

Weekly Highlights Report Aug. 27, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – We are now at a point where we can again welcome our consultants Dover Kohl and Partners, LLP(DKP), to host workshops at the end of August and beginning of September to discuss the progress of creating form-based codes for areas of the City of Punta Gorda. If you recall, the City Council engaged to services of DKP to create the new code framework. The consultant was asked to pause work on the update to the Comprehensive Plan because a form-based code can translate the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and help more clearly visualize the impact as it is translated into zoning law. This is because each specific area is defined by the physical characteristics of the development within it. Therefore, a form-based code is the natural land development implementation of the ideals that should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. As a part of this work, the City has required that our consultants allow the community the opportunity to see the plan and to provide feedback as they move along in the process.



The 2019 Plan Punta Gorda Citywide Master Plan recommended the adoption of a Form-Based Code. This type of code focuses on the shape, including form and mass, that a building takes, and the types of public spaces it creates rather than just the uses of the property. This type of land development regulation offers predictable built results and improves the quality of the public realm. Adopting form-based codes is intended to bring more control to what development looks like in Punta Gorda. Part of this work also includes a plan to manage the overlay districts downtown, of which there are several. Dover, Kohl & Partners, and Urban Design staff have taken on the challenge of examining the regulations in place for these districts, and evaluating their success in terms of how well they achieve their intended goals. From this, revisions to those overlay districts to enhance their effectiveness will be presented at the workshops.

Additional work will also include the establishment of architectural guidelines. A form-based code sometimes incorporates architectural guidelines to codify what a community wants to see as land is developed. This helps reduce the guesswork that a developer needs to do, fill any gaps in the regulations, and points development in a direction in which the community is happy.

The Draft Form-Based Code Presentation will take place on Aug. 31, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Events Center Hibiscus Hall. You are invited to join the DKP Consultant Team as they present the first draft of the new form-based code. This presentation will walk through the critical elements of the code and will also incorporate a dedicated time at the end for questions and answers. **If you prefer to participate via Zoom please register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4mr3vFEITfqvEDu2bCFHNg.**

Then on Sept. 1, a Draft Form-Based Code Open House will be held at the Laishley Marina Community Room. This offers residents the opportunity to understand the proposed code better and ask questions in a small group setting. Sessions will run from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m., noon to 2 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Your participation is welcome to continue to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntaordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles** – The Punta Gorda City Council participated in the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce groundbreaking ceremony hosted by Meridian Senior Living at their Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles construction site.



- **City Council Meeting** – City Council and the CRA met on Aug. 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall located at 326 West Marion Avenue. Some of the actions included:
 - Event permits and Manual approved with the exception of a Laishley Park Celebration that was continued pending applicant providing additional information.
 - Viewed a presentation from the Punta Gorda Boat Club- exterior improvements
 - Code board discussion removing two members and adding training requirements.
 - Approval of proposed amendment to Floodplain Ordinance
 - CRA project status report
- **Rebuild Florida Grant Opportunity** – The City is applying to the Department of Economic Opportunity for the Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Program for the Boca Grande Area Water Quality Improvement Project and Historic District Bricking and Utility Project. Learn more about the projects and provide comments by visiting <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/legal-notices>.

- **City to Participate in Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Job Fair** – The City of Punta Gorda will participate in the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with CareerSource Southwest Florida job fair at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center on Aug. 31 from 3–7 p.m. City staff from various departments will be on hand to talk about the open positions with potential candidates. If you can't make the job fair, more information about employment opportunities is available by visiting <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/human-resources/employment-opportunities>. The City of Punta Gorda's Human Resources Division is also available by phone at (941) 575-3303.
- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast cleaned up several messy wires at 901 Bal Harbor, 993 Bal Harbor, and 799 Bal Harbor. Comcast is currently working on the wires at 2956 San Pietro Court. The messy wires on poles between Aquí Esta and West Marion Ave. all have open tickets and should be assigned for Friday this week or this weekend. The fix at 5036 Captiva Ct. is scheduled for Sept. 1. They are done with the poles until FPL releases anything else. 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.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:
 - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, W. Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).
 - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, Columbian Drive, Bal Harbor Boulevard, Deborah Drive, Ryan Boulevard, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive).

