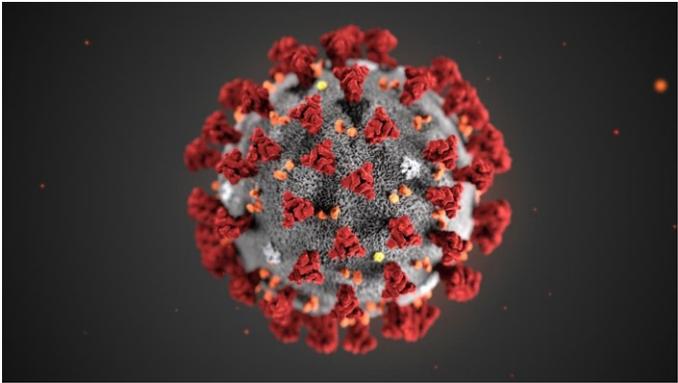


WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT MARCH 13, 2020

City Manager

- **Events in the City of Punta Gorda** – Out of concern for the health of our community members and visitors in regards to the COVID-19 virus situation the City of Punta Gorda is suspending the issuance of all event permits until at least May 15. The cancellation period is subject to adjustment pending changes in public health and safety risk level for contracting coronavirus. A meeting was held with representatives of many of the major events and festivals that has resulted in the decision to postpone and or cancel the following events; TEAM Punta Gorda Pedal & Play, City Wide Garage Sale, the Punta Gorda Block Party and Old Timers Luncheon, Hibiscus Festival, Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Event and Parade, Sullivan Street Arts and Crafts Festival, The Ladies Social Network Arts & Craft Show, Peace River National Art Show, and the Charlotte County Relay for Life. Several events are also being postponed or modified at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/>. This weekend the Downtown Farmer's Market and the History Park Farmer's Market will still be held and after this weekend operations will be suspended until further notice. The Celtic Ray St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held on private property at their place of business with no street closures. The St. Patrick's Day events will take place as scheduled at Fishermen's Village. Future events at Fishermen's Village are under evaluation. Residents and visitors are encouraged to take the Center for Disease Control's guidance for personal health precautions seriously. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/>.
- **Governor DeSantis Emergency Business Damage Assessment Survey** – Governor Ron DeSantis announced the activation of the Business Damage Assessment survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief programs can begin. Business owners are invited to take the survey at <https://floridadisaster.biz/>.
- **Preliminary Sales Tax Discussion** – The City Council appointed 1% Local Option Sales Tax Committee met from August of 2019 through February of 2020 to determine a slate of projects to be considered for funding under an extension. An initial \$14.7 million worth of Tier 1 projects and an additional \$5.3 million dollars of Tier 2 projects (should revenue exceed projections or if a time period longer than six years is decided on by the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners) have been identified by the Committee.

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas: Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr). Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.)

Urban Design

- City staff attended the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Topics of interest included:
 - Harborview Road Project Development & Environment (PDE) Study update - This PDE study is the initial step in construction of a major roadway improvement under the Federal funding requirements. The PDE project is complete and more information on its findings can be viewed at: <http://www.swflroads.com/harborview/melbournesttoi75/>. Future phases for this project will include Engineering Design, Right of Way acquisition, and Construction.
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update – The project consultant presented the initial population and employment projections for 2045. In addition a brief summary of the citizen input received to date was provided. There still an opportunity for your voice to be heard via the following websites:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Charlotte2045LRTP> - General survey of your view on transportation needs in Charlotte County
<https://wikimapping.com/charlotte-county-LRTP.html> - Interactive mapping tool to provide your specific comments on transportation concerns in your community
For more information on what the Long Range Transportation Plan is and why it is important please see this great locally produced YouTube video at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM2Ivjw879M&feature=emb_logo
- **US 41 Corridor Vision Plan Input**
Staff met with a small committee of residents that have been appointed by the Seminole Lakes Property Owners Association to explore ways to provide proactive comment on the US 41 Corridor Vision Plan and look toward next steps to improve safety, access, and mobility along the US 41 corridor in the area around their neighborhood. This initial meeting resulted in the committee lead by Jim Martel producing the attached input letter. The letter recommends a detailed study of US 41 in an area from Taylor Rd/Royal Poinciana northward to at least Burnt Store Road. Four key issues emerged;
 - The non-90 degree angle of the intersection of Acline Road at US 41 is confusing and difficult to navigate.
 - Left turn from Seminole Lakes Blvd onto US 41 NB is challenging
 - Pedestrian and bicycle crossings at Burnt Store Road and US 41 are “conflicting and dangerous”
 - Acline Road bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are needed to connect Seminole Lakes and other neighborhoods along Acline to Burnt Store Rd and the rest of the bicycle and pedestrian network of the City and County.This information has been forwarded to FDOT planning staff.
- **Design Studio – Staff met with representatives and discussed;**
 - Punta Gorda Boat Club – parking improvements on site
 - Subdivision process for residential lots at 1700 Jamaica Way
 - 121 E McKenzie – site improvements
 - 121 E Marion Avenue – building expansion
 - Construction of a single-family residence on W Olympia Avenue
 - Construction of a triplex on Bal Harbor Blvd

