

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
FEBRUARY 15, 2019**

City Manager

- **Holiday Schedule** – City offices will be closed Feb. 18 for President’s Day. Neither residential nor commercial service will change for the City trash, yard waste, or recycling collection.

- **Peace River Republican Women’s Forum** – Mayor Nancy Prafke provided the State of the City presentation at the Peace River Republican Women’s Forum on Feb. 13. The photo features Mayor Prafke and Darol Carr, an attorney with the Farr Law Firm.



- **Register Now** – City-Wide Master Plan process is underway. Charrettes will be held on Mar. 11 at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. The Work in Progress Presentation will be held Mar. 15 at 4:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Register for these sessions and view the schedule for the Open Design Studios at <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/new-events>.

- **City-Wide Master Plan Transportation Proposal** – At its Feb. 20 Council meeting Council will discuss a request for additional services from Dover, Kohl & Partners to create a Transportation Webinar specific to transportation related topics in Punta Gorda.

- **Pickleball Courts Sound Abatement** – At its Jan. 2 meeting, City Council requested staff explore sound abatement measures for the pickleball courts at Gilchrist Park. The option investigated by staff is called AcoustiFence, and consists of layers of sound deadening fabric quilted together to absorb noise. This product has been utilized at numerous pickleball courts. At the time of purchase, it is likely staff will be required to obtain pricing on comparable products, if any, that meet the same sound deadening specifications. The fabric panels are strapped to a fence with steel zip-ties and are to be removed in anticipation of tropical storm force winds. Estimated costs are:

- ✓ Add structural enhancements and sound barrier to existing 10’ fence at one end of the courts - \$12,000.
- ✓ Add a new 10’ tall fence and sound barrier along one side of the courts - \$20,000. (This fence would be offset from the courts to allow for spectators.)

These above alternatives can be combined to create a sound barrier for the entire court area or any combination of the sides and ends. The cost to provide a sound barrier around the entire court area is \$64,000. The fabric is available in dark gray and green as standard options. Printed graphics such as foliage or brick patterns are available as an upgrade of about \$3,000 per side. City Council will discuss these alternatives at its upcoming Feb. 20 meeting.

- **Peace River Wildlife Center Lease of City Owned Land** – Also at the Feb. 20 City Council meeting will be a request from The Peace River Wildlife Center is seeking to lease the city-owned property on Dundee Road for the construction of a hospital and rehabilitative center for native wildlife. The property is in unincorporated Charlotte County and will require rezoning approval for the intended use. Under the proposed lease, PRWC would be solely responsible for all construction costs and utility connection fees. Only the animal hospital would be located on the Dundee Road property. The visitor’s center, permanent resident birds, mammals, tortoises and turtles, as well as the gift shop will remain in Ponce Park.
- **Radio Antenna Code Provisions** – Currently, Section 26-8.3 of the Punta Gorda Code provides certain exclusions from height limitations, which is capped at 20% of the permitted height in that zoning district. It also states that the City Council may grant a waiver to these limitations; however, there is no process in place for a resident to make application. Council requested staff amend provisions in the code to ease restrictions for ham radio operators in the City. The proposed ordinance, which will be introduced at the Feb. 20 Council meeting, provides for exclusions from height limits for radio antennas and deletes provisions relating to a waiver from height limitations.
- **Leadership Charlotte** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department, Police Department and City Manager hosted a group of Leadership Charlotte participants at the Public Safety complex on Valentine’s Day. Approximately 20 people heard about some of the services provided to the community. The Punta Gorda Fire Department highlighted many of the programs provided to the public free of charge such as Operation Medicine Cabinet, The Red Dot Program, Sharps Container Drop off Program, and Smoke Detector Program. After a short introduction of both departments the group was split in half and a tour were given with questions and answers about our daily operations. At the Fire department, participants were given an opportunity to view the mural, fire trucks, tools, and equipment used by the department. The Punta Gorda Police Department shared the structure of the police department, staffing and 2018 statistics. Participants were given a tour of the department and an overview of each unit.
- **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@cityofpuntagordafl.com 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 Feb. 26. Contact the City Clerk’s Office at (941)575-3369 with questions.
- **Safety Reminder** – Punta Gorda Pathways are specifically designed to accommodate all non-motorized users including walkers, runners and bicyclists. It is the role of all users to exercise good judgment and manners to ensure the safety and comfort of all. Under Florida Law it is the responsibility of people operating a bicycle on a sidewalk (or shared use path) to operate under the “rules of the road” that apply to pedestrians. These bicycle rider responsibilities include the responsibility to yield the right of way to a pedestrian and to provide an audible signal when passing or overtaking a pedestrian. More information can be found at <http://www.sharethelanepuntagorda.com/education-ride-smart/bicycle-courtesy/>.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
February Events		Fishermen's Village	www.fishville.com/events/
February Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/news.html
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	Laishley 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
2/20-2/26	The Great Mr. Swindle's Traveling Peculiarium	City Marketplace	www.mrswindles.com
2/22-2/23	Sandra's Febtoberfest	Sandra's Restaurant	http://www.sandras-restaurant.com/
2/23-2/24	Florida Frontier Days	Punta Gorda History Park	frankdesguin@yahoo.com
2/23	9 th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl	Downtown Punta Gorda	http://www.puntagordapubcrawl.com/
2/23	14 th Annual Wine & Jazz Fest	Laishley Park	https://puntagordachamber.com/
2/28	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com

Lot Mowing Program

- Lot mowing crews will begin edging Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.) on Feb. 18.

