



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FEBRUARY 22, 2019

City Manager

- **Citywide Master Plan Charrettes** - Join us for an informative presentation on city planning & community revitalization. Following this presentation community members will work with members of the Dover-Kohl team to draw and describe their ideas for the future of Punta Gorda. Base maps, visual preference exercises, and other design tools will be used to facilitate the discussion. At the end of the workshop, a spokesperson from each table will report their table's findings and major points to the entire assembly. 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>.
- **FEMA Reimbursement** - Senator Rubio's office and the FEMA processing portal confirmed, late yesterday afternoon, that the \$28 million Hurricane Irma seawall project has now been obligated. The City awaits the paperwork to sign and is hopeful that the State will allow the City to begin seeking reimbursement draws immediately in conjunction with their review of the large volume of documentation.
- **Pickleball Sound Abatement Update** - City Council approved purchase and installation of sound barrier material on two sides of the courts in Gilchrist Park. The project, estimated to cost \$32,000, aims to mitigate noise emanating from play at the facility and provide relief to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **SCAM ALERT** - We have heard recent reports from people who have received phone calls from individuals claiming they were with the local jail. The callers stated that they needed credit card information in order to process a collect call from someone who had been arrested. This is not a new scam, but it has been a while since we have heard of it in our area. Avoid this scam by remembering that collect calls are typically processed through the phone companies, so providing credit card information would not be necessary. Also, NEVER provide personal or financial information over the phone to anyone unless you initiated the call. If someone calls you and asks for private information, hang up. Luckily, we have no reports at this time of anyone who provided any information.
- **Water Bills** - With the dry season upon us, we would like to remind everyone that irrigating can significantly affect your water bills. Based on a relatively common irrigation schedule of 20 minutes per zone with 6 zones and twice a week watering, one can expect to use approximately 19,000 gallons in a month with a ¾" meter, 48,000 gallons with a 1" meter and 96,000 gallons with a 1 ½" meter. Of course, individual irrigation schedules will determine the actual amounts used. The Billing and Collections staff would be happy to assist you with any consumption or billing questions you may have. If you already have a smart meter, a graph of your consumption can be prepared and sent to you. They can be reached at (941)639-2528 or pgcollections@cityofpuntafordafl.us.

- 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.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
February & March Events		Fishermen’s Village	www.fishville.com/events/
February & March Events		Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	https://www.bspconline.org/news.html
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/
3/2	Garage Sale	Burnt Store Presbyterian Church	office@bspconline.org
3/2-3/3	Spring Arts & Crafts Show	Muscle Car City	http://www.mypromotions.com/index.html
3/3	Taste of Punta Gorda	Laishley Park	https://www.tasteofpuntagorda.org

Lot Mowing Program

- Lot mowing crews have completed edging the following areas: Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.), 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), PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appain Drive, and Columbian Drive), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd, and Suzi St.), and the PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd).

Urban Design

- The intergenerational dinner, organized by the Blanchard House Museum’s Educational program, was a huge success. In excess of 60 people attended and participated. Eight tables were prepared for a wonderful supper of spaghetti and meatballs, tossed salads, breadsticks and cake. Each table was assigned an elder who, during and after dinner regaled the youth with stories of the history of Punta Gorda as they had experienced it. Stay tuned for announcements for the next intergenerational dinner in March. Well done!
- Staff participated in the initial kickoff meeting with Taylor Engineering, consultant for the City’s Climate Adaptation Plan Update and the Living Shoreline Element. The meeting focused on the project scope and the establishment of the project goals. The group toured the City to get an idea of historic properties & vulnerabilities and discussed stakeholder input and public outreach. This project is being partially funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through the Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) to promote community resilience planning.
- Staff met on site at Ponce Park to go over the tree evaluation. Staff continues to work with the engineer and the Landscape Architect on tree preservation and ADA accessible routes throughout the design process. Thirty percent plans are expected the end of the month.

Public Works Department

Canal Maintenance

- An estimated 53,000 feet of seawall was damaged during Hurricane Irma. To date, 78.0% of this seawall has been replaced with new wall; 63.2% of the project has been closed out with grading and sod complete. The current combined pace of the contractors is 3,815 feet per month. Crews filled 12 depressions in Punta Gorda Isles and patched two sea wall caps.

