



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JULY 12, 2019

City Manager

- **FY 2020 General Fund Budget** – Two new police positions are proposed for 2020 to better serve the residents of the community. A Community Engagement Unit will be comprised of two officers who are solution oriented. They will focus on developing to solutions to quality of life issues throughout the City. These may include, traffic enforcement, narcotics investigations, prostitution investigations, homelessness, juvenile problems, and anything that can begin as a minor problem and become a major issue if not addressed. Patrol officers try to address these issues, but it becomes a band-aid to the problem and not a long-term solution. Other benefits include extra coverage during periods of high call volume, the ability to utilize the unit to cover absences resulting from officers being off because of illness or injury and coverage for community events, and administration of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The second position, a civilian Employee Development Coordinator will be tasked with for all the training of every employee in the department. Florida Department of Law Enforcement mandates that all sworn personnel receive 40 hours of training annually regarding high liability areas. The Punta Gorda Police Department has set a goal to increase this by 50% to include training such as de-escalation, active shooter, officers' wellness, and other trending topics in law enforcement. The Employee Development Coordinator also serves as the administrator of the sworn officer field training program and telecommunicator training program for all our new hires. There are several mandated standards sworn and communications personnel must meet in order to be completely certified. The Employee Development Coordinator is responsible for all recruiting, hiring, and promotional testing for the department. There is no greater liability to a police department than the failure to properly hire, retain, and train employees. The Employee Development Coordinator is one of the most important positions in the department. The PGPD goal is to save the City money by hiring a civilian to fulfill this position and move the current sworn position to the Community Engagement Unit. It is imperative that the Community Engagement Unit have two officers so that they are maintaining officer safety when in the field.
- **Award Presentation** – At the Jul. 29 MPO Board Meeting, Mr. John R. Burrage will be presented the 2019 "Peggy Walters" Citizen Mobility Award. John is on the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and most recent CAC Chair. He has served as a member of the MPO's Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) since 2011, was elected Vice-Chair in 2014 and has served as the CAC Chair since 2015. Records indicate he is currently the second longest serving member on the CAC. In addition, John has a near perfect attendance record in presenting the CAC Chair's Report at all MPO Board Meetings. His attendance and input at MPO public participation Workshops including the MPO's currently in development 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Recently, Mr. Burrage has developed for review and comment a "Charlotte County Fixed Bus Route Phase 1" proposal plan. His transit proposal and plan includes detailed bus stops along US 41, route timing and a potential fare structure. This proposal is indicative of the effort, commitment and vision Mr. Burrage has continually demonstrated in service to our community. He is truly an example of what one person can do to improve and "give something back" to the community.

- **Buckley’s Pass** – Payments totaling \$1,856,730.72 have been received for Buckley’s Pass through and including Jul. 11.
- **Impact Fee Report** – Raftelis provided Council with a presentation of the Impact Fee Report. The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3ZV88VaRM8> starting at 21:00 and at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnWfJh64TVc>. Full text of the report is at <http://novuspublic.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=16723&MeetingID=1799>.
- **FY 2020 General Fund Budget** – The Fire Training Chief position is also slated to be created in 2020. The Training Chief Position was eliminated 2008 due to economic downturn. Workload was distributed to several positions including shift personnel. Call volume in 2008 was approximately 2800 calls per year. In 2017 over 4000 calls were received with 75% being EMS calls (3000 incidents). Each F.F. EMT/Paramedic is required to have approx. 300 hrs. of training per year to comply with our ISO classification as well as Florida Department of health and other regulatory agencies. This includes 16 hrs. of emergency vehicle drivers training, rapid entry dive training, as well as renewing certifications in Advanced cardiac life support and advanced life support interventions. The Fire Department has experienced an increase of over 50% in call volume since the position was eliminated. More important than the increased call volume is the increase in level of service specifically Advanced Life Support. Fire personnel today carry 23 separate medications not including various I.V. fluids which they must maintain intimate knowledge of indications, contraindications and interactions with each other. Personnel must maintain in depth knowledge of our approved medical protocols which outlines specific medical interventions and procedures (the current protocol book is over 400 pages). Not every call comes with huge risk or severe consequences but many do. We consider these calls to fall into the High Risk/Low Frequency category. These are the calls that if things aren’t done right have huge consequences. This is where real training must take over. The Training Chief Position responsibilities will include oversight of all personnel training including Firefighting operations, Dive operations, EMS Operations. Additional duties will include oversight of all medication accountability and inventory as well as maintenance of state and federal licensing.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
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	Finishing Your Book with James Abraham	PGI Civic Association	www.pgica.org/
7/18	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
7/20	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
7/23	Finishing Your Book with James Abraham	PGI Civic Association	www.pgica.org/
7/27	Cocktails for a Cause Pub Crawl	Downtown Punta Gorda	cjfanky@hotmail.com
7/27	Beeswax Wrap Workshop	Punta Gorda City Hall	smoen@chnep.org
7/28	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
7/30	Finishing Your Book with James Abraham	PGI Civic Association	www.pgica.org/
8/3	August Rummage Sale	The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Sacred Heart Church	www.svdpusa.org/

