



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FEBRUARY 8, 2019

City Manager

- **Buckley's Pass** – City Council approved the Initial Assessment Resolution (IAR) for Buckley's Pass additional harbor access. The IAR identified the estimated capital and project costs, provides for assessments based on water access unit methodology, describes the assessment area and payment options, as well as sets the date for the Final Assessment Resolution public hearing on April 3 at 1 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. The proposed Capital Assessment will now be mailed to the owners of each parcel of property subject to a Capital Assessment. Parcel owners should expect to receive such mail no later than March 13. A complete timeline of the Buckley's Pass project can be found at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/capital-projects/buckley-s-pass-additional-harbor-access>.
- **Citywide Master Plan** – Many residents have been asking for more information about what charrettes are now that we are having them during the week of March 11–15. No it is not the 1960's musical group who sang the Carole King song "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow". A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers. More importantly, it allows everyone who participates to be a mutual author of the plan. Find out more about Plan Punta Gorda 2019 City-Wide Master Plan and register to participate by visiting <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com>.
- **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Vessel Inspection** – An officer with the Punta Gorda Police Department (PGPD) participated in the FWC Vessel Inspection Operation with FWC and Charlotte County Sheriffs Office on February 1. The vessels anchored at Gilchrist were inspected. All passed the vessel pump out portion of the inspection. There were no marine sanitation devices (toilets) found out of compliance within city waters. Four vessels owners were given citations (\$90 each) for not having proper lighting on them in the PGPD jurisdiction. There is a vessel at the boat club that is currently being worked as a derelict. The case had been taken to Tallahassee to try to expedite the removal as an "emergency." It was denied by the derelict vessel administrator who disagreed that it was an immediate hazard. It is now in the owner notification process. The PGPD will continue to participate in the FWC Vessel inspections on a monthly basis.
- **Economic Development Partnership** – At the monthly investors meeting of the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), the County's Interim Economic Development Director highlighted the tax advantages of developing in the three Opportunity Zones within Charlotte County. In addition, County staff and the Gulf Coast Partnership presented the results of the recently completed Affordable Housing Report viewable at https://gulfcoastpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/TC_Housing_Report_2018-final.pdf. Mayor Prafke, Vice Mayor Matthews, Council Member Cummings and City Manager were in attendance.

- **FEMA Reimbursement** – On Feb. 4, the City received its first reimbursement from FEMA for damages caused by Hurricane Irma, nearly 17 months after the storm. The City incurred \$258,014 in reimbursable debris removal expenses during Irma and received reimbursement of 90% of debris removal expenses from federal resources (\$232,212) and reimbursement of 5% from the State of Florida (\$12,901). The City still has four projects outstanding from Hurricane Irma including its seawall project and protective measures.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
February Events		Fishermen’s Village	www.fishville.com/events/
February Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bsponline.org/news.html
2/7-2/10	Cirque Italia	City Marketplace	https://cirqueitalia.com/
2/9	American Heart Association Heart Walk	Lashley Park	http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/
2/9	City Wide Garage Sales	133 Bal Harbor Blvd	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
2/15-2/17	Big Boy Toyz Expo	Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center	www.charlotteharborecc.com
2/15-2/16	Funk Fest	City Marketplace	www.edgewatereventsllc.com
2/16	SVDP Walk for the Poor	Lashley Park	https://svdp-dov.org/charlotte/cc_walk/
2/16	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclearcity.net/events/
2/17	Drug Free Punta Gorda 5k	Charlotte High School	https://www.drugfreepg.com

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed trimming in 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), The area E. of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E. Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E. Henry St, and Cooper St.), and the Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.).

Urban Design

- Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Cooper Street Recreation Center when the Blanchard House Museum will be presenting “Once Upon a Time in Punta Gorda”. This program will bring together the elderly, young adults and youth who participate in the Cooper Street Program who are currently learning the history of Punta Gorda through the Blanchard House Museum’s educational programs. It is the goal of the program to bring together different generations, one group teaching and the other groups learning about the community in which we live. To create more interaction between the generations, dinner will be provided. This program is being subsidized through the City Council approved Historic District Initiative. Seating is limited. To reserve a spot please contact David Hilston, Chief Planner at (941) 575-3321 or dhilston@cityofpuntagordafl.com

IT

- Staff is currently testing a new widget on the City’s website to enhance accessibility. The widget was developed by a company called Userway. It appears on the top right hand corner of every website page and offers a toolbox that can be used to make the page more accessible.

