

## Weekly Highlights Report July 30, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The City of Punta Gorda has earned the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget again this year. The award represents a significant achievement by the city. It reflects the commitment of the city and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The budget award is granted based on satisfying nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories



and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.

According to the GFOA, "Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve." The city has earned this recognition every year since 1985.

The city's Finance Department consists of ten dedicated employees responsible for maintaining the integrity of the financial functions within the municipality. Functions include accounting, auditing, financial reporting, cash management, accounts payable, and payroll service to all the City departments. Other responsibilities include cash and investment management functions and internal audit. The department is the custodian of all City funds. Finance safeguards the city's assets and provides accurate and timely financial information to all users. They collect and disburse all funds while maintaining financial stability and complete integrity. The finance team oversees the development and implementation of the annual operating budget and 5-year capital improvement plan in conjunction with the strategic plan and conformance with the city's financial policies. The revenues are maximized and expenditures minimized as a result of their diligence.

All of the departments in the city benefit from the impressive service level offered by the finance department. During the budget, process finance interacts with each department to review budgets and documentation submitted. Suggestions and recommendations for cost-effective changes are made and considered during this process. Finance advises the City Manager to comply by departments with the instructions and guidelines provided for each department's budget. Finance takes a leadership role in providing alternatives for balancing the operating budget.

In my over thirty-year career, I have been honored to work with some of the best finance directors. Kristin Simeone, the City of Punta Gorda's Finance Director, leads her department with professional integrity, flexibility, care, and responsiveness. Kristin understands both finance and community vision. This award is a direct reflection of her leadership. She is one of the 287 employees of the city that works to continue preserving our small town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast completed five more poles. The addresses are: 1650, 1698, 1699, 1398 and 1598 W. Marion Ave. There were a couple of locations reported this week that have been added to the project list which have not yet been addressed. No wire transfers took place this week. 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 [lmattthews@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:lmattthews@cityofpuntafordafl.com). The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.
- **Utility Work Aug. 5** – On Aug. 5 utility work will take place on McKenzie Street between Tamiami Trail (US 41) and Elizabeth Street. Please exercise extreme caution if driving in the area as flaggers will be directing traffic. Access to sidewalks and businesses will be available at all times. Questions regarding the work can be directed to Pike Electric at (239) 220-0510. August 5th Traffic Plan

### 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/#>
- October 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](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/FL-FloridaGulfCoast?pg=entry&fr_id=14378)
- October 23, Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact, [tsullivan@afsp.org](mailto:tsullivan@afsp.org).
- November 6, C.A.S.T. for Kids Charlotte Harbor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit, <http://castforkids.org/events/>
- November 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](mailto:cam4fire@yahoo.com)

### Lot Mowing

The City has completed mowing the following areas:

- W. Marion Avenue, Socorro, Colony Point and Coronado Drives
- PGI (Magdalena, Appian and Columbian Drives, Via Vento, W Henry Street)

## Urban Design

- **Punta Gorda in Bloom** – Punta Gorda in Bloom continues to move forward. Staff received the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) permit approval for the group to continue the next phase within the FDOT right of way. The next phase is located along Marion Avenue between US41 North and Taylor Street. Improvements to include potted plants, flower beds and another planted fountain. In addition pruning and replacement of the existing plant material will be performed.
- **Planning Corner** – Urban Design Staff will be writing a new element to their Comprehensive Plan called the Property Rights Element. Adopted as a result of the 2021 Legislative Session, House Bill 59 amended Florida’s Community Planning Act requires each local government “to include in its comprehensive plan a property rights element.” Each local government must adopt this new element “by the earlier of the date of its adoption of its next proposed plan amendment that is initiated after July 1, or the date of the next scheduled evaluation and appraisal of its comprehensive plan.” In response, Staff will be attending a webinar by 1000 Friends of Florida, author of a model property rights element. This model meets the applicable standards of the Community Planning Act as well as affirms local government support for the rights of all people to participate in planning decisions that affect lives and property. For more information on the requirement go to <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/property-rights-element>



## 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 seven projects under construction and 19 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 27 locations.
  - Crews removed one (30') palm tree from waterway.

