

Weekly Highlights Report July 9, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The City of Punta Gorda's staff and elected officials take communications with residents and visitors seriously and provide attention to the questions they ask. For example, in May, the City Manager's Office answered 54 written resident inquiries to city staff or City Council. A sampling of the topics addressed included speeding, permits, drainage, sidewalks, and animal issues. This list does not include the many inquiries City Council members answer independently without additional staff information or that staff here addresses by phone or in person.



The City also publishes several resources to provide information to residents. The city website is a comprehensive resource that has information regarding every department of the City. You can access this robust tool at www.cityofpuntagordfl.com. The search box at the top of the website allows for easy information accessibility. The City also publishes a local printed guide to City of Punta Gorda services entitled Welcome to Punta Gorda Life. Residents can find the brochure at local businesses, City Hall, the Punta Gorda Airport, and by request by calling (941) 575-3394. Finally, Punta Gorda Developments is a newsletter update of commercial and multifamily developments published quarterly. If you would like to receive these updates, call the City Manager's Office and provide your email to one of our staff members.

As a consistent source for information about the City each Friday, the City Manager's Office creates and publishes a Weekly Highlights Report. This report conveys items of significant interest, projects underway by the city departments, and other noteworthy things that occurred throughout the preceding week. To receive the information, sign up for Enotifications at <https://bit.ly/3gZnDHB>. In addition, our Action Register lists ongoing tasks or projects, with target dates for completion and comments that provide a progress report. It is published on the city website every Thursday. We also frequently share information and pictures on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that capture the beauty of Punta Gorda.

If you prefer to communicate via text, the City of Punta Gorda has this capability as well. The service is called Text My Gov, and it uses a mobile phone's regular text messaging service to quickly find links, documents, or text that answer their questions. No app download is needed. It allows our residents and visitors to report code violations or report issues with city infrastructure twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A picture

can also be submitted when reporting a problem or violation, and the service sends the information immediately to city staff to resolve the issue. To use the service, simply text "hi" to (941) 347-0747. In addition, answers to common questions are available 24/7 through website searches and preprogrammed responses. Don't have an immediate answer? The question will go to a designated mailbox to ensure you get a timely response. Text My Gov system has logged 2,000 messages since launching this service in early 2021.

If you haven't signed up already for emergency notifications, I encourage you to take advantage of this free service, Alert Punta Gorda. The service provides emergency and weather information to those who have registered. Emergency notifications are increasingly crucial as we move into the height of hurricane season. To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/2U9HYOm>. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

- **Comcast** – They completed 28 pole transfers in the last week. Those addresses are 1277 Royal Tern Dr., 2241 W. Marion Ave., 381 Delido Ct., 719 W. Henry St., 437, 557 and 611 Bal Harbor Blvd., 29444 S. Jones Loop Rd., 5900 and 5901 Taylor Rd., and 400, 430 and 450 W. Virginia Ave. Also, Comcast and FPL continue to work on the pole and wire issues in the community. If you have 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, contact phone, and email WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattews@cityofpuntafordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews share the emails with both companies, so all properties get restored.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council meets at 9 a.m. on July 14. Items of interest include:
 - Update from the Peace River Wildlife Center
 - Planned Development Punta Gorda Housing Authority
 - Adoption of a proposed millage rate and setting of public hearing for FY2022 budget
 - 41NB Tamiami Trail Vision Study update

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://puntafordachamber.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/#>
- Oct. 2, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/FL-FloridaGulfCoast?pg=entry&fr_id=14378
- Oct. 23, Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact, tsullivan@afsp.org.

- Nov. 6, C.A.S.T. for Kids Charlotte Harbor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit, <http://castforkids.org/events/>
- Nov. 6, Punta Gorda Elks Lodge 2606 Veteran's Parade, 10 a.m. Taylor Rd. to W. Retta Esplanade for more information contact Charles Moores at cam4fire@yahoo.com

Lot Mowing

The City has completed mowing the following areas:

Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, W. Marion Avenue., Socorro and Coronado Drives.).

PGI (Bal Harbor and Ryan Boulevards, Deborah and Casey Key Drives, and Suzi St).

PGI (Magdalena, Appain and Columbian Drives, Via Vento, W Henry Street).

PGI Bird Section (Almar and Albatross Drives, Whippoorwill, and Turtle Dove Boulevards).

Urban Design

- **Kiwanis Shoes For Kids** – We are at the halfway mark for the Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project, which began its seventeenth year of collecting new sneakers for students in the Charlotte County Public School System. This project aims to collect new tennis shoes for children in need and then distribute them to all of the schools in the Charlotte County Public School System at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. This year the goal will be 4500 new pairs of sneakers. We are at 31% County-wide. Please visit www.shoesforkidsproject.org or www.pcsunrisekiwanis.org for more information about the project or to make a monetary donation.



