



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT APRIL 26, 2019

City Manager

- **Buckley's Pass** – Prepayment notices were sent to benefitted properties. To-date, 66 payments have been received totaling \$97,317. In addition, the bid for construction will be released and responses are due back in 30 days. At its May 1 meeting, City Council will consider an interlocal agreement with Charlotte County to place the benefitted properties into the Alligator Creek Waterway Unit, similar to properties within Burnt Store Isles. The current assessment for such properties in the Waterway Unit is \$25 per year. The potential for the assessment has been brought up in previous public meetings and communicated in weekly reports. City staff also addressed the Charlotte County Commission requesting \$150,000 from boater improvement funds to support construction of the navigational channel. This was previously not recommended by the County's Marine Advisory Committee. The County Commission did not support the City's grant request.
- **FY 2020 Budget** – Last week's report highlighted tentative position additions to the General Fund in the areas of public safety, engineering and information technology. Even with these enhancements, the following comparisons can be made:
 - ✓ In FY 2007 at the height of the economic upturn, the full time equivalent position count was 313 and the ratio of employees to population was 1.8.
 - ✓ In FY 2014 at the lowest point of the economic downturn, the position count was 263 resulting in a ratio of 1.5.
 - ✓ Using our population estimate of 19,957 in FY 2020 and comparing position count for the same departments/divisions that existed in FY 2007, the position count will be 286 and the ratio of employees to population will be 1.4.

A comparison of budget alternatives tentatively agreed to at the April 17 Council meeting to FY 2008 is below. Please keep in mind, the budget is still a work in progress and will continue to be refined over the next two months.

General Fund History from FY 2008 to FY 2020

Category	FY 2008	Proposed FY 2020	% +/-
Personnel	\$12,294,998	\$15,646,520	27.3%
Operating	\$ 4,799,854	\$ 4,828,505	0.6%
Total Operations	\$17,094,852	\$20,475,025	19.8%

- **Fence Request** – City Council will consider a request from the Punta Gorda Mural Society to consider installing a fence along the embankment areas of the Gilchrist Bridge (US 41 SB) adjacent to the Harborwalk at the May 1 Council meeting. This request is due to the attractiveness of the area as the mural is nearing completion. Visitors to this area have been observed climbing along the embankment in the locations where it meets the ground. The concern is that this area represents a potential trip hazard. The proposed fencing consists of decorative bollards connected by matching black metal chains. The intent is to remain consistent with the nautical theme of the mural and area, while providing an enhanced level of safety. Any material installation in this area will require approval from the Florida Department of Transportation.
- **Pickleball Courts Fencing/Sound Barrier Installation** – The fence contractor will be completing the work on the fencing toward the middle to end of May. The sound barrier material has been delivered and in storage. The consultant performing noise analysis will be able to complete his work thereafter.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
April & May Events		Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
April & May Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	www.bsponline.org/news.html
4/27	Punta Gorda Block Party	Downtown Punta Gorda	www.puntagordablockparty.info/
4/28	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	musclecarcity.net/events/
5/2	National Day of Prayer	City Hall Annex	www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home
5/3-5/5	Hibiscus Festival	City Marketplace	www.thehibiscusfestival.com
5/3	Cinco de Mayo Celebration	PGI Civic Association	www.pgica.org
5/4	Suncoast Living Health & Wellness Expo	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
5/11	City Wide Garage Sale	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
5/11	7 th Annual Key Lime Festival	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
5/15	Lunch with Admiral Chambers of the U.S.S. Midway	Military Heritage Museum	https://freedomisntfree.org/
5/16	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com

Lot Mowing Program

- Lot mowing crews will begin the next mowing cycle on Apr. 29.

Urban Design

- Congressman Greg Steube hosted a Congressional Art Competition at the Punta Gorda Airport Bailey Terminal on Wednesday. At this Awards Ceremony & Reception the Airport Authority recognized area historical groups, Charlotte County, and the City of Punta Gorda for contributions to the beautification of the terminals main hallway. With the terminal’s main hallway a “Flybrary”, a little free library, a pictorial history of the Punta Gorda Army Airfield, and several photos of historic Punta Gorda are on display for the enjoyment of Airport visitors.
- On Friday afternoon Chief Planner served as a judge for the final poster presentations for the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Whitaker College of Engineering senior design course. For this “mini-thesis” course student teams are challenged to apply everything they have learned over four years of coursework to real-world engineering projects supplied by practitioners around Southwest Florida. This is the fourth year City staff has served as a mentor for at least one student design team. Over the years the student teams have designed projects from parks to pathways to street intersections. These conceptual projects have occasionally served as catalysts for actual capital improvement projects, engineered by professionals, including Ponce de Leon Park Redesign. In this way this unique partnership serves both the students of FGCU and the City of Punta Gorda

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,932 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 97.5% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 76.8% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace (three month average) of the contractors is 4,620 feet per month. Crews filled 34 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles.

