

## Weekly Highlights Report Oct. 1, 2021

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – At the Sept. 22, 2021, City Council meeting, the City Council adopted the FY2022 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan is used to set overall goals for the city, provides direction to city departments, creates the basis for each year's annual budget, is dynamic, and evolves year to year. This year's plan is enhanced to include longer-term thinking looking at years FY2022-FY2026. It highlights how the budget and strategic plan work together, and it also provides the organizational chart and a five-year staffing plan.



In the area of financial and economic stability, several action items will occur this year. The City Clerk's Office, in collaboration with the Information Technology Department, is seeking new technology and applications that will help connect the city and the community. This collaboration will deliver services and information in a timely, cost-effective manner. Work includes server upgrades, geographic information systems enhancements, field connectivity upgrades, network security, and online customer portals. City codes are moving to a Municode system to simplify accessing, updating, and presenting city codes on the city's website. The timely and accurate codification of ordinances adopted by the City Council is another enhancement offered by upgrading new software. Additional work will include ensuring that updates to the zoning code and land development regulations remove any regulatory barriers to building viable commercial and mixed-use projects.

Infrastructure stability occurs through maintaining and enhancing the city's capital assets and quality municipal services. The construction projects for Gilchrist Park Renovations Phase II and the Laishley Park Splash Pad Renovations will soon start. Contractors will install wayfinding signage throughout the downtown, and will also complete design work on Virginia Avenue and the Nature Park improvements to the boardwalk and fishing pier. Public Works will resurface approximately five miles of city streets in FY2022, and engineers working with the Utilities Department will complete the design of the wastewater treatment plant.

Partnerships, communication, and collaborations promotion will continue to occur. Public Works staff will coordinate the Citizens Academy to engage residents in the workings of city departments. CHNEP will continue to update local government officials on the importance of protecting our watershed and all that it encompasses. The Police Department will continue citizen and business advisory councils to enhance communication and address issues as they arise.

In the area of strategic communications positioning, resident outreach will continue. City Council (the Mayor) authors a monthly Isles Life Column to provide residents with current information about city initiatives. City staff will publish local information guides and continue to seek opportunities for partnerships in marketing. Park and facility rentals will be available through the city website to improve processes and allow direct access to scheduling, payment, and reporting on their use.

Quality of life initiatives enhance and promote Punta Gorda's attractiveness. The hiring of new police and fire personnel assists in maintaining the safe city status. The completion of the City's Park and Recreation Master Plan Update sets the stage for preserving and enhancing the level of service our local parks offer. The projects listed are just a sampling of the initiatives contained in the FY2022 Strategic Plan. I invite you to visit <https://bit.ly/3ic7hvL> to view the document in its entirety. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet on Oct. 6. Some of the items of interest include:
  - U.S. Bike Route 15- Southwest Florida Extension Proposal
  - Discussion about repealing Chapter 25 (Vehicles for Hire)
  - Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact
- **Halloween in the Historic District** – Candy donations needed! Anyone wishing to help the City of Punta Gorda provide candy to all of our visitors on Halloween at the City Hall Annex parking garage can donate candy bags at the Historic City Hall, the Public Safety Center, the Public Works Campus, or the City Hall Annex.
- **FPL/Comcast** – Comcast cleaned up messy wires at 2436 Deborah Drive, 673 Bal Harbor Blvd. and 4200 Almar Drive this week. 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 [lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:lmattews@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/#>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street, for all community event and class information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Oct. 2, Walk to End Alzheimer's, Lashley 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. 16, Heritage Culture Fest, Fishermen's Village, 12 p.m. until 4 p.m., for more information visit <https://www.culturalheritageswfl.org/>.

- 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](mailto:tsullivan@afsp.org)
- Oct. 23, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Free Concert with The Shark Sisters, 7 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, cabaret style, bring your own food and beverages, for more information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- Oct. 28, Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade, downtown along Taylor St., for more information contact Emily Klossner at [Emily.klossner@yourcharlotteschools.net](mailto:Emily.klossner@yourcharlotteschools.net)
- Oct. 31, 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat, 507 W Marion Ave., for more information visit <https://www.whatis1st.com/>
- Oct. 31, Trick or Treat at the City Hall Annex Parking Garage, 126 Harvey Street for more information visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/events-festivals/trunk-or-treat>
- 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 Isles Civic Association, Art n Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, vendor space available, for more information visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- 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](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)
- Nov. 29, Ditchfield Family Singers, 11330 Burnt Store Rd. for more information visit [www.bspconline.org](http://www.bspconline.org)
- December 3-4 - Holly Days Garden Tour, various locations, 10 to 4. For information, visit <https://pggc.org/home-tour/>.
- Dec. 31, Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, New Year's Eve Gala, 8:30 p.m., 2001 Shreve Street, sponsorship opportunities available, for more information or tickets visit <https://pgica.org/>.

