

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

AUGUST 30, 2019



Hurricane Dorian Preparedness

On Friday, August 30, City Council passed an Emergency Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to declare a "State of Local Emergency" for the City of Punta Gorda. This declaration provides the City Manager the authority to make decisions and take actions typically requiring City Council action. City staff reassembled this same afternoon to review current forecast/predictions and make plans for the weekend. Staff will meet again on Sunday afternoon to reevaluate the conditions.

City facilities will be closed on Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday. If deemed necessary, notice of any future closures will be distributed via City's website, social media, and media outlets. Designated employees from administration, public safety, building, public works and utilities will continue to work in preparation of the upcoming storm.

Sanitation will continue residential collections as scheduled over the weekend. There will be no commercial collection on Monday, September 2 and residential garbage, yard waste and recycling collection may be affected on Tuesday, September 3 and Wednesday, September 4 depending on the weather. Residents need to secure their cans; they should not leave them down by the curb through the hurricane. In an abundance of caution, please discontinue curbside placement of landscape debris and trimmings at this time.

Vessels cannot be cross tied in canals until the City is under a HURRICANE WARNING which is typically 48 hours before the hurricane reaches our area. This allows boaters to properly remove their boats ahead of the storm. The above City Council emergency declaration is not a declaration of cross tying boats. Notice to the community will be given at the appropriate time.

Sand bags are being offered at the city-owned parcel on West Henry Street near the dog park. A limit of 10 bags per City of Punta Gorda residence are available self-filled.

There are no Charlotte County shelters open at this time.

City has initiated enhanced communication efforts as shown below:

- Updated social media platforms including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and NextDoor for communications with the public to provide timely updates on evolving situations.
- For the latest storm information from the City of Punta Gorda, please visit www.cityofpuntagordafl.com.
- Residents can also register for [CodeRed®](#) emergency notifications through the website.
- For specific needs please call 2-1-1 or 941-833-4000. In the event of an emergency dial 9-1-1.
- The community can follow Charlotte County Emergency Management important emergency information at <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/emergencymgmt/Pages/default.aspx>, www.facebook.com/oemcharlottecounty and www.twitter.com/ccoem.

Some local radio stations are: WCCF AM 1580, WIKX FM 92.9, WENG AM 1530, WBCG FM 98.9, WCVU FM 104.9, WINK FM 96.9, WCKT FM 100.9; local Comcast stations are: Weather-31, Wink-5, WBBH-2, WZVN-7, WXLT-10, WFTX-4, and SNN-6; newspapers: [Charlotte Sun](#) & [Herald Tribune](#).

City Manager

- **Gilchrist Park Phase 2** – City Council will consider the construction contract for renovations to Gilchrist Park from the Gazebo to Bayfront Center/Boat Club at its Sep. 4 meeting. Park improvements include harborwalk, diagonal parking along Retta, additional parking areas, basketball court resurfacing and landscaping. No alternative proposals were submitted for consideration by City Council.
- **FY 2020 Budget Hearing** – On September 4, City Council will also conduct public hearings on the proposed annual budget, general fund millage rate, Community Redevelopment Area budget, and special assessments for lot mowing and canal maintenance (Punta Gorda Isles and Burnt Store Isles). This meeting will take place at 5:01pm in the City Council Chambers. The budget message and all funds summary can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/budget-686>. In the event that this meeting needs to be rescheduled due to weather conditions, proper notice will be provided.
- **PLAN Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan Draft** – Just a reminder that it is available by clicking on the following link <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/citywide-master-plan>. The Economic and Fiscal Analysis is also available at the link above. Please take the time to review the documents, presentations and register your comments before Sept. 6.
- **Strategic Planning** – City Council and staff held a strategic planning session at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association to gather stakeholder input for the FY 2020 Strategic Plan. The plan provides a tool for more effective and economical operations and demonstrates to the public that careful consideration has been given to future development and direction of the organization. It provides a realistic view of the expectations for the organization and community at-large. The City has five focus areas of strategic priorities including financial/economic stability; infrastructure sustainability; partnerships communications & collaboration; strategic communications positioning; and quality of life. Comments from attendees included Citywide Master Plan initiatives, appropriate growth strategies and role of City in business attraction, sidewalks and crosswalks, infrastructure needs and financial stability. The draft Strategic Plan is available for viewing at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=9683>. City Council will consider the adoption of the FY 2020 Strategic Plan at the Sept. 18 meeting.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
9/11	MHM Hosts Patriot Day Event to Commemorate 9/11	Military Heritage Museum	www.freedomisntfree.org
9/14	Nick's Kid Show & Safety Day	Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/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
9/19	Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade	Taylor Street	http://chs.yourcharlotteschools.net/

9/20	Recovery Candlelight Vigil	Laishley Park	https://www.cbhcfl.org/events/
9/21	Charlotte County Out of the Darkness Walk	Laishley Park	https://afsp.donordrive.com/
9/21	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
9/22	Punta Gorda Sweet Stroll	Downtown Punta Gorda	https://thegivingpartner
9/29	Monthly Auto Flea Market	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/

Lot Mowing Program

- City mowers have completed mowing the following areas: Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia Dr.), Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree), East Side 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 St.). City mowers are currently trimming the entire City.

