

Weekly Highlights Report June 11, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – With 109 miles of seawall in the City of Punta Gorda, the Canal Maintenance Division has a big job. The Canal Maintenance Division is responsible for the maintenance of seawalls, and dredging of canals located within the Burnt Store Isles and Punta Gorda Isles canal districts. Other duties include depression filling, seawall patching, cap patching, and cap replacement, maintenance of aids to navigation, inspections, and related tasks. Seawall replacement, channel and inlet dredging, seawall stabilization, and mangrove trimming projects are also managed by the Division and are accomplished by outside contractors selected through the competitive bid process.



Each of the canal maintenance districts is governed by a canal advisory committee. The Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance District is responsible for the maintenance of 18 miles of seawall, dredging nine miles of canals, and mangrove trimming/alteration within the district canal system. The Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance District is responsible for the maintenance of 91 miles of seawall, dredging over 45 miles of canals/inlets, and mangrove trimming/alteration within the district canal system. Both committees are charged with making 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. They are also charged with holding public hearings and making determinations on petitions for special permits.

The Canal Maintenance Division also performs an annual assessment of the seawall systems. This assessment records condition data of the seawall and it is mapped in a GIS (Geographical Information System) system. GIS mapping allows the division to prioritize maintenance and replacement tasks. The data will allow the division to continue the forecasting of estimated seawall longevity.

Approximately 8,000 linear feet of seawalls are replaced every year. By utilizing the Annual Seawall Assessment data, the Seawall Replacement Work Program is planned a year in advance (seawalls that fall into the canal unexpectedly or a seawall that is inspected and found to be at extreme risk of failure is given a priority). The address list of the FY2021 Seawall Replacement Program is available at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11454/637352343548330000> . The program is generally published in September for the upcoming year.

Scheduled seawall replacement projects take approximately three to four weeks from start to completion (weather permitting). Prior to starting the work a contractor's representative contacts the homeowner to discuss sprinkler systems, electric and water lines, etc. A video explaining the process is available on the city website under the Canal Maintenance tab. Residents are encouraged to report problems or concerns, especially depressions and cracks, or to request navigational dredging by calling the Canal Maintenance Division of Public Works by calling 941-575-5050 from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday; after hours emergency calls can be made to 941-575-5070.

The Punta Gorda canal maintenance program is a unique benefit to waterfront property owners. It is yet another reason that Punta Gorda stands out as Florida's Harborside Hometown.

- **FPL Update** – FPL pulled an additional eight poles this past week. They have identified 21 poles that will need to be pulled, once they assess what has to be done to clear them for removal (what they refer to as design and construction). There are an additional 147 poles that Comcast has informed them the wires have been removed from. As soon as they confirm, those poles will also be added to their removal list. Comcast has a total of eight poles that they still need to move wires off of before the poles can be removed, and there are 27 other poles with other utility wires on them that still need to be vacated. Additionally, FPL has 30 poles that they need to vacate wires from before those poles can be removed. 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 WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.
- **Comcast** – Comcast techs fixed one wire issue reported by a resident on Marion Avenue. The team completed eight more pole transfers in PGI. They are temporarily limited in what they can do with pole transfers due to a College Board AP Exam moratorium that limits any work that would cause an internet outage on these dates: May 20, May 26, May 27, May 28, June 1, June 2, June 3, June 7, June 8, June 9, June 10 and June 11. When they disconnect from a pole to move to a new one it means splicing and also causes a brief outage of service to whoever is connected to it. Comcast is not allowed to cut power at certain times and dates during testing. 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 WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

- **City Council Election** – Both District 3 and District 5 qualified candidates are unopposed. Mark Kuharski’s is Councilmember Elect for District 3. Melissa Lockhart is Councilmember Elect for District 5. Congratulations to our incoming Councilmembers.
- **City Council** – City Council will meet on June 16 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. Some of the items of interest are:
 - FY2022 Budget Update
 - Burnt Store Isles and Punta Gorda Isles Assessment District Budget Discussion
 - Four Points Sheraton Planned Development
 View the meeting at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-Qo-k4PpXWo4IJQah6_Kqw
- **Promote Punta Gorda “Small Business Spotlight”** – City of Punta Gorda business owners are invited to take part in Promote Punta Gorda. This is a small business spotlight to focus on the businesses that are at the heart of Florida’s Harborside Hometown. Small business is a critical economic driver for the city. Not only do small businesses create jobs, they also foster community pride and create a unique sense of place. It is only with the partnership with business that the city can fulfill its mission to preserve and enhance Punta Gorda’s identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history; and as a desirable place to live, work, and visit. Promote Punta Gorda shines the light on the many business owners and their offerings. Small business owners within the City limits of Punta Gorda are eligible to have their business featured on the City’s social media channels and in the Weekly Highlights Report. To sign up to be in the spotlight visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/promote-punta-gorda-business-spotlight> or call (941) 575-3394 for more information.

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/#>
- 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
- July 4, Fourth-Fest Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit www.smugglersevents.com

Lot Mowing – A new cycle will begin on June 14 (weather permitting).

Urban Design

- **Design Studio** – Staff met with developers/property owners regarding the following parcels:

- 1625 W Marion Avenue – pre-application meeting to discuss development standards and requirements
 - 236 Tamiami Trail – discussed storage needs
 - Jones Loop Road – new residential development
 - 10211 Tamiami Trail – Hampton Manor (currently under construction) – discuss signage and dumpster location/materials
- **Planning Corner – PRMP Video Update 1-Year Anniversary** – This is a very special update as it’s been a whole year since the start of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update Videos. To celebrate, we’re taking you down memory lane to see how far we’ve come in the last year! We look forward to showing you what Urban Design has in store for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan VERY SOON! Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmV3lO2eeG0> For more information, please visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/punta-gorda-pathways/park-recreation-master-plan>.



