

Weekly Highlights Report Aug. 6, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Infrastructure sustainability that includes maintaining and enhancing the City's capital assets and quality municipal services is a key priority of the City Council. The City's assets include 13 public buildings, 121 miles of streets, 1270 City maintained street lights, 19 traffic signal intersections, and four bridges. The City owns one hundred ten miles of seawall. There are 237 miles of water mains, 129 miles of sanitary sewer, and 119 lift stations. Twenty-three parks totaling 130 acres and nine miles of pathways are the responsibility of the City. Two hundred eight motorized equipment items, including cranes, fleet vehicles, boats, and compactors, are also part of the City's assets. The City's total asset base holds a value of \$386,313,048 million.



The City Council must determine how the City can best maintain its current infrastructure and procure needed new or replacement equipment with staff assistance. Maintenance is a balancing act. City staff works proactively with planned and scheduled maintenance projects and reactively addresses resident concerns regarding features of the City that need attention. While new infrastructure projects are frequently discussed and generally well-publicized, ongoing maintenance of the City's assets is not always very visible, or the complexity of the tasks is always appreciated.

Recent attention for the Herald Court Centre Parking Garage, for example, was moved up and has resulted in several improvements. New lights grace the perimeter of the facility. The lighting provides added safety for residents, visitors, and employees of local businesses utilizing the area after dark. New ceiling lights in the elevator also add to the security of the building. New mirror installation provides an added layer of safety for those accessing the elevators and stairwells and motorists within the garage. Designated spaces are now available for those accessing take-out dining services for convenient short-term parking while patronizing businesses. The corner spaces in the garage are now dedicated motorcycle parking, adding convenience for cyclists and enhancing visibility for all.

The Adrienne Street fishing pier is an example of a reactive maintenance project. Deficiencies in the pier were noted by city engineering staff while conducting asset inspections. The City hired a firm to install new pile jackets. City staff is completing the decking and handrails that will enhance the safety of the pier. While staff did not initially plan for this project, it became necessary to keep a valued fishing spot open for residents, again pushing it to the top of the list.

In my first year as City Manager for the City of Punta Gorda, I focused on understanding each of the City's unique assets and engaging staff to examine the condition of each of those assets and needs to maintain them properly. Much of what was found is

that city infrastructure is starting to show signs of age and now needs work. Evaluation of the infrastructure also resulted in necessary emergency repairs in some cases. Preventative maintenance programs and resulting upkeep has sometimes needed to be deferred because of recessionary periods, funding challenges, and personnel demands, but extends the life of the assets and helps lessen the costs often associated with emergency repairs. It takes staffing, funding, and a detailed plan to make that happen, knowing that deferred improvements will only continue to increase in costs. Watch for additional improvements as we proceed with our plans. This will aid in preserving and enhancing Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history, and make it a desirable place to live, work and visit.

- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast reports that Pole transfers were completed at 10 additional locations this week: Six at 29200 Jones Loop Rd., 215, 220 and 201 Pompano Terrace and 2311 Shreve St. With these addresses done, they have completed the original list of poles needing transfers. The Comcast crew is driving around inspecting and looking for more, but otherwise, they will have to wait for FPL to release more to us as they come up. FPL has pulled a total of 356 poles. 126 poles are ready to pull. Poles that still have attachments: 60 (30 are FPL, 5 are Comcast and 25 are other utilities). All of the poles able to be removed have been pulled, and for the remainder, jobs are currently in the queue to be done. 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. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

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/#>
- 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
- Nov. 9, "The 5th Annual BOB" The Beyond Ourselves Bash benefitting Peace River Wildlife Center and the Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County, for more information visit https://www.pgica.org/Beyond_Ourselves.

Lot Mowing

The City has completed mowing the following areas:

- Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street).
- East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E Henry Street, and Cooper Street).
- PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
- PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard, and Turtle Dove Boulevard).
- PGI (Bal Harbor Boulevard, Deborah Drive, Ryan Boulevard, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive).