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,994 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 74.3% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 59.1% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace of the contractors is 3,730 feet per month. Crews filled 33 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched three sea wall caps and removed one debris article from canals.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	39, 46-49	1-42, 44, 45	91
PGI-NE2	46-61	1 – 45	83
PGI-NW1	25,28, 29, 31-33, 39	1 – 23, 26-27, L1	55
PGI-NW2	29-45, 62-64, L1-L3	1- 28	87
PGI-SE	21, 35, 37-44, L2, L4 – L11	1 – 20,22-30, 32-34,L1, L3	55
PGI-SW	28, 36-39,47	1-27, 29-35	47
Harborwalk	0	1	1
BSI-N	0	4	11
BSI-S	9-11	1-8	11

**Each project may consist of multiple lots*

Engineering

- **City wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Since the start of the City-wide swale regrading project JRL Construction has completed work at 288 properties totaling 199,200 square feet. Work is underway along Raven Ct., Wren Ct. and Sandpiper Dr. and will then move to La Costa Island and Ryan Blvd. to complete a couple areas prior to the City resurfacing work.
- **Linear Park ADA Repairs**– Repairs have been completed between W. Marion and W. Retta Esplanade. Linear Park will be open the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 8.
- **Vietnam Memorial E. Retta Parking** – Parking lot work scheduled to resume Feb. 11. Adjustments were necessary due to an unexpected irrigation line.
- **Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – The Utility Water Sewer Service Application is in process. The site and mobilization plan, construction schedule and two week look ahead has been approved. The delivery of the Office trailer, storage trailer and contractor equipment has mobilized. The silt fence and site delineation is in progress.
- **AC Freeman House** – Pending is receipt of the contractor’s schedule of work for ADA improvements which includes: demolition and the installation of a ramp.
- **Minor Paving** – The bid opening is scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 3 p.m.
- **Alligator Creek pedestrian Bridges along US 41 NB – FDOT ROW** – The construction bid solicitation document is currently in review by City staff.



- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – State funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 sponsored by State Representative Michael Grant for Boca Grande Drainage Improvements moved one step closer to reality with notice that the application has been forwarded to the Appropriations Subcommittee in Tallahassee. Engineering design plans and exploration towards other funding opportunities continues.
- **Paving Program – Street resurfacing** – The City of Punta Gorda paving contractor is scheduled to commence milling, paving and pavement marking work on: Tuesday, Feb. 19, through Friday, Mar. 15, (weather permitting), on the following list of streets: Coral Tree, Paspalum, Acalypha, Ryan Blvd., LaCosta Island Ct., Allen St. from Taylor to Cooper St., Burland St. from Elizabeth St. to Cooper St., Hazel St. from Myrtle St. to Allen St., Ida Ave. from Mary St. to Martin Luther King Blvd., Brown Ave. from Marion to Olympia avenues, Fitzhugh St. from Wood St. to Martin Luther King Blvd. E. Virginia Ave. between US 41 north and Southbound; including the Taylor St. intersection. Each road will be open to local traffic only. Detours and impact to traffic are to be anticipated. Hours of operation will be between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. When driving in the area, motorists are encouraged to drive with extreme caution and be alert for workers in the right-of-way. Please allow time in travel for minor delays.

Right of Way

- Crews have begun excavation for preparation of sidewalk installation at Milus between Showalter and E. Charlotte Streets.

