

Weekly Highlights Report May 7, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – April was a busy month for the City of Punta Gorda. The progress of the city continues to move forward with each passing month. I'll highlight a few of the projects that have been recently completed or are currently underway. The Punta Gorda Fire Department partnered with the residents of the Fountain Court community by assisting them with their annual smoke detector maintenance. They performed smoke detector services at a total of 25 units consisting of 107 smoke detector battery change outs. This a service that the fire department offers to its residents to help reduce fall risks for those who are not able to climb ladders. This is just one of many programs our fire department offers to help keep our community the best place to live.



The Public Works division has had the street rebricking on Palm Avenue completed. This project restored the historic bricks between Chasteen Street to McGregor Street to maintain the high quality community character of the city. The division also had Madrid Boulevard warranty work completed including the placement of thermoplastic striping. Herald Court Center is looking a bit brighter at night due to the replacement of 28 light fixtures. Significant progress is also being made on the Historic District Infrastructure Project East of US 41. 71 lights are being converted to LED and 30 new LED lights are being installed.

The Utilities Division is seeking City Council approval of a developer's agreement with LP

Promotions, LLC for a Riverside Drive force main extension project. The force main extension is needed by the developer to construct a RV park named Palm Breeze Resort. The force main project is designed to provide wastewater service to the developer's project and also to 4 existing mobile home park communities along Riverside Drive currently using on-site treatment plants. There is considerable advantage to the City when a developer designs and constructs the facility, and the transfers it to the City upon completion. The agreement is seeking for the City to fund 75% of cost as the developer's flow is approximately 25% of the total project flows, with the developer also designing and installing the infrastructure.

The Urban Design Department is continuing to solicit stakeholder input regarding form based code implementation in the city. The presentations that were led by representatives of Dover, Kohl and Partners, LLC can be viewed at <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/> .

All of these projects and the many more that are currently underway reflect the values of the city including maintaining a culture of community engagement, teamwork, partnerships, transparency, respect, customer service and stewardship. This highlights the necessity of infrastructure maintenance and improvements as well as service enhancements as we move through our budget process. Supporting and promoting local businesses and creating a high level of openness for the fair and equitable treatment of all residents is an ultimate goal as we look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Punta Gorda.

- **City Council** – City Council met at 9 a.m. on May 5 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. A few of the items of interest include:
 - Approved a Developers Agreement for a Forcemain on Riverside Drive
 - Established an Economic Development Team for the City.

The meeting is available on YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw

- **National Day of Prayer** – A National Day of Prayer Service was held on May 6. On behalf of City Council Mayor Matthews read the National Day of Prayer Proclamation at the event. Chief Davis lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chief Briggs provided a prayer for all first responders and emergency personnel. Various religious leaders highlighted the importance of prayer and patriotic songs filled the air.



- **Important Notice for Utility Customers** – Effective Jun. 1, pre-Covid policies of assessing penalties for late payment and shutting off water service on past due account will resume. This will apply to all accounts with a past due balances. Payments made by credit card will incur the same processing fee that was in place before Covid concessions were granted.
- **Comcast Update** – Comcast reports that most, if not all messy wires have been cleaned up. The City Manager and Mayor stated there are still several locations we feel need to be addressed, so we will do a drive around and take photos, noting addresses for them to come back to address. They also reported that they have now relocated all wires on duplicate poles in Burnt Store Isles, and there are approximately 27-30 poles still remaining to be done in Punta Gorda Isles. They estimate it will take approximately one month to finish moving those. We will now be going to email communications for updates, rather than video calls, and if additional calls are needed, we will schedule them.
- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight”**
Perfectly Polished Nail Boutique is located at 121 E. Marion Avenue #11 (941) 889-8388.

Products and Services offered:

Perfectly Polished Nail Boutique is a nail salon where you receive services by our nail experts or esthetician in a comfortable, relaxing friendly environment. Services include natural nail manicures, pedicures, acrylic nails, facials, lash extensions.



What makes your business special?

Perfectly Polished Nail Boutique is located in the City of Punta Gorda Historic District. Stop in and visit us in our newly renovated unit in a designated historic building, the H.W. Smith Building, across from the Post Office.

How does your business help the community?

In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness month we encouraged our customers to wear Teal to show their support. For every client that chose teal for nails or fingers we donated \$5.00 to C.A.R.E

What facts are important for customers to know about your business?

We offer a friendly and relaxed atmosphere in our clean and spacious salon. Our nail professionals take the time to consult with you. We strictly adhere to sanitation standards and offer quality products. Top trending art and customer add ons are available. Client rewards program and free repairs are offered.

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

We are situated in Charlotte County, Florida within the Historic District of the City of Punta Gorda. My husband Stan and I found this to be the perfect location as it allowed us to be a part of the downtown business community and have a location familiar to locals and visitors alike. Our salon has a spacious open floor plan with high ceilings and large windows that open onto Marion Avenue where you can enjoy watching the bustling foot and car traffic go by as they enjoy manicure and pedicure services.



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/#>
- May 8, Charlotte County Rising Star, City Marketplace, 115 Tamiami Trail, for more information visit www.smugglerevents.com
- May 15, Wing Fest, City Marketplace, 115 Tamiami Trail, for more information visit www.smugglerevents.com
- May 15, A Day of Celtic Music is being co-sponsored by the Cultural Heritage Center and Fishermen's Village, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, from 12pm - 4pm. This event is announcing the opening the Youth Museum and Cultural Heritage Center at Punta Gorda History Park in September. There will be five Celtic Bands will playing music throughout Fishermen's Village. This is a day for our community to celebrate culture together.
- May 20, PG Social House Moonlight Market, 258 W. Marion Ave

- 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 28, Leroy's Kickoff to Summer Fundraiser, 201 W. Marion Ave
- May 28, 29, 30, Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival, City Marketplace, 115 Tamiami Trail, for more information visit Paragon Festivals (paragonartevents.com)
- May 31, Memorial Day Veterans Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information visit www.memorialdayrace.org
- May 31, Memorial Day Car Show

Lot Mowing Program

- Weather permitting, the City will begin a new mowing cycle on May 17.