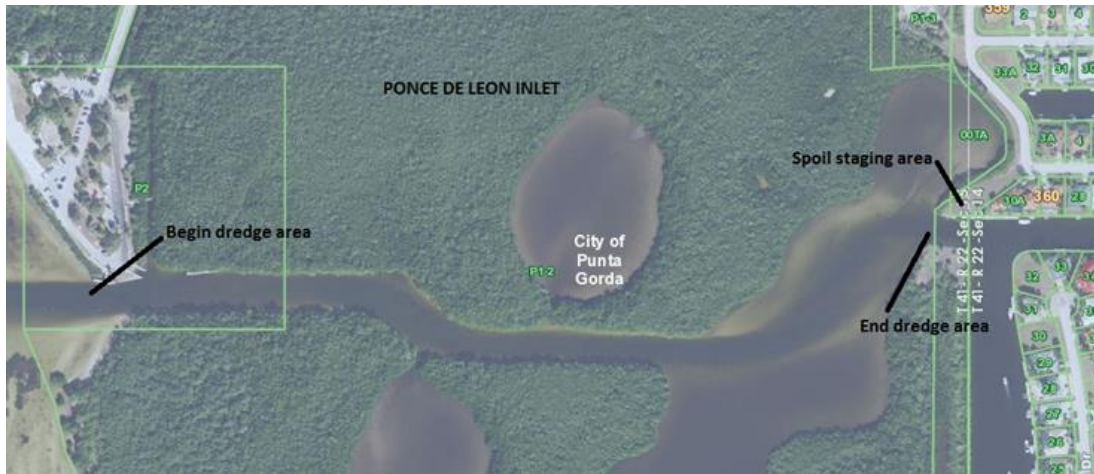
Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **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.
- **How to Find out If Your Seawall Is Scheduled for Replacement** - 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 Canal Maintenance website. To see if your seawall is scheduled for replacement: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11454/637352343548330000>.



- **Ponce Inlet Dredging** - Beginning the week of June 16 through June 30 (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Ponce Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will off load dredge material at the vacant lot at the southerly end of Colony Point; then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. 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., Mon. thru Fri.



- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – The seawall replacement contractor has ten projects under construction and 16 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 five locations.
 - Crews patched/repaired 40’ linear feet of seawall cap/seams.
 - Crews manufactured (50) 10’ feet seawall panels.
 - Crews removed several dead bait fish at Harbor Walk Condos.

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Security Systems** – The Construction permits have been approved authorizing construction tentatively anticipated to commence in June in the City Annex. The schedule and scope of work are to be further discussed at the upcoming Project Progress meeting on June 10.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – The contractor has begun demolition, framework and concrete placement at various locations throughout the City.
- **Adrienne St. Pier** - The contractor has notified staff that the 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** – A project progress meeting was held last week. An Amendment is due by June 14. The next Progress Meeting is scheduled on June 18.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – City staff is reviewing all work completed in 2021 by JRL Underground Utilities as part of the contract close out. The swale regarding project is currently out for bid and the bid closing date is June 10.

- **Taylor Street and West Charlotte Avenue Stop Sign** – A message board advising motorists of new signage is placed on Taylor Street at the intersection of West Charlotte Avenue. Stop signs will be installed with bags over them until June 21, when the intersection will become a four way stop. Drivers and pedestrians are requested to use extreme caution while drivers become aware of the new traffic control devices. For additional information on this project, please contact City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.



Parks and Grounds

- **Hector House Plaza** – The Hector House Plaza grass area has been resodded. 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.

Police

- **Volunteers in Policing** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 778 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of May 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.



- **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 (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

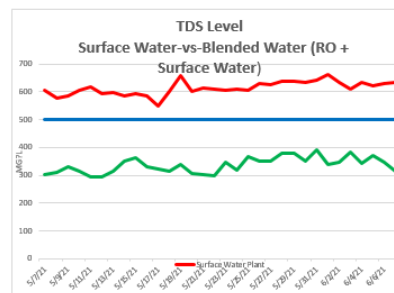
- **Driving in the Rain** – Driving in rain, whether a sprinkle or a heavy downpour, can be one of the most difficult driving situations a driver encounters. Rainy conditions are directly associated with higher accident rates. (Source: <https://driving-tests.org/beginner-drivers/how-to-drive-in-rain/>)

Tips for driving in the rain:

- 1) Wait until the weather improves if possible
- 2) Check your vehicle ahead of time for the following components:
 - Good windshield wipers
 - Good tire tread
 - Working headlights and taillights
- 3) Slow down
- 4) Maintain a safe distance between cars
- 5) Avoid heavy braking
- 6) Look out for standing water
- 7) Let off the gas if your vehicle begins to hydroplane
- 8) Ventilate your car (defrost windshield if it begins to fog up)

Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O. update** –



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 48.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.9 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 1,111 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall June 2020 13.10” June 2021 2.3”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently “moderately hard” – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm –Total hardness 154 ppm
- TDS for June 10 – Current 283 ppm, Low 232 ppm, High 590 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 455 ppm
- Reservoir June 10 – Current 5.06’, Record Low 4.27’, Record High 6.45’, 55 Year Avg. 5.30’

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 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.
- **General Employees' Pension Board** – (Fifth member) 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.
- **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.

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:
 - Danatyler Home, LLC, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, Suite 26
 - Generx Generators, LLC, 215 E Ann Street
 - Oak & Ink Land and Title, 100 Madrid Blvd., Units 411-412