

## Weekly Highlights Report May 28, 2021

### City Manager

- **Memorial Day Holiday** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on May 31 for the Memorial Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO change in their trash, yardwaste and recycling collections during this holiday. Services for commercial businesses will notice NO change in trash collections.
- **City Manager Column** – May 22 through May 28 is National Safe Boating Week. Boating is a popular recreational activity that is enjoyed by nearly 100 million Americans and sometimes it seems that 50 million of those boaters are right here in Punta Gorda. This is the perfect time to remind residents and visitors about some of the regulations that govern the Punta Gorda canal system.



The Punta Gorda Police Marine Officer and Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Marine Patrol, patrol all city waterways with an emphasis on public education and safety. They also address issues such like unsafe vessel operations, excessive wakes and speeds, and depositing of waste, refuse and debris. Additionally, the Marine Officer looks for boats anchoring in a way that interferes with navigation and responds to people illegally securing boats to markers and mangroves. If you see something that doesn't seem right, please report the violations to the Punta Gorda Police Department at (941) 639-4111 for further investigation.

As for speed in the canals, Slow Speed Minimum Wake zones lie within the municipal limits of the City of Punta including Bass Inlet access channel, Buckley's Pass access channel, Colony Point access channel, Fishermen's Village access channel, Laishley Park Marina access channel, Pompano Inlet access channel, Ponce de Leon access channel, Punta Gorda Boat Club access channel, Punta Gorda Isles parallel channel, Punta Gorda Marina access channel, all canals within the Burnt Store Isles and Punta Gorda Isles canal maintenance assessment districts and all other shorelines within the municipal limits waterward to the six-foot depth contour as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey. This means that in all of these areas vessels must be operated in a manner that the bow is completely settled in the water with no rise in the bow. Idle Speed No Wake and Slow Speed Minimum Wake speed zones are in place in Ponce de Leon Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Laishley Park Channel, and Bass Inlet and Snook Inlet. In these areas vessels must be operated at the minimum speed that allows the vessel to maintain headway and steerage.

Additionally, every person operating or navigating any vessel in, on, or under any waters within the City shall do so in a careful and prudent manner, taking into consideration the weather conditions and range of visibility, water turbulence, proximity to bathers, water skiers and other vessels, and all other attendant circumstances, so as not to endanger the life, limb or property of any person. The final reminder is that vessels cannot be operated in a careless manner or any manner such as to produce a wake capable of causing damage to other vessels, docks, seawalls, shorelines or other property by wash or erosion. With 55 miles of seawall in Punta Gorda this is extremely important to maintain the integrity of the canal system. Boater safety is the responsibility of everyone that operates a vessel. By following the simple rules for safety we can all enjoy the best of life in what may be the state's most picturesque, enjoyable and accessible waterfront destination.

- **Florida Power and Light Update** – This week, FPL reports that they have pulled an additional 15 double poles, and have identified another 177 poles that are ready to be pulled. There are another 29 poles with attachments on them that FPL is able to remove disconnected wires from so they can be pulled. There are eight poles that still have Comcast wires on them and 27 other poles that still have other utility wires on them, none of which can be pulled yet. They have been addressing all the locations that the City Manager and Mayor have been reporting to them as they go through the area to clean things up, and will continue working with us to put properties back in full restoration status. If you have a more than one pole in your front yard and an old pole that hasn't been taken down, if wires are hanging on the new pole or any other concern about this project, please email Mayor Matthews with your name, address and contact phone and email along with a photo, and send to [lmathews@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:lmathews@cityofpuntagordafl.com). The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

- **Meridian Assisted Living Update** – Mayor Matthews, the City Manager and City staff met with the Director of Marketing for Meridian Senior Living, regarding their groundbreaking for the assisted living they are building at Socorro and Aquí Esta. The project features a coastal design, with articulated rooflines and modern design features. Previously, a citizen



volunteer committee unanimously concurred that the new design for this facility is compatible with the surrounding residences in the community. Construction will begin this summer with a 16-18 month build out. The rendering photo shows what the design will look like when construction is complete.

