

Weekly Highlights Report Sept. 3, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – As with many employers in Charlotte County, the City of Punta Gorda is actively seeking qualified individuals to join our team. From entry-level to highly skilled positions, the City provides an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of residents. While municipal service isn't the easiest profession, it is undoubtedly one of the most rewarding.

In our Utilities Department, we seek an AMI Technician I as a skilled technical position responsible for monitoring, maintaining, and repairing automatic meter infrastructure systems. Also, in Utilities, we are seeking a Utilities Plant Operator C, a skilled and licensed technical position responsible for the proper plant operation and monitoring of the treatment process of a water treatment plant. Utilities is also seeking a Utilities Maintenance Worker I in water distribution, a skilled laborer position responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of water distribution facilities and systems. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators (A, B, C) are continuously recruited for an eligibility pool.

In the Urban Design Department, a Building Inspector- Single License employee is sought, a highly-skilled technical position responsible for performing a variety of tasks associated with advanced technical building inspection and preliminary plans examining work to enforce building codes, regulations, and ordinances for residential and commercial construction. Urban Design is also seeking either a Planner I or Planner II. If hired as a Planner I, the position is an entry-level planning position that assists in current and long-range urban planning efforts, including land development review and analysis and planning studies supporting new and updated programs and regulations. Planner II is an advanced professional planning position responsible for researching and analyzing technical data in city planning. Performs professional and technical work developing, researching, data collection, mapping, and maintaining public planning studies and programs on land use, zoning, conservation, housing, transportation, population, coastal management, historic preservation, and other areas of comprehensive planning activities.



Public Works is seeking an entry-level laborer position responsible for maintaining, repairing, or replacing seawalls and related structures within the PGI and BSI canal maintenance districts. Also available is a Landscape Technician position, a skilled laborer responsible for daily maintenance of parks, medians, municipal properties, cul-de-sacs, and streetscape. A Right of Way Maintenance Worker I is available as an entry-level laborer responsible for labor specific tasks and a wide variety of road construction maintenance operations work.

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. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

- **Labor Day Holiday** – The City of Punta Gorda government offices will be closed on Mon., Sept. 6 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Residents and commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO change in trash, recycling or yard waste collections. If you have any questions please contact Public Works pubworks@pgorda.us or (941)5 75-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council and the CRA met on Sept. 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Historic City Hall located at 326 West Marion Avenue. Some of the actions include:
 - CRA project status report
 - Strategic plan presentation
 - Set fees solid waste removal
 - Set water and waste water fees
 - Proposal to place Huey helicopter in Veterans' Park
 - Charter review committee discussion
 - Vegetation at 201 Harvey Street discussion
 - Speed bump on W. Retta Esplanade by Gill Street
- **Halloween in the Historic District** – It's that time of the year when people are beginning to focus on the Halloween celebration in Punta Gorda. Information about street closures will be featured in a future Weekly Update. Anyone wishing to help the City of Punta Gorda provide candy to all of our visitors can donate bags of candy at the Historic City Hall, the Public Safety Center, the Public Works Campus or the City Hall Annex.
- **Comcast/FPL** – Comcast cleaned up messy wires in PGI on Coronado between Aqui Esta and West Marion Ave, located at 980, 890, 700, 540, 430, 340 and 290 Coronado Dr. Also fixed were previously reported wires on San Pietro Ct. in BSI and on Captiva Ct. in PGI. They are caught up with relocating wires until FPL forwards them a list of new poles to be addressed. 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.charlottecountycommerce.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://freedomisntfree.org/#>
- Sept. 10, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information visit <https://www.cbhcf.org/events/>
- Sept. 16, PG Social House, Moonlight Market, 124 Cross St., for more information visit <https://rescue22foundation.org>
- Sept. 18-19, Sullivan Street Arts & Craft Fair, Sullivan St., for more information visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/>
- 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. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31, Haunting on the Harbor, 115 Tamiami Tr., aka City Marketplace property, for more information visit <http://www.puntagordahaunting.com/>
- Oct. 23, Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for more information contact Tara Sullivan at tsullivan@afsp.org
- Oct. 28, Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade, downtown along Taylor St., for more information contact Emily Klossner at Emily.klossner@yourcharlotteschools.net
- Oct. 31, 1st United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat, 507 W Marion Ave., for more information visit <https://www.whatis1st.com/>
- 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 Rdd to W. Retta Esplanade, for more information contact Charles Moore 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)
 - The Historic District East of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E Henry Street, and Cooper Street).
 - PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard, and Turtle Dove Boulevard).
 - Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Drive, Tripoli Boulevard, Madrid Boulevard, and Macedonia Drive).
 - Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

Urban Design

- **Grant applications** - Staff received City Council Approval at the Aug. 25 City Council Meeting to submit applications to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Resilient Florida Grant Program. Working with our consultants three applications were submitted:
 - **Climate Adaptation Plan Update:** proposes to enhance the Plan by using different sea level rise projections and updated LiDAR elevation and critical asset data. LiDAR is a Light Detection and Ranging technology used to create high-resolution models of ground elevation with a vertical accuracy of 10 centimeters (four inches). Specific flood mitigation projects will be prioritized in areas which are currently experiencing sunny day flooding will be the focus of this plan update.
 - **Historic Downtown District Flood Resiliency Feasibility Study:** will evaluate nature-based infrastructure projects to mitigate flooding and sea level rise risks in the Historic Downtown Adaptation Area. The project will evaluate nature-based solutions, including living shorelines, to mitigate flooding, shoreline erosion, and sea level rise.
 - **Tiki Point Harborwalk Living Shoreline Pilot Project:** will further develop solutions to mitigate/adapt to the risks of flooding along the Charlotte Harbor shoreline by implementing nature-based features. Application of these nature-based solutions will decrease wave energy along the shorefront and assist in providing a buffer to sea level rise and flooding for the historic downtown district and US 41, a primary evacuation route for the region which is susceptible to flooding.

