

Weekly Highlights Report Feb. 25, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Successful studies and construction in the City of Punta Gorda involve the collaboration of multiple departments to handle everything from securing vendors, implementing contracts, and designing the project to construction. The city's Procurement Division provides purchasing and contracting services supporting ongoing city-wide operations while ensuring the city maximizes its return on purchases and complies with federal, state, and city policies. The Public Works Department is another vital component of city projects. The department is a diverse group of divisions responsible for providing maintenance, construction, operations, and engineering support for the city's infrastructure. Projects often originate in Urban Design. The Urban Design Division is responsible for the long and short-range thinking that shapes the city's physical form.



A sampling of our Procurement Department's projects includes securing a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the wastewater treatment plant expansion. The selected CMAR company will provide services for constructing the wastewater treatment plant. Procurement is also working on securing services for the Herald Court sewer replacement. For this project, the City of Punta Gorda desires to contract with a qualified professional engineering firm for planning, design, permitting, and construction services necessary to replace existing gravity main and gravity services at Herald Court. Another major undertaking is a Classification and Compensation Study. The study intends to update the city's pay plan to attract qualified applicants for employment in all classifications, retain experienced and skilled employees in all classifications, ensure internal and external pay equity, and accomplish these objectives within the responsible budgetary parameters. Marina maintenance projects are also procured to insure safe docking areas. Additionally, the Procurement Department works on many projects and several initiatives for the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Program.

Urban Design continues to work on the City Land Development Regulations (LDRs). The LDRs contain specific development standards for private properties within the city. Things like setbacks, building height, types of uses, and similar standards are outlined in various Zoning Classifications ranging from Environmental Preserve to City Center. The LDRs also contain specific requirements for parking, landscaping, architecture, and administrative processes and procedures. The first draft of the proposed changes to the LDRs/Form-Based Code for Article 3 - Zoning Regulating Districts and Article 7- Architectural Provisions will be presented at the Feb. 28 Planning Commission meeting. The Historic City Hall refurbishment project is also a key priority for Urban Design.

Public Works has several ongoing projects of note. The final phase of Harborwalk West, which includes constructing on-street parking, parking lot improvements, and site furnishings, is readying to commence construction. Nature Park will see a new Serenity Garden complete with a new walkway, benches, and a bicycle rack. The Punta Gorda Isles Green Thumbs have partially funded this project. Finally, the Boca Grande project to resolve flooding and improve water quality treatment continues making progress. The project is currently in the design and permitting phase. It is anticipated that the engineering consultant will submit the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Application to the Southwest Florida Water Management District by the end of the month. Construction is estimated to commence in 12 to 18 months.

These are just a few interdepartmental projects and initiatives that the staff is currently completing. If you have ideas for future initiatives for the City Council to consider integrating into the strategic plan, please email your suggestions to citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com. Together we will preserve and enhance Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history, and as a desirable place to live, work and visit." *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles Update** – The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, located at 2001 Aquí Esta Drive, will feature Supportive Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care services in a beautiful, new 116,000-square-foot community slated for completion in early 2023. The Welcome Center (1133 Bal Harbor Blvd, Unit 1123) will open its doors sometime during the month of April to prospective residents and families who wish to learn more and make a pre-open reservation as part of the community's Charter Resident Program. See the latest progress video - click [HERE](#). For more information about The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, click [HERE](#) or call (941) 800-5567.
- Procurement Division to Host Event** – The Procurement division as members of the Gulf Coast Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers (GPCAGPO) are hosting this year's Gulf Coast Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers, Reverse Trade Show at the Event Center on April 29. The Reverse Trade Show is an annual event allowing suppliers, consultants, contractors, etc. the opportunity to meet with procurement professionals from numerous governmental agencies at one time. The governmental agencies man booths or tables, and suppliers roam the trade show floor to meet with individuals from each of the entities. The Reverse Trade Show provides a platform for networking, product presentations, contracting guidelines and education. The GCAGPO dedicated to enhancing the government procurement process, providing worthy partners the chance to market their products and services and increase the cooperation between suppliers and procurement executives. For more information or to register visit www.gcagpo.org.

