



Florida's Harborside Hometown

Weekly Highlights Report February 12, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Last week a long serving member of our Public Works team, Mark Gering, our City Engineer retired. Mark has been the City Engineer for almost 14 years and was an instrumental part of many projects including the massive Irma seawall redesign and construction. As we celebrate Mark transitioning into retirement to enjoy more time with family and take on new challenges, it provides a great opportunity to share more about department. The Public Works Department is made up of seven divisions responsible for providing services in the areas of maintenance, construction, operations and engineering support for the City's infrastructure. I'll provide a snap shot of the scope of what this 60 person department is responsible for.



Our Engineering Division provides technical support to all City departments. They design, serve as project management, and inspect construction of Capital Improvement Projects, infrastructure improvements and maintenance projects. They also review and present proposed canal construction applications for special permits to Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) and Burnt Store Isles (BSI) Canal Maintenance Districts, and information to City Council as part of the decision making process.

City streets, storm sewers, swales, and sidewalks within the right-of-ways are maintained by the Right of Way Division. They service 115.4 miles of improved streets and 230.80 miles of stormwater drainage systems.

The Sanitation Division collects refuse and yard waste from approximately 12,150 residential accounts and performs approximately 660 services on commercial accounts. A 48-gallon cart "single stream" curbside recycling program is in place for all residential units.

The BSI Canal Maintenance District and PGI Canal Maintenance District are responsible for a total of 109 miles of seawall maintenance and 55 miles of canal, dredging, and mangrove trimming/alteration within the district canal system.

The Facilities Maintenance Division provides routine maintenance for all city buildings. The division also provides project management for city building rehabilitation or replacement and provides new electrical installation and maintenance for buildings and street/park decorator lights.

The Parks and Grounds Division is responsible for maintaining approximately 122 acres of city parks and their amenities. The division designs, installs, and repairs all irrigation systems throughout city parks, grounds, and 300 cul-de-sacs. They maintain city playgrounds, courts, nature trails, boardwalks and beautification sites. Normal operations also include holiday decorating, herbicide spraying, tree-trimming and fertilizing. Removal of the holiday decorations alone, takes a crew of six approximately 29 days to inspect the decorations, make repairs and replace burnt out light bulbs and get the decorations safely stored for next year.

The bottom line is if you call the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 you will be warmly greeted by Jennifer Daumann or Jenna Blackway and your inquiry will be routed to the appropriate division for action. This is just one of the departments that work as part of the team to preserve and enhance Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history; and as a desirable place to live, work and visit.

- **President's Day holiday** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Feb. 15 for the President's Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in their trash, yard waste or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers will notice **NO CHANGE** in collection service during this holiday.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet at the Historic City Hall on Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. A few of the items of interest include:
 - A presentation of the Long Range Financial Plan
 - A request for an additional staff member in the Urban Design Department
 - An event permit request for Harbor Social Live Entertainment on Mar. 20
 - An event permit request for the Celtic Ray St. Patrick's Day Celebration Mar. 17 and Mar. 18
 - A six month update from the City Manager

The meeting agenda will be published at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-meetings> and live streamed at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXW04IJQah6_Kqw

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://freedomisntfree.org/#>
- Feb. 12-14, Big Boy Toyz Expo, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Feb. 27, Boys and Girls Club Farm to Table Fundraiser, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information visit, <https://www.bgcofcc.org/events>
- Feb. 28, Charlotte County Veg Fest, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information visit, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/charlotte-county-veg-fest-2021-2nd-annual-tickets-97988661725>
- Mar. 6 and 7, MY Promotions Arts & Craft Show, 10175 Tamiami Tr. (Muscle Car City). For more information visit, <http://www.mypromotions.com/>

- Mar. 6, YMCA Harbor Nights Fundraiser, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For more information visit <https://www.swflymca.org/events/2021/03/06/port-charlotte/harbor-nights-2021/>
- March 6, Bacon Jam, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information, visit <https://bscevent.com/bacon-jam-punta-gorda/>
- Mar. 14, Concert in the Park, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For additional information, contact Allmyheartllc2018@gmail.com.
- Mar. 1-15, TEAM Punt Gorda's Build a Bike-Win a Bike (Pedal and Play alternative). For additional information visit <https://teampuntagorda.org/pedal-and-play-in-paradise-2/>

