

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT MAY 8, 2020

City Manager

- **Amenities Reopening** – As of Friday, May 8 a number of amenities in the City of Punta Gorda have reopened. Hounds on Henry Dog Park, Gilchrist Park tennis and pickleball courts, Cooper Street Park tennis court, Ponce “Beach” as well as all of the pavilions, benches and picnic tables are open for use. Social and physical distancing guidelines must be followed including no more than 10 people in group and maintaining six feet of distance between groups. It is up to all of us to use good judgment and practice proper hygiene while out in the community. Wearing of masks in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines is encouraged.
- **May 6 City Council Meeting** – The City of Punta Gorda City Council met on May 6. Items of interest included:
 - ✓ FY 2021 General Fund Budget Update – status of budget preparation using the rolled back rate (same property tax revenues as current year, sans new construction) as the base from which revenues and expenditures will be incorporated in the financial plan.
 - ✓ FY 2021 Strategic Plan was adopted– this included identification of action items to be undertaken during FY 2021 within the priority focus areas of financial/economic sustainability; infrastructure sustainability; partnerships, communication and collaboration; strategic communications position; and quality of life.
 - ✓ Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Undergrounding – Council is not moving forward on the BSI Undergrounding project.
 - ✓ Gill Street parking restrictions and Tripoli speed limit reduction ordinances – no parking on the east side of the 200 block of Gill Street between Marion and Olympia; and reduction of speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on Tripoli between Monaco and Madrid. These will have a second reading on May 20
 - ✓ Historic City Hall renovation needs analysis – consultant’s report and presentation estimates renovation costs to range from \$3.8 to \$4.1 million. Major areas of concern are integrity of the building; inadequacy of mechanical and plumbing systems; lack of accessibility that meet ADA standards; and lack of security. Staff will move forward with development of the scope for adding additional space for Council Chambers and creation of a community presentation highlighting the need for the renovations.
- **Downtown Punta Gorda Farmer’s Market and History Park Farmer’s Market** – we welcome back the Downtown Punta Gorda Farmer’s Market on Saturdays and the History Park Farmer’s Market on Sundays. Special conditions will be in place to meet with CDC guidelines. Please wear masks, keep social distancing, observe the directional pathways designed to help keep you six feet apart and do not attend if you don’t feel well. All vendors will have been had their temperatures checked prior to the opening of the market and will administer strict protocols for money handling. Only two people can be under a 10’x10’ tent at any one time and there will be no food sampling allowed. There will be a variety of vendors on hand to meet your fresh food needs.

- **Garbage Pick Up** – Every couple of years or so the City gets asked what the cost savings would be if the City only provided garbage pick-up once per week rather than twice. The estimated annual savings for a single family residence would range from \$15 to \$19 per year (\$1.25 to \$1.60 per month) depending on the reconfiguration of the routes. The difference in savings would be directly relatable to fuel and maintenance of vehicles due to a possible change in the number of trips to the dump depending on the reconfiguring of routes as a Mon-Fri 8 hour days pickup schedule may be necessary. Savings in personnel is two employees or one crew. Other savings included in the calculation is a small amount for Saturday yardwaste pickups moved to a week day and the reduction of one packer (annualized replacement cost by using 10 yr depreciation).

Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin a new mowing cycle on May 18. At that time crews will begin mowing the following areas:
 - Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
 - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).

Urban Design

- Urban Design staff met with the America In Bloom committee on Monday to discuss concept plans that will be presented to City Council at an upcoming City Council meeting. The committee is working towards creating a demonstration area located at the Charlotte County Community Foundation courtyard that will include examples of the proposed enhancements.

