

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
JUNE 21, 2019**



City Manager

Florida's Harborside Hometown

- **Council Meeting Recap** – The Jun. 19 City Council meeting highlights include:
 - City Council approved a signage request for the Blue Turtle Restaurant. The sign will be located at the rear of the property and is designed to create an enhanced entrance.
 - Council approved a request by Habitat for Humanity for the donation of city-owned property located at 402 Helen Avenue. This decision is in alignment with the City's Strategic Plan that includes housing diversification. It will also get the property back on the tax roll.
 - A discussion regarding parking in Gilchrist Park Area 1 resulted in the decision to wait until the Master Plan was complete before determining what course of action will be undertaken.
 - Council considered a request to add additional space to the small dog area of Hounds on Henry. It was determined that the needs of all the dog park users needed to be taken into consideration. City staff was directed to put together a community meeting to determine future amenities, expansion and share the required ADA upgrades that staff has been working on. A date for this meeting will be announced in a future Weekly Highlights Report.
 - In closed session the City Council denied a settlement request for delinquent code fines on a property located at 1601 Tamiami Trail.

Additional items and the regular session of the City Council meeting can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcUoHKewK1A>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euFceozk5Y>.

- **Buckley's Pass (Additional Harbor Access)** –
 - City Council approved the agreement with Kelly Brothers, Inc. of Fort Myers, FL for the project; construction should begin in July and is anticipated to finish in December.
 - Prepayments through Jun. 19 total \$1,248,320.
 - Charlotte County mailed out public hearing notices relating to the Alligator Creek Waterway Unit (MSBU). The Board of County Commissioners will consider reestablishing the MSBU to include newly benefitting properties accessing Alligator Creek via Buckley's Pass. This rate will support maintenance of Alligator Creek.
- **Citywide Master Plan Presentation Recap** – Over 300 residents were on hand at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center to see the progress on the images being proposed within the Citywide Master Plan. The community has directed Dover Kohl & Partners to focus on:
 - Making Downtown a vibrant and attractive place
 - Celebrating Charlotte Harbor and welcoming more boating
 - Diversifying housing types
 - Fully embracing walking and biking
 - Encouraging strategic commercial development

The slides can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=9540> and feedback is welcome at <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/engage>. Citizen feedback will be incorporated into the version of the Draft Plan that will be presented to the community for additional feedback in August.

- **Fall City Council Election** – Qualifying for the Nov. 5 election ended at noon today with the following candidates officially qualifying: **District 3** – Ms. Shaune Freeland and Mr. John Miller; **District 5** – Ms. Nancy Prafke (incumbent – unopposed).

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
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
6/24	Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting at PicklePlex	Florida Southwestern State College	www.puntagordachamber.com
6/27	Vietnam Wall Parking Area Ribbon Cutting	Laishley Park	www.puntagordachamber.com
6/30	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.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/
7/12 & 7/13	2 nd Annual International Culture Fest	Fishermen’s Village	www.fishville.com/events/
7/13 & 7/14	Wheels and Wings Tenth Anniversary Bicycle Ride	Beef O’ Brady’s	https://raceroster.com/events/2019/22336/wheels-and-wings-x

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers have completed mowing the following areas; Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.), PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive) and the PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd).

Urban Design

- Urban Design staff attended and participated in a Board of County Commissioners Focus Area Workshop concerning Economic and Community Development. Items discussed included financial trends, affordable housing, environmental water quality and workforce development.
- Staff attended the 2019 Trees Florida Conference with over 420 certified arborists, landscape architects and landscape contractors. Discussions focused on proper tree planting, tree biology, invasive insects and diseases affecting urban trees as well as after storm care of trees. Both academia and professional arborists provided lectures and gave practical information on various trees which ranged from oak trees to palms. The Conference was held in Fort Lauderdale, where tree protection is greatly valued. Fort Lauderdale looks at protecting trees due to their sizes, shapes, character, age, aesthetic value, species, historical value or any combination thereof declared by the city commission to be a locally unique example of the species. This conference is held annually and provides some of the best industry related material to its attendees.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Gilchrist Park Area 1 Restrooms** – A Substantial Completion walk-through was held on Jun. 19 with punch-list developed. Sod placement will complete by the end of the week. Restrooms will be open Jun.22.
- **Historic District Street Sign Toppers** – Installation is complete.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Public Works Engineering staff have delivered engineering plans for the project to procurement in preparation for bidding process.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 415 properties totalling 301,900 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was scheduled to be completed this week at 7528-7540 Carissa and 7502-7524 Pon Kan.
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – New concrete curbing, backfill and sod placement is complete. The road has been temporarily re-opened until Jul. 8 when the road contractor is scheduled to commence work.
- **Paving Program - street resurfacing:** The City of Punta Gorda paving contractor is scheduled to commence with milling and paving operations on Jul. 8 through Jul. 19 (weather permitting) on the following list of streets: Ida Ave. from Mary St. to Martin Luther King Boulevard, Elizabeth St. from north of Myrtle to Taylor St., Philodendron, Coco Plum, Carissa. Each road will be open to local traffic only.



Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,936 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. There has been a 4.5% length increase of replaced seawall due to unforeseen damage. The additional damage brings the estimated total up to 55,335 feet. To date, 99.1% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 85.7% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod 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, 61 – 63, 65 - 88,	0	90
PGI-NE2	0	0	82
PGI-NW1	0	0	54
PGI-NW2	48, 49, 52, 57, 80	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

Fire Department

- This week, PGFD crews have been busy training on aerial operations by using Truck-1 for rescue and roof access. Crews also practiced interior fire attack by deploying hose lines using a buildings standpipe system as well as creating their own portable standpipe in order to deploy handlines on multi-story buildings. This hands-on experience with the buildings in our community is vital to the success of operations during an emergency. A special thanks to Emerald Pointe for allowing access to their buildings.



Police Department

- The PGPD has received a report that the post office has received what appear to be several false change of address forms for Punta Gorda residents in the Burnt Store Isles area. At this time this appears to be limited to less than 20 residents in a specific area and we are unsure of the motivation of whoever may have submitted these forms. However, everyone should always be vigilant about these kinds of issues. The post office has stated that when they receive a change of address form they always mail a confirmation card to the resident. Please pay extra attention to your mail and contact the post office should you receive a confirmation for a change of address that you did not request.

Utilities Department

- **Groundwater RO Construction Week 51-** Working on the water line that connects the blend basin to the existing 2.0 million gallon tank.



Beginning with next week's weekly highlights a 30 day progress report on the R.O. construction, including a 30 day look ahead, will be on the City Web Page under the Utilities Department R.O. project page.

- **Jones Loop Force Main Project** - The Contractor completed the electrical wiring in the lift station panel. Charlotte County Building Department has inspection passed the electrical installation. The next step is for Florida Power and Light to energize the station and the contractor to conduct pump function tests. The final step is to install the emergency generator at the site.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 28.6 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.1 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 5.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 12 ppm – Total hardness 205 ppm
- TDS for Jun. 20 – Current 374 ppm, Low 323 ppm, High 531 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 433 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** – City of Punta Gorda Water Distribution Division forces have taken over completion of the AMI meter change out program. Last week crews changed out 40 meters with the new AMI meters. Of the 13,204 total water meters in the city, only 114 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](#))

- Building Board – (Two contractor vacancies) 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.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board (One Alternate 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 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 (One alternate) - 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.
- 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.

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:
 - Lani Ferguson in Salon Blue, 1105 Taylor Road, #M
 - Molloy Financial Group, 1205 Elizabeth Street, #C
 - The Firm Advertising Agency, 264 West Marion Avenue, Unit B