



Florida's Harborside Hometown

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT APRIL 5, 2019

### City Manager

- **Buckley's Pass** – City Council approved the final assessment resolution. Over the next four months, the project's construction bid document will be completed and released, bids evaluated and awarded; notices will be sent to all benefitted properties regarding pre-payment timeframes, should one choose to select that payment option; and staff will attend the public hearing held by the County Commission to address any questions that may arise pertaining to assessment of properties in the benefitted area but outside the boundary of the City.
- **FY 2020 Budget Community Conversation Recap** – Comments from attendees at the Mar. 28 community meeting are summarized below:
  - ✓ Need to look at all types of revenue sources with an aim toward raising some (taxes, fees, permits etc) to pay for services. We don't charge enough for City services. Raised by numerous attendees.
  - ✓ Need to look at expenditure side of the balance sheet before you proceed on to revenues. Try and reduce spending in some areas.
  - ✓ Need to increase salaries of City to compete with surrounding jurisdictions.
  - ✓ Emphasize improvement to quality of life in budget as opposed to increased growth which brings increased traffic. Maintain ambience of Punta Gorda.
  - ✓ Support bicycle infrastructure improvements and fund such with setting aside 5% of paving program to pay for enhancements such as additional sharrows, share the road signage, bicycle corrals, racks. Cyclists support in the local economic.
  - ✓ Look at outsourcing some services to determine if they are competitive with the private sector. Sanitation mentioned by one person but four others urged the City to retain sanitation employees due to superior customer service.
  - ✓ Need to track volunteer hours to demonstrate how much community volunteers contribute to and support City services.
  - ✓ Need to evaluate impact of Sunseeker Resort on Punta Gorda economy, traffic, public safety.
  - ✓ Continue to enhance general fund reserves to be more align with national standard.
  - ✓ Invest in Historic District with emphasis on brick streets (new and maintenance), tree planting, sidewalks, swales, decorative lights and cleaning storm drains.
  - ✓ Look at zero-based budgeting every five years.
  - ✓ Prioritize projects and emphasize that community needs to consider not all neighborhoods may get improvements each year.
  - ✓ Analyze obstacles toward future development of City Marketplace property and determine if City can remove such in its capacity.
  - ✓ Future growth should not emphasize gated community-type development but be open for diversity.
  - ✓ Communicate to Charlotte County need for parking structure at Event Center to accommodate patrons and reduce parking congestion in downtown.

- ✓ Evaluate lower speed limits in areas of City.
- ✓ Emphasize more amenities for younger families and children such as the new Gilchrist Park playground.
- ✓ Community needs to recognize that for every two dollars paid to the County only one dollar is paid for City services. Imbalance should result in better County services. City residents get a big bang for their buck.
- ✓ Find ways to promote additional affordable housing and multi-family development.
- ✓ Evaluate what happened with decision by Western Michigan to cease operations in County.

This information will be considered as part of budget development alternatives.

- **Gilchrist Murals** – Friends of Gilchrist Park Playground have commissioned two additional murals to be painted on the doors of the playground restrooms. The murals will be painted by artist Ron Bates.



- **Punta Gorda Brochures** – We are our own best Ambassadors. Brochures highlighting the assets of Punta Gorda are available at the City Manager’s Office. Seasonal and

year-round residents that are traveling over the summer are welcome to pick up these brochures to share with friends, family and business associates to encourage them to consider Punta Gorda for a vacation, business relocation, or permanent/seasonal home. If you would like some brochures contact the Communications Manager, Melissa Reichert at (941) 575-3394.

- **EDP Meeting** – Attendees at the monthly investors meeting of the Economic Development Partnership received an update from the County School Superintendent regarding activities undertaken in concert with the recent approval of the one mill increase. Three priorities include competitive salaries, additional instructor time and student success advancement initiatives. Workforce development education is one of those initiatives. Mayor Prafke, Vice Mayor Matthews, Council Member Cummings and City Manager were in attendance.

- **Women’s Council of Realtors** – Mayor Prafke provided the Women’s Council of Realtors an update regarding the State of the City. The presentation highlights all of the initiatives of the City of Punta Gorda during this year. The theme for this year is “The Year of Engagement”.



- **What is the big “X” for?** – The large X painted on US41S at Retta has been painted by FDOT. It will be accompanied by signs that say, “Do not block intersection”. This is to alleviate the long lines of traffic that block the W. Retta intersection.

