

Weekly Highlights Report April 9, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The City of Punta Gorda's Apr. 7 council meeting featured a number of proclamations recognizing important events and people in the community. The City Clerk, Karen Smith, and her team prepare the proclamations and recognitions that are formally presented by City Council. The Military Heritage Museum Volunteer Appreciation Day, National Telecommunications Week, Parliamentary Law Month, Water Conservation Month and Donate Life Month will be recognized.



The Military Heritage Museum was founded in 2001 by veterans who have served the museum continuously since that time. 90 volunteers, 72 of which are veterans of the United States Military, are instrumental in delivering the Military Heritage Museum's education-based mission. The City Council of the City of Punta Gorda proclaimed Apr. 10, 2021 Military Heritage Volunteer Appreciation Day. City Council recognized Apr. 11-17 as National Telecommunicators Week. The safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of the information obtained from citizens who telephone the Punta Gorda Police Communications Center. Our dispatchers are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services and exhibit compassion, understanding and professionalism. They contribute substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients. In fiscal year 2020 Punta Gorda's Telecommunicators answered 32,670 administrative phone calls and 8,298 emergency 911 calls. Their work is vital to police officers achieving an average response time of five minutes and 26 seconds for all calls.

Apr. is also Parliamentary Law Month and is a celebration of the use of parliamentary procedure. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the first American manual of the parliamentary practice in 1801 was born in April. This acknowledgement by City Council is a time to reflect upon the importance of parliamentary procedure in providing for civil discourse, protecting individual rights, ensuring fairness and maintaining order. This proclamation also honors Henry Martyn Robert who wrote what is commonly known as Robert's Rules of Order.

Water Conservation Month acknowledges the need to conserve water. It calls upon each citizen and business to help protect this precious resource by practicing water saving measures and become more aware of the need to conserve water. The final proclamation at this meeting will designate April as organ donation Right to Life Month in the City of Punta Gorda. One of the most meaningful gifts a human being can bestow upon another is the gift of life. More than 39,000 Americans receive a lifesaving organ transplant every year. A new patient is added to the waiting list for an organ every 10 minutes. There are more than 108,000 men, women and children waiting for an organ. One organ, tissue and eye donor can save or enhance the lives of as many as 75 people. Register at www.donatelifeflorida.org or on your driver's license.

- **Community Budget Input** – As we move forward into the budgeting process for fiscal year 2022, residents are encouraged to share your thoughts regarding budget priorities. Simply send an email with your suggestions to citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com during the month of April.
- **Candidate Packets Now Available** – Candidate packets for the 2021 City General Election are now available through the City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 326 West Marion Avenue. The 2021 General Election will take place on Nov. 2 and will include City Council District 3 and 5. Councilmembers serve a two (2) year term and are elected at-large. Only opposed candidate races will appear on the ballot. If more than two candidates seek election for any one district seat, a primary election must be held on Aug. 17 (11 weeks prior to the General Election). Qualifying for the 2021 General Election cycle begins, Jun. 7 at noon and ends on Jun. 11 at noon. For information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3369 or email pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com. Questions regarding voter registration, vote-by-mail ballots or precinct and polling information should be directed to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400. Candidate forms can also be obtained online from the City’s website at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us> as well as from the Division of Elections website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>.
- **Florida Power and Light Update** – Approximately 35 poles were removed this week.
- **Comcast Update** – Comcast has identified a total of 150 poles they currently need to relocate wires from. This week, 64 poles were done, leaving 86 remaining. They anticipate these being completed by the end of April. They also cleaned up 16 locations of "messy wires" where there are loose wires hanging. They identified that there are about 44 additional locations they still need to clean up, and anticipate these being completed in the third week of April. Work this week has been focused on Macedonia Drive in Burnt Store Isles. Also, they have responded to our request to use the pole risers, and are now using riser guides on all the poles as they are moving the wires. These are the rubber sheaths that enclose the wires on the poles to make it aesthetically more pleasing. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews requested they dedicate some time to working on the poles on Bal Harbor Boulevard, Aqui Esta and Marion Avenue, as these are the main roads that are most visible. We are making great progress!

- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight” Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF)**. 227 Sullivan Street, <https://charlottecfc.org/> (941) 637-0077.

Products and Services offered: Philanthropy. We believe philanthropy is engaging and values-driven, so we help individuals, families, and groups examine their values so they can define and achieve their charitable goals. We are conscientious stewards of our donors’ generosity; we take that responsibility very seriously. We believe philanthropy is most powerful when it connects generosity to community needs. Our donors can tap into our knowledge and connection to the community and a wide range of philanthropic areas. We also offer experience facilitating discussions and decisions across generations. We partner with professional advisors to help them guide their clients’ philanthropic journeys. We also work with nonprofit partners to ensure their futures by establishing and expanding their endowment funds. We offer all of our fund advisors and partners trusted, personal service to achieve their philanthropic goals today, and ensure their charitable legacies endure in the future.



What makes your business special?