Urban Design

- **Planning Corner** – Form-Based Codes: Understanding Overlay Districts. In the fourth video, City staff showed and explained the draft overlay districts or zones for the new Form-Based Code! An Overlay District or Overlay Zone is a regulatory land development tool that creates a special district, placed on top of an existing base zoning district, or regulating district in the case of a Form-Based Code. These overlays identify special provisions in addition to those in the underlying base zone. The overlay can share common boundaries with the base zone or cut across base zone or regulating district boundaries. The latest video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjmyIhj6rKI&t=195> to learn more: For more information, please visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/>.
- **Speaking Engagement** – In a continuing partnership with the Florida Gulf Coast University Whitker College of Engineering, the Principal Planner has been invited to speak to senior engineering design students this fall. The presentation to the students will cover the basics of city and regional planning as it relates to the civil and environmental engineering professions that they will be entering upon graduation.



Public Works

- **New Signage** – The monument sign at the Public Works and Utilities campus has received a refresh to reflect the City's branding.



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** - There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. The seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction and 20 projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. Four seawall replacement projects were originally scheduled for Burnt Store Isles this fiscal year; however another site was added due to a seawall failure. 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 22 locations.

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – The contractor continues to schedule work weather permitting.
- **Adrienne Street Pier** – The pier is partially open to the public at this time. The tee at the end of the pier remains closed until further repairs can be made. City contractor tentatively scheduled to mobilize in Sept. to make repairs to the end tee.
- **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

- **Speed Limit Change on Burnt Store Road:** The speed limit on a portion of Burnt Store Road near Tamiami Trail (US 41) has been reduced from 40 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. Please be sure that you adhere to the new posted speed limit.
- **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.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. To apply for employment or for more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.



Fire

- **Training Drill** – Punta Gorda Fire Truck-1, Engine-2, and BC-1 participated in a training drill with a focus on drafting. Drafting involves taking water from a water source, such as a pond or lake, which is then pumped through the fire apparatus to supply fire-hose. Drafting is useful when there is a fire in a location where there are no hydrants, or in the event of hydrant failure. Drafting is an important skill for our professionals to know so they can be prepared in any situation. Pictured below are members of B-Shift and C-shift reviewing drafting techniques.

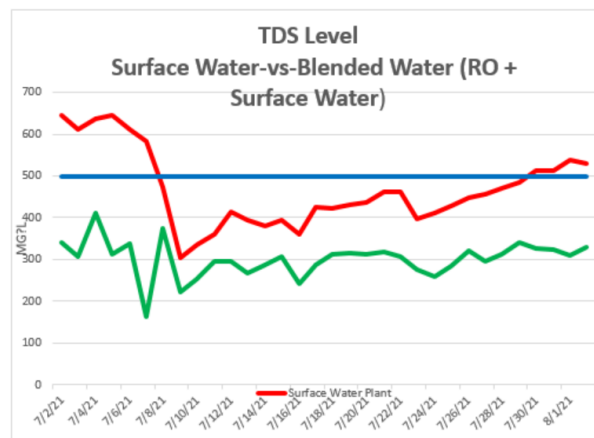


- Hose Testing** – Each year every fire-hose we have gets tested to ensure that it can withstand the water pressure required to mitigate fire and other hazards. This is a lengthy undertaking, requiring each eight member crew to work together to complete this task. Over 10,000 feet of fire hose is laid on the ground, pressurized, and inspected to be sure that it will be able to perform in an emergency. Picture below is our newest firefighter, Tammy Finnerty, who is participating in this process while wearing her bunker gear. This is a great way for Firefighter Finnerty to ensure she is acclimated and comfortable while working in her gear.



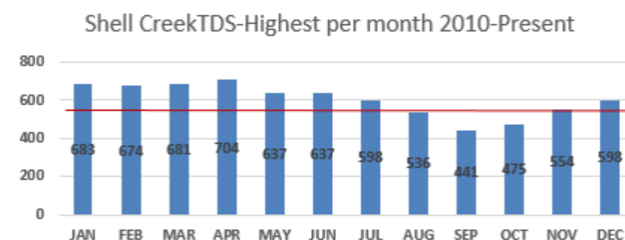
Utilities

Groundwater R.O Construction Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 43.5 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 1,200 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1,250 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall July 2020 2.40" July 2021 13.17" August 2020 7.0" August 2021 3.40"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 11 ppm – Total hardness 192 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 5 – Current 405 ppm, Low 248 ppm, High 467 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 370 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 5 – Current 5.57', Record Low 5.00', Record High 6.28', 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 or partial term plus two more 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.