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers completed mowing PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.).
- City mowers are currently mowing the following areas; Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.) and PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- Zoning Official Lisa Hannon and Chief Planner Mitchell Austin made a presentation to the Punta Gorda Historic District Home Owners Association (HOA) at their monthly meeting this week. The HOA requested City staff provide a basic overview of existing land development regulations for their neighborhood. The presentation provided information on zoning basics, architectural provisions, historic protections, using the City as a resource, and the Citywide Master Plan. In the words of on HOA member the presentation, “provided valuable information and much needed insight to our members at a time when our neighborhood in undergoing significant change.”
- The Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) hosted a small sub-committee meeting with the consultants for the update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2045. The LRTP is the guiding document for all State and Federal transportation spending within Charlotte County. Opportunities for public input into this process will occur over the winter season 2019-2020. The updated LRTP is due for adoption by the MPO Board in October of 2020. More information on the MPO and the Long Range Transportation Plan update are available on their website at: <https://ccmpo.com/wp/>

City as a Resource: Design Studio

The Purpose

- To introduce developers, business owners, investors, and citizens to planning, zoning, & business regulations.
- Staff will explain the various City Ordinances pertinent to the situation, the permitting and development process, and rules and regulations adopted by the City.

Every 2nd and 4th Thursday

To Schedule An Appointment:
Call 941-575-3372

Email: urbandesign@CityofPuntaGorda.com



<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/residents/urban-design/design-studio>

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – The Purchase Order has been issued to the contractor, Quality Enterprise. A Pre-Construction Kick-off Meeting is scheduled for Jul. 12 at the Public Works Campus Conference Room. Material submittals are being received for review and approval.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 432 properties totaling 318,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Excavation and fine grading is underway at 123-137 Acalypha, 7417-7447 S. Blue Sage and 335 W. William, the contractor plans on sodding these locations by July 1. The next work location will be 7131-7191 N. Plum Tree.
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – Work has commenced removing 8” of base material from the roadway. A Press Release will be issued announcing the date, (to be determined) for a good old fashioned "Historic Street Bricking Party".
- **Paving Program - street resurfacing** – Milling and resurfacing commenced Jul. 10. Work is scheduled on: Ida Ave., Elizabeth St., Coco Plum, Carissa and Philodendron to be completed by Jul. 19 weather permitting.
- **Harborwalk West Area 2a & 2b** – The bids are being reviewed.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – This project was advertised for bid on Jul. 5 with a bid opening date of Aug. 6.



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 filled 15 depressions in PGI and two seawall caps. Table 1 represents the progress made in each of the zones. The corresponding sequence maps can be found on the City’s website here: <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/storm-related-seawall-failures>.

Table 1

Zone	Work underway on Projects	Work not yet started on Projects	Number of Projects Per Zone
PGI-NE1	56, 61 – 63, 79 - 88	0	90
PGI-NE2	0	0	82
PGI-NW1	0	0	54
PGI-NW2	50, 58	0	87
PGI-SE	0	0	55
PGI-SW	0	0	47
Harborwalk	0	0	1
BSI-N	7 - 10	0	11
BSI-S	0	0	11

Fire Department

July and August are typically the two hottest months in Florida and we would like to remind you about how to avoid heat related illness and what to look for if you spend time outdoors. If possible, avoid being outdoors during the hottest part of the day. If you can't avoid being outdoors remember the three most important things rest, water and shade.



Utilities Department

- **Groundwater RO Construction Week 54** – New caustic tanks onsite and setting precast roof panels.



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** – Startup complete the force main and lift station are in service.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 25 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 3.5 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 .5 million gallons per day, started 10/16/18
- Rainfall in Jul. 2018 6.80” and Jul. 2019 1.6 ”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 14 ppm – Total hardness 239 ppm
- TDS for Jul. 11 – Current 409 ppm, Low 233 ppm, High 568 ppm, Year Avg. 408 ppm
- Reservoir Jul. 11 – Current 5.35’, Record Low 5.12’, Record High 6.84’, Year Avg. 5.51’

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 27 meters with the new AMI meters. Of the 13,204 total water meters in the city, only 37 remain (residential and approximately 10 large meters) to complete the project. The project is 99% done.

City Clerk

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

- 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. 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.
- 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 – (One vacancy) 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 with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings.

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:
 - ✓ Bella’s Bistro, Inc., 117 W Marion Avenue
 - ✓ 1st Exit Bail Bonds, 207 Wood Street