10TH ANNUAL REGIONAL REVERSE TRADE SHOW & CONFERENCE 2022

SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 29TH

CHARLOTTE HARBOR EVENT & CONFERENCE CENTER
750 W. 1ST AVENUE, FL 33956

PROCUREMENT

SAVE TIME
REGISTER FOR FREE

Register by April 1st, 2022 to receive the "Early Bird" discounted rate of \$75 per person. After this date, the rate will be \$90 per person.

To pay by check, please use the registration form below and mail it with your payment.

Vendor: _____ Name: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City/State: _____
 Zip Code: _____

View Register at: GPCAGPO, Inc., City of Punta Gorda, Attn: Chelsey Rodgers • 328 W. Marion Ave., Florida 33950

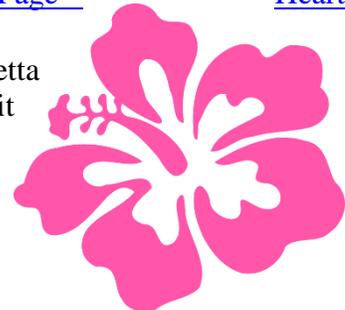
- **FPL/Comcast Update** – Work continues to address all reported issues. If you have a more than one pole in your front yard and an old pole that hasn't been taken down, if wires are hanging on the new pole or any other concern about this project, please email Mayor Matthews with your name, address and contact phone and email WITH PHOTOS to support your request, and send to lmattthews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. The City Manager and Mayor Matthews are sharing the emails with both companies so all properties get restored.

Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharboreccc.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/>.
- The Punta Gorda Historical Society will be hosting a variety of musicians in the Park on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, through May 2022 from 4 to 6 p.m. Bring your own chair and beverage of choice, peruse the Food Trucks for your dining pleasure. In lieu of admission fees, the Punta Gorda Historical Society requests your donations for the ongoing maintenance of our four History Park buildings. For more information visit www.puntagordahistory.com.
- Feb. 25 and 26, Florida Frontier Days, History Park, 501 Shreve St. For more information contact, Frank Desguin, (941)769-1270.
- Feb. 26, 11th Annual Punta Gorda Pub Crawl. For more information and tickets, visit <https://puntagordapubcrawl.com/index.html>.
- Feb. 26, Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County Farm to Table Fundraiser, Laishley Park. For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.bgcofcc.org/>.
- Mar. 4, Peter Mayer Group* and the Scott Trio Concert at the Woman's Club, 118 Sullivan Street. Tickets can only be purchased through: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peter-mayer-group-w-scott-kirby-trio-tickets-250973527577?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.
- Mar. 6, Rotary Club Taste of Punta Gorda, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://tasteofpuntagorda.org/>
- Mar. 12, Punta Gorda ½ Marathon, beginning and ending in Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://www.puntagordahalf.com/>
- Mar. 14, Everly Set concert at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church buy tickets and learn more at <http://www.bspconline.org>
- Mar. 17, St. Patrick's Day Event, Celtic Ray, 145 E Marion Ave. For additional information visit <https://celticray.net/>
- Mar. 18-19, Premier Auto Auction, Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, 75 Taylor St. For more information, visit <https://www.premierauctiongroup.com/vehicles>