- **City Council** – City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on June 2 at the Historic City Hall. Some of the items of interest include:
  - Approval of Punta Gorda Redevelopment Agency Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2020.
  - Annexation of the Public Works and Utilities Campus
  - Florida Power and Light Electric Charging Stations Discussion
  - Proposed Stop Sign at West Charlotte Avenue and Taylor Street

View the meeting at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6\\_Kqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw)

- **General Election 2021** – Qualifying week is fast approaching! The 2021 General Election will take place on Nov. 2, 2021, and will include City Council District 3 and 5. Qualifying for the 2021 General Election cycle begins June 7 at noon and ends on June 11 at noon. To become a **qualified candidate**, you must complete the following:
  1. File **Form DS-DE 9**
  2. File **Form DS-DE 84**, Statement of Candidate, **within ten days of filing Form DS-DE 9** (F.S. 106.023). By filing this form the candidate acknowledges they have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, F.S., a copy of which is included in the Candidate Packet.
  3. Submit **CE Form 1**, Statement of Financial Interests (F.S. 99.061(5) & 112.3145(2)(a)).
  4. Subscribe to a candidate's oath in writing by filing **Form DS-DE 302NP**, Candidate Oath - Nonpartisan Office (F.S. 99.021(1)(a)).
  5. Pay an **election assessment fee** equal to 1% of the salary of the office being sought (must be paid prior to the end of the qualifying period) (F.S. 99.093 (1)).
  6. During the qualifying period obtain the signatures on the prescribed **petition form** of at least 25, but not more than 50, registered voters who reside within the district for which election is sought (City Charter).

NOTE: The petition form must be obtained from the City Clerk's Office during the week of May 31 (offices closed Memorial Day) and will only be provided to individuals who have completed items 1 through 5 above. Candidate packets for the 2021 City General Election are now available through the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 326 West Marion Avenue. For more information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3369 or email [pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com).

- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight”** Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea is located at 117 Herald Court Suite 118 and can be reached at (941) 916-9095. Products and Services Offered – The World's Finest Coffee and Tea.....NOW in Downtown Punta Gorda. Our mission is to make you smile!



*Small*

**Business Spotlight**



Created by the founders of Punta Gorda Chocolate and Wine, Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea is for folks who are in search of a truly remarkable cup of coffee or tea! At our shop, you will savor the freshest, most divine creations that have ever graced a mug coupled with unmatched customer service that won't stop until you are truly satisfied!

**Our World-Class Coffee** – A key part of Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea is our relationship with Gary Lauters II of Black Gold Coffee Roasters, a renowned local coffee roaster who has dedicated his life to the process of sourcing and roasting the richest, most flavorful coffees in the world and enriching the lives of those involved with bringing this delicacy to coffee lovers in the USA...and now Downtown Punta Gorda! Some of the captivating coffees in our shop come from the deepest parts of the globe; Tanzania, Costa Rica, Columbia, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala, and Sumatra. We will have ALL your Favorites – Brews (Hot and Cold), Espressos, Cappuccinos, and Specialty Frappes.

**Our Unique Organic Teas** – We collaborate with small batch importers, purveyors, and wholesalers that custom craft and hand blend prime organic teas that are carefully selected directly from the growers and sourced from the finest tea orchards on the planet. At Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea, we aspire to showcase tea, both single origin and blends. The origin of our tea ranges the gamut from India to the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

**Our Delicious Breakfast and Lunch Specials** – Take Your Pick!!! A refreshing, creamy Protein Smoothie or a mouthwatering Panini made with your choice of sous vide eggs and premium meats along with select world-class cheeses from our Chocolate and Wine Shop nearby! Either way – we won't rest until you leave SMILING! Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea...Downtown Punta Gorda's #1 Choice for Coffee and Tea! Visit us today! Punta Gorda Coffee and Tea 117 Herald Ct., Ste.118 Punta Gorda, FL 33950



### 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.charlottecountycommerce.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://freedomisntfree.org/#>
- 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](http://paragonartevents.com))
- May 31, Memorial Day Veterans Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St. For more information visit [www.memorialdayrace.org](http://www.memorialdayrace.org)
- May 31, Memorial Day Car Show from 11 am to 2 pm at Fisherman's Village, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade. Contact [mkting@fishville.com](mailto:mkting@fishville.com) for more information.
- June 14, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 Flag Day Ceremony at 9 am at Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit Street. Contact Bob Hahn at (941) 661-1775.
- July 3, 4, Fisherman's Village Independence Weekend Celebration, 1200 W. Retta Esplanade, for more information contact [mkting@fishville.com](mailto:mkting@fishville.com)

