

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FEBRUARY 21, 2020

City Manager

- **Sales Tax** – The City of Punta Gorda 1% Sales Tax Committee will meet on Feb. 24, at 1 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. The committee will rank an additional drainage project and begin deliberations to create a slate of projects for the City Council to consider in April. The full agenda packet can be viewed at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=10867>.
- **US41 and Madrid** – At the Feb. 19 Council meeting the safety conditions at US41 and Madrid were discussed. Vice-Mayor Matthews, the City representative to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), will continue to bring the safety issues at Madrid and 41 to the MPO. The Florida Department of Transportation Visioning program will be on the MPO agenda on Mar. 23 and will provide opportunity for comment on the intersection. City Council will also consider lowering the speed limit to 25 mph on Tripoli between Madrid and Monaco, and signage that says no commercial trucks and local deliveries only.
- **Consolidated Ice Manufacturing and Fish Co.** – Thank you to all involved in displaying part of the Consolidated Ice Manufacturing and Fish Co. foundation on the Punta Gorda Pathways. Visit this piece of history at the corner of West Virginia Avenue and Berry Street.
- **Development Impact Fees** – City Council approved enactment of revised impact fees for public safety, parks and mobility at 100% of the consultant's recommended level. The fee increase will take effect May 20, 2020. Included in the ordinance is a waiver of applicability for affordable housing.
- **Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Undergrounding** – Upon the request of the BSI Undergrounding Committee, City Council approved straw ballot language for affected property owners within BSI to vote on whether or not to proceed with conversion of overhead electric and cable lines to underground, and to create an assessment district to pay for project costs. Ballots will be mailed out in early Mar. and results tabulated mid-Apr. City Council will consider the results at a future Council meeting thereafter.
- **Septic to Sewer** – City Manager presented the City's septic to sewer transition plan before the Charlotte County Commission. The area referred to as Charlotte Park represents the initial priority for conversion to sewers within the City's utility service area. Since these properties reside within unincorporated Charlotte County, the City needs approval from the County Commission to create a municipal services benefit unit (MSBU) that will assess affected property owners for their share of project costs. The County Commission voiced approval to work with the City in creation of such an assessment district. Creation of a project timeline is forthcoming.



Upcoming Events

- **Fishermen’s Village Events** – can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>.

Date	Event	Location	Contact
2/21-2/23	Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival	City Marketplace	https://www.paragonartevents.com/S-97-Punta+Gorda+Seafood+%26+Music+Festival.html
2/22	Punta Gorda Chamber Wine & Jazz Festival	Laishley Park	https://puntagordachamber.com/product/15th-annual-wine-and-jazz-festival-2020/
2/27-2/29	Florida Frontier Days	Punta Gorda History Park	(941) 769-1270
2/29	10 th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl	Various locations in Punta Gorda	http://puntagordapubcrawl.com/index.html
3/1	13 th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda	Laishley Park	https://www.tasteofpuntagorda.org/
3/2	Charlotte County Veg Fest	Laishley Park	https://charlotteveg.org/
3/6	Wall of Warriors Ceremony	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
3/7-3/8	MY Promotions Spring Fest Arts & Craft Festival	Muscle Car City	http://www.mypromotions.com/
3/14-15	Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Festival	Sullivan Street	https://puntagordachamber.com/
3/14	City Wide Garage Sale	Comfort Storage 3811 Tamiami Trail	https://puntagordachamber.com/
3/14	TEAM Punta Gorda Pedal & Play	Laishley Park	http://pedalandplayinparadise.com/

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas: PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd). PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive). Burnt Store Isles (Monaco, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia).
- The City has completed trimming the following areas: PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd). Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr).

Urban Design

- **Agripreneur Garden** – The Agripreneur Garden maintenance continues with the mulching of the pathways. The group is installing mulch on top of cardboard throughout the garden. The cardboard will keep the weeds from growing up through the dirt and insulate the ground to a temperature that kills the weed seeds. Both the cardboard and the mulch will eventually breakdown in the soil. This process is a free, biodegradable alternative to landscape fabric.