Public Works

Engineering

- **ADA Interior Signage and Wayfinding** - The signs for the Public Works and Utilities Campus are complete. Phase one of City Hall, the Annex and Public Safety building final walk through is complete. Pending is receipt of the Final invoice. This concludes both phases of the project.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** - 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 740 properties totaling 554,300 square feet of grading/sodding. Work completed during the week of May 4 included Narranja St. between Allen St. and E. William St. and E. William St. between Narranja St. and Taylor St. During the week of May 11 the contractor will complete work on Narranja St. north of Allen St. and then will contractor will concentrate on punch list repairs for the remainder of the week.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** - The work is complete with the pay application pending.
- **Paving Program (E. Charlotte Ave. from US 41 SB to Cooper St.)** - The contractor has completed milling and resurfacing of E. Charlotte St. from US 41 SB to Cooper St. Final striping and pay application pending.
- **Madrid Sidewalk Construction** - The final walk though is complete. The final payment application and final payment checklist are complete. The as-builts have been received.
- **Sullivan Street renovation** - Procurement is working on the final award documents for the lowest bidder to award the project. Construction is anticipated to commence in Sept. 2020.

- **FDOT - US 41 Carmalita Street to Marion Ave. within City of Punta Gorda -**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
US 41 From Carmalita Street to Marion Avenue
Signalization Improvement Project in Charlotte County

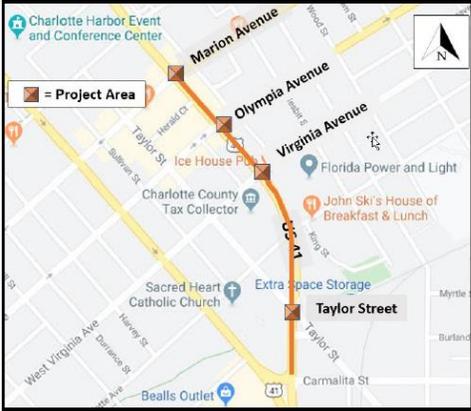
Financial Project ID: 440670-1-52-01,440670-1-52-02 April 2020

The Florida Department of Transportation's contractor, Highway Safety Devices, will begin work late April 2020 to install new signals on US 41 from Carmalita Street to Marion Avenue in Charlotte County. The project area is identified on the project location map. The construction will take place Monday through Friday during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours, weather permitting. Lane closures may occur during daytime hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

START DATE: Late April 2020
ESTIMATED COMPLETION: Early Fall 2020
PROJECT COST: \$1.3 million
CONTRACTOR: Highway Safety Devices

For more information about the project, contact:

Lisa Macias Community Outreach Manager (239) 337-1071 Lisa.Macias@dot.state.fl.us	Zachary Burch Communications Manager (239) 225-1950 Zachary.Burch@dot.state.fl.us
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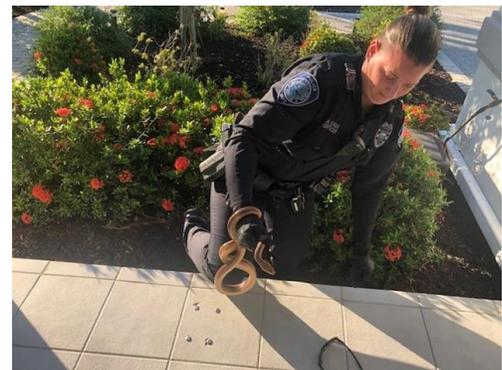
- **Harborwalk (Gilchrist Gazebo to Berry St.)** - The contractor has been submitting material submittals for approval and prepared to begin survey for layout and construction commencement. Project description signage is pending installation. The sidewalk, landscape and electrical lighting project is anticipated to complete by the end of Sept. 2020. For information on this project, please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager at (941) 575-5060 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has completed 12 seawall replacement projects in PGI and there are seven projects under construction. Three seawall replacement projects have been completed in BSI and there are 3 projects under construction. A seawall replacement project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 25 locations.
 - Crews performed nine seawall caps and seam patches (82' linear ft.).

