

Weekly Highlights Report April 2, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Two Code Framework workshops were held the past two Tuesday's. Dover Kohl and Partners led an explanation of land development regulations and form-based codes. Various poll questions were asked including whether or not participants had been involved in the Plan Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan. There were a large number of people that indicated that they had not participated in that process. We welcome the new residents and stakeholders to the discussion and thank those that have participated in all of the city planning activities. To view the Code Workshop presentations or take the form based code surveys visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/>.



The City of Punta Gorda also has a variety of board and committee seats available. The Utility Advisory Board has three seats open to city residents. This board is well suited for someone that has an interest and expertise in utility construction standards and utility billing issues. The board meets once a month on the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. The Historic Preservation Board is seeking a resident that has a passion for preserving the historic charm of Punta Gorda. This board meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 9 a.m. A representative of a non-profit organization related to the history of the city is needed for the Donation Review Committee. This committee meets quarterly, as needed, to review nonmonetary donations received by the city and recommends acceptance or rejection of same. Two alternates are sought for the Board of Zoning Appeals. The board meets the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. and makes recommendations to City Council on requested variances to city code. City residency required. A complete list of available service opportunities is published in the Weekly Highlights Report available at <https://tinyurl.com/yy3zvaft>.

The city also has a variety of employment opportunities available. If you enjoy working outside, the Public Works department has some great entry level positions available. The Canal Maintenance Worker I position is responsible for the maintenance and repair or replacement of seawalls. The Right of Way Maintenance Worker I offers a variety of labor tasks on road construction maintenance operations work. The Sanitation Worker II is responsible for solid waste collection services to residents and businesses. If planning is your skill set, consider the Planner II Associate Planner opportunity available in Urban Design. This is an advanced professional position responsible for researching and analyzing technical data in the field of city planning. Utilities is seeking a skilled and licensed Treatment Plant Operator B and an entry level Utilities Maintenance Worker I. All of these positions offer competitive benefits and salaries, as well as paid vacation and sick time. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/s5r6mm8>.

- **Florida Power and Light Update** – Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) has made significant investments to build a stronger, smarter and more storm-resilient energy grid. Since the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons, FPL has hardened seven main power lines that serve critical community facilities and services, such as police and fire stations, and installed almost 1,200 smart devices that help detect problems and restore service faster if outages occur.

Additionally, FPL is finding cost-effective ways through its Storm Secure Underground Pilot Program to replace overhead power lines with more reliable underground lines in select neighborhoods throughout its service territory to enhance reliability in good weather and bad. One of these neighborhood undergrounding projects was completed in March for homes on Great Isaac Court and Magdalena Drive in Punta Gorda.

Investments to strengthen its infrastructure are paying off for customers. For example, following Hurricane Irma, FPL restored service to one million of the 4.4 million customers impacted before the storm even exited the state. After one full day of restoration, FPL restored service to two million customers. Additionally, a fraction of the number of power poles was damaged during Irma compared with the 12,400 poles damaged during Hurricane Wilma. This was due directly to FPL’s hardening investments.

The company remains committed to providing reliable service to customers in Punta Gorda and consistent updates on the status of projects. **Since Mar. 15, FPL has pulled 97 double poles, with another 101 poles scheduled to be pulled in the immediate future.** FPL is working closely with the City of Punta Gorda and with utilities to encourage the transfer of equipment to FPL’s upgraded, hardened poles.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on Apr. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. A sampling of the items of interest include:
 - Community Redevelopment Area monthly report
 - Award of Amendment 5 to CDM Smith Inc. for various assistance with Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements

The complete agenda will be available at <http://novuspublic.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/>

Watch via YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw

- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight” Punta Gorda Mercantile** – 10169 Tamiami Trail (941) 621-4978

What is the Punta Gorda Mercantile?

The Punta Gorda Mercantile is a vendor and consignment mall specializing in artisan creations, furniture and home décor.

What facts are important for customers to know about Punta Gorda Mercantile?

We are handicap accessible with aisles that accomodate walkers and wheelchairs. We are mask and pet friendly, but please watch those wagging tails.

Fun facts about Punta Gorda Mercantile? We have over 90 vendors and consignors spread out over 9000 square feet. New vendors are welcome and you can shop online at <https://puntagordamercantile.com/>.



How does Punta Gorda Mercantile help the community? We are an eclectic store offering an environment for our local communities to sell and purchase items for their homes or gifts.



