

## **Weekly Highlights Report April 16, 2021**

### **City Manager**

- **City Manager Column** – To say my first six months as City Manager have been eventful would be an understatement. From getting to know many of the talented staff members at the city to meeting the wonderful people that lead the businesses and organizations in the community my days and evenings have flown by. Much has been accomplished in this short time thanks to the leadership of City Council and our dedicated staff.



The Chapter Six Code rewrite was approved by City Council. The rewrite updated and added clarity to the provisions that govern the waterways in Punta Gorda. Several Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) projects have been completed. ADA improvements to the restroom facilities and kitchen areas of the City Hall Annex were finished. An ADA ramp was installed at Laishley Park for improved access for all.

Multiple parks projects reached fruition. The Harborwalk, from the gazebo to Berry Street, now welcomes visitors to view Charlotte Harbor in Gilchrist Park. The Gilchrist Park playground was resurfaced to provide a safe environment for children to play. The fishing pier at Gilchrist Park decking replacement took place. Seawall repairs and replacements wrapped up at Ponce de Leon Park to protect the land from erosion. Public Works completed a street rebricking project. Sullivan Street is beautifully redone with historic bricks. Public Works has also ordered four new refuse trucks to aid in the efficient provision of waste management services. The city launched Text My Gov for visitors and residents to access information by texting (941) 347-0747. The Small Business Spotlight was created to share the stories of local businesses.

The Punta Gorda Police Department launched their award winning Veteran's Crisis Assistance Team. Providing an extra level of customer service to those that have served our country. The Punta Gorda Fire Department (PGFD) has played a huge role in providing vaccines to our residents and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. They have also undergone extensive training in a variety of areas. The PGFD has also placed an order for a new aerial fire truck.

The 1% Sales Tax was approved that has allowed the city to move forward with the renovation of Historic City Hall. Space has been acquired for the relocation of the Clerk's Office and Finance Departments during construction. Progress has also been made on the Comprehensive Plan and Form Based Codes. City Council has also authorized a traffic study for the area of 41 north bound in downtown Punta Gorda.

As we move forward into the budgeting process for fiscal year 2022, I encourage residents to share your thoughts regarding budget priorities. Send an email with your suggestions to [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) anytime during the month of April.

- **City Council** – City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on Apr. 21 at the Historic City Hall. A complete agenda will be available at <http://novuspublic.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/> . The meeting will also be available on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6\\_Kqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw) .
- **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@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.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** – Florida Power and Light pulled an additional 13 poles in the past week. Some of their work has slowed down so that Comcast can catch up with relocation of wires off of the old poles. There are an additional 37 poles that have other company wires still attached to them, which all need to be moved before the old poles can be removed.
- **Comcast Update** – Comcast has relocated wires on an additional 20 poles, and cleaned up messy wires on 80 additional poles, leaving approximately 60 more to do. Emphasis has been on poles in Punta Gorda Isles this week.

- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight”** Los Dos Cristianos Coffee 320 Sullivan Street, (941) 661-1782.

**Products and Services offered:** We are a full service coffee bar. The menu of coffees consists of espresso drinks such as cappuccinos, lattes, Cuban coffee, iced coffee, cold brew, a variety of hot and cold teas, frozen coffee drinks (frappes), smoothies, protein shakes and just about anything we can offer with the makings we have! We also offer a light breakfast and lunch menu consisting of a variety of muffins, donuts, pastries, avocado toast, breakfast sandwiches on bagels or croissants, Cuban paninis, chicken salad, açai bowls. Most of our baked items come from local bakeries and some we make in house. We are the importer and roaster of our coffees and service many restaurants, cafes and bed and breakfasts in the area. Often times this is done under their own name! We provide coffee equipment for offices or other cafes that wish to purchase our coffees. Last but not least, we can cater small business gatherings or events.

**What makes your business special?**

This business was created after two of our founders went on a mission trip to Honduras in 2014. Both of the founders decided they wanted to create a business that could give back to the original mission as well as others in need abroad and in our local community. Today the owners still work full time day jobs while continuing to become educated about the coffee business from farm to table. This has allowed us to meet with farmers in Honduras, learn about quality, learn how to officially grade coffee, buy and sell the green beans, import all of our own choices after we go through the rigor of cupping each individual coffee for quality and flavor.



**How does your business help the community?**

Los Dos Cristianos was born out of a mission. Whenever we get the opportunity to help a local organization we do. We've worked with local schools, non profit organizations, and our affiliated groups over seas each year we've been in business.

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

Our story and mission are the fun facts! However many folks ask about our logo. Why two swans? Both of the founders names are Christian. In Spanish the name of our business means literally "The Two Christians". One of the men comes from England and the other from Mexico. Their mothers had a chance to meet when we were first forming the business and one in broken English and the other in a very strong London accent realized that they both had named their children after Hans Christian Anderson's "Ugly Duckling" and so the swans logo was born.



**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](https://pgica.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=799073&module_id=364888)
- 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](mailto:teresadesguin@iheartmedia.com)
- May 1, Mental Health Awareness Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact [kpomerville@cbhcfl.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcfl.org)
- May 9, YMCA Healthy Kids Day 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact [lnason@skyyymca.org](mailto:lnason@skyyymca.org)
- May 22, Girls on the Run 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact [kim.amontree@girlsontherun.org](mailto:kim.amontree@girlsontherun.org)
- May 27, Healing Field of Honor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information contact [adairrobin@gmail.com](mailto:adairrobin@gmail.com)
- May 31, Memorial Day Veterans Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information [www.memorialdayrace.org](http://www.memorialdayrace.org)
- May 31, Memorial Day Car Show, Fisherman's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade. For more information [contact mkting@fishville.com](mailto:contact mkting@fishville.com)

## Lot Mowing Program

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

## Urban Design

- **Planning Corner** – The Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, “Parks That Teach”, is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wL-Ic2TUuw> . Learn more about the plan updates by visiting <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan/park-recreation-master-plan> .