### **Lot Mowing Program**

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
  - Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.)
  - PGI (Magdalena Dr., Via Vento, W. Henry St., Appian Dr., and Columbian Dr.)
  - PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd., Deborah Dr., Ryan Blvd., Suzi St., and Casey Key Dr.)
  - PGI Bird Section (Almar Dr., Albatross Dr., Whippoorwill Blvd., and Turtle Dove Blvd.)
  - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Ave., W. Olympia Ave., Shreve St., and Harvey St.)
  - The Historic neighborhood East of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave., E. Olympia Ave., Narranja St., E. Henry St., and Cooper St.)

## Urban Design

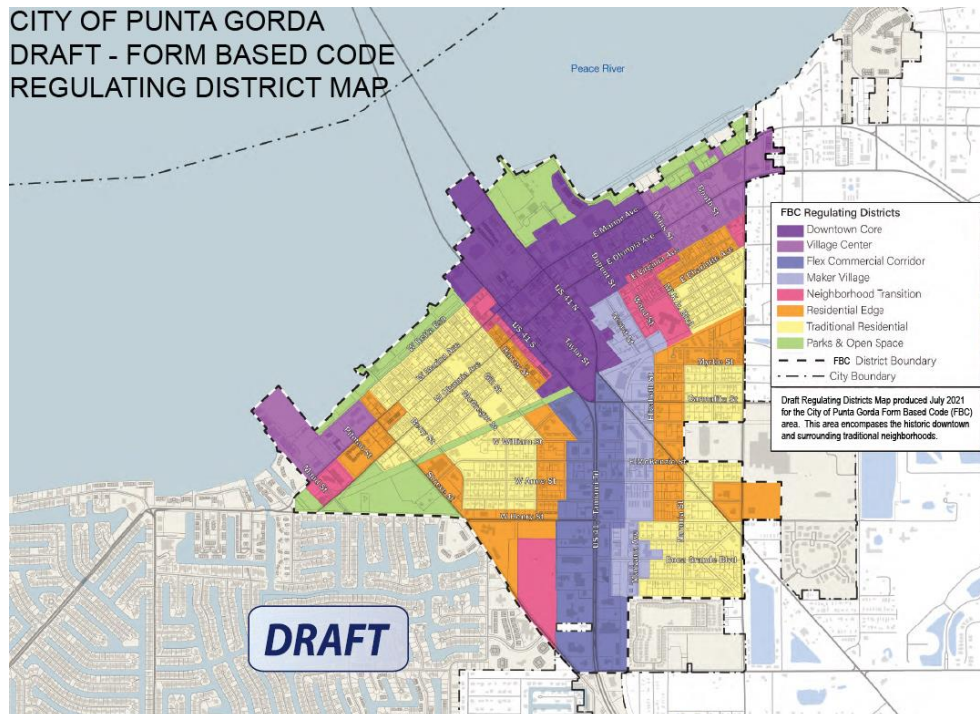
- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations – Form-Based Code (FBC)**

In an effort to make the Proposed Form Based Code easier to understand, over the next several weeks Urban Design staff will be answering some of the frequently asked questions we have received.

**Question: Does the new FBC completely replace the current zoning regulations?**

Answer: Form Based Code (FBC) covers only a small geographic area of the City. The major neighborhoods of Punta Gorda Isles, Burnt Store Isles, and Burnt Store Meadows will see no changes to the current development allowances and requirements.

The map below illustrates the area that the proposed FBC would cover:



**Question: The rule specifies "architectural review" but does it require city architecture approval?**

Answer:

The current Land Development Regulations have architectural requirements for the following zoning classifications:

- Neighborhood Residential (NR-10 and NR-15)
- Neighborhood Center
- Highway Commercial
- Special Purpose
- City Center

The review and approval authority for application of these requirements is Urban Design Department (Zoning and Planning) Staff. Applicants may appeal any staff decision directly to City Council. The current working draft for the FBC Area proposes a similar arrangement with City staff providing review and approval authority for architectural requirements. The appeal procedures, for applicants, may be modified to provide an existing City board/committee with an advisory recommendation step between the staff decision and Council hearing of the appeal. The details of this proposed modification to the appeals process has not been drafted; however, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, or Historic Preservation Advisory Board could be possible venues for the advisory step in a more formalized staff architectural decision appeal process. Do you have a question regarding the FBC? Please let us know by visiting <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com> or emailing [Urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:Urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com).

- **Urban Design Planner Speaks at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)** – Urban Design Planner, Fabiana Solano, was invited to speak at FGCU Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is organized by the Office of Alumni Relations and provides participants the opportunity to learn how FGCU takes the lead in meeting social, economic and entertainment demands of Southwest Florida by getting unique, behind-the-scenes access to academic, athletics and arts programs. This was the final installment of the Leadership Academy, known as “Leadership Day.” Leadership Day is a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of participants by hearing from Florida Gulf Coast University's top leaders.