- July 4, Fourth-Fest Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit [www.smugglersevents.com](http://www.smugglersevents.com)

**Lot Mowing** – Mowing was completed in all zones.

### **Urban Design**

- **Code Workshop Survey Results** – During the Code Framework Workshops, held on March 23 and 30 of 2021, participants were asked a series of questions about future development in Punta Gorda. Following the workshops, two surveys were circulated to give the community more time to consider these questions in detail. The first was a building type survey that asked respondents to identify what types of buildings are appropriate and where. A second survey about development intensity asked respondents to consider what level of intensity is appropriate for development along specific streets in the Form-Base Code study area. Intensity refers to the height, bulk, density of residential units, and spacing of buildings. Both surveys were available online from April 5 through April 30 of 2021. The results have been summarized into a short report which is available for download below. The input provided in these surveys will help the City and consultant team to calibrate the development standards (e.g. height, setbacks, lot coverage, etc.) and permitted building types for the new Form-Based Code. To view the results, please visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/engage>
- **Planning Corner** – History Park (PRMP #26) – Have you visited the City’s beautiful History Park? If not, watch the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Video Update #26 to learn more as Fabiana shows you everything it has to offer! Watch the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znZsPOI-NPo>. For more information about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/punta-gorda-pathways/park-recreation-master-plan>.



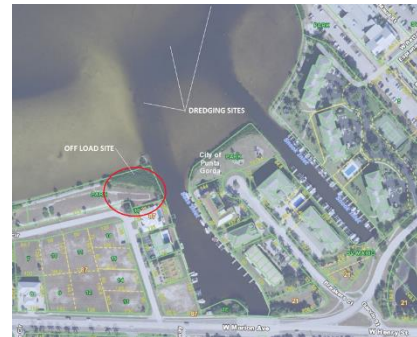
### **Public Works**

#### **Canal Maintenance**

- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** – Residents have been asking how they know when their seawall is scheduled for replacement and how the process works. Every year the City replaces approximately 7,000 lineal feet of seawall. By utilizing the Seawall Assessment Data, the seawall replacement program is planned a year in advance (unexpected seawall failures or seawalls that are inspected and found to be at extreme risk of failure are given top priority and may bump planned projects to the following year). The annual list of seawall replacements can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Canal Maintenance. To see if your seawall is scheduled for replacement: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11454/637352343548330000>.



- **Bass and Snook Inlet Dredging** – Beginning June 3 through June 18 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Bass and Snook Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will off load dredge material at the easterly end of Elizabeth Park and then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. Boaters are asked to please use caution in this area during construction. For additional information on this project, please contact Canal Maintenance Supervisor, Cathy Miller, Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has ten 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 are completed for Burnt Store Isles this fiscal year. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - Crews filled depressions at 21 locations.
  - Crews patched/repaired 30' linear feet of seawall cap/seams.
  - Crews removed one large piling from the waterway.
  - Crews performed sonar readings at Ponce De Leon inlet waterway for future dredging needs.



### Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Sidewalk (ADA) Ramp Improvements** – The City annually schedules sidewalk ramp intersection improvements at various locations for accessibility. The contractor will be provided a schedule next week in preparation of commencement.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The contractor has notified staff that the supplier materials ordered by the contractor are on back log for delivery due to increased demand. Work is to be scheduled accordingly upon delivery tentatively anticipated next month. The pier will remain closed to the public for additional work.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – The supplemental agreement and change order are in process for the Engineer of Record to complete the design to accommodate the new pond and piping configuration plan changes.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – The swale regrading contract is currently out for bid and bid opening is scheduled for June 4.

### Parks and Grounds

- **Hector House Plaza** – The Hector House Plaza grass area will be closed for re-sodding on June 1 through June 2. 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 Hector House Plaza will remain open to the Public. For information on this project, please contact City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## Police

- **The Volunteers In Policing (VIP)** – VIP program volunteers contributed a total of 770 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of April 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](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).



