

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
JUNE 28, 2019**



City Manager

Florida's Harborside Hometown

- **Fourth of July Holiday Observance:** The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Jul. 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in their trash, yard waste or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in collection service during the holiday. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **FPL Hardening of Infrastructure** – The following response was received from FPL regarding the FPL Hardening Project and Comcast work going on in Punta Gorda Isles *“The project will take place beginning July 1st and is scheduled to be completed by October 31st. It is possible it may be closer to year end, depending on whether there are any delays due to summer weather or hurricane season. This project is divided into several phases, so some of the work will be completed sooner than other phases. It will significantly strengthen FPL facilities and give increased customer reliability. The black plastic screening is placed for erosion control when removing/setting new poles. It will remain in place until the poles are set, then will be removed. We regret that this may not be visually appealing to some of our customers. However, it is installed for the specific purpose of minimizing erosion to surrounding soil and landscaping during this process. Regarding "hanging wires", FPL does not require Comcast to do pre-work, such as take risers off poles to loosen wires before the new poles are installed. It may be their choice to do so, but it is not at our request. Our hardening project manager has visually double checked the area to also make sure there are no dangling/loose FPL wires and he has reported that there are none. Once the poles are set, the hardening crews will be transferring simple tangent 3rd party communications attachments (such as Comcast) to the new poles. So, compared to the past and in most cases, there will be less “double poles” left out there until all 3rd party attachments are removed. However, in PGI, there are a number of 3rd party communications risers on FPL poles. In those cases, the attaching party will need to perform their work before FPL can go back and pull the poles.”*
- **Pickleball Committee Report** - City Council approved formation of a Pickleball Committee whose mission is to provide facts about pickleball play in Punta Gorda to assist Council in determining a long-term solution. During the period March through June 2019, the Committee examined numerous factors that could help inform a long-term pickleball solution including the following that will be included in the report that will be presented at Council on Jul. 3. The report can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>:
 - Number of courts in Charlotte County;
 - Increasing popularity of the sport;
 - Estimate of current/future economic benefit;
 - History of play in Gilchrist Park;
 - Demographics of Gilchrist Park players;
 - Impact of play in Gilchrist Park on nearby residents;
 - Sound/noise level study of play at Gilchrist Park; and,
 - Options for Gilchrist Park and alternative locations.
- **Buckley's Pass (Additional Harbor Access)** – A total of \$1,638,269.60 has been received for Buckley's Pass prepayments thru and including Jun. 27.

- **Federal & State Seawall Reimbursements** – The City received a \$1,046,890 payment on Monday and a \$1,316,837 payment on Thursday. This brings the total up to \$19.6 million.
- **Groundwater Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant** – The Utilities Director and City Manager represented the City at the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Governing Board meeting, at which the District Board approved an additional \$2.2 million in grant funding for the high priority project. This award increases the total grant amount to \$17.85 million. It is anticipated that the RO plant will be completed and operational in June 2020. Kudos to State Senator Ben Albritton and City Lobbyist Jerry Paul for assisting in the grant process.
- **Citywide Master Plan Presentation** – On Aug. 21 at 5 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center, Dover Kohl & Partners will share the Draft of the Citywide Punta Gorda Master Plan for public comments to be incorporated into the Final Plan. This will be a much more comprehensive overview of the document that is being created by Dover Kohl & Partners than has been previously presented.
- **City Council Meeting** – At its July 3 meeting, City Council will consider the following budget items:
 - ✓ Approving FY 2020 tentative assessments for lot mowing, Punta Gorda Isles and Burnt Store Isles canal maintenance. Staff’s recommendation is to retain current rates, which are Lot Mowing (\$170 per year); PGI (\$650 per single family home); and BSI (\$555 per single family home).
 - ✓ FY 2020 General Fund budget status and millage rate options to include impact of tentatively approved position additions on proposed budget, reserve projections and staff recommended millage rate increase to pay for ongoing expenses and retain sound reserve balances.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
6/28	See World War I Like You Have Never Seen Before!	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
6/29	Return to Hardwick – A World War II Documentary	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
6/30	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
7/4	Fourth Fest	Laishley Park	www.smugglersevents.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
7/16	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
7/18	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
7/20	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers will complete mowing the following areas; East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.), Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia Dr.), and Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

- City mowers have completed edging 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), PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd), East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.), Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia Dr.), and Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