	Work underway on Projects	Work completed on Projects	*Number of Projects per Zone
PGI-NE1	43, 46 – 53, 88	1 – 42, 44, 45	91
PGI-NE2	52 - 66	1 – 51	83
PGI-NW1	24, 28 – 34, 36, 39	1 – 23, 25 - 27, L1	55
PGI-NW2	39 - 45, 56, 62 – 71	1 – 38, L1-L3	87
PGI-SE	21, 35, 37 – 44, L4 –L10	1 – 20, 22 - 30, 32 - 34 L1, L2, L3, L11	55
PGI-SW	28, 37, 39	1 - 27, 29 – 36, 38, 47	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 303 properties totalling 209,300 square feet. The next location for grading/sodding work are 2125-2201 Padre Island Dr. and 2652-2701 Deborah Drive.
- **Gilchrist Area 1-Restrooms** – Base material is in place and compacted. Form work has commenced.
- **AC Freeman House** – The contractor has begun to mobilize and preparing to commence work for the construction of the ADA ramp.

- **Paving Program – Street Resurfacing** – Milling and resurfacing has commenced on Feb. 19 on the following list of streets: Ryan Blvd., LaCosta Island Ct., Allen St., Burland St., Hazel St., Brown St., Fitzhugh Ave., Ida Ave. *E. Virginia Ave. between US 41 N and S will be milled and resurfaced during night work to least impact area businesses. All other streets in residential neighborhoods work will occur during daylight operations, Monday through Friday. Coral Tree, Paspalum, Acalypha are complete with the exception of striping.

Right of Way

- Crews pouring concrete for sidewalk installation at Milus between Showalter and E. Charlotte Streets.

Police Department

- **Encore/Gulfview Donation** – Board members of the Encore/Gulfview Park on Burnt Store Road presented Officer Irving and K9 Chase with a donation for the Punta Gorda Police Department K9 Program.
- **The Volunteers In Policing (VIP)** – The Volunteer in Policing Program contributed a total of 1,361.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of Jan. 2019. The Administrative Volunteers contributed 393 hours. The Volunteers on Patrol and Marine Patrol contributed a total of 535.5 hours and conducted 462 directed patrols. The Community Services and Special Event units contributed a total of 106.5 hours. The Records Department Volunteers contributed 326.5 hours and generated \$505.00 in fingerprinting revenue. All of the 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 Volunteer Staff Coordinator Al Rusca at ARusca@pgorda.us or (941) 575-5536.



Fire Department

- **Medication Disposal** - The Punta Gorda Fire Department, in cooperation with the Punta Gorda Police Department and Drug Free Charlotte County, takes a proactive stance by helping to remove and properly dispose of unused/unneeded prescription medications. The goal of "Operation Medicine Cabinet" is to get rid of dangerous and potentially deadly prescription drugs before they fall into the wrong hands. An additional benefit of the program is it will help to prevent drugs/medications from being disposed of improperly, resulting in reduced impact on the environment According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 6 million people over the age of 12 will begin to abuse prescription drugs in the next year. Every day in the United States approximately 2,500 youths, between the ages of 12 and 17, abuse prescription drugs for the first time. Bring your unused/unneeded or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications to the [Punta Gorda Fire Department located at 1410 Tamiami Trail](#). The service is available 24 hours a day.

Utilities Department

R.O. Project Week 34



Pouring the roof of the Blending Basin



Preparing to tee into the filters



Ready to tap the supply line to the old 2.0 Million gallon tank

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. The contractor installed approximately 1,140 feet of bell and spigot pipe and connected the new pipe to directional drill pipes on east, middle, and west side of I-75. Crews also restored and sodded 1,540 of excavated area on the west end of project. Approximately 70% of pipe line has been installed.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 31.4 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 Sept. 6; Injection Total 198 Million Gallons. Current condition is Recovery. Recovery started Feb. 19 at 1.0 MGD each.
- 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 “hard” – Grains of Hardness 11 ppm – Total hardness 188 ppm
- TDS for Feb. 21– Current 394 ppm, Low 343 ppm, High 656 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 507 ppm
- Reservoir Information for Feb. 21 – Current 5.34’, Record Low 4.94’, Record High 6.11’, 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.