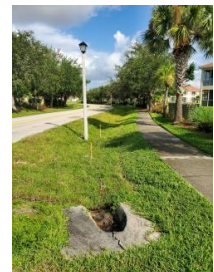
## **Engineering**

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – The contractor is nearing the completion of three sidewalk ramp locations this week.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The contractor is tentatively scheduled to complete pile jacket installations this week, weather permitting. Work is also being completed on the decking and hand rails.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly design project update meetings continue. The design is in the process of 60% to 90% complete. The final property acquisitions for the pond areas are in progress. Coordination with permitting agencies continues.
- **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.
- **East of US 41 Historic District Lighting Project** – The conversion of 71 high pressure sodium street lights to LED lights has been completed. The installation of 30 new street lights on existing utility poles and 4 new decorative street lights on concrete poles has also been completed. Eleven of thirteen new LED street lights on new poles have been installed. The remaining two lights should be installed in the next couple of weeks.
- **Henry Street Sidewalk** – All Surveying information has been received and the design will continue. Coordination continues with FDOT on work within their drainage easement and the sidewalk connection at US41.



## **Right of Way**

- **West End Drive Lighting Project** – The Right-of-Way department has completed the swale restoration associated with this project. This project is now complete.



## **Police**

- **Help Reduce Crime** – Punta Gorda has seen multiple vehicle burglaries and several stolen vehicles already in 2021. All of these crimes involved vehicles left unlocked at night and those that were stolen had keys left in the vehicles. Criminal groups are committing these crimes from outside our area. These groups are not interested in breaking into vehicles and only targeting unlocked vehicles and have keys left in them. Please help us reduce crime in our community by removing valuables and locking your vehicle every night!
- **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 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 Aug. 30.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester and Summer Semester of 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 and the selection process can be competitive, so we encourage potential interns to apply today! The deadline to apply for the Spring 2022 semester is Oct. 15. 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

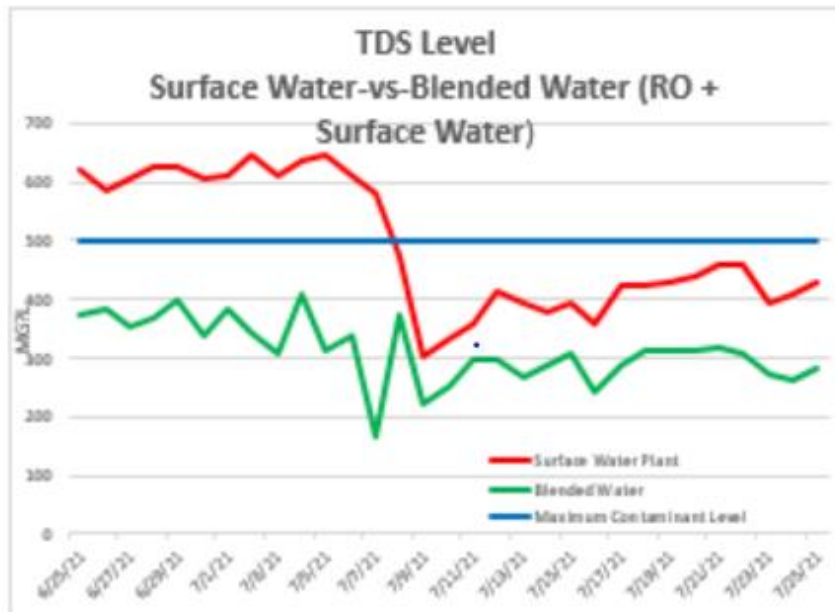


- **Boating Safety** – Boating season is here and the fire department would like to send out some boating safety tips to help keep you safe:
  - Check the weather before heading out
  - Be prepared for a fire on board your vessel
  - Designate a sober skipper
  - Make sure you have life jackets for everyone on board
  - Stay hydrated!
  - Take a boating safety course

Boating is one of the greatest pleasures of living in Florida but things can go wrong when you are not prepared. Preparation will ensure you can enjoy your boating adventures and remain safe at the same time.

## Utilities

### Groundwater R.O Update



### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 44.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.3 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 1,111 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall July 2020 2.40" July 2021 13.15"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm –Total hardness 116 ppm
- TDS for July 29 – Current 340 ppm, Low 241 ppm, High 499 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 374 ppm
- Reservoir July 29– Current 5.33', Record Low 4.98', Record High 6.65', 55 Year Avg. 5.50'

## City Clerk

### Current Board and Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (three regular and 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** – (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.

## **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:
  - Trailer Trash of Florida LLC, 1406 Sea Fan Drive
  - Lav's Muscle Car Workshop, 1726 Steadley Avenue