Urban Design

- The Sanibel Bicycle Club invited representatives from TEAM Punta Gorda and City staff to speak at their monthly dinner meeting. TEAM Punta Gorda CEO Nancy Johnson, Steve Johnson, TEAM Volunteer, and City Chief Planner Mitchell Austin provided a presentation that highlighted the City's efforts to be a more bicycle friendly place including the Bicycle Loaner Program, the Punta Gorda Pathways, and the annual Pedal and Play in Paradise event. The presentation was well received by the over 80 club members and guests in attendance. The group asked several interesting questions about Punta Gorda and made many positive comments about the loveliness of our community and the wonderful bicycle and non-bicycling events that occur here.
- Staff attended the monthly meeting of the Peace River Community Housing Partners (PRCHP). Discussion items included a potential partnership for Veterans housing, a discussion of Allegiant Sunseekers Resorts need for service worker housing and Charlotte County's pending disposition of twelve (12) rental homes throughout the County to various non-profits engaged in housing affordability issues. The next meeting has been scheduled for Mar. 14.



Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 52,994 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 76.9% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 59.6% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace of the contractors is 3,760 feet per month. Crews filled 23 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched seven 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	43, 46 – 51, 88	1 – 42, 44, 45	91
PGI-NE2	52 - 63	1 – 51	83
PGI-NW1	24, 28 – 34, 36, 39	1 – 23, 25 - 27, L1	55
PGI-NW2	39 - 45, 56, 62 – 70, L1 – L3	1 – 38	87
PGI-SE	21, 35, 37 – 44, L2, L4 – L10	1 – 20, 22 - 30, 32 - 34 L1, L3, L11	55
PGI-SW	28, 37 – 39, 47	1 - 27, 29 – 36	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** – To date, since the start of the City-wide swale regrading project JRL Construction has completed work at 288 properties totalling 199,200 square feet. Rough grading work has been completed at along Raven Ct., Wren Ct. and Sandpiper Dr. however the rainy weather on Feb. 13 slowed progress along these three streets at 14 separate properties. Work will be completed as quickly as weather and conditions permit.
- Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – Construction has begun. Security fence installation is in progress.
- US 41 Roadway Lighting FDOT Project** – The FDOT project located along US 41 from Rio Villa Dr. to Airport Rd. has commenced. Coordination is occurring between FDOT, City, and County and contractor staff regarding the roadway lighting project within the US 41 Right of way. This project is scheduled to be complete by mid-June 2019, weather depending.
- Linear Park ADA Repairs** – The Linear Park between W. Marion and W. Retta Esplanade has reopened. Pending is installation of sod.
- AC Freeman House** – The Building Department has issued the permit. The contractor is scheduled to mobilize next week to begin construction.
- Minor Paving** – Bids were opened Feb. 12. Pending is the formal award of the contract.
- Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US 41 NB – FDOT ROW** – The construction bid solicitation document is currently in review by City staff.



- **Vietnam Memorial E. Retta Parking** – Work is underway to construct parking along E. Retta at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The existing four inch irrigation system water main along the north side of E. Retta was lowered on Feb. 11-12. Installation of curbing, sidewalks and the asphalt parking spaces should resume during the week of Feb. 18, weather permitting.
- **Program – Street Resurfacing** – The City of Punta Gorda paving contractor is scheduled to commence milling, paving and pavement marking work on: Feb. 19, through 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 constructing basin for drainage for sidewalk installation at Milus between Showalter and E. Charlotte Streets.

Fire Department

- If it seemed like there were more sirens on Feb. 12 than usual that indeed was the case. The Punta Gorda Fire Department (PGFD) answered 23 calls for service in 24 hours. A full listing of all of the calls that the PGFD responded to are listed daily on the City's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfPuntaGorda/>.

Utilities Department

R.O. Project Week 33

- Finishing up the work on top of the blend basin to accept the roof pour on scheduled for Feb. 19.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

- As of Feb. 14, the meter installation and retrofit portion of the AMI project is 91% complete, with an anticipated conclusion date of Mar. 29. At that time, all infrastructure, meters, software and customer portal are to be installed and operational.



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. For the week of Jan. 31 to Feb. 6, crews installed approximately 305 ft. of bell and spigot 16 inch C905 pipe and drilled and installed 909 Linear feet of fusible 16 inch C905 pipe under I-75 travel lanes, and east ramps. Swale clean up as begun on west end of project. Pipe installed to date represents 61% complete of the pipe portion of the project.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- Photo at right shows Water Plant Maintenance with their personal protective equipment on fixing a caustic soda leak.
- 32.2 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 4.6 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 Sept. 6; Injection Total 198 Million Gallons. Current condition is storage.
- Rainfall in Feb. 2018 1.50” Feb. 2019 2.30”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “very hard” – Grains of Hardness 15 ppm – Total hardness 257 ppm
- TDS for Feb. 14– Current 460 ppm, Low 290 ppm, High 640 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 506 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Feb. 14 – Current 5.47’, Record Low 4.80’, Record High 6.40’, 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

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:
 - ✓ Zeke and Peggy Kuzmanovich
Vacation Rental
701 Santa Margerita Ln.