

## Weekly Highlights Report Aug. 13, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Each fiscal year, the City of Punta Gorda creates an updated Strategic Plan. The plan sets the overall goals for the City, provides direction to City departments, and establishes the basis for each year's annual budget. The plan is a tool for more effective and economical operations and demonstrates to the public the careful consideration of future development and direction of the organization.



Public engagement has resulted in the creation of the mission, vision, and values for the City. Based on input received during community engagement sessions, City Council has established five strategic priorities for staff to create a work plan from each year. While the City's mission, vision, and values have set the course for the future, the strategic priorities provide the roadmap encompassing governing policies and strategies, operational approaches to implementing the plan, and performance measures/timelines to ensure achievement of these strategies.

Priority number one is financial and economic sustainability. The City has set the goal to continue best management practices in financial planning and appropriate reserve policies to fully fund operations without the use of existing reserves and to reach the national standard of 16.7% by increasing reserves by .5% or more per year. City leaders work to identify sustainable spending policies and appropriate technologies to support business operations through operational audits and investments in new technology that connect the City with the community. This priority also includes strengthening and diversifying the City's tax base to increase the commercial base, for example, through annexation by annexing a minimum of three properties per year over the next five years.

Last week's column focused on priority number two, infrastructure sustainability. As mentioned, this is accomplished by maintaining and enhancing the City's infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and quality aesthetic appeal. As a result of this priority, a five-year capital improvements program that provides and maintains infrastructure through proper staffing and funding is in place to meet projected growth demands.

Priority three is partnerships, communication, and collaboration. Partnership and collaboration opportunities have been an integral part of the City's strategic planning priorities for some time and embody how the organization delivers services to the community. While a city government doesn't necessarily have to provide all services, it is a catalyst for action. In this vein, the City works with numerous public, private and non-profit agencies that offer various recreational, cultural, educational, administrative, and operational services to the community.

Strategic communications positioning is the fourth priority. The goal is to develop and promote the City by creating public/private partnerships that diversify the tax base, enhance the area as a visitor destination, and secure the future of the City's distinct quality of life through the introduction and consistent communication of the city brand.

The final priority is quality of life. This priority comes down to managing, enhancing, and promoting Punta Gorda's attractive neighborhoods and working environment, heritage tourism, cultural opportunities, healthy eco-system and outdoor lifestyle, and vibrant, safe city status. Successful implementation of the strategic plan results in preserving our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast moved wires off of four more poles this week at 10330 Wheeler Pl., 29115, 29200 and a second at 29200 Jones Loop Rd. Comcast also buried a coiled cable line at 1348 Pine Siskin Dr. 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@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:lmattthews@cityofpuntagordafl.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](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](mailto: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](mailto:cam4fire@yahoo.com)
- Nov. 9, "The 5<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.pgica.org/Beyond_Ourselves).

#### **Lot Mowing**

The City has completed mowing the following areas:

- Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.).
- Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr., Tripoli Blvd., Madrid Blvd., and Macedonia Dr.).
- Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

## Urban Design

- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 1** – City staff attended a virtual meeting hosted by the FDOT staff to discuss traffic management considerations associated with future improvements to the N. Jones Loop Corridor between Tamiami Trail (US 41) Piper Road. N. Jones Loop Road, a Charlotte County facility, is mostly located outside the current City Limits. This roadway does provide an essential connection to the City of Punta Gorda, the Burnt Store Road corridor (including the northwestern portion of Cape Coral in Lee County), and the Punta Gorda Airport. Traffic management will continue to monitor the progress of the ongoing study and any roadway project recommendations resulting from this process.
- **Principal Planner Speaks at Symposium** – Last week, the City of Punta Gorda and the Promised Lands Section of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FL APA) hosted an educational and entertaining symposium titled Swamp Peddlers at the Charlotte Harbor Events and Conference Center. The symposium told some of the stories of the platted lands found in abundance here in Southwest Florida. The keynote speaker was author Jason Vuic, a noted non-fiction author who grew up here in Charlotte County. His latest book is *The Swamp Peddlers: How Lot Seller, Land Scammers, and Retirees Built Modern Florida and transformed the American Dream*. Mr. Vuic's keynote session was preceded by a presentation about the history of Southwest Florida and Charlotte County from Jennifer Zobelein, County Historian. Former Charlotte County Commissioner, Don Ross, explained the dissolution of the General Development Corporation, developers of Port Charlotte and North Port (Charlotte), from the perspective of the Charlotte County takeover of the water and sewer utilities. The final presentation was an overview of the City of Punta Gorda's redevelopment experience in the first 20 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, provided by Principal Planner Mitchell Austin.
  - Jason Vuic Swamp Peddlers book: <https://www.jasonvuic.com/the-swamp-peddlers>
  - Charlotte County Division of Libraries and History: <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-services/libraries-history/history-exhibits.stml>
  - Promised Lands Section of FL APA: <https://florida.planning.org/sections/promised-lands-section/>
- **Kiwanis Shoe Drive** – Thank you on behalf of Sunrise Kiwanis for those who participated in the Kiwanis Shoes for Kids Project. The project MET AND EXCEEDED its goal! We are so very, very grateful for all you do to make this project a reality!  
Some facts regarding the Shoe Drive:
  - Collected 4,634 new pairs of sneakers
  - Delivered all of the requested sneakers to the 21 schools/enter in our district
  - A few pairs remaining will be distributed as the school year continues
  - There are monetary gifts remaining that will be used to fill gaps, which occur during the academic year



The group will use the financial donations to buy sizes which the schools run low on or have depleted their stock. So as the schools request shoes, they will purchase and deliver them through the year. Again, thank you for your assistance in this project!