Public Works

Parks & Grounds

- **Gilchrist Park Tennis Courts** – Project is substantially complete. Tennis courts are open.
- **Hounds on Henry** - As a friendly reminder, Hounds on Henry is closed every Wednesday for weekly maintenance. Normal hours of operations are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Sunday from 7:30am until dusk.
- **Ponce De Leon Boardwalk** - Project complete.

Engineering

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - Completion of the final signs in the City Hall, Annex and Public Safety Building are scheduled for installation by next week. The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are being manufactured. Installation is anticipated to commence the beginning of Mar. and complete by mid-May.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian bridge along US 41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** - The final Pay Application is under City review. FPL installed the transformer. The decorative lights on the bridge are in full operation. Pending is a date for a Final Walkthrough for City, FDOT and contractor staff. Final Acceptance is pending. The pedestrian bridge is open for public use.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** - City staff sent change orders for time to the Engineering firm to extend contract time to complete the design. Properties are currently in the acquisition phase for pond usage which will determine design completion.
- **City wide Drainage Swale regrading** - To date JRL Underground has completed work at 672 properties totaling 501,300 square feet of grading/sodding. Work completed during the week of Mar. 9 included excavation and grading along both sides of Trieste Dr over a length of approximately 1000 linear feet.
- **Harborwalk PH II - W Retta from Maude to Berry St** - Bids were opened Mar. 4. Procurement is reviewing the submittal package prior to formal award. The project will be on the Mar. 18 City Council agenda.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - The contractor has completed asphalt placement at the three (3) plaza driveways now open to traffic. Concrete sidewalk, pipe, basin, curb and grade work continues. 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. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5060 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Sailfish Bridge Construction** - Project complete. Bridge is fully open to boat traffic.
- **Sullivan Street renovation** - Staff is reviewing the Bid Solicitation document.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** - The contractor has installed the decorative rails around the gazebo and is working on the ramp and stair railings. Resurfacing of the intersection of Nesbit St and E Retta Esplanade is complete. The contractor has begun work punch list repairs.



Sanitation

- **Slow Down to Get Around** - Since we are operating in Daylight Savings Time, please be aware of the crews whom are actively picking up trash, yard waste and recycling in the City of Punta Gorda neighborhoods. Please abide by the following guidelines:
 1. Slow Down - We have all been there, so when you are behind that garbage truck on your way to work, school or home, make sure you slow down and stop if required so that your waste and recycling workers can complete their jobs safely.
 2. Look For Workers - Make sure that your eyes are peeled and you have looked for workers before you try to pass a garbage or recycling truck.
 3. Check For Traffic - Before you try to pass a truck, ensure that you have checked for traffic coming in the opposite direction before going around the truck. This protects the garbage truck driver as well as yourself from any potential accidents.
 4. Avoid Distractions - Make sure you don't text and drive. Keep your eyes on the road - not the radio, changing your GPS, or looking for that "thing" that fell between the seats. Remember these tips and together we can all get home safely.