- **Parks that Teach** – Take a walk on the wild side... with the Master Gardeners! Guided tours begin THIS Saturday, Oct. 2. These tours will be led by the University of Florida's Master Gardeners, individuals who have completed an extensive training course in gardening, sponsored by the University of Florida. As you walk thru the pathway, you will view the



unique ecosystems of the mangroves, identify trees and shrubs, and you will learn how these plants can fit into your home landscape. In addition, experience the habitats that support many different Florida creatures including alligators, wading birds, turtles, fish, raccoons, and crabs. All tours are FREE! They are held October – May on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Walks depart from the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, located at 401 Shreve St. Parking is available in the library parking lot and tours will last approximately 1 ½ hours. Make sure to wear comfortable clothing and footwear. For additional information or to schedule a group tour, please call the Master Gardeners at 941-764-4340. Or visit, <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/punta-gorda-pathways/parks-that-teach>.

## 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 six locations.
  - Crews manufactured 24 - 10' linear seawall panels.
- **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

- **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 scheduled to begin repairs to the end tee of the pier during the second week of Oct.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly 60% to 90% design project update meetings continue. Engineering has received plans to provide comments for incorporation into the 90% plans which will be forthcoming soon. 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

- **Dog Water Fountain Gilchrist Park** – The dog water fountains have been installed at Gilchrist Park near the large pavilion restrooms and Kiddieland restrooms. Linear Park dog water station will be installed next week on the corner of Shreve St. and W. Virginia Ave.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park** – Installation of the K-9 grass test section is complete. The Hounds on Henry Dog Park is reopened to the public.



- **Laisley Park Interactive Fountain Open** – Laisley Park Interactive Fountain is now open!

## Police

- **Community Engagement** – Public Safety Dispatchers Jeffrey Grady and Nathan Salisbury passed out safety information and spoke with community members at Fishermen’s Village.
- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 642 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of August 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@pgorda.us](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).



- **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](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).

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).

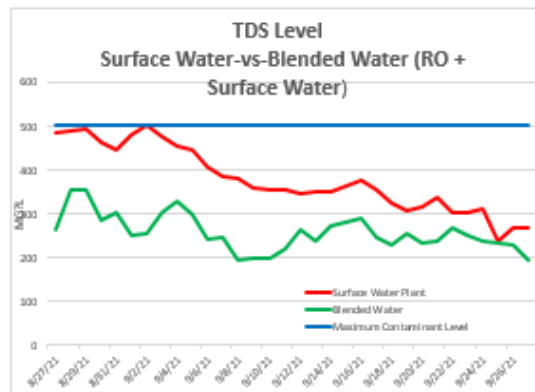
## Fire

- **Dive Training** – The fire department conducted dive training this week. The dive training focused on deployment of the rapid diver system and locating a submerged victim from a “last known location”. The department also worked on surface water rescue and victim removal out of a canal system. Firefighter/Medic Josh Roebuck, who is currently going through the master diver training, planned and executed the training this week and did a fantastic job.



## Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update** –





## Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 45.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.1 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 9.80"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 5 ppm –Total hardness 80 ppm
- TDS Sept. 30 – Current 211 ppm, Low 197 ppm, High 407 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 304 ppm
- Reservoir Sept. 30 – Current 5.74', Record Low 5.00', Record High, 6.69' Year Avg. 5.60'

## Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The City's contracted vendor for the new SCADA system is on site installing new station screens for use and evaluation by the operations staff. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. A crew removed the concrete slab at the North DSSU to clear the area so the collection Dept. can install well points for dewatering the area. This area will be excavated next week to facilitate the replacement of a failing loading valve. Team members have changed the seals on the upper and lower rinse boxes on the Filter press project.
- **Operations** - The average daily flow for the past week was 2.73 million gallons for a total of 19.09 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.  
Rain totals MPF = 0.00" Plant = 0.09"

## Water Distribution

- **Congratulations** – After nearly 33 years of service to the City of Punta Gorda, Charles Winn is retiring. Water Distribution would like to thank Charles for his many years of service. Good luck in retirement!



## City Clerk

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

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (two 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.
- **Planning Commission** – (one regular) Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 2:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board. Three-year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on Special Exceptions, amending or extending the Comprehensive Plan, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending zoning 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:
  - 11 Ocean Properties LLC, 11 Ocean Drive
  - Amy's Lash & Brow, 1205 Elizabeth Street
  - J. Meraki Beauty Emporium, 133 West Marion Avenue
  - JB Mason Enterprises, 7257 North Plum Tree