

Weekly Highlights Report Sept. 17, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Patriot Day honors and remembers those who died in the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001. This year marks the 20th anniversary. The Punta Gorda City Council recognized the anniversary with an official proclamation at their Sept. 8 meeting. The proclamation conveys the reflection of sentiments felt across the country. *"When the Twin Towers were struck and inflamed 20 years ago on Sept. 11, 2001, first responders rushed into the terror and tragedy to do what they do- risk their lives to save lives. Those first responders heroically, courageously, and tirelessly participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk for the lives of others. Americans were struck with grief as devastation, and senseless loss of innocent human life unfolded with approximately 3,000 people losing their lives, including 343 firefighters and 60 police officers and nine paramedics."*



Taking the time to reflect on the enormity of those losses is so important. This was a day that transformed everyone's lives in some way. Whether it was the loss of a loved one or the feeling of vulnerability, the events created a historic bonding of Americans. The country built off the strength of the rescue workers, firefighters and all first responders to unite our nation to stand strong.

The City of Punta Gorda proclaimed Sept. 11, 2021, as 9/11-20th Anniversary Day of Remembrance and Appreciation of our First Responders, and offer thanks for all first responders have done and continue to do. The efforts of the Punta Gorda Fire Department and Punta Gorda Police Department create a feeling of safety and security as we go about our daily lives. Today and every day, we are thankful to have these committed, talented individuals protecting the City of Punta Gorda.

Volunteers with the police and fire departments also enhance our residents' safety and security, and we are always recruiting new members. The Volunteers in Policing Program is an active and diverse volunteer program including vehicle patrol, bike patrol, marine patrol, community services, and more. Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or emailing vip@pgorda.us. The Punta Gorda Fire Department maintains the Punta Gorda Volunteer Fire Association with active volunteer firefighters. The application to become a member can be downloaded [here](#). Return the application form to the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department headquarters at 1410 Tamiami Trail. A fire department liaison will arrange an interview. Based on the interview outcome, you will need to get a physical exam from your physician, and we will arrange for a background check and drug screen. Whether

through attending a formal ceremony, volunteering to serve the community, or some personal way, we will never forget. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on Sept. 22 at 9:00 a.m. Some of the actions include:
 - Set fees solid waste removal
 - Set water and wastewater fees
 - Consider approval of Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade event permit
 - Consider approval of Light Up The Night event permit
 - Consider approval of proposed Development Review Committee bylaws
- **City Council Special Meeting** – The FY2022 Budget Public Hearing will occur at 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 22 in the City Hall Council Chambers.
- **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 candy bags at the Historic City Hall, the Public Safety Center, the Public Works Campus, or the City Hall Annex.
- **Comcast/FPL** – FPL reports the poles pulled to date at 391 (35 poles have been pulled since the last update). Poles ready to pull are reported at 107 (These poles are in various stages of design, engineering, and construction). Poles with attachments are reported at 86 (34 are FPL, 25 are Comcast, and 27 are other utilities). 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 lmattthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews share the emails with both companies, so all properties get restored.
- **Volunteers Needed** – The City of Punta Gorda is seeking applications from 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.



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/#>

- Sept. 18, Blanchard House Museum Re-Opening Celebration from 10 a.m. until noon, 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. for more information visit <http://www.blanchardhousemuseum.org/>
- Sept. 18, Rescue 22 Foundation Fundraiser, Celtic Ray, 145 E Marion Ave., 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, Punta Gorda Downtown Merchants Association Fall Downtown Bash, Taylor St. between W Olympia & Herald Ct., for more information visit <https://puntagordachamber.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 Rd 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
- Nov. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information visit www.bspconline.org
- December 3-4 - Holly Days Garden Tour, various locations, 10 to 4. For information, visit <https://pggc.org/home-tour/>.

Lot Mowing Program

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 Veneto, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive). PGI (Bal Harbor Boulevard, Deborah Drive, Ryan Boulevard, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive). PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard, and Turtle Dove Boulevard). Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)

The City has completed trimming 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).

- Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Drive, Tripoli Boulevard, Madrid Boulevard, and Macedonia Drive). Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

Urban Design

- **Planning Corner** – City staff and the Dover, Kohl and Partners Consultant Team presented the first working draft of the new Form-Based Code in-person and online on Aug. 31 followed by an Open House on Sept. 1. You can watch the recorded presentation and download the draft Regulating Plan Map <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com/>. In an effort to make the Proposed Form Based Code easier to understand, Urban Design staff has provided the Table below. The Table outlines the current and proposed building height for each respective regulating districts. In addition, the proposed Community Benefits are provided. Staff is in the process of scheduling a public workshop to be held in October to further explain the proposed changes.

Regulating Districts		Maximum Building Height (from BFE)		Exclusions or Special Provisions	Community Benefit Program
Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Public	Parks and Open Space	No Limit, set directly by City Council	No Limit, set directly by City Council	No Limit, set directly by City Council	No Limit, set directly by City Council
Neighborhood Residential - 10	Traditional Residential	35 feet, 2 stories maximum	35 feet	35 feet, 3 stories by Special Exception	Not eligible
Neighborhood Residential - 15	Residential Edge	50 feet, 3 habitable floors	40 feet	Up to 60 feet, appurtenances*	Not eligible
Neighborhood Center	Village Center	35 feet, 2 stories maximum	35 feet	Up to 42 feet, appurtenances	65 feet
Highway Commercial	Flex Commercial Corridor	35 feet, 2 stories maximum	35 feet	Up to 42 feet, appurtenances	65 feet
Special Purpose	Maker Village	35 feet	35 feet	Up to 42 feet, appurtenances	Not eligible
City Center	Downtown Core	50 feet	50 feet	Up to 60 feet, appurtenances	80 feet
New Proposed Regulating District		Maximum Building Height (from BFE)		Exclusions or Special Provisions	Community Benefit Program
Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
	Neighborhood Transition		40 feet		N/A
Overlay Districts		Maximum Building Height (from BFE)		Exclusions or Special Provisions	Community Benefit Program
Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
National Register Historic District	Downtown Historic	Same as Zoning District	Same as regulating district	Up to 60 feet, appurtenances	Same as regulating district **
Downtown Commercial Historic	Main Street Historic	Same as Zoning District	35 feet	Up to 72 feet, appurtenances	Not eligible
Bethel – St. Marks Historic District	Neighborhood Conservation	Same as Zoning District	Same as regulating district	Up to 60 feet, appurtenances	Same as regulating district
Medical District	Medical	60 feet only for medical uses	Same as regulating district	Up to 72 feet, appurtenances	100 feet only for medical uses
Waterfront District	Requirements and Allowances moved into proposed Regulating Districts				
New Proposed Overlay Districts		Maximum Building Height (from BFE)		Exclusions or Special Provisions	Community Benefit Program
Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
	Grace Street Mid Century Historic		Same as regulating district		Same as regulating district

* Appurtenances include non habitable features that extend above the roof line such as elevator/stair towers, spires, antennas, rooftop pools and similar features/uses

**Which may include Community Benefit Program

Public comments may be provided through the following:

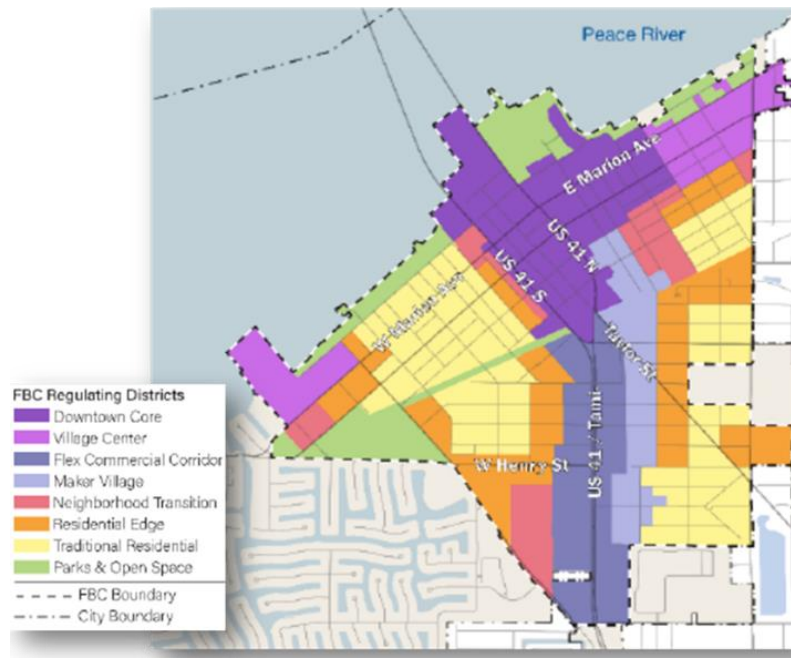
Comprehensive Plan update or Land Development Regulation update at:

Plan update website: www.puntagordamasterplan.com/engage

City of Punta Gorda website:

www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/comprehensive-plan/plan-punta-gorda-comprehensive-plan-update

Via email: urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com



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 one project under construction and 26 projects completed in Punta Gorda Isles. All seawall replacement projects are completed for Burnt Store Isles. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 13 locations.
 - Crews patched/repared 50' linear feet of seawall cap/seam.
 - Crews completed Burnt Store Isles storm boom material replacement at 40 storm drain locations.
- **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

- **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

- **Laishley Park Interactive Fountain Closed** – Laishley Park Interactive Fountain will be closed until further notice for repairs.

Right-of-Way

- **Stormwater Pipe Repairs** – The right-of-way department is relocating a storm drain at 1329 Osprey Drive to be within the existing easement. 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

- **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

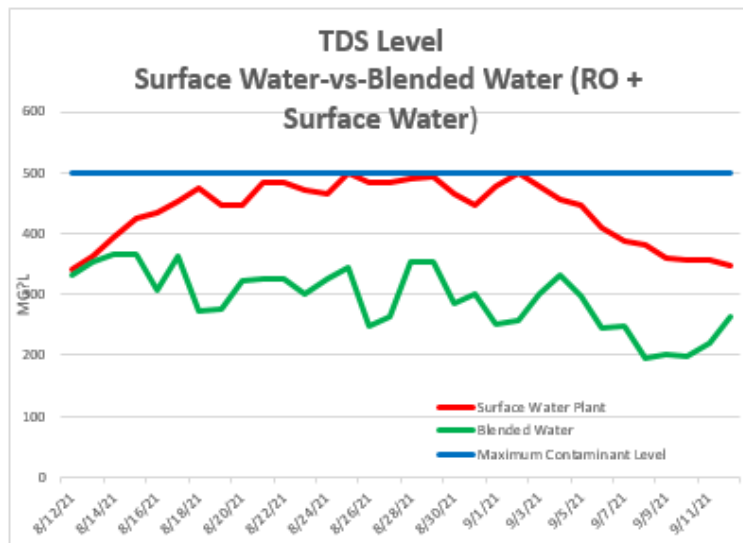
- **20 Year Anniversary of Sept. 11** – This past Saturday marked the 20 Year Anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. At the site of the World Trade Center, 2,977 lives were lost that day including 343 firefighters, 23 police officers and 37 port authority officers as well as those aboard American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175. At the Pentagon, 184



people were killed. 40 passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 perished in a field in Pennsylvania. We remember and honor the fallen every September, 11th so that the victims and heroes lost on that day will live forever. The fire departments Honor Guard team along with 2 members from PD were part of the ceremony at the Military Heritage Museum.

Utilities

Groundwater R.O Construction Update –



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 49.0 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.0 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 Sept. 2020 8.10" and Sept. 2021 5.20"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm –Total hardness 132 ppm
- TDS Sept. 16 – Current 266 ppm, Low 118 ppm, High 360 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 294 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 16 – Current 5.59', Record Low 5.08', Record High ', 7.43 Year Avg. 5.64'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Maintenance crew drained the Digested Sludge Storage Units (DSSU) to the pond and are making repairs on the aeration system. The City's contracted vendor continues to work on the coating at the south tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station
- **Operations** - The average daily flow for the past week was 17.56 million gallons for a total of 17.56 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.
Rain totals MPF = 2.02” Plant = 1.87”

City Clerk

Current Board and Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (three regular and two alternate) 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.
- **Code Enforcement** – (two regular and two 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.
- **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee** – (one regular) Meets monthly on the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Punta Gorda Isles residency required. Seven member board. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to provisions of Section 2-1(c) of Chapter 6, City Code of Ordinances.

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:
 - Judy Lynch Photography, 225 West Virginia Avenue
 - Caldwell & Gregory, LLC, Various Locations
 - Photographic Gems LLC, 7363 Schefflera