- ✓ In communities all over the United States, strangers have connected to overcome the devastating effects of adverse events. In Charlotte County our residents came together in a movement of solidarity to help so many who were suffering. People donated to many nonprofit organizations and funds, including the HUG/COVID-19 Emergency Fund through COAD.
- ✓ In addition to working with COAD, CCF continued with other critical projects in a year that required flexibility and agility for the utmost responsiveness. Separately from COAD, we dispersed \$500,000 to area nonprofits, with \$65,000 in challenge/match grants ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$20,000. This year we allowed the monies to be applied to operational costs to help them keep their doors open and staffs employed.
- ✓ During 2020, Charlotte Community Foundation added a new cycle to our scholarship program, awarding \$100,000 in the first cycle and \$30,000 in the second.
- ✓ Thanks to the James and Marian Pennoyer Fund, we had a record grant-making year that provided increased assistance to the residents of Charlotte County.
- ✓ To help with the increased workload we added two new and much appreciated Foundation team members.
- ✓ We accepted the call to convene community law enforcement, government, schools and four area activist organizations to work towards improving social justice by having open dialogue to gain increased understanding. Progress has been made with a local academician, who is also a retired police chief, giving an address about implicit bias to law enforcement and interested community members. Our connections have been working to improve our community.



Any fun facts you would like to share about your business?

- ✓ Twenty-five years ago a nonprofit foundation was established to support Adventist Hospital in Punta Gorda, the Adventist Foundation. It focused on raising funds to support health and education.
- ✓ In 1995 the hospital was sold and became the Charlotte Regional Medical Center with the Foundation becoming a separate organization, Charlotte County Foundation.
- ✓ One of the founding members and the first Chairman of the Board, Leo Wotitsky, whose family roots in Charlotte County trace back to approximately 1887, along with another founder, Vernon Peeples, who had family connections here back to 1825, and was Chairman and President of the Board from 2003 to 2006, had shared visions for the progress of the Foundation.



- ✓ In 2004, post-Hurricane Charley and after a strategic planning workshop with our Leadership, Board and invited members of the community, a plan took shape with stronger focus and attention to the philanthropic needs of Charlotte County.
- ✓ With the new clarity came a new name, Charlotte Community Foundation, that was more indicative of its reinvented role as a foundation serving the whole community. The Foundation has its roots in helping others but with a new vision and mission statement and broader direction it would now focus on more than health and education.
- ✓ One of the new goals that had been stated by Vernon Peoples was, “to make a greater impact on more peoples’ lives,”. Through our daily goal of “connecting people who care with causes that matter”, we continually strive to enhance the quality of life in Charlotte County.
- ✓ Our board members are chosen for their strong ties to the community and their local knowledge of the needs of Charlotte County and its residents. Under this guidance, the Charlotte Community Foundation has set a course that strives to encourage public and private philanthropy and support projects that offer unique solutions to community needs so that we may enhance and improve the quality of life for all of our residents.

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. 10-11, Bloom and Art, Art & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For more information contact blueribboneventsllc@gmail.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>
- 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 contact mkting@fishville.com

Lot Mowing Program

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

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Certificate of Appropriateness 101**

What is a Certificate of Appropriateness?

A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for projects that would alter the exterior appearance of a designated historic property. An approved CA application ensures that the proposed work is consistent with the appropriate design regulations and historic preservation standards. **An application for a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be obtained from [redacted] and, [redacted] when completed, filed with the Urban Design Division.**



Which properties require a Certificate of Appropriateness?

Property within the National Register Historic Overlay District, property individually listed on the National Register or property listed on the Florida Master Site File by the State of Florida Department of State, Bureau of Historic Preservation of the Division of Historic Resources.



What type of work requires a Certificate of Appropriateness?

- ✓ Exterior Alterations or Additions
- ✓ Demolitions of a structure
- ✓ New construction
- ✓ Removal of stoops, cornices, and other significant architectural features

To learn more about the process and requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness please follow the links below.

What information is needed for a Certificate of Appropriateness?

- ✓ Support materials must accompany the completed application. At a minimum, applications for Certificate of Appropriateness shall submit the following information:
- ✓ Architectural elevations drawn to scale
- ✓ Site plans
- ✓ Complete materials list
- ✓ Photographs or drawings relating the proposed project to the surrounding streetscape
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Landscaping
- ✓ A scale drawing of any proposed sign, including proposed materials, lighting method, style and size of lettering, and a sketch or photograph showing the proposed location of the sign on the building or site
- ✓ Structural engineers analysis of structure if a demolition is requested

Certificate of Appropriateness Application:

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=448>

Code of Ordinance – Chapter 26, Section 16.3 Application for Certificate of Appropriateness:

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showdocument?id=1467>

For more information, please contact UrbanDesign@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com.

