



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT FEBRUARY 3, 2012

City Manager

- Urban Design, Police & Fire staff met with new representatives for the former LOOP property (Jones Loop Road & US 41) regarding annexation into the City. An annexation timetable was discussed to be concurrent with development of land use & zoning standards. The goal of the working group is to complete a voluntary annexation in the May/June timeframe providing that agreement can be reached on development standards & incentives. The new owners would like to market the property for a “town center” type development, such as the Gulf Coast Town Center in south Lee County.
- City Council approved moving into the next phase of an employee health center program – negotiations with the top ranked firm Millennium Physicians Group. In addition, staff will be looking at revisions to the City’s base health insurance plan as a means to reduce premiums and provide incentives for employees and their families to use the clinic to reduce claims experience. The City’s objectives throughout this process are to enhance wellness, provide a reasonable health care plan and minimize future health care premium increases. The City’s employee/family health care costs rose an average of 7.8% per year over the past 6 years, under the national annual average of 10.7%. Unless steps are taken to mitigate these increases, the annual health care expense that the City budget addresses is anticipated to rise from the current \$3 million to \$4 million by 2016.
- At the monthly meeting of Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council (attended by Vice Mayor Goldberg, Council Members Keesling & Freeland, and City Manager), mention was made of the upcoming Suncoast Technology Forum scheduled for 2/21/12. The City’s Information Technology Manager will be representing the City organization at the event, which will feature the Charlotte County Broadband Initiative. Charlotte County is currently evaluating the opportunities that a community broadband network would present to the area, through strategic investments in fiberoptic infrastructure. This network would serve the local business community with advanced fiber-based broadband services at competitive prices. It would also provide a significant economic development tool to attract new business and develop new industry sectors within the County, such as life sciences, research, healthcare, hightech and engineering.
- Punta Gorda was named as one of the top 10 turnaround towns in [CNN Money Magazine](#). The City entered the list due to the strength of its inventory decline – there were 29% fewer homes for sale than one year ago. As a result, the report projects that buyers should experience significant home price appreciation over the next 5 years.
- In December 2011, the City contracted with the consulting firm Moran, Stahl & Boyer to develop an Economic Resource Profile to concisely, objectively and graphically define the resources that Punta Gorda can offer a prospective company seeking a location for their specific type of operation. The firm presented the City with a draft profile now under review by City Council, staff and members of the Economic Development Task Force.

Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Burnt Store Road Widening:** For inquiries please contact the Charlotte County Public Works Project Manager Gary Grossman at (941) 575-3600 or visit <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityDevelopment/Engineering/Projects>.
- **Aqui Esta Sidewalks from Magdalena to U.S. 41:** Procurement has issued the purchase order to McLeod Land Services, Inc. A preconstruction meeting is being scheduled.
- **Mary St. On-street Parking (9 spaces):** Completed pouring concrete curbing. The shell base material was delivered and crews commenced spreading for compacting. Work began regrading swales behind the back of the curb to ensure positive drainage.
- **Public Works/Utilities Campus Vehicle Wash:** Electrical work for the wash equipment has commenced.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:

- City crews have completed an additional 12 miles of seawall assessment. The current location being assessed is west of Bal Harbor, north of Aqui Esta. Approximately 62 miles remain to be assessed.
- Seawall installations were completed at 2541 & 2544 Rio Lisbo, in addition to 500 Via Tripoli & a vacant lot on Magdalena Dr. Seawall installation work commenced at 2790 Bay Ct. and 337, 338 & 340 Palm Isles.
- Seawall cap work was completed at 3324 Antigua, Bal Harbor between Via Dolce and Via Bianca and 2829 Don Quixote. Work has commenced to replace the seawall cap at 1127 Treasure Cay, 2833 Don Quixote, 500 Via Tripoli and 2541 & 2544 Rio Lisbo.
- Backfill work was completed at 3924-3925 La Costa Island Ct. and 3600 Bal Harbor Blvd.
- Sod was installed at the following locations: 300 Coronado, 3517 Oriole, 1011 Henry, 1108 Rum Cay, 1546 Kinglet, 3324 Trinidad, 3612 Bon Aire, 2826 & 2828 Sancho Panza, 3657 & 3663 Aruba and 325 Bel Aire.
- Sinkholes were filled at 29 locations.
- City crews formed and poured 50 seawall slabs to be used after curing for future seawall replacements.
- Sod was installed at 3600 Bal Harbor, 2826 & 2828 Sancho Panza, 3532 Cayo Largo, 1546 Kinglet, 3612 Bonaire, 3324 Trinidad and 3651, 3657 & 3663 Aruba Ct.

