

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
JUNE 14, 2019**



Florida's Harborside Hometown

City Manager

- **Citywide Master Plan Community Engagement Event** – On Jun. 18 from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., the City will be hosting a Citywide Master Plan Preview Community Engagement Event at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. Our Urban Design Senior Planner will be sharing an update of visual images and an overview of ideas from Dover, Kohl & Partners. The intent of this session is to:
 - View work in progress images provided by Dover Kohl & Partners
 - Understand the impact of proposed ideas
 - Garner feedback for Dover Kohl & Partners
 - Get public input on the prioritization of projectsThere is no charge to attend and no need to pre-register.
- **Hurricane Irma Seawall Reimbursement** – The City received an additional \$1,896,660 in FEMA and State reimbursements for the seawall project. This brings total reimbursements for seawalls up to \$17 million.
- **Burnt Store Isles Undergrounding** – City staff and members of the Burnt Store Isles utility undergrounding committee met with a representative from the Town of Longboat Key regarding its undergrounding project currently underway. The representative highlighted the process used by the Town to move the project forward and all the cost components that are included in a final assessment. We anticipate receiving our FPL electric undergrounding study and cost estimate by Oct. 2019.
- **Buckley's Pass (Additional Harbor Access)**
 - At its Jun. 19 meeting, City Council will consider the award of a construction agreement to Kelly Brothers, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL for the project. Construction should begin in July and take approximately 165 days to complete.
 - As reported last week, the construction bid is under the engineer's estimate. Barring any unforeseen circumstances during construction, there remains the potential for the project to be completed under budget. *What does this mean for those assessed?* City Council has already agreed to lowering the assessment in the event the project is completed under budget. (For those accounts that are prepaid, the City would issue proportionate refunds at the end of the construction. For those whose assessments are being collected through the annual tax bill, the third-year assessment would be adjusted accordingly.) Staff will provide an update on the financials to City Council as we near completion of the project in December 2019. Prepayments through Jun. 13 total \$1,047,335.
 - Public Hearing notices were mailed to property owners of the Water Gardens Condominiums and Admiral's Point Condominiums this week. On Jul. 3, City Council will consider a proposal to reapportion the water access units assigned to certain tax parcels in these developments and approve an amended assessment roll relating thereto.
- At its upcoming Jun. 19 meeting, City Council will consider the following agenda items:
 - ✓ FY 2020 budget overview of the Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) and Burnt Store Isles (BSI) canal maintenance assessment districts including capital projects, multi-year financial forecast and potential assessments.
 - ✓ Proposal to expand small dog area at Hounds on Henry.
 - ✓ Proposal to expand parking in Gilchrist Park area 1.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
6/15	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
6/15	Bluegrass Festival	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
6/17	Community Open House	PGI Civic Association	http://www.pgica.org
6/18	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
6/20	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
6/20	Tails from the Harbor Mural Dedication	Punta Gorda Harborwalk	kgaylord320@gmail.com
6/23	Route 66	The Women's Club	www.swfloridawalkingtours.com
6/30	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
7/4	Fourth Fest	Laishley Park	www.smuggersevents.com/news.html
7/4	4 th of July Celebration	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/

Urban Design

- The Shoes for Kids Project, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Port Charlotte Sunrise, officially begins Jun. 16 through Jul. 21. The project collects new tennis shoes for children (pre-K, elementary, middle, and high) in the Charlotte County Public School System. The need for the 2019-2020 school year is 5000 new pairs of sneakers. Please consider helping this worthwhile project by donating a pair of sneakers and placing them in the collection boxes located at City Hall outside the City Clerk's offices or on the 2nd floor of the Annex building outside the elevator. For more information on the project or on making a monetary donation, visit www.shoesforkidsproject.org or call (941) 69-0864. All monetary donations should be made payable to the clubs 501c3: Kiwanis Club of Port Charlotte Sunrise Foundation Inc. *You are making an impactful difference in the lives of many youth in our community. Thank you in advance for your donations.*
- Staff attended a training session on Proper Tree Pruning. The course covered the basics of creating pruning systems and reviewed the 2018 ANSI A300 pruning standards which the City has cited in Chapter 26, Article 12, Landscape Standards, of the City's Land Development Regulations.
- Council Member Cummings and staff attended the monthly meeting of the Peace River Community Housing Partners (PRCHP). Items discussed included:
 - A review of the PRCHP application to Charlotte County Human Services, qualifying to participate in future releases of surplus lands for maintaining and increasing the stock of affordable housing;
 - A discussion of the need to start fundraising efforts; and
 - A discussion of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968.