If received these grants will advance the City resiliency planning objectives identified in City's Comprehensive Plan and the 2019 Climate Adaptation Plan.

- **Planning Corner – Form-Based Code Presentation and Open-House**

City staff and the Dover, Kohl & Partners Consultant Team presented the first draft of the new Form-Based Code in-person at the Charlotte County Events Center, as well as hosted three open house sessions at the Laishley Marina in order to walk residents through the new code and answer their questions. A recorded video of the presentation will be uploaded to the City's YouTube channel next week. For more information, please visit <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/>.



Human Resources

- **Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce Job Fair** – Staff participated in the Punta Gorda Chamber job fair on Tuesday afternoon. A number of discussions took place with people interested in careers with the City. Pictured below Tom Spencer and Susanna Haslinger representing the City's Water Treatment Plant at this week's job fair.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - There are 26 seawall replacement projects scheduled for Punta Gorda Isles this fiscal year, however another site was added due to a seawall failure. The seawall replacement contractor has three projects under construction and 24 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. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
Crews replaced channel marker signs 1 and 3 located on Ponce Inlet. These signs were damaged and the reflective material peeling.
Crews filled depressions at 18 locations and patched/repaired six seawall caps (119' ft.).
Crews removed one large palm frond from the canal.
Crews mowed, trimmed, and maintained Sancho Panza and Candia lock channel peninsulas.
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** - Wondering if your seawall is on the list to be replaced in the next fiscal year? 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 completed all work under this Purchase Order.
- **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 eminent domain process is in progress for the final acquisitions. Coordination with the permitting agencies continues as part of the design phase.
- **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.
- **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.

Police

- **Drive Sober Campaign** – The Punta Gorda Police Department has been participating in the National Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. Currently we have conducted an additional 12 hours of DUI focused enforcement.
- **International Overdose Awareness Day** – Law enforcement agencies, first responders, treatment centers, and prevention programs are working together in Charlotte County to raise awareness of the dangers of overdose. See the video on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pgpdfl.
- **Unexpected Guest** – A resident found an unexpected guest hanging out in their pool. Officer Richards and Officer Burga relocated the juvenile alligator to a location that was safer for everyone.



- **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. We will be holding a virtual testing process in Oct. Applications must be received by Oct. 14. The written exam will be completed online anytime between Oct. 15 and Oct. 20, with a virtual oral board exam conducted via Zoom on Oct. 26. We are currently only accepting applications from candidates who are currently law enforcement certified or Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible.
- **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 Jan. 31.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring and Summer Semesters 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 Semester of 2022 is Oct. 15.
- **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 dedicated volunteers. Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us. **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.**

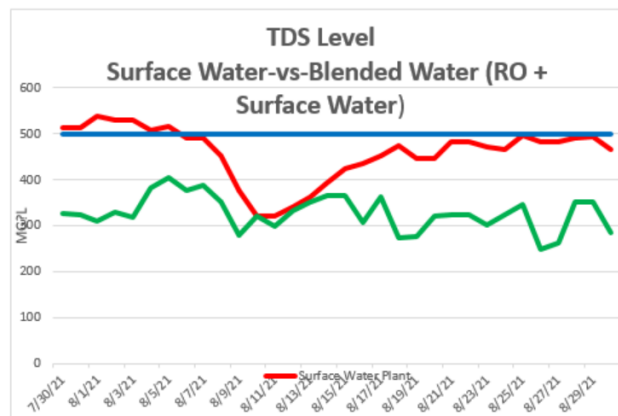
Fire

- **Latest Punta Gorda Fire Department Training** – Training has been underway with the fire department's newest hire, Tammy Finnerty. Here you can see Tammy and Xavier, one of the department's volunteers, learning the 75-foot aerial ladder operations. Tammy's probationary training and Xavier's Volunteer training are climbing the 75ft ladder while in a harness. They also trained on passing each other while working on the ladder. This procedure is quite tricky, where the firefighter being passed clips into a rung as the other firefighter climbs past the other firefighter. This procedure ensures that a firefighter can work safely during a fire operation where they may be removing patients from a high-rise fire.



Utilities

Groundwater R.O Construction Update



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 46.6 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.6 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 Aug. 2020 7.00" Aug. 2021 8.00" Sept. 2020 8.10" and Sept. 2021 0.00"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 6 ppm –Total hardness 108 ppm
- TDS for Sept. 2 – Current 256 ppm, Low 192 ppm, High 441 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 288 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 2 – Current 5.36', Record Low 5.18', Record High ', 6.31 Year Avg. 5.52'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The City's contracted vendor remains on site and has started the process of welding cracks and voids inside the sludge tanker in preparation to coat the tank with a flexible product to reduce further corrosion. 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. Two hundred and eighty total acres have been sprayed to date. The City's generator contractor has finished the yearly services at all three station. With only one problem found, mud daubers clogged the engine crankcase ventilation tubes.
- **Operations** - The average daily flow for the past week was 2.44 million gallons for a total of 17.05 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.
Rain totals MPF = 0.51 Plant = 0.67

City Clerk

The City of Punta Gorda is seeking volunteers to serve on its advisory boards. All meetings are held in City Council Chambers located at 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda FL 33950. [Appointment Information Forms](#) and a resume should be submitted to the City Clerk's Office at the above address or via [email](#). For more information, please call (941) 575-3369.

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** – (one regular) 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:
 - Cryotherapy of Charlotte County, 525 East Marion Avenue
 - Levangies Hair Studio, 1105 Taylor Road
 - Vacation – Best Assets LLC, 2837 La Mancha Court