Right-of-Way:

- Drainage work commenced in Laishley Park at the interactive fountain for the installation of Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant pad and picnic tables. Construction of the pad will begin the week of 2/6/12.
- Swale improvements were performed along Marion Ave. at Park Beach Circle and Taylor St. at Carmalita.
- City crews performed cleanup at city and U.S. 41 bridges

Growth Management Department

Upcoming Events

- February 4, 2012 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., join the American Heart Association, for their Heart Walk in Laishley Park. For additional information, contact Andrea (352)206-5286.

- February 11, 2012, join Smuggler's for the inaugural Charlotte Harbor Chili Challenge & Beer Festival, in Laishley Park. Event hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, contact Smuggler's Event Management (941) 637-5953 or www.smugglersevents.com.
- Join the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, February 18-19, 2012, for the annual Wine & Jazz Festival in Laishley Park. For tickets and concert information, contact the PG Chamber (941) 639-3720 or www.puntagordachamber.com.
- February 18, 2012 in Gilchrist Park, join friends and family for the Nancy Lynch Cancer Benefit. Live music from noon to 4 p.m. For information, contact Julie at (941) 815-6209.
- The Punta Gorda Rotary Club will host the annual Taste of Punta Gorda, Saturday, February 25, 2012 in Laishley Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, contact Tom Beck (941)575-2388.
- 3rd Annual Benefit for Cooper Street Kids, Share the Love for the Kids Home Tour, February 25, 2012, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For tickets and additional information, contact the PGICA (941) 637-1655 or New Operation Cooper Street (941) 639-3034.
- The Florida Warbird Squadron 24 will be holding its 3rd Annual Warbird Weekend on Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. and Sunday, February 26, 2012 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Airport. The event will feature a Static Warbird Display of over 50 classic planes and flyovers. Rides will be available by History Flight in the B-25, T-6, and Stearman Warbirds. This is a fundraiser for veteran's organizations. A donation of \$8 per person or \$15 for family (adults/children) is requested. The Florida Warbird Squadron 24 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Visit www.floridawarbirds.org or call 941-639-6188 for details.

Police Department

- Operations Commander provided the last of a series of community presentations regarding the department's Traffic Safety and Enforcement Plan. Vice Mayor Goldberg & Council Member Freeland were in attendance at the PGI Civic Association building. As the plan continues to be assembled, all city residents and business owners are encourage to provide input and may do so under the following survey website: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VBGR9Q8>.

Fire Department

- Department received results of the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification survey which was conducted back in October 2011. The City was able to improve its overall score from 60.6 to 68.18, this remains in the 60 – 70 range resulting in a Public Protection Classification of 4 (Class 1 being the best and Class 10 being the worst). Department personnel will be reviewing the report in-house and with the ISO representatives to see what changes we may be able to implement that could result in an improved classification in the future. Of the 725 fire departments which have been reviewed and classified by the ISO in the state of Florida, the City is among the better third and will continue to strive for improvement.
- Department's progress toward Advanced Life Support (ALS) certification continues; all required documents and approvals were submitted with the application to the State Emergency Medical Services office for issuance of a State of Florida Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN). We have been in constant communication with the State EMS office and are expecting to receive our State COPCN by the end of February.

Utilities Department

Engineering

- **Bal Harbor Construction:** On 6/17/11, the City began utility work to include construction of new 12” water main and new 12” wastewater force main on the east side of Bal Harbor Blvd. between Marion Ave. and Aqui Esta. Final completion is now anticipated in March 2012. Two Week Look Ahead - Week of February 6: Install Phase 2 drainage from Appian to Aqui Esta, Begin Phase 2 sidewalk and drives from Via Dolce Vita to Aqui Esta. Week of February 13: Install water main and force main crossing Aqui Esta and Bal Harbor Intersection, Continue Phase 2 sidewalks and drives.

Water Treatment Plant

- Plant Operations: Jan 2011 Rainfall- 2.60”; Jan 2012 Rainfall- 0.50”; Feb 2011 Rainfall- 0.20; and so far, Feb 2012 Rainfall- 0.00. Currently the treated water has 18 grains of Total Hardness. Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water; currently the City’s water is considered “very hard”.
- Reservoir Information: Current Level – 5.06’; Record High for Feb 2 – 6.00’; Record Low for Feb 2 – 4.88’; and 45 Year Average for Feb 2 – 5.18’

Wastewater Treatment

- Florida Rural Water certified our official flow meters free of charge. This is a service they provide to their members and it is an annual state requirement.
- Completed and submitted the required annual residuals report to the Environmental Protection Agency and state prior to the due date.

Wastewater Collection

- Work continues at the Master Pumping Facility. The shell base for the driveway is close to completion and it anticipated that the asphalt work will take place within two weeks.

City Clerk

Current Board & Committee Vacancies

- Volunteers interested in serving on the City’s Advisory Boards & Committees can download an [Appointment Information Form](#) from the City’s website and submit same to the City Clerk’s Office for consideration.
- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (1 vacancy) - Meets the 3rd Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. 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 recommendations on petitions for special permits 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: Outcast Charter Company - Lashley Park Marina, 120 Lashley Court