Public Works Department

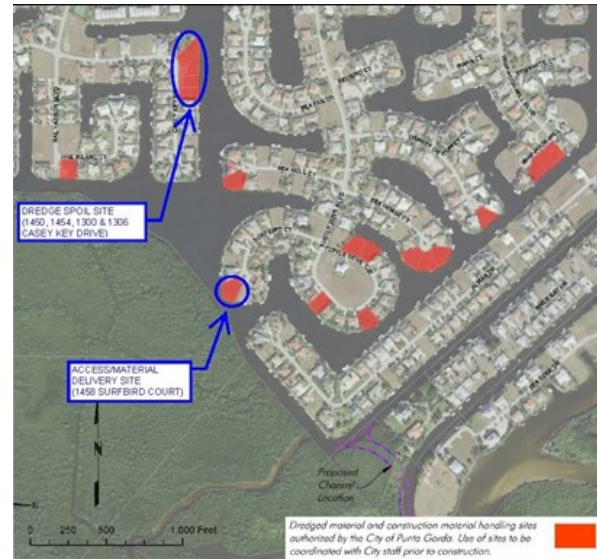
Engineering

- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Work has been suspended, crane boom lowered due to impending storm, FPL reenergized the overhead power lines.
- **Harborwalk at Justice Center Boardwalk and Pier** – Adrienne Street pier structural repairs have been completed. Work continues at Justice Center boardwalk. This section of Harborwalk remains closed as pile jacket work progresses under the boardwalk.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Awaiting insurance paperwork and authorization to begin work.
- **Interior Wayfinding** – A pre-construction meeting was held Aug. 27 and included site visits to City Hall, City Hall Annex and Public Safety Building. Sign installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of Jan. 2020.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date the contractor has completed work at 472 properties totaling 349,700 square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 7512-7518 Dracena, 7316-7340 S. Blue Sage, and 7448 S. Blue Sage. Next week, weather permitting, work will be on Vitex Ct and Clusia Rosea Ct.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** – Work was completed as of Aug. 29.
- **Goldstein Street curb and street bricking between Marion and Olympia Ave.** – Right of Way staff continues sand and brick placement; a Historic Street Bricking Party will be scheduled as soon as weather conditions permit.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Restoration Project** – All of the seawall panels have been installed for the Hurricane Irma restoration project. Contractors are restoring staging sites.
- Crews filled 26 depressions and performed six seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Bass and Snook Inlet** – Dredging is complete.

- **Mangrove Trimming** – Mobilization has started, mangrove trimming at Nature Park, and Sancho Panza weather permitting.
- **Buckley's Pass** – Staging is taking place at 1300, 1306, 1450, and 1454 Casey Key Drive and 1458 Surfbird Court. Pictured below is aerial view of Buckley's Pass. Payments totaling \$1,914,263.80 have been received through and including Aug. 28.



Fire Department

- **Generator Safety** – Portable generators are internal combustion engines used to generate electricity and are often used in cleanup and recovery efforts following disasters such as hurricanes. Several hazards exist when utilizing generators to include electrocution, carbon monoxide poisoning, fires and noise.

Visit [https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/Hurricane Facts/portable_generator_safety.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/Hurricane%20Facts/portable_generator_safety.pdf) to read the full OSHA Fact Sheet.



Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- **Week 61** – Contractors at the construction site spent most of the week preparing the site for potential impacts from Hurricane Dorian. Preparations included removal of any construction material or parts that could be blown by the wind.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 41.7 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 6.0 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Sending water at a rate of 2.0 million gallons per day, started Jul. 16.
- Rainfall in Aug. 2018 15.1” and Aug. 2019 8.26”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “slightly hard” – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm – Total hardness 137 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 29 – Current 277 ppm, Low 178 ppm, High 413 ppm, Year Avg. 286 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 29 – Current 6.16, Record Low 5.14’, Record High 6.18’, Year Avg. 5.58’

City Clerk

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

- 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 – max. of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- 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.
- 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.

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:
 - Smiles of Punta Gorda, 100 Madrid Blvd., Unit 414
 - Sellstate Sunseeker Realty, 208 Tamiami Trail