

Weekly Highlights Report Oct. 8, 2021

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – The changes to the national flood insurance program community rating system are starting to be reflected in flood insurance rates. The Community Rating System (CRS) guiding document created by FEMA has been updated with a 2021 addendum and is available at <https://bit.ly/3aaJajE>. This document along with the companion CRS 2017 (available at <https://bit.ly/3iAd910>) explain the insurance ratings to the general public.



The Coordinator's Manual spells out the credits and credit criteria for community activities and programs that go above and beyond the minimum requirements for participation in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Coordinator's Manual explains how the CRS operates, how credits are calculated, and what documentation is required, and also acts as guidance for communities in enhancing their flood loss reduction and resource protection activities. The CRS includes a list of items and activities the city adheres to and documents. A CRS Specialist then reviews the documentation and assigns points for each activity through a complex set of formulas.

If you skim through the first few pages, you see that the average individual cannot do much to lower the rating. The NFIP is not only raising rates on individual policies they are at the same time making it more difficult for communities to achieve discounts on these policies for their residents. A homeowner's personal insurance agent may be able to provide specifics for an individual property owner to improve their own situation. The website <https://www.fema.gov/flood-insurance/risk-rating>, has a lot of information to help with understanding the changes.

The city's Building Department brought in an outside consultant several years ago to review our CRS activities and provide recommendations for any improvement possible in our CRS rating. The result of this review was that we were able to move up to a Class 5 rating resulting in the 25% discount. Since that time the NFIP has rewritten the CRS Manual removing some activities or reducing points on others. For example, CRS points for making certain information available on the internet has been reduced or eliminated due to the fact that internet utilization is no longer considered an additional activity since it is now the basis for most communication.

The City of Punta Gorda has been granted a Class 5 rating. The Class 5 achievement as well as our ability to sustain it reflects positively on the accomplishments of all of the divisions in the city that contribute to that rating as well as our coordination and documentation of those efforts. The city will continue to

work with our CRS specialist to take advantage of every feasible opportunity to enhance our rating. I encourage residents to review the links provided to gain a full understanding of the changes being enacted. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **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.
- **Punta Gorda Developments** – View the latest City of Punta Gorda developments at <https://conta.cc/3oD5TGt> or email mreichert@cityofpuntagordafl.com to request being added to the direct email list.
- **FPL/Comcast** – 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. 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. 16, Heritage Culture Fest, Fishermen's Village, 12 p.m. until 4 p.m., for more information visit <https://www.culturalheritageswfl.org/>.
- Oct. 21, Water Quality Assessment and Improvement, 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, hosted by PGICA and TEAM Punta Gorda, for more information visit <https://www.teampuntagorda.org/maritime/>.
- 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. 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
- Oct. 31, 1st 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
- 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/>.
- 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 will begin a new mowing and edging cycle on Oct. 11

Urban Design

- **The Planning Corner – Form Based Codes** – 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 received by staff.

Question: What is the history of the Form Based Codes update?

Answer: The Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) update project is the third part of a three part project authorized by City Council in 2018 that began in 2019.

1) Part I: Plan Punta Gorda – Citywide Master Plan (2019)

A vision plan to update and expand previous planning work of the City as provided in the following studies and community input:

- 1999 Downtown and Eastside Planning Study,
 - 2005 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA Charrette),
 - 2005 Citizens Master Plan, and development that occurred since 2005 and constructed under Land Development Regulations based on plans listed from 1999 to 2005.
- Project work began in Jan. 2019
 - Major public input sessions during a five day Charrette (Mar. 11 to 15, 2019)
 - Draft plan presented to City Council on Aug. 21, 2019
 - Final plan presented to City Council on November 6, 2019