## Public Works

### Administration

- **Citizens’ Academy Public Works Session** – Public Works held their session of the Citizens’ Academy this week. The Director explained the responsibilities, functions and roles of each division within Public Works. Participants were given a tour of the Public Works Campus along with demonstrations by Canal Maintenance, Right-of-Way and Sanitation. Canal Maintenance showed participants how a seawall panel is made and displayed the muck truck that is used in resident’s yards. Right-of-Way showed participants how a pothole is patched and vacuumed a storm drain with the Vactor truck. Sanitation emptied a dumpster and answered questions regarding trash removal.

### Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction and twelve 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 15 locations.
  - Crews patched/repared 79’ linear feet of seawall cap/seams.
  - Crews removed and replaced 4’ linear feet of damaged culvert/storm drain pipe which extended through the seawall.

### 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.

### Right-of-Way

- **Olympia Avenue Lane Closure** – The project has been completed.

### Engineering

- **Palm Avenue Between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street Road Closure** – The project has been completed and the road is now open to traffic. The sand and hay bales will be removed by Apr. 30.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – All piping has been installed and sodding has been completed on Terin Court. The catch basin will be installed within the next few weeks on Terin Court. Work has begun on Macedonia Drive.



- **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 thermoplastic 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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.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.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The pier has been lifted, and pile jacket installation is in progress. The pier will be closed to the public while work is being performed.

## Police

- **Pedestrian Rules** – With miles and miles of parks and recreational trails, Punta Gorda is a great place to get outside and take a walk, but please remember there are laws that apply to pedestrians.
  - When crossing at an intersection with a traffic signal, pedestrians should follow any pedestrian signal provided.
  - If a pedestrian signal is unavailable, pedestrians should follow the traffic signal and only cross when the light is green.
  - When a sidewalk is available, pedestrians must use it and are prohibited from walking in the roadway.
  - If a sidewalk is not available, pedestrians walking in the roadway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left shoulder facing traffic coming from the opposite direction.



Please enjoy Punta Gorda safely!

- **Police Officer Testing** – The police department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Aug. 23 with oral board interviews scheduled on Aug. 24 and Aug. 25. 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 Aug. 30.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall Semester of 2021 and Spring Semester 2022. 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.pgdjobs.com](http://www.pgdjobs.com) (941) 575-5571 or [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto: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

- **Did you know?** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department has a volunteer program which helps to inspire and educate people interested in pursuing a career in the Fire and EMS world. The Punta Gorda Fire department volunteers meet every second and fourth Monday evening of each month. The department can accommodate up to 15 active volunteers on the roster. After their meetings they train on the skills and abilities of being a Firefighter/EMT. They also contribute a minimum of 24 hours of volunteer time riding with the paid members of the department. The departments Field Training Officers have contributed to teaching the skills that are used in the field for the active members of the department.



## Utilities

### Utilities Administration

- **Golf Course Boulevard and Challenger Boulevard** – Contractor installed 18 sections of 60 inch storm drain pipe under a power line feeder, five communication cables, a gas main, and the City's 20 inch force main.
- **Waste Water Treatment Plant Well Cover Project** – Contractor installed support beams and framing. They also began installing cover plates.

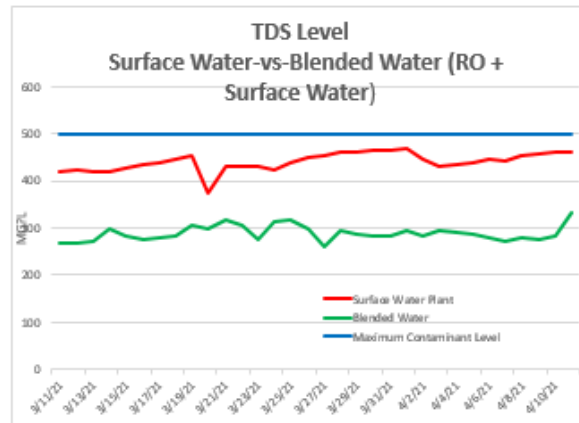


### Water Distribution

- The City Utilities Department is planning to do install a water shut off valve. To accomplish this task, the water will be turned off on Tropicana Drive (to include all side streets off of Tropicana) and a short section of W. Marion Ave. This work is scheduled for Apr. 19 starting at 11 p.m. until approximately 1 a.m., Apr. 20.



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



### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 55.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8 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 2.45”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm – Total hardness 128 ppm
- TDS for Apr. 15 – Current 275 ppm, Low 275 ppm, High 597 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 510 ppm
- Reservoir Apr. 15 – Current 5.07’, Record Low 4.80’, Record High 5.88’, 55 Year Avg. 5.11’

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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:
  - Beyond Lash & Beauty LLC, 6210 Scott Street, Unit 212
  - Caliber Home Loans, Inc., 318 Tamiami Trail, Unit 216
  - Dockside Radio, 1368 Willet Court
  - North American Title Company, 110 Sullivan Street, Unit 112
  - The Famous Corner of Punta Gorda, 1002 Tamiami Trail