Police Department

- **Florida Policing** – Officer Gray responded to two calls for service this week regarding unwelcomed guests. She safely removed and relocated these guys to save the day! Florida policing can be a little different!
- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Sept. 14 with oral board interviews scheduled on Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact the Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.



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- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Jun. 15. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact the Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall Semester of 2020 and the Spring Semester of 2021. 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 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

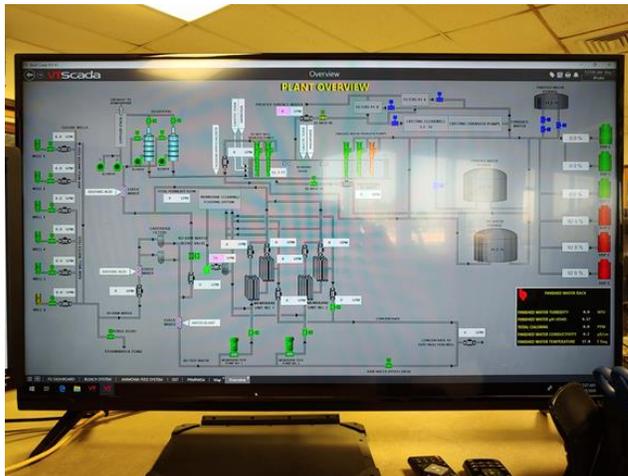
Fire Department

- **COVID-19** – While things are starting to open in Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda it remains important to practice good personal hygiene, social distancing and physical distancing. We continue to see the number of positive tests increase in the area, some of this is in part due to active testing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, increased testing and retests to declare individuals ready to return to work after having previously tested positive, but this still remains a serious threat to the health of members of the community. At time of print today there have been 312 positive tests in the county, 24 in the 33950 zip code and 7 in the 33955. The Florida Department of Health website contains a wealth of information about cases, testing and best practices to stay safe at <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/resources/#toolkitJump>.

Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update

- Week 96- Preparing the Groundwater R.O. Computer Controls.



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.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 35.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.0 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 April 2019 1.30” April 2020 3.40”, May 2019 6.20”, May 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 21 ppm – Total hardness 360 ppm
- TDS for May 7 – Current 580 ppm, Low 393 ppm, High 580 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 515 ppm
- Reservoir May 7 – Current 5.11’, Record Low 4.44’, Record High 5.59’, 55 Year Avg. 5.06’

City Clerk

- The next General Election for the City of Punta Gorda will take place on Nov. 3 and will include City Council Districts 1,2 and 4 (to be included on the County’s ballot). Councilmembers serve a two (2) year term. Candidate packets are now available through the City Clerk’s Office by calling (941) 575-3305. Candidate information and forms are also available online on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/elections-and-voting> as well as from the Department of State Division of Elections website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>. Filed candidates for City district seats must obtain a minimum of 25 but not more than 50 signatures from registered voters in their district to qualify to put their name on the ballot. Qualifying begins June 8 (at noon) and ends at noon on June 12. Petition forms must be obtained from the City Clerk. For information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3305 or email pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com. Questions regarding voter registration, vote-by-mail ballots or precinct and polling information should be directed to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400. Due to the COVID-19 situation, all City board and committee meetings continue to be suspended. However, the City Clerk’s Office will continue to announce vacancies and accept new Board Appointment Information Forms (available online at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/boards-committees>) from interested citizens for City Council consideration so that we are prepared to resume meetings with a full quorum of members when it is safe to do so.

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

- Board of Zoning Appeals – (One alternate 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.
- Building Board – (One consumer advocate seat) Meets the 4th Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Four members must be involved with the building industry and three members must be consumer advocates who are not, nor ever have been, involved with building industry. Makes recommendations to City Council on the minimum qualifying requirements for obtaining Certificates of Competency in the various construction trades and the fees for same. Periodically reviews and holds public hearings on all building, electrical, plumbing, housing, gas, fire prevention and other related codes. Reviews enforcement of all codes relating to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.