

Weekly Highlights Report Aug. 20, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – One of the first things that impressed me about the City of Punta Gorda was the quality of the staff and the attention given to customer service. Every week I am fortunate to hear from residents about their experiences with our city staff. I'll share a few of the stories of the people that deliver a high level of service to our residents.

This accolade comes in courtesy of Mr. Sabatini, "*On Aug. 5, I called in a main water line rupture on Wren Court at 6 a.m. The city crews responded within an hour. But what was amazing was Troy and his team working on the leak. It was like watching a team of surgeons work together. Each person was anticipating what the next step would be and would get a tool or piece of pipe or a valve ready. Hand it to the person doing the work and he could quickly move to the next step. The repair was done quickly and safely.*"



Last week a resident suffered a fire in their home at the Eagle Point Mobile Home Park. Mr. Gentry shared the following about events that transpired, "*Yesterday I arrived at a patient's house to provide them with oxygen to find their home on fire. I had met the homeowner a handful of times previously and knew she had a few dogs inside. I'm writing to tell you how lucky you are to have the men and women on your team, particularly Mr. Lewandowski and a fire inspector whose name I was unable to catch due to the situation. I helped this particular gentleman (the fire inspector) try to revive the dogs that were pulled out of the house. The inspector worked tirelessly to revive the animal... he went above and beyond to show kindness and provide some dignity to someone's friend... Mr. Lewandowski is a top notch leader and stand up gentleman. I am proud that he works in such an important capacity for our City. His leadership skills are second to none. He remained calm and cool while coordinating his team's effort. And he talked to his men and women with utmost respect. I could tell he cares about each and every one of them by the way he spoke to them. I thank you and all the men and women in your fire stations.*"

The Public Works Department received a call regarding the sanitation services provided by John Giamanco and Rob Hemingway. Ms. Precorelli was impressed with the extra steps taken to make sure and place the empty garbage cart away from the flooded swale. This action allowed her to retrieve her cart without getting her feet wet. The attention to detail was an amazing surprise. Public Works also received a call regarding the impressive services provided by Canal Maintenance workers Michael Wessels and Gary Koska. Ms. Dickisson expressed her appreciation of their hard work and dedication and went on to say they did a tremendous job filling in the depressions around the seawall.

These are just a few examples of the extraordinary work executed by city employees. I wish I could put them all in here for everyone to see. The level of service provided to area residents does not go unnoticed. The efforts of the employees and all of our employees are appreciated. Their actions and attitudes contribute to the City's positive image and make the City of Punta Gorda a municipality that offers the best of American, small-town attributes.

- **The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles –**

After years of thoughtful planning and collaboration with Punta Gorda citizens and city government, The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles is coming to fruition. The 127-unit senior living community will service our area with supportive independent living, assisted living, and memory care. Construction is led by general contractor Diaz Fritz and will begin



this week with its opening slated for early 2023. The property is located at 2001 Aqui Esta Drive in PGI. Managed by national seniors housing operator Meridian Senior Living and co-developed by Meridian Senior Living and Madison Marquette, the 116,000 square foot community spread over three floors brings best-in-class care, amenities and lifestyle to seniors who need assistance but want to keep their independence. The amenities are impressive: a large dining room; a bistro and bar; a creative studio; a coffee bar and lounge; theater; library and computer room; card room; billiards lounge; fitness center and more. The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles will provide dignified and respectful memory care, utilizing Meridian Senior Living's distinctive MONTESSORI MOMENTS IN TIME™ programming for those with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or other types of dementia. For more information, contact Natalie with Meridian Senior Living at 941-421-7441 or meridianatpg@meridiansenior.com.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council and the CRA will meet on Aug. 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall located at 326 West Marion Avenue. Some of the items of interest:

- Event permits
- Presentation from the Punta Gorda Boat Club- exterior improvements
- Code board discussion
- Proposal to place Huey helicopter in Veterans' Park
- Proposed amendment to Floodplain Ordinance
- CRA project status report

- **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 on Aug. 31 from 6 p.m – 7:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center, Hibiscus Hall. On Sept. 1, 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.

- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast cleaned up several messy wires at 901 Bal Harbor, 993 Bal Harbor, 799 Bal Harbor, and 763 Bal Harbor this week. They also inspected the wires at 5036 Captiva Ct. They will need to send a separate construction team out to clean up the wires on that pole because it requires different equipment. 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, and contact phone and email WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews share 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.charlottecounty-chamber.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 Ave, W Olympia Ave, Shreve St, and Harvey St).
 - The Historic District located East of and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, Cooper St).
 - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry St, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
 - PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Dove Blvd).
 - PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi St, and Casey Key Drive).
- There are several undeveloped lots throughout the City that are under water during the rainy season which are only able to be partially mowed. In an effort to avoid damaging the property and lot mowing equipment, mowers will not mow areas that are too wet or areas that are underwater. We understand that the properties can be an eyesore, but as soon as they are dry enough to mow without causing any damage to the property or equipment, the mowers will mow them.

Urban Design

- **Planning Corner – Federal Transportation Funds, Florida Department of Transportation, and Local Agency Program** – Nationwide, approximately 75% of 2.9 million of the 3.9 million total miles of roadway are owned and operated by local public agencies. The Local Agency Program, or "LAP," provides towns, cities, and counties the opportunity to develop, design, and construct these vital transportation facilities with federal funds. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is the steward of the federal transportation funds in Florida and is responsible for oversight of funded projects by the US Department of Transportation, including Federal highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Aviation Administration. The local governments within Charlotte County, Charlotte County BOCC, City of Punta Gorda, and the Punta Gorda Airport prioritize and fund local projects through the Charlotte County – Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization. Local governments designated as LAP agencies are then eligible for reimbursement with federal funds of projects undertaken to improve the transportation network.



To become more eligible to directly oversee federally funded transportation projects, local governments must become LAP certified. The rigorous certification process ensures that the local agency has the sufficient qualifications and ability to "undertake and satisfactorily complete the work" funded with federal dollars. The certification provides proof that the local agency is able to comply with federal requirements in a

project and offers perspective to the level of oversight required by the FDOT and the local agencies over the life of a LAP project. The primary benefit of the LAP program to the FDOT is that the resources of LAP certified local governments provide a "force multiplier" effect, which permits the State of Florida to produce transportation projects more quickly and efficiently for the benefit of the traveling public. The local government LAP certification permits a higher degree of local decision-making control over project design and construction. This local control provides projects, which are generally more responsive to local conditions, culture, and needs. In order for local government to become LAP certified, it must demonstrate to the FDOT and to the federal officials of FHWA a minimum level of professional competency in financial controls, compliance with federal rules, and qualifications of personnel. Certification Elements include (but are not limited to):

- Local Agency Staff Qualifications
- Professional Services Procurement Procedures for fair, open, and competitive selection of qualified consultants
- Sub-recipient Compliance for Title VI and related Non-Discrimination authorities
- Construction Contract Procurement
- Construction Contract Administration, including Construction Engineering and Inspection and Contract Compliance
- Materials Testing and Acceptance Quality Assurance Review

Full Certification is reserved for those agencies whose staff demonstrate the qualifications, capability, and achievement of performance expectations between certification cycles. As of Aug. 17, the City of Punta Gorda has just received full re-certification approval in the following functional areas and processes:

- Planning 1
- Design
- Construction
- Construction Administration

By maintaining LAP Certification since the early 2000's, the City has overseen millions of dollars' worth of federal and state transportation funded projects, including:

- US 41 Multi-Use Recreational Trail (Phases I, II, and III)
- Gilchrist Park Harborwalk West Area 1
- Alligator Creek Bridge

As a LAP Certified local government agency, the City of Punta Gorda will continue to work with the FDOT to ensure that projects funded with federal and state transportation dollars within the City are used in a manner consistent with local needs for mobility and safety for all roadway users.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- Seawall Replacement Projects – There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles. The seawall replacement contractor has three projects under construction and 23 projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. There is one seawall replacement projects currently under construction and four projects completed in Burnt Store 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 42 locations.
 - Crews recovered broken Pompano channel marker #5 from Port Charlotte Beach.
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** – Wondering if you seawall is on the list to be replaced in the next fiscal year - 2021/2022? The annual Seawall Replacement Work Program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under Canal Maintenance <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/12550/637643718591830000>. Every year the City replaces approximately 8,000 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).