The next meeting of the Charlotte County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) will be on Jun. 27 at 10 a.m. at the Charlotte County Health Department.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Gilchrist Park Area 1 Restrooms** – The remaining roof ridges are scheduled for completion. The field office trailer, tree barricades, fence and silt fence removals are near completion. Final land grading occurring, and sod will be placed and rolled in accordingly. A substantial completion walk-through is scheduled on Jun. 19.
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave. – Formwork**, new concrete curb placement, and backfill should be completed early next week. The new curb must cure for a couple of weeks prior to roadway work commencing in July.
- **Historic District Street Sign Toppers** – Right of Way staff continues with assembly and installation of the street signs and the toppers.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Public Works Engineering staff is working on engineering plans for the project and has an estimated date to complete plans by Jun. 14.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 423 properties totalling 311,000 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was scheduled to be completed this week at 7528-7540 Carissa and 7502-7524 Pon Kan. Work scheduled during the week of Jun. 17 includes 7500-7524 Ligustrum and 218-230 Yellow Elder.



Canal Maintenance

- An approximately 55,312 feet of seawall was damaged because of Hurricane Irma. To date, 98.9% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall and 85.2% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod installation complete. The current combined pace (three-month average) of the contractors is 3,385 feet per month.

Table 1


Zone	Work underway on Projects	Work not yet started on Projects	Number of Projects Per Zone
PGI-NE1	56, 57, 59, 60 – 63, 65 – 86, 88	87	90
PGI-NE2	81	0	82
PGI-NW1	0	0	54
PGI-NW2	47 – 49, 51, 52, 57, 59, 80 - 84	50, 58	87
PGI-SE	0	0	55
PGI-SW	0	0	47
Harborwalk	0	0	1
BSI-N	7, 8, 10, 11	9	11
BSI-S	0	0	11

- Crews filled 7 depressions in Punta Gorda Isle, patched 2 seawall cap and seams, and removed

one piling from a canal.

Fire Department

- **Lightening Safety** – Florida has more lightning flashes per square mile than any other state in the country. In fact, lightening hits each square mile in Central Florida 40 times a year. Our state averages 10-13 deaths, 30-40 injuries and over \$6 million in property damage annually due to lighting, typically occurring between May and September. Lightning can strike as far as ten miles away, about the distance you can hear thunder. Immediately move to safe shelter and stay put until at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder. If you are caught outside with no safe shelter nearby the following actions *may* reduce your risk of being struck:
 - ✓ Squat low to the ground. Kneel or crouch with your hands on your knees (“lightning position”).
 - ✓ Avoid tall structures (towers, trees, fences, poles).
 - ✓ Get away from bodies of water. Leave pools, rivers, lakes, and beaches. Come ashore and land any boats, kayaks, canoes, or other watercraft.
 - ✓ Immediately get off elevated areas.
 - ✓ Avoid water and wet items, metal objects, tents, natural lightning rods (golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles).
 - ✓ If you feel your hair stand on end, drop to your knees, bend forward, and put your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