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
	<b>April Events</b>	Fishermen's Village	<a href="http://www.fishville.com/events/">www.fishville.com/events/</a>
	<b>April Events</b>	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	<a href="http://www.bspconline.org/news.html">www.bspconline.org/news.html</a>
4/6	Downtown Hoedown for the Troops	City Marketplace	<a href="http://smugglersevents.com">smugglersevents.com</a>
4/6	Relay for Life	Laishley Park	<a href="http://relayforlifecharlottecounty.com">relayforlifecharlottecounty.com</a>
4/7	Vendor & Craft Fair with Easter Bunny	Laishley Park	<a href="http://www.localdiessouthflorida.com/">www.localdiessouthflorida.com/</a>
4/7	Springfest 5k	Laishley Park Pavilions	<a href="http://www.swflymca.org">www.swflymca.org</a>
4/11	Quarter Frenzy	Twenty One Event Center Port Charlotte	<a href="http://teampuntagorda.org/">teampuntagorda.org/</a>
4/13	City Wide Garage Sale	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
4/13	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Punta Gorda Spring Festival	Great Lawn at Four Points	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>
4/13	SVDP Annual Golf Outing	St. Andrews Golf Club	<a href="mailto:golf4svdp@gmail.com">golf4svdp@gmail.com</a>
4/13	The Charlotte Chorale Puttin' on the Glitz	Charlotte Performing Arts Center	<a href="http://www.thecpac.net/">www.thecpac.net/</a>
4/16	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	<a href="mailto:billtucker@earthlink.net">billtucker@earthlink.net</a>
4/18	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	<a href="mailto:frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com">frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com</a>

### Lot Mowing Program

- Lot mowing crews have completed mowing the following areas; Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.) and PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.).

### Urban Design

- The City's Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is available for viewing in Urban Design offices. The CAPER provides the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a review and critique of the previous fiscal year's performance within the Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). If you are interested, please contact David Hilston, Chief Planner at (941) 575-3321 or at [dhilston@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:dhilston@cityofpuntagordafl.com).
- Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency has filed with the State of Florida Auditor General's Office a copy of its Annual Status Report and Annual Financial Report highlighting projects, programs and CRA finances for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2018. The document is available at: [www.cityofpuntagordafl.com](http://www.cityofpuntagordafl.com) or at the Office of the City Clerk located at 326 Marion Ave. or at the Urban Design Division 126 Harvey Street or by calling (941) 575-3372 .

- Staff attended the monthly Gulf Coast Partnership meeting, where the following items were discussed:
  - State funding Request for Proposals
  - Discussed an update on legislative priorities and how they were faring in the State Legislature
  - Discussed an update of current Program and Grant projects dashboard reporting to track project performance.
  - Discussed U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Developments Fiscal Year 2017 debriefing.
  - Reviewed the revised “Continuum of Care” Action Plan.

The Gulf Coast Partnership is a community-wide initiative to identify best practices to meet the needs of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, forge a community consensus, and implement strategies to raise the quality of life for all Charlotte County residents.

## Public Works Department

### Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,932 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 93.3% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 73.0% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace (three month average) of the contractors is 4,555 feet per month. Crews filled eight depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched one sea wall cap. Crews removed some debris from canals.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	49, 50, 53, 55, 57-63, 70, 84, 85, 88, 89	1 – 48, 51, 52, 54, 56	91
PGI-NE2	68 -74	1 –67	83
PGI-NW1	34 – 38, 40 - 51	1 – 33, 39, L1	55
PGI-NW2	45 - 47, 56, 63, 64, 66, 71 -84	1 – 44, 62, 65, 67 – 70, L1 – L3	87
PGI-SE	L4, L6, L7, L9	1-30, 32 - 44, L1- L3, L5, L8, L10, L11	55
PGI-SW	39 – 44, 46	1 - 38, 45, 47	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	1-3, 5, 6, 8	4	11
BSI-S	0	1 – 11	11

### Engineering

- **Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – Concrete block interior, exterior, roof trusses and membrane are all in place. Locates were refreshed in preparation of grading of sidewalk prep work, seat wall footer and water/sewer excavation.
- **City wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 331 properties totalling 231,700 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week between 5028-5046 La Costa Island Ct. Grading is underway along the west side of Milus St. between E. Charlotte and Showalter Ave. and will then move to the south side of Acline Road in front of Fire Station 2.
- **AC Freeman House ADA Ramp Installation** – ADA ramp work continues.
- **Vietnam Memorial E. Retta Parking** – The parking area was opened for use Apr. 1.
- **Minor Paving** – Temporary paving of Utility cuts on W. Retta will take place the week of Apr. 22 and continue through the end of the month, weather permitting. A press release and public notice will be issued.