- Mar. 19-20, Peace River National Art Show, Laishley Park. For more information, visit <https://visualartcenter.org/collections/peace-river-national-art-festival>
- Mar. 19-20, Punta Gorda National Art Show. For additional information, visit <https://visualartcenter.org/>
- Mar. 22, Punta Gorda Garden Club Flower Show, Isles Yacht Club. For more information visit <https://pggc.org/flower-show/>
- Mar. 26, Pedal and Play in Paradise, Laishley Park. For more information visit <http://pedalandplayinparadise.com/>
- April 2, Strongman Competition, Laishley Park Pavilions. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2666695273476742/>
- Apr. 9, Loveland Center 5K Run, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/LovelandCenterIncAbility5KRunFamilyWalk>
- Apr. 9-10, Bloom and Art, Art & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade. For more information contact blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com
- Apr. 17, The Rock Calvary Chapel Easter Outreach, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information contact rich.therockcc@gmail.com
- Apr. 30, Charlotte County Heart Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., for additional information, visit https://www2.heart.org/site/TR?fr_id=6422&pg=informational&type=fr_informational&sid=10202022 Charlotte County Heart Walk: Event Master Page - Heart Walk - American Heart Association
- Apr. 30-May 2, Hibiscus Festival, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, contact teresadesguin@iheartmedia.com or visit <https://thehibiscusfestival.com/> for more information.

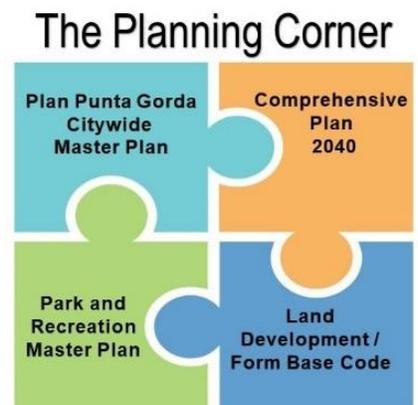


Lot Mowing Program

- Due to the lack of rain and dormant grass, the City will begin the next mowing cycle on Mar. 7. To learn more about the lot mowing for vacant lots please visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/lot-mowing-program>.

Planning

- **The Planning Corner – Land Development Regulations** – The first draft of the Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) update project is available for review. The draft is the third part of a three-part project authorized by City Council in 2018. Land Development Regulations (LDRs) contain the specific development standards for private properties within the City and identify setbacks, building height, types of uses, and similar standards within the proposed Zoning Classifications. The LDRs also contain specific requirements for parking, landscaping, architecture, and administrative processes and procedures. The proposed changes cover only a portion of the City, including the downtown and surrounding historic neighborhoods.



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- **Planning Commission Meeting** – The first draft of the proposed changes to the LDRs/Form Based Code for Article 3 - Zoning Regulating Districts and Article 7- Architectural Provisions will be discussed at the Feb. 28 Planning Commission Meeting where public comments will be heard. The draft documents are available as part of the Planning Commission Agenda at https://granicus_production_attachments.s3.amazonaws.com/puntagorda/ecdf9b055aa58c6bf17d5a970d938caf0.pdf . Please send any questions or comments regarding the proposed Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update to the Urban Design Division at UrbanDesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com.

Public Works

Administration

- **Citizens’ Academy Finance Department Session** – The Finance Department session of 2022 Citizens’ Academy was very interesting for all attendees. The morning involved an in-depth presentation of the Finance Departments’ responsibilities to the City by Kristin Simone, Finance Director. The group also had the opportunity to participate in a solicitation specification interactive exercise conducted by the Procurement Manager, Anne Heinen. Mar. 1, the group will be hosted by the Utilities Department with tours of the Wastewater Plant and Water Plant.



Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** – Punta Gorda Isles has 44 seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall replacement contractor has nine projects under construction and six projects completed. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for this fiscal year and the seawall contractor has four projects under construction at this time. A seawall replacement project can consist of multiple properties. A seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
 - Crews removed one large piling.
 - Crews filled depressions at 30 locations.
 - Crews manufactured 40 (10’ foot) seawall panels.
 - Crews patched/repaired (180’ linear feet) of seawall cap/seam.