Upcoming Events

- Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at <https://visualartcenter.org/pages/calendar-of-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/#>
- 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/>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St., PGICA's Education Program classes can be accessed at https://pgica.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=799073&module_id=364888
- Apr. 4, 1st United Methodist Church Easter Sunrise Service and Life Petting Zoo, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, contact kathy@whatis1st.com
- Apr. 10-11, Bloom and Art, Art & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For more information contact blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com
- Apr. 30, Hibiscus Festival, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, contact teresadesguin@iheartmedia.com
- May 1, Mental Health Awareness Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact kpomerville@cbhcfl.org
- May 9, YMCA Healthy Kids Day 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact lnason@skyyymca.org
- May 22, Girls on the Run 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact kim.amontree@girlsontherun.org
- May 27, Healing Field of Honor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information contact adairrobin@gmail.com
- May 31, Memorial Day Veterans Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information www.memorialdayrace.org
- May 31, Memorial Day Car Show, Fisherman's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade. For more information contactmkting@fishville.com
- Apr. 17, Earth Day Trash Cleanup at Ponce de Leon Park, 3400 Ponce De Leon Parkway, for more information <https://www.chnep.org/monthly-volunteer-events>

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 Right-of-way (ROW)** – Code Compliance has resume the enforcement and removal of all signs placed *in a public ROW*, in all zoning districts, regardless of content, with the exception of approved special event signage.

Lot Mowing Program

- Weather permitting, a new mowing cycle will be started on Apr. 19.

Urban Design

- **Annual Report** – Staff completed the Annual Progress Status Report for the City of Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (PGCRA) for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. A copy of the report may be viewed on the City’s website at the link provided below;

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=12117>

- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations (LDR’s):**
Code Framework Workshop: Part II

The second Code Framework Workshops was held on Mar. 30. The Code Framework Workshops were designed to involve the community of Punta Gorda in establishing the building blocks of the new form-based code (FBC). In the second part of the two-meeting workshops, Dover, Kohl and Partners summarized the community input from Part I, as well as input received during the technical meetings. The team will presented an updated Regulating Plan, which is a fine-grained version of a zoning map that divides the FBC area into distinct zones that correspond to unique building form standards. Participants were asked if they agree or not with the zones defined in the plan and had a chance to recommend revisions. To get into more detail about the character of development that is appropriate for each zone, participants were also be asked about specific architectural styles, building form standards, and frontage types. To watch the recording of the Code Framework Workshop: Part II, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R67GSGpoeNo>

Visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/> to take the Building Type and Development Intensity Surveys or to watch the Code Framework Workshop: Part 1.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has seven projects under construction and ten projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. All seawall replacement projects in Burnt Store Isles have been completed. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 18 locations.
 - Crews patched/repared 116’ linear feet of seawall cap/seams.
 - Crews inspected and replaced 40 storm booms, sock material in catch basins in the Burnt Store Isles Community.

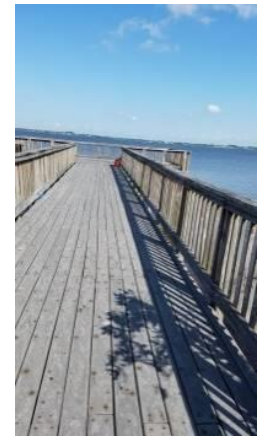
Right-of-Way

- **Olympia Avenue Lane Closure** - Beginning the week of Mar. 29 through Apr. 23 (weather permitting), construction is scheduled to begin on Olympia Avenue from the Taylor Street intersection to 41 North. The project will be done in 3 phases starting with the first planter and proceeding to the second and third planters. The right of way department (ROW) will install root barriers to control root growth of the palm trees. Part of the brick walkway will be removed. Pedestrians will have access through the area. The left lane on Olympia Ave. will be closed Mon. – Fri. from 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mar. 29 through Apr. 23 (weather permitting). Travelers are requested to use extreme caution while workers are present. Allow additional time for travel due to detours while work is performed. Temporary delays are to be anticipated. If you have any questions, please contact David Meyers, ROW Supervisor, Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Engineering

- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The pier has been lifted, and pile jacket installation is underway. The pier will be closed to the public while work is being performed.
- **Madrid Boulevard Warranty Work** – The contractor has milled, prepped, placed and rolled asphalt in the construction area. Temporary striping is scheduled with thermos striping to be placed after 14 days of cure. Single lane closures are to be anticipated while work is performed. Travelers are requested to use extreme caution while workers are present in the right of way and allow additional time for travel. Temporary delays are to be anticipated. For information [Engineering | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Engineering | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)) or please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5060 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work on Terin Court is underway, grading and sodding is scheduled for next week.
- **King Street Survey and Plan** – The survey work is in process to determine existing topography and actual City right-of-way limits. Anticipated deliverables are due mid-Apr.
- **Palm Avenue Between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street Road Closure** – Contractor has completed excavation of the existing material and placing 6” of crushed concrete, rolling it to grade. The following contracted scope of work is: some curb replacements, ADA ramps, crushed concrete road base, asphalt, sand and re-placement of historic street bricks. This work is anticipated to complete in May (weather permitting).



