receipt Renewal Notices

On Aug. 3, the City Clerk's Office emailed Business Tax Receipt Renewal Notices to all City businesses for the upcoming 2020/2021 Fiscal Year. Payment can be made using a credit over the phone by calling (941) 575-3369 or by mailing a check to 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda FL 33950. Deadline for payment submission is Sept. 30. If your business is currently active but did not receive a Renewal Notice, please contact the City Clerk's office at pturner@cityofpuntagordafl.us.

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

- **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.
- **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.

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:
 - Pizza Gorda, 315 Taylor Street
 - Kuhns Law Firm, 425 Cross Street, #312