Canal Maintenance

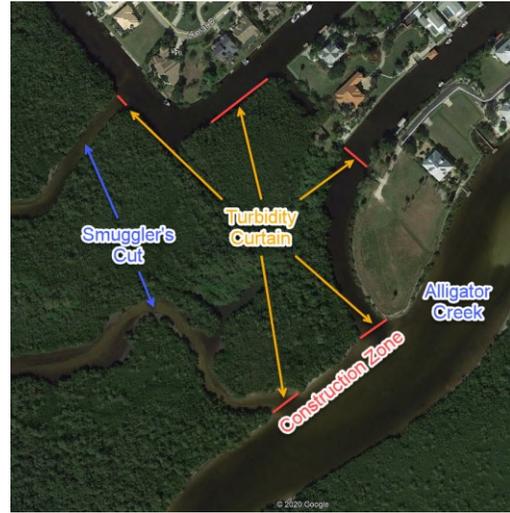
- **Bonefish Bayou Dredging** - Beginning the week of Mar. 16 through Mar. 31 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Bonefish Bayou is scheduled to be dredged. This canal is located between Ocean Dr. and Palm Tree Dr. The contractor will off load dredge material at the vacant lot on Palm Tree; then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks.
- **Berms** - Rain water run off discharged into the canal has a tendency to erode the berm away from the foot of the seawall. Berms help support the bottom of the seawall panels. Canal Maintenance crews recently inspected all drainage outfall pipes at seawalls and found only a few locations needing restoration.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 9 seawall replacement projects. There are 3 projects under construction in PGI and 2 under construction in BSI. There is 1 completed seawall replacement project in BSI. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 18 locations.
 - Crews performed 5 seawall cap and seam patches (38' linear ft.).
 - Crews replaced storm booms in 39 catch basins in BSI.



- **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 of Alligator Creek is ongoing and mangrove planting is complete. 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. Beginning Mar. 16, Smuggler's Cut will be closed to through traffic. The dredging operation will be blocking access through Smuggler's Cut where it intersects Alligator Creek. Both ends of the Cut will be closed off with turbidity curtains to keep boaters from getting to a dead-end with no room to turn around. The curtains will remain closed for two weeks.



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. Beginning Mar. 16, Smuggler's Cut will be closed to through traffic. The dredging operation will be blocking access through Smuggler's Cut where it intersects Alligator Creek. Both ends of the Cut will be closed off with turbidity curtains to keep boaters from getting to a dead-end with no room to turn around. The curtains will remain closed for two weeks.

Police Department

- **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 Feb. 2020. Our Records Department Volunteers contributed 211 hours. Our Administrative Volunteer staff contributed 210 hours. Our Volunteers on Patrol, Marine Patrol, and Bike Patrol contributed a total of 365 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com or (941) 575-5536.



- **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@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

- **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@cityofpuntafordafl.com.
- **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

- Chief Briggs is continuing outreach to the faith based community, adult living facilities and others that are interested in protecting their populations from acquiring the COVID-10 virus. If you are interested in more information or resources for your group or business please contact Communications Manager, Melissa Reichert at (941) 575-3394. There is a wealth of information regarding recommendations for planning ahead and keeping your home safe at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>.

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 87 – One of the new Bleach tanks

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 40.0 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 5.7 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 Mar. 2019 1.70”, Mar. 2020 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 17 ppm – Total hardness 290 ppm
- TDS for Mar. 12 – Current 512 ppm, Low 356 ppm, High 679 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 518 ppm
- Reservoir Mar. 12 – Current 5.08’, Record Low 4.90’, Record High 5.82’, 55 Year Avg. 5.22’

City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** (One 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.
- **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 regarding, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.
- **Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – (One vacancy) Meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.

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:
 - Judi Albert, Salon Blue, 1105 Taylor Road, Studio 8
 - Sage Homes, 7363 Schefflera
 - South Sun Engineering, Inc., 223 Taylor Street, Unit 121
 - Nordberg Vacation Rental, 112 Rum Cay Court
 - Cruise Planners, 25188 Marion Avenue, Bldg F, Unit F306
 - Fresenius Medical Care Punta Gorda, LLC, 355 Dupont Street
 - Fresh Power Smoothies and Sandwiches, 205 Wood Street, #205