

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT AUGUST 2, 2019

City Manager

- **Accomplishments** – Over the past 15 years, the City has been tracking significant accomplishments within the following categories:
 - ✓ Financial/Economic Sustainability
 - ✓ Infrastructure Sustainability
 - ✓ Partnerships and Collaboration
 - ✓ Communication and Transparency
 - ✓ Public Safety and Emergency Management
 - ✓ Recognitions

The effort started as part of the “Extreme Makeover” event showcasing five-year revitalization initiatives following then Hurricane Charley and continues today. The document highlights how our municipal organization has evolved over the years in response to changing financial and economic conditions. It can be viewed in the City Communications webpage at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=889>.

- **Citywide Master Plan Draft Presentation** – Aug. 21 at 5 pm Dover Kohl & Partners will present the Draft Citywide Master Plan to the community at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center. Registration is not required and Punta Gorda stakeholders are welcome.
- **Strategic Planning** – City Council and staff will host a strategic planning session on Aug. 28 at 5 pm at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association to gather stakeholder input for the FY2020 Strategic Plan. All community stakeholders are welcome to participate.
- **Economic Development Partnership** – At the monthly investors meeting of the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), a local engineer and land use attorney provided attendees with an update of the significant number of development projects throughout Charlotte County and Punta Gorda, and the factors behind lag time when a land sale is consummated and construction actually begins (i.e. possible issues with land use/zoning, environmental, federal and/or state agency reviews). For more information view the Charlotte County Economic Development Office website. Council Member Cummings and City Manager were in attendance.
- **City of Punta Gorda Website (www.cityofpuntagordafl.com)** – During the month of July the City’s website had 20,948 visitors with the majority of the visitors coming from the United States. Florida represented 59.2% of the visitors with Illinois, Georgia, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Michigan, Texas and Virginia rounding out the top 10. Internationally Canada, Germany, Ukraine, India, Philippines, United Kingdom, Belize, and Poland were the top represented countries. The top search term was permit, followed by fireworks, contractor registration, code, jobs and map. 48.3 % of users access the site by a desktop computer, 38.6% on a mobile device and 13.1% on a tablet. City of Punta Gorda staff are continuing efforts to enhance accessibility and functionality of the web site.
- **Buckley’s Pass** – Payments totaling \$1,897,774.94 for Buckley’s Pass have been received through and including Aug. 1. Project details can be found at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/capital-projects/buckley-s-pass-additional-harbor-access>.

- Free Dental Services for Students** – The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile was at East Elementary for the past two weeks providing free dental services to students. It is a collaborative effort between Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc. and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida created to improve the health status of underserved children in Lee, Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry Counties. The Care Mobile make regular visits to elementary, middle, and high schools that have high concentrations of low-income and/or medically-needy students. The Care Mobile is a 40-foot long, 8-foot wide, state-of-the-art vehicle built specifically for delivering pediatric health care services. The vehicle contains two patient examination rooms, a laboratory, and reception area. Paid staff consist of Dental Hygienists, Program Managers, and other support professionals. Councilman Cummings is on the Care Mobile Advisory Board. Though this year, in Charlotte County, the Care Mobile only visited East Elementary, Councilman Cummings is working to make it possible for all Charlotte County children who can benefit from the Care Mobile's dental services and vision and hearing screenings to be able to do so.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
8/3	August Rummage Sale	The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Sacred Heart Church	www.svdpusa.org/
8/6	Finishing Your Book with James Abraham	PGI Civic Association	www.pgica.org/
8/10	Tiki Fest	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
8/15	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
8/16-8/18	Punta Gorda Woodstock	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	http://puntagordawoodstock.com/
8/17	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
8/24	Arts in August	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
8/25	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
9/14-9/15	Sullivan Street Craft Fair	Sullivan Street	http://puntagordachamber.com
9/17	PGI Car Club Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
9/19	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers will completed mowing the following areas: 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), 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 are currently mowing the following areas: East of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.) and Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey).

Urban Design

- Punta Gorda's own John Burrage was presented the Peggy Walter's citizens mobility award by the Charlotte County Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board for his long service to the MPO. Most recently serving as Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Mr. Burrage, has retired from his many volunteer duties this month after 18 years of service. Mr. Burrage's positive attitude and keen insights will be missed. Vice Mayor Matthews is the City's representative on the MPO Board.



- **Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project**
It is with great joy and thankfulness that I tell you of the wonderful news!! Because of your generosity, the Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project EXCEEDED their goal by a few hundred sneakers. Kiwanis is so very thankful for all of you who supported this year's program. You have touched numerous lives over the last 15 years; as we have been working on this mission since 2005. Even though you may not know the youth who receive these shoes, every time you pass a youngster on your travels and you see them jumping for joy, playing with friends or yes, chasing their siblings; maybe, just maybe they were given a gift you so generously provided through the project. THANK YOU again for your generous donation!