Engineering

- **Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – Seating wall, sidewalk and rough-in plumbing are progressing. Furring strips have been installed on the exterior walls in preparation for the Hardee Board siding.
- **Minor Paving** – Paving is complete on W. Retta Esplanade Ave. between McGregor St. and Berry St.
- **City wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 357 properties totalling 25,800 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 3439-3451 Nighthawk Ct. and 1507-1519 Oriole Ct. Work next week will include 5011 Key Largo, 1629-1641 Red Wing, 1600-1606 Bobolink, 1605-1641 Bobolink, 930-1010 Via Formia.
- **AC Freeman House ADA Ramp Installation** – Handrail and spindle installations are underway.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	57-68, 70, 84, 85, 88, 89	1 – 55	90
PGI-NE2	71 -82	1 –70	82
PGI-NW1	34, 37, 40 - 54	1 – 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, L1	54
PGI-NW2	45 - 47, 56, 60 – 62, 80 -84	1 – 44, 63 - 79 L1 – L3	84
PGI-SE	L4, L6, L7, L9	1-30, 32 - 44, L1- L3, L5, L8, L10, L11	55
PGI-SW	42 – 44, 46	1 - 41, 45, 47	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	2-3, 5- 8, 10	1, 4	11
BSI-S	0	1 – 11	11

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

Police Department

- The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the positions of Public Safety Dispatcher and Police Officer. Applications must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 15. Public Safety Dispatcher testing will be held on May 20. Police Officer testing will be held from May 21 through May 23. To apply visit www.puntagordapolice.com and select “Employment Opportunities.” For more information, contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update



Week 43- Continuing work on the new two million gallon storage tank.



Week 43 – Starting work on the degasifier.

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 construct first as it will be used as bypass piping when the new lift station is constructed. Force main connected at Piper Rd, partial DEP clearance obtained and force main has been activated. Lift Station 60 is by-passed with a diesel bypass pump. Installed well points and pump to dewater lift station area for old wet-well removal and new wet well installation.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 34.8 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.0 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 Storage. Storage started Apr. 24. ASR 3 stopped at 50% Recovery. ASR 4 stopped at 57%. 108 MG recovered.
- Rainfall in Apr. 2018 1.2” Apr. 2019 1.230”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “ very hard” – Grains of Hardness 13 ppm – Total hardness 222 ppm
- TDS for Apr. 25– Current 373 ppm, Low 373 ppm, High 588 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 524 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Apr. 25 – Current 5.17’, Record Low 4.66’, Record High 5.72’, 54 Year Average 5.08’

Finance

- During the week of Apr. 15, 93 one and one half inch meter change outs were completed, leaving approximately 250 left for project completion.

City Clerk

Candidate Packets Now Available

- Candidate packets are now available through the City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 326 West Marion Avenue; however, candidate forms can be obtained online from the Division of Elections website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>. Jun. 17 at (noon) is the first day candidates can qualify for the Nov. 5 City Election for the purpose electing two (2) Councilmembers, one each from Districts #3 and #5. Qualifying ends at noon on Jun. 21. Councilmembers serve a two (2) year term. For information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3369 or email pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com. Questions regarding voter registration, vote-by-mail ballots or precinct and polling information should be directed to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400.

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

- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Planning Commission (Two alternate vacancies) - Meets the 4th Monday at 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to amending, extending or adding to the comprehensive plan for the physical development of the City, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending a zoning ordinance.
- Police Officers’ Pension Board (One vacancy) - Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at large, two police officers and one member appointed by the Board. Four year terms – no maximum. Charged with management of the Police Officers’ Pension Fund.

- Punta Gorda Housing Authority (Two vacancies) - Meets the third Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the PGHA Community Room, 340 Gulf Breeze Avenue, Punta Gorda. Must be a resident of Charlotte County. At least one commissioner shall reside within the Housing Authority's jurisdiction and receive rent subsidy through a program administered by the Authority. Seven member board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide decent, safe and sanitary affordable housing.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board (One Vacancy) - Meets the 4th Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.

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:

- Ballast Advisors, LLC, 223 Taylor Street, Suite 1214
- Commercial Painting SWFL LLC, 467 Panarea Drive
- Esquire Land Title, Inc., 252 W Marion Avenue, #1130
- Hala Vacation Rental, 3500 Whippoorwill Blvd.
- Healing Touch Massage & Wellness, 318 Tamiami Trail, Suite 221
- Quick Dump LLC, 512 W Henry Street
- Village Brewhouse, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, G-37