Urban Design

- Staff submitted the five year management plan for the Nature Park to the Florida Communities Trust (FCT). The property, located at the corner of Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta, was purchased with funds from the FCT. The FCT assists communities in numerous ways protecting important natural resources and provides recreational opportunities through such programs as the Parks and Open Space Florida Forever Grant Program. The Park is maintained by the City through the efforts of the PGI Green Thumbs who volunteer numerous hours weeding, pruning, planting and designing a very inviting park.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Purchase order issuance pending. Pre-construction meeting scheduled Jul. 12.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 432 properties totaling 318,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was scheduled to be completed this week at 7506-7554 Paspalum. Work scheduled during the week of Jul. 1 includes 123-137 Acalypha and 7417-7447 S. Blue Sage.
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – The road is scheduled to close once again on Jul. 8 while the contractor removes the old road and prepares the road prior to City staff mobilizing to the site for historic street brick sand-in and placement. A community involvement Press Release will be issued for the community involvement portion of a good old fashioned "Historic Street Bricking Party", date to be determined.
- **Paving Program - street resurfacing** – The City's 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, and Carissa.



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, 99.5% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 88.7% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace (three month average) of the contractors is 3,390 feet per month. Crews also patched three seawall caps and seams and filled 11 depression in PGI. Table 1 represents the progress made in each of the zones.

Table 1

Zone	Work underway on Projects	Work not yet started on Projects	Number of Projects Per Zone
PGI-NE1	56, 61 – 63, 65, 70, 72,73,75, 78-88	0	90
PGI-NE2	0	0	82
PGI-NW1	0	0	54
PGI-NW2	52, 57, 80	50, 58	87
PGI-SE	0	0	55
PGI-SW	0	0	47
Harborwalk	0	0	1
BSI-N	7, 11	0	11
BSI-S	0	0	11

Fire Department

- Fire Department personnel assisted the Isles Yacht Club with a fun filled morning during their sailing camp. Campers were able to use a fire hose to knock over a target try on Firefighter gear and ask a lot of questions.



Police Department

- **Jul. 4 Traffic flow information –**
 - Traffic from Laishley Park will be directed south to Olympia Ave and then east to I75. Traffic can then go north or south on the interstate.
 - Traffic from City Market Place will be directed north on US 41N towards Port Charlotte. Traffic west of US 41 North including Marion Avenue, Taylor Street, Sullivan Street will be directed to US 41 South. Then can continue south towards Fort Myers or turn east on Carmalita Street to go north on Cooper Street to Olympia Ave and then to I75.
 - Traffic exiting from Herald Court Center garage will not be permitted to turn right towards US 41N. All traffic will turn left towards Taylor Street at which time they be directed based on traffic back up. Traffic will either go towards Olympia and then east to I75 or towards Marion where they can either continue south or utilize the Carmalita Street Detour.
 - Traffic East of US 41N will be directed east towards I75
 - Traffic from the event center will either go Harborside Ave to US 41 N to Port Charlotte or 41S towards Fort Myers and Carmalita Street.
- The Department was reaccredited and received its third Excelsior Award from the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation. The police department was initially accredited in 1998 and was only the 11th municipal agency in Florida to be accredited. The department has remained accredited since then and received its first Excelsior Award in 2013, after six consecutive reaccreditations without conditions.



Utilities Department

- **Groundwater RO Construction Week 52-** Preparing the work area to install a flow meter between the two plants.



A report containing the previous month's progress as well as a 30 day look ahead may be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under the City Capital Improvement Projects or at the following link:

<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/capital/projects/ponce-park-redesign/cip-projects>

- **Jones Loop Force Main Project** – The underground contractor installed the 12 inch force main pipe across Knight's Drive and connected it to new force main. The contractor also installed structural asphalt in road crossings at Glasgow and Jones Loop.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 33.1 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.7 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 5.40"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition "hard" – Grains of Hardness 11 ppm – Total hardness 188 ppm
- TDS for Jun. 27 – Current 402 ppm, Low 284 ppm, High 551 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 423 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Jun. 27 – Current 5.29', Record Low 4.99', Record High 7.49', 54 Year Average 5.56'

Water Distribution

- **AMI Meter Change Outs** – Our Water Distribution Division forces have taken over completion of the AMI meter change out program. Last week crews changed out 24 meters with the new AMI meters. Of the 13,204 total water meters in the city, only 90 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, sanitary affordable housing.
- Utility Advisory Board – (One vacancy) meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in 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, reviews 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:
 - Kimberly Wilmarth, cleaning services, 24300 Airport Rd, Lot #102
 - Multi-Care Medical SWFL, 150 W. McKenzie Street, #114
 - Starbucks Coffee Company, 1001 Tamiami Trail, Unit 111