- **Planning Corner** – Transportation Buildout Study – Transportation is a critical component in Planning. In February 2019, the City adopted a Transportation Buildout Study. This report was developed based on information and guidance from both technical analysis and feedback from key stakeholders in the community. The City's location within Charlotte County on the south side of the Peace River presents unique transportation challenges due to the growth in Charlotte County and southwest Florida in general. Population in Florida is forecasted to increase by 40 percent through the year 2045, and much of this growth will occur in central and south Florida. Thus, significant increases in travel through the City will happen even if no additional development occurs within the City itself. The plan identifies recommended actions such as multimodal considerations, access, pedestrian crossings, and evaluation of needed lanes. For more details, please visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11255/637285036650300000>.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **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>.
- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has nine projects under construction and 18 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 one location.
 - Crews manufactured (1) 12.5' feet seawall panel.
 - Crews did maintenance on several channel piling in Ponce De Leon inlet waterway, installing marker lights and reflector ribbon.
 - Crews mowed and trimmed Ponce de Leon and Candia lock Channel Islands.
 - Crews assisted the Right of Way division with setting up and breaking down appurtenances for the July 4th event; and removing fallen trees resulting from Hurricane Elsa.

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – Post Elsa, staff is coordinating with the contractor for scheduling work.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The contractor has resumed work on the repair of pilings with pile jackets.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly design project update meetings continue. Design work continues for the 60% to 90% plans and permit modifications. Photo documentation and videos were taken of the neighborhood post storm event and shared with the engineering firm.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – The contractor has indicated that they will begin work on the punch list next week. A new swale contractor has been selected. Swale regrading will begin once everything has been finalized to commence work.
- **Henry Street Sidewalk** – The sidewalk design is in the process of being completed by the Engineering Department. Surveying services has been completed and are in the process of being reviewed by engineering staff.

Police

- **Alert Punta Gorda** – Now that hurricane season is officially here we wanted to take a minute to remind everyone about Alert Punta Gorda. Alert Punta Gorda is a public safety emergency alert and community notification system. This system allows the Punta Gorda Police Department and Punta Gorda Fire Department to contact the community in emergency situations that require the public's immediate attention such as:



- **Natural Disasters** (hurricanes, floods, fires, etc.)
- **Man-Made Disasters** (chemical spills, gas leaks, etc.)
- **Search and Rescue Operations** (missing children, endangered adults, etc.)
- **Public Safety Issues** (escaped criminal, bank robbery, etc.)

In addition to emergency alerts, users can choose to receive non-emergency community notifications such as:

- **Sexual Offender Notifications**
- **Non-Emergency Missing Person Notifications**
- **Traffic Advisories**
- **Police Activity Notifications**
- **Weather Alerts**

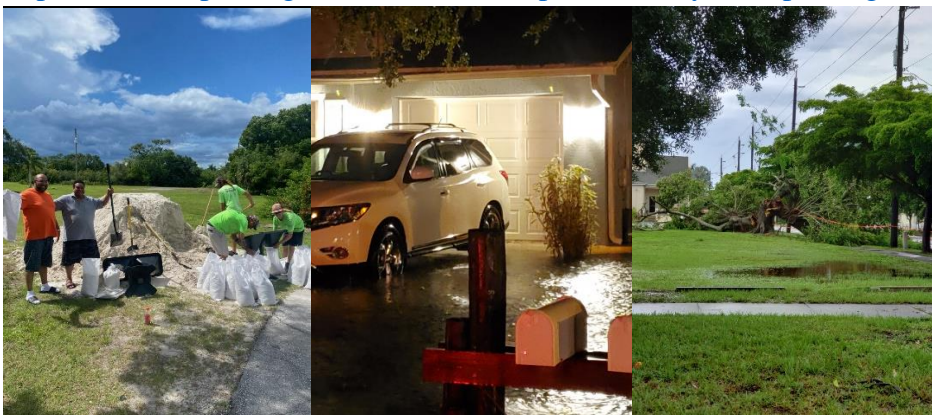
You can sign up by visiting www.AlertPuntaGorda.com and creating an account. Once your account is created you can choose whether you want to receive alerts through a home or business phone, mobile phone call, email, text message, or through the Everbridge mobile phone app (available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store). You will automatically be signed up to receive emergency alerts and you can choose to sign up to receive non-emergency alerts based on your preferences. If you choose to select weather alerts, be sure to select only those that you want to receive. You can change your contact information and notification preferences anytime or can stop receiving alerts simply by logging into your account. *PLEASE NOTE:* If you choose to receive weather alerts, which are issued from the national weather service, please only choose those alerts you wish to receive. If you select all weather alerts you will receive a lot of notifications. Lightning alerts in Florida tend to be issued quite often. We suggest only receiving emergency weather alerts. We encourage all of our residents and long term visitors to sign up to ensure that they receive important information in a timely manner!