- **Little Free Library** – The long awaited "Friends of Gilchrist Park Playground Little Free Library Kiosk" installation will begin on Feb. 24. Avant Construction will be preparing the site for the installation of the free "take one & leave one" library kiosk inside the Playground at Gilchrist Park. We ask the playground patrons to use caution and avoid the minor construction area over the next few weeks. The Friends of Gilchrist Park Playground are currently collecting new and lightly used children's books to stock it. Please contact Betzy Toro Blaustein at (941) 626-9054 if you are interested in donating a book - or a few! A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will be held upon completion of the installation.

Public Works

Engineering

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are being manufactured. Installation is anticipated to commence the beginning of March.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridge along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** - A Substantial Completion walk-through was held Feb. 20 with a punch list developed for Final Completion. Date of the Final is pending. Coordination with FPL is occurring to schedule placement of a service pole and power connection.
- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - To date JRL Underground has completed work at 654 properties totaling 487,500 square feet of grading/sodding. Work areas during the week of Feb. 17 include 406-440 Valletta Ct. During the week of Feb. 24 work areas include 425-441 Valletta Ct. as well as a couple of punch list locations in the PGI Bird section.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - Excavation, pipe placement and compaction of subbase continues. Sidewalk base prep, formwork and concrete placement is occurring. Pending is the delivery and installation of the catch basins. The work area is from the western drive of the Burnt Store Publix Plaza to US 41 SB. This project is scheduled to complete by the end of May 2020.
- **Olympia Road Closure** – On Feb. 24 Olympia Ave will be closed west of Shreve Street for utility connection of new homes. The road will be closed from 5 a.m. until noon. Barring any problems one lane of Shreve will be open at noon. A police officer will be stationed at Henry Street & Shreve Street to direct traffic should it become necessary. Please follow detour signs.
- **Sailfish Bridge Construction** - Effective Jan. 29, for approximately 30 days. Sailfish Bridge will be under construction to repair erosion damage under the bridge. Sailfish Bridge is also known as the 2nd Bridge on Marion Avenue and is located between Gulfview Road and Maria Court. Boat passage will be restricted Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Boats will be allowed to pass three times during the workday – 9 a.m, noon and 3 p.m. If any boats are waiting to pass at these times, the contractor will cease operations and allow boats to pass. The contractor will be issuing weekly updates throughout the project to notify boaters should there be breaks in the work schedule where boats can pass more freely. The passage will be fully open weekdays from 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and all day and night on weekends. Vehicle traffic should be unaffected. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Gering, City Engineer at (941) 575-5030 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

- **Veterans Park Phase II** - The project is near substantial completion, the contractor still has to install the handrails around the gazebo and ramps. Staff will be doing a walk through and punch list inspection with the contractor during the week of Feb. 24.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Assessment Program** - The Seawall Assessment is ongoing; staff has collected over 8,526 points to date. Crews have completed the assessment in Punta Gorda Isles and are currently working in Burnt Store Isles. Seawall Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of February.

- **Ponce Inlet Dredging** - Ponce Dredging continues and the spoil material is being staged at the end of Colony Point and will be transported to the spoil site. Dredging is expected to be completed by the end of February. For additional information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, and 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.



- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed seven seawall replacement projects. There are four projects under construction in PGI and two under construction in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.

- Crews filled depressions at 25 locations.
- Crews performed 11 seawall cap and seam patches (48' linear ft.).