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Pavement Rejuvenation** – Beginning the week of Aug. 1 through Aug. 8 (weather and equipment operations permitting) Pavement rejuvenation application is scheduled on the following roadways:
 1. Cooper St. from Airport Rd. to Taylor Rd.
 2. Marion Ave. from Tropicana to DiVinci Dr.
 3. Trieste Dr. from Palermo to the cul-de-sac
 4. Portofino Dr. from Monaco Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 5. Palermo Dr. from Portofino Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 6. Henry St. from Shreve St. to Garvin Dr.
 7. St. Girons Ct. from St. Girons Dr. to the cul-de-sac
 8. St. Girons Dr. from Madrid Blvd. to the cul-de-sac
 9. San Pietro Ct. from Madrid Blvd. to the cul-de-sac
 10. Licata Ct. from Monaco Dr. to the cul-de-sac

- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Beginning Aug. 1 through Jan. 3 (weather permitting) work is scheduled to construct a pedestrian bridge over the north fork of Alligator Creek. The work area will be north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge. The multi-use recreational trail at this location will remain closed to pedestrians and cyclists for the duration of the project.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 452 properties totaling 334,800 square feet of grading/sodding. The contractor was scheduled to complete work at 7131-7191 N. Plum Tree this week. Work scheduled for the week of Aug. 5 includes the following locations: Schefflera, along the public sidewalk on W. Virginia east of Harvey Street, Vitex and Dracena.
- **Goldstein Street Bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – The contractor is scheduled to remobilize and continue work on the evening of Aug 1. (weather and equipment operations permitting)
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Bid opening on Aug. 6.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Restoration Project** – All of the seawall panels have been installed for the Hurricane Irma seawall restoration project. The only items left to complete the project are: BSI-N sequence number 9, sod and PGI-NW2 sequence number 50 sod and sequence 58 cap, backfill and sod.
- **Bass and Snook Inlet** – Beginning the week of Aug. 5 through Aug. 23 (weather permitting), the Bass and Snook Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will off load dredge material at the easterly end of Breakers Park and the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. Boaters are asked to please use caution in this area during construction. For additional information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



Fire Department

- **When the Thunder Roars Go Indoors** – According to the National Weather Service, lightning strikes the United States approximately 25 million times a year and kills an average of 47 people annually in the. Hundreds more are severely injured by lightning with a noticeable increase during the summer months. The following safety precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of death or injury from lightning:



- Thunder is caused by lightning so when you first hear thunder, head indoors or seek other shelter.
- Stay indoors for at least 30 minutes after hearing the last sound of thunder.

Monitor the weather if you plan on spending time outdoors. There are weather apps that will notify you when lightning strikes in your area. If you are caught outdoors during a thunderstorm, the following is recommended by NOAA:

- Lightning is likely to strike the tallest object in any given area; don't be that object.
- Avoid isolated tall trees, utility poles, cell phone towers, ladders, and scaffolding
- Avoid open areas such as fields and never lie flat on the ground
- Seek dense areas of smaller trees that are surrounded by larger trees or find a low-lying area like a ditch but watch for flooding.
- Immediately get out of water and move away from pools or lakes.

If lightning should strike your vehicle during a storm, you should also take precautions:

- Pull over and turn off the engine.
- Put your hands in your lap and wait for the storm to pass.
- Do not touch anything metal inside your car, such as a CB radio, window cranks, radio knobs, etc.

Potential damage to your vehicle could include electrical or blown tires, but trying to inspect this damage in the middle of the storm is not advised. When the storm has passed, make the assessment and then call for help if needed.

Police Department

- Mid-year Uniform Crime Report for the City of Punta Gorda is below. This report does not include the two bank robberies that occurred this week. A summary of January 2019 through June 2019 crime data reveals the following:
 - ✓ City of Punta Gorda total index crimes in the first half of 2019 decreased 4.3% from 163 in the first half of 2018 to 156 in the first half of 2019;
 - ✓ Violent crimes¹ in the City of Punta Gorda decreased 28.6% from seven (7) violent crimes in the first half of 2018 to five (5) in the first half of 2019. There was a total of one (1) robbery, three (3) aggravated assaults, and one (1) aggravated stalking;
 - ✓ No homicides or forcible rapes were reported in the first half of 2019;
 - ✓ Non-violent crime in the City of Punta Gorda remained the same as in the first half of 2018 with 156 non-violent index crimes reported;
 - ✓ Burglaries in the City of Punta Gorda decreased 33.3% from eighteen (18) in the first half of 2018 to twelve (12) in the first half of 2019;
 - ✓ The number of cases involving larceny increased 10.7% from 131 in the first half of 2018 to 145 in the first half of 2019;
 - ✓ The number of bicycle thefts decreased 33.3% from twelve (12) in the first half of 2018 to eight (8) in the first half of 2019.
 - ✓ The index crime clearance rate in the City of Punta Gorda increased substantially from 25.4% in the first half of 2018 to 53.2% in the first half of 2019.
 - ✓ The total number of UCR arrests increased 27.9% from forty-three (43) in the first half of 2018 to fifty-five (55) in the first half of 2019.
 - ✓ There were no police officers assaulted in the City of Punta Gorda in the first half of 2019 compared to two (2) assaults reported in the first half of 2018 and four (4) assaults reported in the second half of 2018.

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- Week 57 – R.O. Plant Building



Connecting the pipework to tie the blend basin into the storage tanks.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 46.5 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 6.7 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Jul. 16.
- Rainfall in Jul. 2018 6.80” and Jul. 2019 9.20”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 1 – Current 278 ppm, Low 249 ppm, High 536 ppm, Year Avg. 386 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 1 – Current 5.79’, Record Low 4.98’, Record High 6.45’, Year Avg. 5.53’

Water Distribution

- City of Punta Gorda Water Distribution Division forces have taken over completion of the AMI meter change out program. Last week crews changed out 9 meters with the new AMI meters. Of the 13,204 total water meters in the city, only 15 remain (residential and approximately 8 large commercial meters) to complete the project. The project is 99% complete.

City Clerk

Election Information

- Candidate Campaign Treasurer's Reports for all 2019 General Election reporting periods through Jul. 26 are available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (941)575-3369 or pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com,

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.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One vacancy) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms - maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.
- Code Enforcement Board – (Two vacancies) 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.