- **Police Officer Testing** – The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Testing will be held on Aug. 23 and oral board interviews scheduled on Aug. 24 and 25. 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 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.

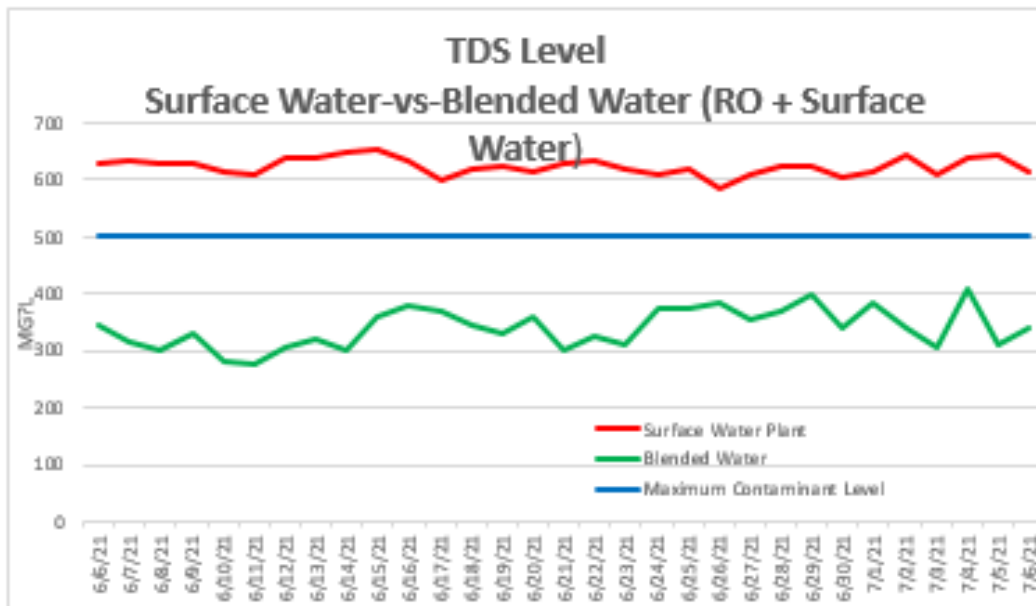
Fire

- **Tropical Storm Elsa** – It was a busy week for the Punta Gorda Fire Department with preparations for Tropical Storm Elsa, the fifth named storm and first hurricane of the 2021 season. Over 500 sandbags were distributed at Hounds on Henry to assist with flood mitigation. Many areas of the City experienced flooding, seeing as many as 11.07 inches of rain and two to three feet above average tides. Some potential seawall erosion was cited in Laishley Park and a vehicle was submerged in Burnt Store Meadows. Crews responded to a few downed trees and FPL customers reported 3,360 power outages in the region due to the storm. Peak wind gusts were 58 miles per hour just east of the Punta Gorda City limits. Fortunately, there were no reported injuries to residents due to the storm. Other damage assessments continue. Hopefully, this event caused residents to get their hurricane plans in place and handle all the necessary pre-storm maintenance items around their homes. As most residents know, most of the City of Punta Gorda is in the Red Zone and highly susceptible to the call for evacuation in the case of a significant storm event. While this was not the case with Elsa, it is essential to have that evacuation in place with many more months of hurricane season ahead of us. Residents can find a complete listing of hurricane preparedness resources on the City website at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/residents/emergency-preparedness>. We also encourage residents to sign up for Alert Punta Gorda for emergency notifications of storm events at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/public-safety/alert-punta-gorda>.



Utilities

Groundwater R.O. update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 39.9 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.7 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 July 2020 2.40" July 2021 6.95"
- 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 160 ppm
- TDS for July 8 – Current 374 ppm, Low 207 ppm, High 570 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 410 ppm
- Reservoir July 8– Current 6.11', Record Low 5.07', Record High 6.90', 55 Year Avg. 5.54'

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 is 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** – (two alternates) 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.

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:
 - Absolute Window LLC, 1611 Manzana Avenue
 - Law Office of Martina Hedvick, 265 E Marion Avenue, Unit 111
 - Visiting Angels of Florida West Coast, 25166 Marion Avenue, Unit 114