Urban Design

- **Gulf Coast Partnership** – Staff attended the Gulf Coast Partnership monthly meeting where legislative updates were reported. Although SB 2512 on affordable housing cuts the annual designated share from the housing trust funds by more than half, from at least \$423 million to \$209 million, locally it was a good Legislative Session: The local funding requests approved are as follows:

- ✓ Homeless Staffing Grant was fully funded: \$3M
- ✓ Homeless Challenge Grant was fully funded: \$3,181,500
- ✓ Affordable Housing: \$209M (recurring at 9.70% of doc stamps moving forward)
- ✓ ESG-CV1&2 back of the bill language adopted in final version of the budget bill
- ✓ Additional American Rescue Plan Act funding for homeless children and youth wraparound services in response to COVID-19 provided in final budget

SB 2512 does include language intended to prevent future raids on the housing trust funds, maintaining next year's affordable housing funding as the new floor.

The Planning Corner – US 41 Vision Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) wants your input on the Northbound Tamiami Trail (US 41) Vision Study! The study limits extend along US 41 from William Street to the Peace River Bridge in Downtown Punta Gorda.

Visit <https://nb-tamiami-trail-vision.metroquest.com/> to take the questionnaire today.

Visit <http://www.swflroads.com/us41/tamiami-trail-vision-study/> for more information.



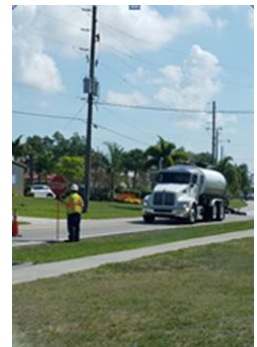
Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Mangrove Trimming** – The City contractor has started the annual maintenance of trimming mangroves along the Punta Gorda Isles perimeter canal.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has seven projects under construction and 14 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 108' linear feet of seawall cap/seams
 - Crews removed one large board from the waterway.

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Ramp Improvements** – Staff and the contractor reviewed several ADA ramp locations for improvements. Pending is the estimated Statement of Work for processing.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – After further assessment, the pier will remain closed to the public for additional work.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Grading and sodding in Burnt Store Meadows on Allamanda Lane is complete. Grading work at the end of Almar Drove is underway and is anticipated to be complete on May 19.
- **King Street Survey and Plan** – Engineering staff has received the CAD file and official City of Punta Gorda right of way, boundary and topography survey.



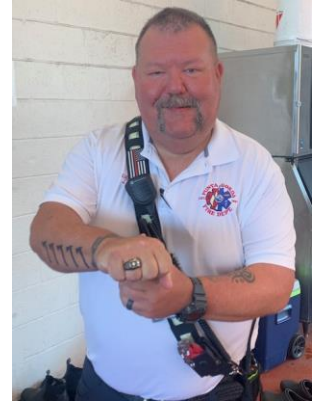
Police

- **Public Facing Policies** – As part of our continuing effort to increase transparency with our community, the police department has made our Standard Operating Procedures (department policies) available to the public on our website. The police department has nearly 200 policies that cover everything from how and officer should wear their uniform to how they should handle resistance and firearms. Certain policies that contain confidential and exempt information are not available on the website, but may still be available with redactions through a public records request.
- **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 (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.

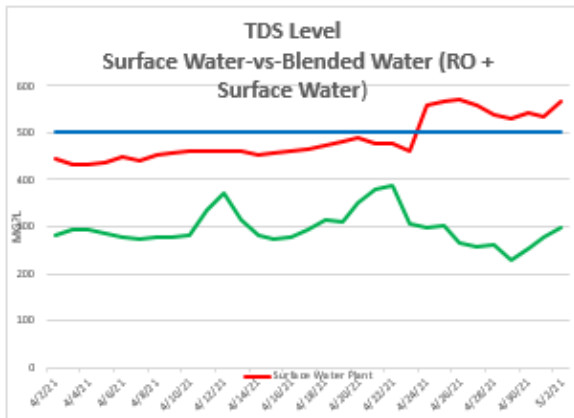
Fire Department

- **Retirement** –Lieutenant Jeff Wright was honored for his 25 years of service to the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department on May 3. We wish him many happy, healthy years of well-deserved retirement.



Utilities

- **Administration** – Golf Course Blvd. and Challenger Blvd. Storm Drain Project. Contractor continues to install the 60 inch concrete storm pipe. They have finally moved beyond all the existing utility lines.
- **Ground Water RO Update** – Maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) allowable 500



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 58.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.3 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 3.03” May 2020 2.26” May 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 7 ppm – Total hardness 124 ppm
- TDS for May 6 – Current 295 ppm, Low 295 ppm, High 635 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 503 ppm
- Reservoir May 6 – Current 5.06’, Record Low 4.46’, Record High 5.62’, 55 Year Avg. 5.06’

City Clerk

- **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. 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>.

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.
- **Code Enforcement** – (one alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms. Maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code.

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:
 - Gator Boyz Mobile Gaming LLC, 418 Milus Street
 - The Greener Cleaner, 855 Elizabeth Street