- 2) Part II: Comprehensive Plan Update (project on hold pending outcome of the Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update)
 - Project work began in March 2020
 - Technical Workshops Apr. 8 and 9, 2020
 - One-on-one interviews with City Councilmembers, City Planning Commission members, Historic Preservation Advisory Board members, and Charlotte County Staff
 - City Council Presentation Nov. 4 2020
Final Draft Comprehensive Plan Updates
- 3) Part III: Land Development Regulation Update (2021 – Ongoing project)
 - Kick off meeting (Feb. 2021)
Staff & consultant
 - Code Framework (Mar. 2021)
Creation of base data & workshop prep
Public Workshop
 - Code Testing (Oct./Nov. 2021)
Draft Code development based on public input
Example projects based on draft code
Public Workshop: Nov. 19
 - Final Draft (Jan. 2022)
Code revisions based on testing & public feedback
Public Presentation
 - Adoption Hearings (Mar./Apr. 2022)
Planning Commission
City Council (2 meetings)

NOTE: City Land Development Regulations (LDR) contain the specific development standards for private properties within the City. Things like setbacks, building height, types of uses, and similar standards are set forth in various Zoning Classifications ranging from Environmental Preserve to City Center. The LDRs also contain specific requirements for parking, landscaping, and architecture as well as administrative processes and procedures. The current project as proposed covers only a small portion of the City which contains the downtown and surrounding historic neighborhoods. Most of the major neighborhoods of the City including Burnt Store Meadows, Burnt Store Isles, Punta Gorda Isles, and Seminole Lakes would see no changes if any of the proposed updates are adopted.

Question: What public “Town Hall” meetings has Dover Kohl held for Citizen Involvement?

Answer: The following is a listing of all Community meetings (workshops, presentations and open houses) hosted by Dover Kohl and Partners (DKP) for the ongoing Land Development Regulation (Form Based Code) update for the Downtown and surrounding historic neighborhood area.

- 1) Public meetings for the Land Development Regulation Update (Form Based Code) began in March late of 2021 with hybrid meetings hosted at the Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum and online via Zoom webinar:
 - Code Framework Workshop: Part I, Mar. 23 6 p.m to 7:30 pm
Video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79VqKvKIKIQ>
 - Code Framework Workshop: Part II; Mar. 30 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm

Video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R67GSGpoeNo>

- 2) Dover Kohl and Partners and City staff worked through the Spring and Summer of 2021 on a proposed Land Development Regulations DRAFT. The draft was presented to the public on Aug. 30, via a hybrid meeting hosted at the Charlotte Harbor Events and Conference Center and via Zoom webinar followed by an Open House Sept. 1. Presentations are provided at the links below:
 - Draft Form Based Code Presentation, Aug. 31, 6 p.m. to 7:30 pm
Video recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MzNDoLMKYk>
 - Draft Form-Based Code Open House for one-on-one conversations between community members and members of the project team, Laishley Marina Community Room, Sept. 1 – three sessions: 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Noon to 2 p.m., 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 3) Every month City Staff provides an update to the Punta Gorda Planning Commission regarding the status of the Form Based Code project. More information is available at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-clerk/agendas-minutes>.
- 4) City Council has requested a workshop meeting hosted by City staff to discuss three key topics related to the current working draft of the Land Development Regulation update. The three topics of concern are draft proposals for Building Height, Architecture, and Community Benefits Program. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 2021.

Do you have a question regarding the proposed Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update? Please let us know by visiting <https://www.puntagordamasterplan.com> or emailing Urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - The seawall replacement contractor has one project under construction in last fiscal year's work program. This project was added at the end of the fiscal year due to a seawall failure. Punta Gorda Isles has 42 seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has one project under construction. All seawall replacement projects are completed for Burnt Store Isles in last fiscal year's work program. Burnt Store Isles has seven seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and at this time none are under construction. A seawall replacement project can consist of multiple properties. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews filled depressions at 18 locations.
 - Crews repaired caps at three locations.
 - Crews manufactured 18 (10') linear seawall panels.
- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** – The annual Seawall Replacement Work Program is available at 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 12,000 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 contractor has begun work on the tee portion of the pier. It is anticipated that the work will be completed the week of Oct. 18, pending good weather and all materials being available to complete the job.
- **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.
- **Paving Program Street Resurfacing** - Pending is the Purchase Order issuance to the contractor. A Media Advisory and "Notice" signs will then be placed at each street a week in advance. Work is tentatively scheduled to commence Oct. 23 through Nov. 12 weather and operations depending. The paving program can be found on the City of Punta Gorda website under <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/engineering/paving-program>. For additional information please contact Linda Sposito, Sr. Project Manager, Punta Gorda Public Works at (941) 575-5060.