- **Planning Corner – Presentation and Open House**

Draft Form-Based Code Presentation: Join the Dover, Kohl and Partners Consultant Team as they present the first draft of the new Form-Based Code (FBC). This presentation will walk through the key elements of the FBC as well as how to use it. There will also be dedicated time at the end for questions and answers.

- Aug. 31
- 6 p.m – 7:30 p.m.
- Charlotte Harbor Events Center, Hibiscus Hall

### The Planning Corner



Draft Form-Based Code Open House: Following the Form-Based Code Draft Presentation, City Staff and the Dover, Kohl and Partners Consultant Team will host three open house sessions at the Laishley Marina Community Room to walk residents through the new Form-Based Code and answer questions. The sessions will be held during the following three time slots: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m., 12 p.m. – 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

- Sept. 1
- Laishley Marina Community Room

## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Burnt Store Isles Piling Installation** – The contractor has completed the installation of seven new pilings along the perimeter canal adjacent to the Alligator Creek. In 2002, when the Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance District had the lock doors removed, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection stipulated in the permit that pilings had to be installed to prevent navigation at the south branch of Alligator Creek (a.k.a. Mayor's cut; across from Macedonia) while still giving passageway for manatees. Over the past several months the channel at the south branch of Alligator Creek has widened – allowing an opportunity for boats to pass through. Per the permit conditions, the City is responsible for maintaining the pilings; therefore additional pilings were added to prevent navigation of vessels at this point.
- **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 37 locations
  - Crews removed one large board from the waterway



## Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – The contractor schedules 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% completion. 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.
- **The Historic District East of US 41 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 four 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.

## Sanitation

- **New Semi-Automated Sanitation Trucks Arrive** – The City of Punta Gorda has received two out of the four new Peterbilt New Way Cobra Refuse Trucks that will provide City residents with semi-automated curbside refuse services. These trucks proudly display the City's Logo: Punta Gorda Florida's Harborside Hometown!





## 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](http://www.pgjobs.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. To apply for employment or for more information, please visit [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).



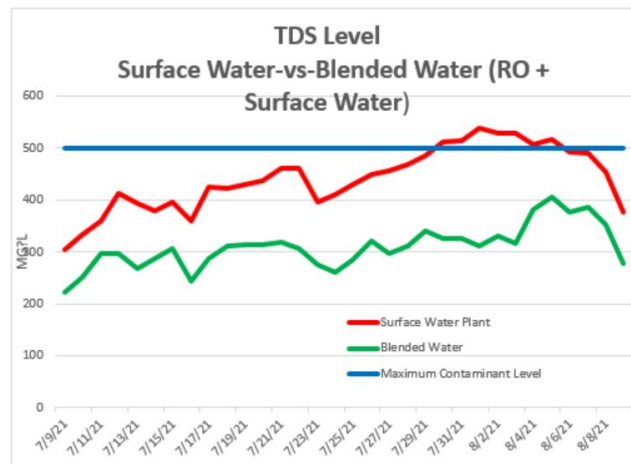
## Fire

- **Eagle Point Mobile Home Park Fire** – C-shift crews responded to a mobile home fire last Thursday. Crews arrived on scene to find smoke showing from three sides of the home. Crews quickly performed a search of the home and while no people were inside, one dog was saved during the incident utilizing the pet O2 mask carried on all city fire apparatus. Crews worked to extinguish the fire and protect exposures of nearby homes. Great job to the men and women on scene.



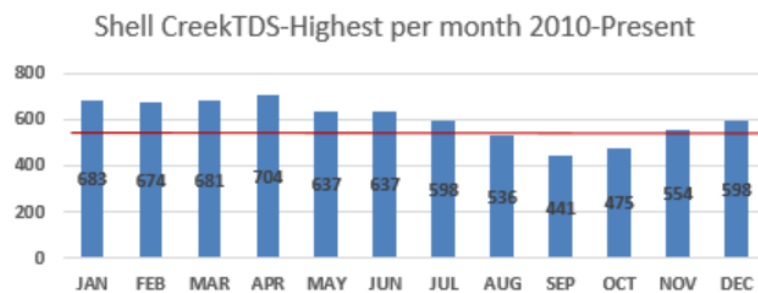
## Utilities

### Groundwater R.O Construction Update



### Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 41.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.0 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 August 2020 7.00" August 2021 5.00"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm –Total hardness 168 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 12 – Current 331 ppm, Low 204 ppm, High 456 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 319 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 12 – Current 5.58', Record Low 4.90', Record High 6.13', 55 Year Avg. 5.55'



## Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance:** Staff member installed new vinyl flooring and base board to the Chief Operators office making the office ready to be occupied when a new Chief is set up in the position. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. The new S.C.A.D.A. system integrator came on site to add pump controls to the demo screen for the operators to test, review, and make comments for any needed changes. Team members rebuild several clarifier scum pumps.

- **Operations:** The average daily flow for the past week was 3.26 million gallons for a total of 22.8 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

Rain totals MPF = 0.73 Plant = 2.39

Mechanical Integrity Test the deep injection well (DIW) was conducted this week.

Preparing the DIW for a pressure test.



### **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.