Police Department

- Chief Davis is going “Over the Edge” again this year to help support Drug Free Charlotte County! On April 6, Chief Davis will be joining her fellow “Edgers” by rappelling down the SunTrust Bank building in Murdock to help raise money for Drug Free Charlotte County. Drug Free Charlotte County has been instrumental in educating the youth of Charlotte County about the dangers of substance abuse. You can help support this cause by visiting give.overtheedge.events/charlottecounty and selecting Chief Davis from the list of participants.
- The February Do the Right Thing program was held this week. Congratulations to this month’s recipients of the Do the Right Thing Award: Ava Hall, Braelyn Tuck, Caden Klossner, Jacey Jozefiak, Logan Sare, Matias Masony, and Peyton Taylor. If you know of a worthy Charlotte County student, visit www.puntagordapolice.com and nominate them today!



Fire Department

- The New Year is starting off as a busy one for the Punta Gorda Fire Department (PGFD). The cooler weather has been welcome. In Jan. and Feb. staff have brought some exciting outdoor classes to the citizens of Punta Gorda by providing hands-on live fire extinguisher training. On Jan. 29, Operations Chief Holden Gibbs and Battalion Chief Joe Lindsey trained 20 residents at the Verandas on Airport Rd. in the use and care of home fire extinguishers. Fire Marshal Jennifer Molnar conducted an extinguisher class for 10 citizens at the PGFD on Feb. 5. Both classes allowed participants to extinguish a live fire in a safe controlled manner. If anyone is interested in learning more about fire extinguishers please contact the PGFD at (941) 575-5529. The Punta Gorda Fire Department would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day this month and remind everyone to be safe out there.

Utilities Department

- **R.O. Project Week 32** – Backfilling along the East side of the building and construction of neutralization tank started.

Jones Loop Force-Main project update

- The Jones Loop Force Main project consists of two parts; the installation of the pipe line including drilling under I-75 and driveways, and the replacement construction of a sewage pumping station (lift station) located at Knights Drive. The pipe for the force main has to be construct first as it will be used as bypass piping when the new lift station is constructed.

- ✓ This week 490 feet of bell and spigot 16 inch pipe was installed.

- ✓ Approximately 58% of pipe line has been installed.

- ✓ Crews also drilled and pre-reamed under the I-75 travel lanes for the pipe installation.



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 31.5 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.5 MG daily average.
- During the rainy season the plant treats low total dissolved solids water from the creeks and stores approximately 200 million gallons in Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells located at the plant site. This is known as the injection cycle. The last injection cycle began June 7, and ended September 6; Injection Total 198 Million Gallons. Current condition is storage.
- Rainfall in February 2018 1.50” February 2019 0.20”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 13 ppm – Total hardness 222 ppm
- TDS for February 7 – Current 360 ppm, Low 266 ppm, High 656 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 497 ppm
- Reservoir Information for February 7 – Current 5.26’, Record Low 4.87’, Record High 6.03’, 54 Year Average 5.21’

Finance Department

- The City is in the process of transitioning from water meters that need to be read physically onsite to a new or retrofitted water meter that can be read remotely. The new system increases billing accuracy and decreases operational costs. There were no retrofits or change outs completed this week. The numbers remain the same with 7,532 meters have been changed out and 4,291 meters have been retrofitted. Approximately 13,000 meters will be upgraded as part of this project. The project is 91% complete.

City Clerk

City Seeking Volunteers

- The City of Punta Gorda is seeking volunteers to serve on a Pickleball Committee, a fact finding committee charged with identifying short and long term solutions for Pickleball play in the City limits and presenting their findings to the City Council within established timeframes. Meeting dates, times and locations to be determined by the Committee. The Committee will consist of one resident from each of the five City Council Districts and two at-large members who must also be City residents. Application forms are available in the City Clerk's Office at 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950, via email at pgclerk@pgorda.us or on the City's website at www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us under "Latest News". Completed application forms must be received in the Clerk's Office by 4:30 p.m. on February 26, 2019. For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at (941)575-3369.

Current Board & 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 alternate vacancy) - 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.
- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - 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.

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:
 - ✓ FTSR Investments, LLC, 490 Sorrento Court
 - ✓ My Health Onsite, 514 East Grace Street
 - ✓ Penny's, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Unit 1133
 - ✓ Psych-Ed Counseling and Mediation, 207 Cross Street, Unit 103
 - ✓ RABMCS, Inc., 490 Sorrento Court
 - ✓ Walt's Garage, 208 East Ann Street