Myth versus Fact	Interesting Facts
<p>Myth - Lightning never strikes in the same place twice. Fact - The Empire State Building is struck about 23 times in an average year.</p> <p>Myth - Rubber-soled shoes protect you from a lightning shock. Fact - It is unreasonable and suicidal to think that something so powerful as lightning can be stopped by a half-inch of rubber.</p> <p>Myth - Lightning follows the most direct path to the ground. Fact - It has been known to travel through clear air and strike 10 miles from the storm like a "bolt from the blue!"</p> <p>Myth - Rubber tires on a car protect you from the strike. Fact - Actually, it's not the tires. The metal body conducts the current around you, to the ground, providing windows are rolled up and you are not touching the metal. Not the case if it's a convertible, utility, or 4x4 vehicle with a fiberglass roof!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">⚡ Lightning is five times hotter than the sun's surface.⚡ Lightning hits each square mile in Central Florida 40 times a year.⚡ There can be as many as 500 cloud-to-cloud strikes within a 45-minute storm.⚡ The average flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months. 

Police Department

- The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 1,072 hours of volunteer time to the City during the month of May 2019. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 379 hours. Our Special Events and Traffic Control units contributed a total of 46.5 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 377 hours and generated \$531.25 in fingerprinting revenue. Our Administrative Volunteers contributed 265.5 hours. Our volunteers are vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering with the police department are encouraged to contact Volunteer Staff Coordinator at arusca@cityofpuntagordafl.com or (941) 575-5536.



- The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held Sept. 3-5, 2019. Applications must be submitted prior to 4:00 p.m. on Aug. 28. To apply visit www.puntagordapolice.com and select “Employment Opportunities.” For more information, contact the Administrative Services Section Supervisor at drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com or (941) 575-5503.

Utilities Department

- **Groundwater Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant Project Funding** – Staff will be attending the June 25 board meeting of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to address the City’s request for additional grant funding for project construction. SWFWMD staff will be recommending to its Board the following:
 - Authorize staff to amend the cooperative funding agreement with the City of Punta Gorda for the RO Water Treatment Facility Project to increase the total eligible project cost from \$32,200,000 to \$36,600,000 and increase the District’s funding share from \$15,650,000 to \$17,850,000.
 - Authorize staff to include the District’s share of the cost increase (\$2,200,000) in the draft *Standard Format Tentative Budget Submission* for FY2020 which will be presented to the Board for approval at their July meeting.SWFWMD staff evaluates our RO project as a high priority in that it meets the following three strategic goals:
 - ✓ Strategic Initiative - Alternative Water Supplies: Increase development of alternative sources of water to ensure groundwater and surface water sustainability.
 - ✓ Southern Region Priority: Implement Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) Recovery Strategy.
 - ✓ Southern Region Priority: Improve Charlotte Harbor, Sarasota Bay and Shell/Prairie/Joshua creeks.

- **Groundwater RO Construction Week 50-** Connecting the degasifier to the blend basin.



- **Jones Loop Force Main Project** - The contractor installed the electric panel and underground conduits for the new lift station. Asphalt restoration at Knights Drive and the Pilot gas station is 80% complete. Old I-75 rest area driveway asphalt restoration is completed.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 3.4 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.9 MG daily average
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Storage started Apr. 24 – ASR Well 3 stopped at 50% recovery and ASR Well 4 stopped at 57% – 108 MG recovered
- Peace River Manasota regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – receiving water at a rate of 0.5 million gallons per day, started 10/16/18
- Rainfall in Jun. 2018 5.30” and Jun. 2019 3.60”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 17 ppm – Total hardness 239 ppm
- TDS for Jun. 13 – Current 470 ppm, Low 331 ppm, High 637 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 476 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Jun. 13 – Current 5.35’, Record Low 4.2’, Record High 7.01’, 54 Year Average 5.32’

Water Distribution

- **AMI Meter Change Outs** – In-house forces have taken over completion of the AMI meter change out program. Last week crews changed out 30 meters with the new AMI meters. Of the 13,204 total water meters in the city, only 154 remain (residential and approximately 10 large meters) to complete the project. The project is 99% complete.

City Clerk

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

- Historic Preservation Advisory Board (One Alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Thursday at 9:00 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 regarding certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- Planning Commission (Two 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 regarding 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 (One Resident Commissioner vacancy) - 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.
- Utility Advisory Board – (Two vacancies) meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board. Three-year terms – maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council regarding, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.