Police

- **K9 Vest Presentation** – Members of the Retired Law Enforcement Association of Southwest Florida presented Punta Gorda Police Department's K9 Sadie (and Officer Burga) with a protective K9 vest. The first vest ever provided to a law enforcement agency by this organization was to PGPD's K9 Jedi nearly 10 years ago. K9 Sadie's vest is the 69th vest they have provided to an agency. Thank you for caring so much about the safety of the K9 officers in this community!



- **Accreditation Conference** – Accreditation Manager Kaylee Licata attended the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition Training Conference (FLA-PAC) and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation's (CFA) meeting in St. Petersburg. The Punta Gorda Police Department has been accredited with CFA since 1998.

- **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.

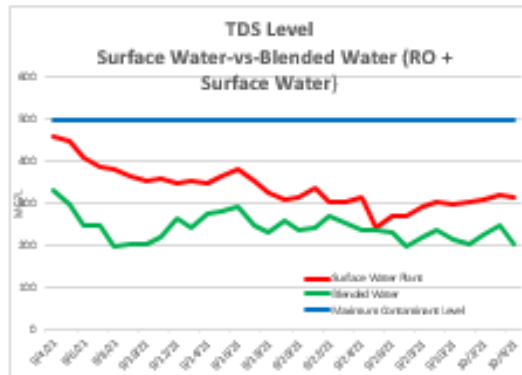
Fire

- **Friends and Family CPR** – The fire department hosted a Friends and Family CPR course at the PGI Civic Association. This course is free of charge to the city residents and teaches emergency life savings skills that can be applied during a real life emergency. The fire department has hosted many of these courses now which focus on early 911 notification, hands only CPR, AED use and a “stop the bleed” course.
- **Fire Prevention Month** – Fire Prevention month is here and Sparky made a special visit to Sallie Jones Elementary school to help bring awareness about fire prevention. This year’s fire prevention theme is “LEARN THE SOUNDS OF FIRE SAFETY”. The kids enjoyed getting their pictures with sparky along with some educational fire safety materials provided by the fire department for them to take home and go over as a family.



Utilities

- **Groundwater R.O Update –**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 51.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.3 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" Oct. 2020 1.1" Oct. 2021 0.00"
- 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 84 ppm
- TDS Oct. 7 – Current 222 ppm, Low 222 ppm, High 424 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 306 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 7 – Current 4.39', Record Low 4.92', Record High, 6.49' Year Avg. 5.50'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – A crew from the Collections Dept. excavated and replaced the loading valve on the North DSSU Tank. The original valve would not shut and had been leaking, causing problems while isolating the tank from the South DSSU tank. Team members have installed new drainage piping on the filter press project. Maintenance staff removed and replaced the stainless steel screen in the press zone of the Helixpress unit on the Influent structure. The old screen had developed holes in the bottom of the screen letting debris fall into the drain pipe. Maintenance crews continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds Fields seven and 12 have been sprayed with selective weed killer and the spraying of field 6 has been started.
- **Operations** - The average daily flow for the past week was 2.31 million gallons for a total of 6.16 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.
Rain totals MPF = 0.00" Plant = 0.04"

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 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:
 - Landmark Homes LLC – 111 McGregor St.