Code

- **Permits required** – Staff would like to remind our residents and contractors that a Right-of-Way (ROW) permit is required prior to restoring or re-sodding any right-of-way, for all properties, developed or vacant. ROW permit applications must be submitted by a licensed contractor. The ROW permit will initiate a line and grade inspection to ensure that proper drainage is maintained as the property is restored.
- **Signs in the Residential Zoning Districts** – At the Jan. 6 City Council meeting, Council reaffirmed that there will be no enforcement of the sign regulations for signs on residential lots in the Right of Way or otherwise until such time as the sign ordinance is amended and adopted. This includes political signs/flags.

Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin a new mowing and trimming cycle on Feb. 15

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations (LDR's): Form-Based Codes Presentation** – City Manager Greg Murray and Mitchell Austin, Chief Planner made a presentation on February 10th about proposed reforms to City's LDR's during a virtual meeting hosted by PGI Civic Association in partnership with TEAM Punta Gorda. The LDR reform project will take about a year and involve several interactive public engagement opportunities. These reforms are a result of the City Wide Charrette held in spring 2018, and will provide the basis of our Comprehensive Plan for the next 15-20 years. If you were unable to attend, a recording of the virtual meeting can be viewed <https://youtu.be/x-luHWV524U>.



Learn more by visiting www.puntagordamasterplan.com/engage,

www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan/plan-punta-gorda-comprehensive-plan-update or by email at UrbanDesign@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com.

- **Gulf Coast Partnership (GCP)** – Staff is assisting the GCP in reviewing Emergency Solutions Grant proposals for projects/programs in Charlotte County. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) provided for a supplemental appropriation of Homeless Assistance Grants under the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. Eligible activities, such as homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing and street outreach, address the priorities and any published supplemental requirements of the CARES Act in order to prepare for, prevent the spread of and respond to the coronavirus. Stakeholders will review the proposals on Feb. 12.

- **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)** – This week, Urban Design staff spoke in two Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) public relations courses, Principles of Public Relations and Advanced Public Relations Writing. Anticipating a career in an industry providing strategic communication for the business and nonprofit sectors, FGCU students in Public Relations experience an immersive course of instruction focused on developing solid oral and written communication skills. Students in the program have recently expressed their interest in governmental public relations. With Urban Design’s new efforts to strengthen its communication with the public (ex. the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Videos), staff provided insight as to how proper communication is important in all aspects of government, including planning.

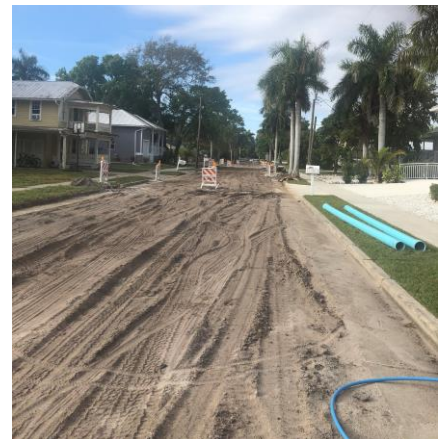
Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Assessment** – City staff continues the Annual Seawall Assessment during low tide periods through Feb. City staff will be inspecting seawalls from the waterside while traversing canals in a boat. Residents may see City staff in a boat close to their seawalls while inspecting the condition of seawalls.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction and four projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. There are two seawall replacement projects currently under construction and two projects completed in Burnt Store Isles. Four seawall replacement projects are scheduled for Burnt Store Isles this fiscal year. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 24 locations.
 - Crews patched/repared 233’ linear feet of seawall cap and seams.
 - Crews completed maintenance, mowing-weed eating-trimming palms, at Sancho Panza Point and Burnt Store Isles lock channel.