Parks and Grounds

- **Laishley Park Interactive Fountain and Seating Area** – The Interactive Fountain at Laishley Park will be closed temporarily during the morning hours of Apr. 6 for painting and maintenance on the seating area. The fountain area will be open early afternoon on Apr. 6, but the seating area will remain closed until Apr. 7 to allow time for the paint to dry completely.



- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park** – Bahia sod has been installed at the Hounds on Henry Dog Park. The areas with snow fence will be closed to the Public while the new sod is taking root. The entire process could take several weeks. The remainder of the dog park will remain open to the Public.



Police

- **Lock Your Car Doors** – We have seen a substantial increase in vehicle burglaries and thefts this year, all of which involved unlocked car doors and cars with keys left inside. Please help reduce crime in our city by removing valuables and locking your vehicle every time you return home. For more information, visit www.pgpdfnews.com to read our latest press release on this issue.
- **Blocking Sidewalks** – Just a reminder that Florida Statue 316.1945 prohibits parking a vehicle in such a way that it blocks any public sidewalk, even if you are parking in a driveway. Blocked sidewalks create a safety concern for pedestrians who are forced to walk in the roadway and may make it impossible for those with mobility concerns (such as someone in a wheelchair) to travel along the sidewalk.
- **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.



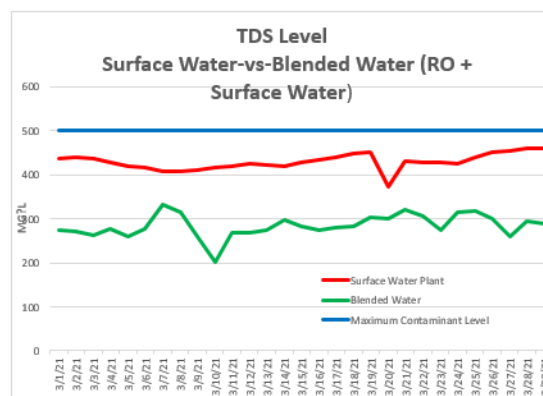
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Apr. 26.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the summer 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. Spots fill up quickly so we encourage potential interns to apply today! To apply for any of these positions or for more information please visit www.pgjobs.com (941) 575-5571 or employeedevelopment@pgorda.us for more information.
- **Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program** – The police department has an active and diverse volunteer program including vehicle patrol, bike patrol, marine patrol, community services, and more. We are always looking for dedication volunteers. Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536.

Fire Department

- **Driving in Fog** – Due to recent weather conditions, Charlotte County has experienced several fog related vehicle accidents. Fog can occur at any time. Fog on highways can be extremely dangerous. Fog is often unexpected, and visibility can deteriorate rapidly. You should watch for foggy conditions and be ready to reduce your speed. Do not assume that the fog will thin out after you enter it. The best advice for driving in fog is try to avoid driving. Pull off the road into a rest area until visibility is better. If you must drive, be sure to consider the following:
 - Check traffic conditions before traveling, by dialing 511 or visiting www.511.com.
 - Obey all fog-related warning signs.
 - Slow down before you enter fog and use low-beam headlights and fog lights for best visibility even in daytime, and be alert for other drivers who may have forgotten to turn on their lights.
 - Watch for vehicles on the side of the roadway. Seeing taillights or headlights in front of you may not be a true indication of where the road is ahead of you. The vehicle may not be on the road at all.
 - Listen for traffic you cannot see and avoid passing other vehicles.
 - Don't stop along the side of the road, unless absolutely necessary.
 - Reduce the Distractions in your vehicle. Turn off the radio and cell phone. Use the Right Edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide.
 - Signal Turns well in advance and brake early as you approach a stop.

Utilities

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



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 57.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 950 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 750 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Mar. 2020 0.00” Mar. 2021 0.030” Apr. 2020 3.40” Apr. 2021 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm – Total hardness 171 ppm
- TDS for Apr. 1 – Current 296 ppm, Low 296 ppm, High 674 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 509 ppm
- Reservoir Apr. 1 – Current 5.03’, Record Low 4.87’, Record High 6.04’, 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.
- **Donation Review Committee** – (representative of non-profit organization related to history of City) Meets quarterly, as needed, immediately following meetings of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Five member board. Three of the total five members will be appointed from the Historic Preservation Advisory Board membership. Reviews nonmonetary donations received by the City and recommends acceptance or rejection of same.
- **Firefighters’ Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two firefighters and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Two year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the Firefighters’ Pension Fund.
- **Building Board** – 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 OR partial term plus two more 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.
- **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.
- **General Employees’ Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two general employees and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Four year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.
- **Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – Meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. 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 final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.

- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (two alternates) 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.