- **Buckley's Pass** - Please visit the City's YouTube channel to view drone footage taken of the construction progress. Check out the very popular playlist by visiting: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn0c8jp5fQiW4fNFEdownKc85_W-fSqI5. The dredging and placement of rip-rap along the mangrove planting areas continues. Boaters NEED to stay out of the new pass until construction is completed which is scheduled to occur in April. DO NOT open the turbidity curtains to gain access through the pass. Damage to vessel propulsion systems is very likely to occur if they enter the pass. The canals between Almar Drive and River Bay Drive and Sea Edge Drive may be closed to through traffic during construction operations. Boaters should use caution when operating near the construction area. Trucking of dredge spoils from Casey Key Drive to the Colony Point Drive spoil site continues. Residents NEED to stay out of the Colony Point Drive spoil site and off of the spoil piles. Heavy equipment is being used in the area and injury is likely to occur.



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Police Department

- **Citizens Academy** – On Feb. 18 the Police Department gave a presentation and provided a tour of the building to the members of the Citizens Academy. They also were able to watch a K-9 demonstration and learn about the Patrol Section, Marine Unit, Bike Team, Dive Team, SWAT team, and Motor Team.
- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 939 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of Jan. 2020. Our Administrative Volunteer staff contributed 181 hours. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 427 hours. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 229 hours. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering with the police department are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at vip@cityofpuntagordafl.com or (941) 575-5536.



- **10 Year Service Awards** – Congratulations to Punta Gorda Police Department Volunteers in Policing Ross "Ziggy" Zeigler and Leroy Dunn who received their 10 year services awards this morning at the City Council meeting! We sincerely appreciate all of the dedicated service you have provided to this community!



- **Community Garden** – If you are interested in space in the Community Garden at the Public Safety Complex, please contact Nancy Combes at 321-332-4221. The cost is \$25 per years.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on May 18 with oral board interviews scheduled on Tuesday, May 19 and May 20. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@pgorda.us
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on May 11. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on Thursday, Apr. 30. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Administrative Services at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@pgorda.us.
- **Internship Program** – The department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer and Fall Semesters of 2020. Our internship program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Please contact the internship program coordinator at (941) 575-5571 for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Fire Department

- **Punta Gorda Fire Department Smoke Detector/Alarm service program for City of Punta Gorda Residents** – All residents should have a working smoke detector/alarm inside and outside of every sleeping room and on all floor levels of the home. If you do not have a working smoke alarm anywhere in your home, the PGFD will provide one (1) 10-year life device with installation free of charge. Existing smoke alarms that are hard-wired (connected to your home's electrical wiring) with a 9-volt or AA battery backup should have the batteries changed every six (6) months. It is recommended that you purchase 10-year NON-RECHARGABLE batteries. Switching over to the 10-year batteries will alleviate the twice-yearly change. After you have purchased new batteries for your hardwired smoke alarm, the Fire Department will come to your home and assist in changing them. Contact the Fire Department at the non-emergency phone number 941-575-5529 for smoke alarm service in the City of Punta Gorda. Recent changes to Florida laws (FS 553.883) have mandated that all new battery-only (NOT hard-wired) smoke alarms be a 10-year life device with a sealed (non-removable) battery. If you have a battery powered only smoke alarm in your home it is recommended that you replace it with a 10 year life device in order to meet Florida Law requirements. Contact the Fire Marshal or Building Official (941-575-3324) for more information on this new law change to see how it may apply to you.



Utilities Department

Utilities Administration

- The resampling for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) has been conducted at 601 Shreve Street. A table of the resample values is on the City's web-page under the Utilities Department. All resample values at this sample site as well as throughout the water system were below the 80 ug/L drinking water standard.

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update



Week 85- Well clearance samples underway



Week 85 – New caustic soda tanks in service.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 38.0 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.4 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Feb. 2019 3.40” Feb. 2020 0.70”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 18 ppm – Total hardness 307 ppm
- TDS for Feb. 20 – Current 488 ppm, Low 343 ppm, High 656 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 506 ppm
- Reservoir Feb. 20 – Current 5.15’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 6.18’, 54 Year Avg. 5.21’

City Clerk

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

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

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:
 - ✓ The Pier FV LLC, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, #C-47
 - ✓ Charlotte County Flowers Balloons & Gifts, 140 Tamiami Trail