Urban Design

- **Planning Corner – Form-Based Codes: Understanding Architectural Standards**

In the fifth video, City staff showed and explained the draft architectural standards for the new Form-Based Code! One of the key goals of the Form-Based Code is to create a new set of Architectural Standards to regulate development in the historic and traditionally platted parts of Punta Gorda. Some of the existing provisions in Article 7 will remain to control commercial development outside the Form-Based Code Are, but the remaining standards, along with the key elements of the existing Historic District Architectural Guidelines will be folded into the new code. Watch the new video here to learn more:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDU5uwJj94k>. For more information, please visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/>.

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 project 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 31 locations.
 - Crews removed and replaced channel markers #1 and #3 from Ponce De Leon Inlet.
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** – Wondering if your 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: Aqui Esta Dr. at Socorro Dr. and the SE quadrant of Aqui Esta Dr. at Bal Harbor Blvd. and E. Charlotte Ave. at Cooper St.
- **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.
- **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



- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park Closure** - The Hounds on Henry Dog Park will be closed on Sept. 8, starting at noon through Sept. 10 for the installation of the K9 grass (weather permitting). The Dog Park is tentatively scheduled to re-open on Sept. 11. For additional information on this project, please contact City of Punta Gorda Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 between the business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.
- **Laishley Park Interactive Fountain Closed** – Laishley Park Interactive Fountain will be closed until further notice for repairs

Right-of-Way

- **Storm water Pipe Repairs** – Work is complete to repair a failed storm water pipe at 109 Hibiscus Dr.

Police

- **Future Police Chief's Training Seminar** – Captain Nahra attended the Future Police Chief's Training Seminar put on by the Florida Police Chief's Association.



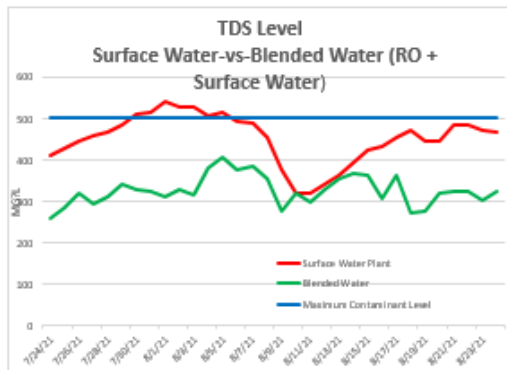
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester and Summer Semester of 2022. Our internship program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

Fire

- **Hurricane Training** – The Punta Gorda Fire Chief, Ray Briggs, conducted our annual Hurricane Preparedness training for City employees. The Presentation was held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, the presentation focused on the City of Punta Gorda resources as well as the importance of having a personal preparedness plan. The session concluded with a question and answer session which proved to be very informative.

Utilities

Groundwater R.O Construction Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 44.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.4 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 6.80”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently “hard” – Grains of Hardness 6 ppm –Total hardness 103 ppm
- TDS for Aug. 26 – Current 277 ppm, Low 216 ppm, High 404 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 328 ppm
- Reservoir Aug. 26 – Current 5.27', Record Low 5.11', Record High 7.64', 55 Year Avg. 5.63'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The City’s contracted vendor is on site and has started the process of sand blasting the inside of the sludge tanker in preparation to repair any voids in the metal before applying a protective coating. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. A crew member has continued the process of spraying the hay fields with a selective weed killer. One hundred and ninety total acres have been sprayed to date. The maintenance crew has formed up and poured a cement curb under the influent structure to better direct liquid from the helix press to the floor drain.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.41 million gallons for a total of 16.9 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.
Rain totals MPF = 0.02 Plant = 1.29

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.

- **Building Board** – (one alternate) meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Four members must be involved with the building industry, and three members must be consumer advocates who are not, nor ever have been, involved with the building industry. Makes recommendations to City Council on the minimum qualifying requirements for obtaining Certificates of Competency in the various construction trades and the fees for same. Periodically reviews and holds public hearings on all building, electrical, plumbing, housing, gas, fire prevention, and other related codes. Reviews enforcement of all codes relating to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.
- **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.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.

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:
 - Affordable Accounting Service, 252 West Marion Avenue, #1129 Bank of America (second location), 100 Madrid Blvd.
 - Beyond Transformation Inc., 2511 Vasco Street, #119 Deborah Jones, 318 Tamiami Trail
 - Glamourlyss Hair Inc., 110 Herald Court Karen L Wumkes at E’Lan Salon, 1801 Shreve Street
 - Quantum Equinimity Group, 2511 Vasco Street, #119 Sand and Sunshine Properties, 326 Goldstein Street
 - Green Vacation Rental, 94 Colony Point Drive,
 - Wood Street Grill, Inc., 225 Wood Street