Engineering

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Sidewalk Ramp Improvements** – The contractor has recently completed sidewalk ramps at the following locations: Marion Ave. at Maude St. on all three quadrants. The contractor continues to work at: Aqui Esta Dr. at Socorro Dr. and the SE quadrant of Aqui Esta Dr. at Bal Harbor Blvd. Schedules are in the process of coordination for work to be performed at: E. Charlotte Ave. at Milus St. and E. Charlotte Ave. at Cooper St., weather dependent.

- **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. The City contractor is tentatively scheduled to mobilize in Sept. to make repairs to the end tee.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly 60% to 90% design project update meetings continue. The next meeting is scheduled Aug. 27. The property acquisitions are in the final phase. Coordination with the permitting agencies continues as part of the design phase.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – The contractor has indicated the punch list is complete. City staff will follow up with an inspection. 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. 11 of 13 new LED street lights on new poles have been installed. The remaining two lights should be installed soon. City staff is in the process of verifying what has been completed as our updates have been coming from communication with FPL.
- **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.

Parks and Grounds

- **Laishley Park Interactive Fountain Closed** – Laishley Park Interactive Fountain will be closed until further notice for repairs
- **Renovations of the old FGCU Campus** – Renovations of the 'old' FGCU campus at 117 Herald Court have begun. The space will house the Clerk and Finance Divisions during the renovation of the Historic City Hall building.



Right-of-Way

- **Storm water Pipe Repairs** – Work continues to repair a failed storm water pipe at 109 Hibiscus Dr. Work is scheduled to be complete the week of Aug. 30 (weather permitting). Travelers are requested to use extreme caution while workers are present in the right-of-way and allow additional time for travel. Temporary delays are to be anticipated.

Police

- **The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) Program** – VIP members contributed a total of 708 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of July 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@cityofpuntagordafl.com.



- **Public Safety Dispatcher 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 Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Aug. 30, 2021. **Applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Aug. 25.**
- **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!
- **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@cityofpuntagordafl.com.**

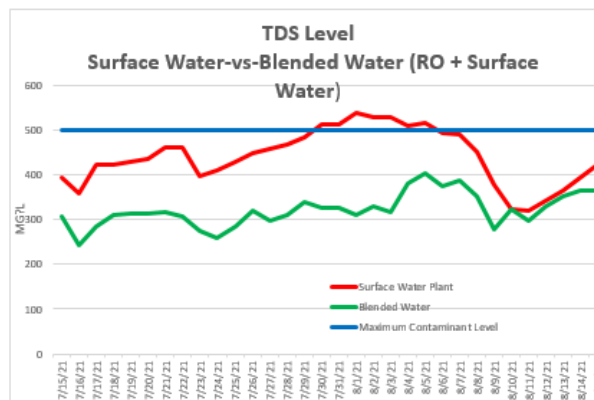
Fire

- **Training** – The fire department conducted fire scenario evolution training this week. The training involved many scenarios which may occur very quickly on a fire scene such as; forcible entry, search and rescue in low/no visibility with victim removal, fire extinguishment and ventilation. The training was conducted at the fire training facility (old station-two) utilizing simulated smoke and various props. This type of training is extremely valuable to both new as well as experienced firefighters in that a fire scene is extremely dynamic and constantly changing so being prepared for the worst case scenario is essential.



Utilities

Groundwater R.O Construction Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 41.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 5.9 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 5.90"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm –Total hardness 120 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 19 – Current 277 ppm, Low 216 ppm, High 404 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 328 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 19 – Current 5.36', Record Low 5.18', Record High 6.31', 55 Year Avg. 5.52'
- Received 2020 Safety Award from Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Florida Power and Light installed a new transformer at the plant after a suspected lightning strike caused a failure of one phase of the three phase system. The plant's generator automatically supplied power for the essential machinery and remained in service for approximately 15 hours until standard power was restored. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. A crew member has started the process of spraying the hay fields with a selective weed killer. Fifty acres have been sprayed to date. The maintenance crew has performed preventive maintenance on several air compressors, grit pumps, effluent pumps, and hydro pumps.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.87 million gallons for a total of 20.12 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.
Rain totals MPF = 0.37 Plant = 1.21



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.

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:
 - Serendipity 411 Cross St. in unit 113