*\*Each project may consist of multiple lots*

- **Alligator Creek pedestrian Bridges along US 41 NB – FDOT ROW – A Pre-Construction teleconference meeting is scheduled Apr. 17.**

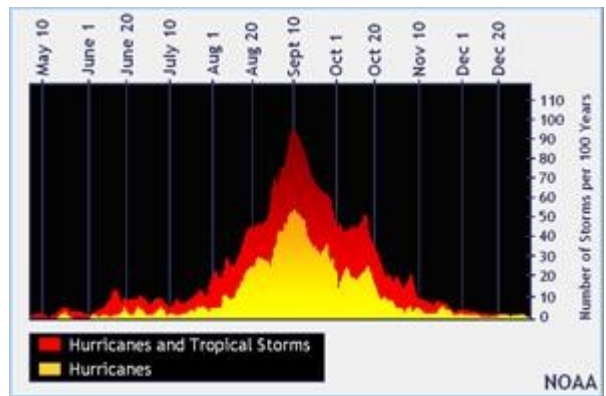
### **Police Department**

- The April Do the Right Thing ceremony was held at City Hall. Congratulations to this month's winners Brenden Burch, Alyssa Burckley, Alexander Meyer, Shaelyn Taylor, and Colton Zapf for choosing to do the right thing!



### **Fire Department**

- The Fire Department would like to remind our residents that we are less than 60 days from the start of the 2019 Hurricane season. Did you know that the past two years have been the most devastating hurricane seasons in U.S. history? Millions of American families had their homes damaged or destroyed, lost precious possessions they can never get back, and spent months displaced from their homes. Many of these families are still struggling to rebuild and recover. Now is the time to make early preparations for the season. **Here are a couple of suggestions on what you can do:**



- ✓ **REVIEW AND UPDATE YOUR HOMEOWNERS AND FLOOD INSURANCE**  
The best way to protect your family financially is to have the right insurance coverage before you need it. Flood Insurance is the **ONLY** coverage that will protect your home and possessions in the event of flooding – homeowners or renters insurance do not. Floods can, and do, happen anywhere it rains. Even if you don't live in a mandatory flood insurance zone, you should protect yourself with flood insurance. There's a 30 day waiting period before some policies go into effect, so you need to act now.
- ✓ **PROTECT YOUR DOCUMENTS**  
Having access to important documents will help you avoid delays in recovery after a disaster. You'll need them to apply for disaster assistance and recovery programs. Organize and update your vital records. See [SBP's Preparedness Guide](#) for a list of what to gather. Store originals safely in a waterproof, fireproof container at home. Backup copies online in the cloud so you can access from anywhere.



## Utilities Department

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



Week 40: Placing the base slab of the 2.0 Million Gallon Storage Tank.

### **Jones Loop Force-Main project update**

- The Jones Loop Force Main project consists of two parts; the installation of the pipe line including drilling under I-75 and driveways, and the replacement construction of a sewage pumping station (lift station) located at Knights Drive. The pipe for the force main has to be constructed first as it will be used as bypass piping when the new lift station is constructed. The contractor installed Jack and Bore casing under Jones Loop Road at Piper Road (photo at right).



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 40.3 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.7 MG daily average.
- During the rainy season the plant treats low total dissolved solids water from the creeks and stores approximately 200 million gallons in Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells located at the plant site. This is known as the injection cycle. The last injection cycle began June 7, and ended Sept. 6; Injection Total 198 Million Gallons. Current condition is Recovery. Recovery started Feb. 19 at 1.0 MGD each. 81 MG recovered.
- Rainfall in Mar. 2018 .9” Mar. 2019 .1.70” April 2018-1.20” April 2019 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “ very hard” – Grains of Hardness 15 ppm – Total hardness 256 ppm
- TDS for Apr. 4– Current 416 ppm, Low 404 ppm, High 696 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 541 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Apr. 4 – Current 5.12’, Record Low 4.87’, Record High 5.84’, 54 Year Average 5.19’



- This week water plant staff provided 300 bottles of water to the Military Heritage Museum for the Vietnam Veteran's Tribute.

## **City Clerk**

### **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:
  - Autozone #4572, 3905 Tamiami Trail
  - Hair by Melissa Flores, 1105 Taylor Street, Suite M
  - Charlotte County Foot and Ankle, 100 Madrid, Suite 312
  - Military Heritage & Aviation Museum, 900 West Marion Avenue
  - 7-Eleven Store & Gas Sales, 3139 Tamiami Trail