Engineering

- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work on the swale regrading program with JRL Underground Inc. is underway in the Burnt Store Isles subdivision. Work is nearing completion at the corner of South Crete Drive and Tripoli Boulevard and along Bordeaux Drive. Work is then scheduled on San Sebastian Court.
- **Palm Avenue between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street Road Closure** - Utility staff has completed the sewer main. Water services are under construction and they are waiting for DEP water line clearance for the tie in at each end of the street. Once utility work is completed road base installation will take place. The entire project is anticipated through April (weather permitting). For information <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/engineering> or contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.
- **Ponce De Leon Park Seawall Repairs** – Construction of the sidewalk between the fishing pier and the south end of the beach parking lot is complete. The beach parking lot is open. Work on the handrails along this new sidewalk is underway and is projected to be completed by Feb. 15.



Police

- **The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program** – VIP team members contributed a total of 840 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of Jan. 2021. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us. Learn more at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/police/volunteers-in-policing-vip> .
- **Dispatcher Testing Process** – The police department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Apr. 26.
- **Police Officer Testing** – The police department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Apr. 19 with oral board interviews scheduled on Apr. 20 and Apr. 21. Currently we are only accepting applications from candidates who are currently certified, Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible, current law enforcement academy students, or those with prior experience in a law enforcement related field. To learn more visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/human-resources/employment-opportunities> .
- **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 Apr. 26.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the summer and fall semesters 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. To apply for any of these positions or for more information please visit www.pgdjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for additional information or to have an application package sent.

Fire Department

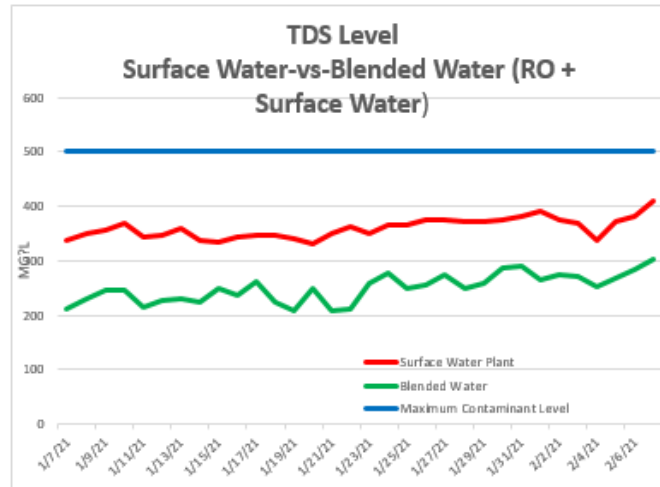
- **Obstetrics and Gynecology Emergency Training (OB/GYN)** – Field Training Officer (FTO) Alex Davenport conducted OB/GYN emergencies training this week. Topics included medical emergencies during pregnancy, pregnancy and trauma, breach births, and post birth emergencies. The Punta Gorda Fire Department paramedics carry delivery kits on all apparatus in the event a citizen or other civilian passing through



town finds them self in an immanent delivery situation. The fire department continues to host one fire related training and one Emergency Medical Services related training each month led by FTO's. Throughout the rest of the month Lieutenants at each station conduct trainings with their crews to ensure we are always ready to respond to any emergency.

Utilities

- **Ground Water RO Update** – Maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) allowable is 500



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 50.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 450 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 550 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Feb. 2020 0.90” Feb. 2021 0.80”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for Feb. 11 – Current 275 ppm, Low 261 ppm, High 6661 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 491 ppm
- Reservoir Feb. 11 – Current 5.13’, Record Low 4.89’, Record High 5.82’, 55 Year Avg. 5.21’

City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (Two alternates) meets the fourth 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) meets the fourth 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.

- **Utility Advisory Board** – Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board. Three-year terms, maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility specifications.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (Two regular) Meets the fourth Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms, maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic preservation.

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:
 - Earthwise Pets of Punta Gorda, 615 Cross Street, #1105
 - Salon Indulge, 6210 Scott Street, #212