Public Works

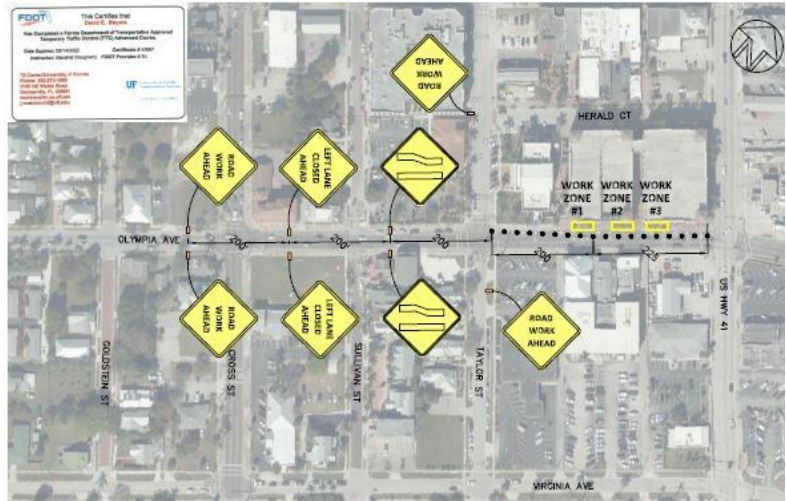
Canal Maintenance

- **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 20 locations.
 - Crews patched/repaired 56’ linear feet of seawall cap/seams.

Right-of-Way

- **Olympia Avenue Lane Closure**

- Work continues installing 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 7:30a.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 work complete, pending final inspection. The pier will be closed to the public while work is being performed.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Final grading and sodding will be completed next week on Terin Court. to the intersection of Tripoli Boulevard.
- **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.
- **Madrid Boulevard Warranty Work** – The warranty work is complete with the exception of the placement of thermo striping scheduled within the next two weeks. 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://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.



- **Palm Avenue Between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street Road Closure** – The contractor has completed; concrete curb demolition and replacement, 6" deep crushed concrete, rolled in to final grade, 1.5" of asphalt placed and rolled. Bricks have begun to be staged and placed along with sand delivery for placement. To be scheduled is placement of the ADA truncated dome mats, behind the curb grade and sod placement. This work is anticipated to complete in May (weather permitting).



Parks and Grounds

- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park** – Bahia sod continues to take root at the Hounds on Henry Dog Park. The areas with snow fence will continue to be closed to the Public. 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.
- **Phone Scams** – No legitimate business or government entity will ask for gift cards as a payment. If they say your grandchild is in jail or kidnapped, do not offer up a name. Verify your loved one is safe by calling to check on them. Contact the Police Department to determine if a phone call they have received is a scam. Also, never give someone access to their computer if they contact you unsolicited. When this is done, scammers will get victims to open up their bank accounts so they can see the account information and passwords. Then they steal money out of your account. Additionally, if you are on your computer and get an unsolicited message that your computer needs to be repaired with a phone number for you to call, shut down the browser and do not re-open the same site. The AARP website has a list of 10 top scams and what to do to avoid them. The link is: [Top 10 Scams and Frauds You Can Avoid \(aarp.org\)](https://www.aarp.org/scams)
- **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

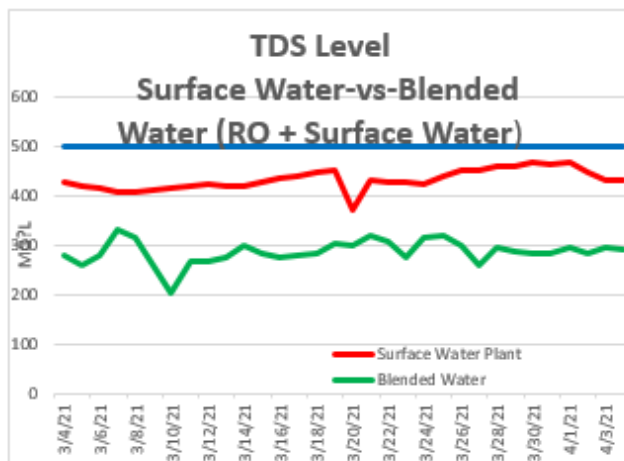
- **Marine Captain's Training** – The fire department is hosting a marine captain's class this week and part of next week. The department has placed a big emphasis on ensuring qualified personnel are ready to respond to emergencies on the water utilizing the shared marine vessel. The department would like to thank its members for stepping up and taking the captains class to better serve its community.



Utilities

Utilities Administration

- **Golf Course Boulevard and Challenger Boulevard** – Contractor began installing two 60 inch storm drain pipes across Golf Course Boulevard. The storm drain pipes are for the new general Aviation project at the airport. These pipes will be installed under the City's utilities which include a 20 inch, 18 inch, 8 inch force main and an 18 inch water main on Golf Course Road.
- **Ground Water RO Update** – Maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) allowable 500



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 59.5 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.5 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 Apr. 2020 3.40” Apr. 2021 0.60”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm – Total hardness 140 ppm
- TDS for Apr. 8 – Current 279 ppm, Low 279 ppm, High 631 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 515 ppm
- Reservoir Apr. 8 – Current 5.05’, Record Low 4.84’, Record High 5.80’, 55 Year Avg. 5.16’

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.
- **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.
- **Building Board** – (consumer advocate position) 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.

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:
 - ✓ Mitchell Diversified Corporation, 99 Vivante Blvd, Unit 9947
 - ✓ Reynco Enterprises LLC, 2701 Deborah Drive