- **Summer Interns** – The police department has two interns for the summer semester. Marissa DiMatteo is a senior at the University of Central Florida majoring in Criminal Justice. Ryan Tangeman is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University also majoring in Criminal Justice. During their internship they will have an opportunity to gain experience and knowledge in most aspects of the police department including patrol, crime scene, criminal investigations, community services, administration, and more.



- **Memorial Weekend Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Enforcement** – The Punta Gorda Police Department's Marine Unit will be conducting increased BUI (Boating Under the Influence) enforcement throughout the weekend. Stay safe and sober on the water this weekend!
- **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.pgjobs.com](http://www.pgjobs.com) (941) 575-5571 or [employeevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeevelopment@pgorda.us) for more information.

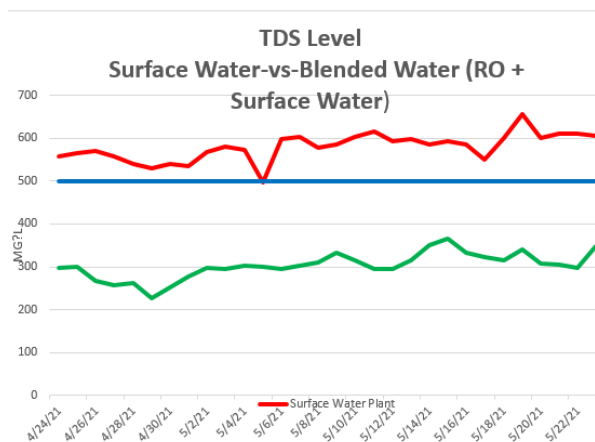
- **Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program** – The police department has an active and diverse volunteer program including vehicle patrol, bike patrol, marine patrol, community services, and more. We are always looking for dedication volunteers. Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536.

**Fire**

- **Get Ready to Grill Safely** – Memorial Day weekend is a time for families to come together and honor those who gave their lives defending our nation. If you're one of the many Americans planning a backyard barbecue, please follow the safety tips below to keep your loved ones safe. Make sure to keep children and pets away from the grill with a safety zone of three+ feet. Watch the grill when in use. Fires can double in size every minute. Be sure to plan ahead so that you can focus on grilling. Always grill outside. Grills release carbon monoxide and require ventilation of this deadly colorless and odorless gas. Remember to keep your grill out from under roof edges and away from siding, deck railings and tree branches to prevent fires.
- **Ruptured Gas Line** – A multi-car accident on U.S. 41 in Punta Gorda Wednesday night, led to the evacuation of approximately 22 homes and the closure of the north and southbound lanes of U.S.41. The accident occurred at 41 and Acline Road about 8:24 pm. when two vehicles collided. One of the vehicles left the road and ran over a natural gas main that was pressurized at 355 psi. The occupants of the cars were shaken but unharmed. Due to the possibility of an explosion from the natural gas, the homes were evacuated for a few hours until Fire Department personnel were able to locate a gas valve and shut off the gas. Natural gas is known to dissipate quickly in the air but, out of an abundance of caution crews used meters to clear the area, specifically homes to make certain there weren't any pockets of natural gas lingering. Responding units included Punta Gorda Fire, Charlotte County Fire, Punta Gorda Police, Charlotte County Sherriff’s Dept. and representatives from TECO gas.

**Utilities**

- **Groundwater R.O. update** –





## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 61.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.8 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 May 2020 2.26” May 2021 0.60”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm –Total hardness 164 ppm
- TDS for May 27 – Current 350 ppm, Low 350 ppm, High 582 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 487 ppm
- Reservoir May 27 Current 5.94’, Record Low 4.63’, Record High 6.17’, 55 Year Avg. 5.12’

## **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.
- **Code Enforcement** – (one regular and 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.
- **Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – Meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District. Five-member board. Three-year terms. Maximum of three terms OR partial term plus 2 more terms. Financial disclosure required.
- **Building Board** – (One contractor and one consumer advocate) Meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 9:00 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 2 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.
- **General Employees’ Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two general employees and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.

### **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:

➤ Icard Merrill, 252 West Marion Avenue, Unit 1127