- **Seawall Replacement Schedule** – 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 12,000 linear 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

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvements** – Bi-weekly meetings continue to be held. 90% revised design plans are tentatively scheduled for the City review by the end of the month. City staff is coordinating with the consultant on design adjustments. The Southwest Florida Water Management submittal is anticipated early March.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** – The contractor is scheduled to commence with preparation and application of the asphalt rejuvenation product on various City streets.
- **Harborwalk 2B parking and upland improvement project** – Submittals continue to be received and reviewed by the design engineer for approval. To be scheduled is an on-site meeting with FPL, City, and Contractor staff to review pole and guy wire relocations pending a response from FPL.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – The concrete base installations are in the cure period. The City continues to work with the contractor and engineer of record on adjustments to resolve fabrication challenges for the signs.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work has begun on Rum Cay Ct and Parisian Ct., with acquiring grades of driveways, box culverts, and pipe elevations. Grade stakes have been installed in the right of way for the contractor to grade the swale. The contractor will commence work on March 7.
- **Fitzhugh Crosswalk Realignment** – The crosswalk on Fitzhugh between Milus and Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd is in the process of being realigned. Work is anticipated to be completed by March 4.
- **Aqui Esta Stop Bar/Crosswalk Restriping** – The restriping of the stop bars and crosswalks along the side streets on Aqui Esta between Highway 41 and Coronado have been completed, pending the intersection of Aqui Esta and Bal Harbor. The work at the intersection of Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta will be scheduled for completion in the near future at nighttime to accommodate traffic concerns.

Fire

- **Leadership Charlotte** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department hosted Leadership Charlotte this week. Participants were able to learn about the day to day life of firefighters and were also able to tour the fire station and get a brief overview of the tools and equipment utilized by first responders. A fire extinguisher demonstration was also conducted and a few of the participants were able to put out a fire utilizing the department's burn pan prop.

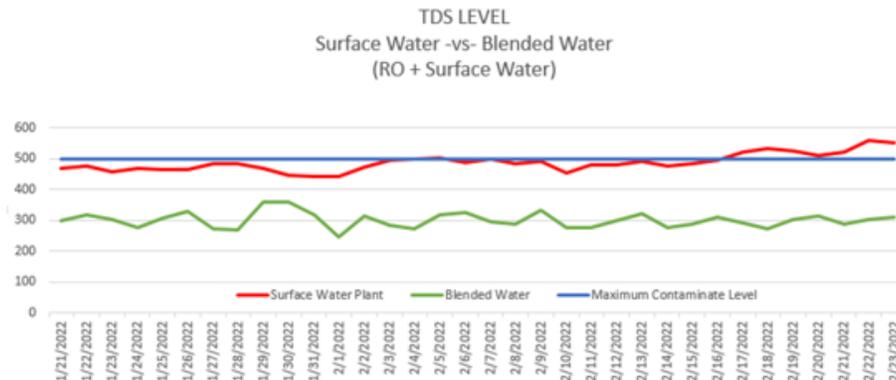


Police

- **Beware of Anti-virus Scams** – The Punta Gorda Police Department has been receiving multiple reports of an anti-virus scam email that has been circulating recently. In this scam, the victim receives an email stating that their anti-virus software is scheduled to automatically renew and that the victim's credit card will be charged for the renewal (typically \$500.00). The email then states that if the victim does not wish to renew the software they should call a listed phone number. When victims call the number an individual posing as a software employee talks them into providing access to their computer. Once the scammer has access to the computer they find personal information on bank, investment, or credit card accounts that they use to steal money from the victim. If you receive an email like this, please delete it. If you are an established customer of an anti-virus software company and are unsure if the email is legitimate, please go to your software company's website and use the information found there to contact them to confirm. Never click on any link or call any telephone number you receive in an unsolicited email.

Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 59.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.5 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 750 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1500 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Feb. 2021 1.20” Feb. 2022 0.70”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 9 ppm – Total hardness 160 ppm
- TDS Feb. 24 – Current 299 ppm, Low 273 ppm, High 665 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 479 ppm
- Reservoir Feb. 24 – Current 5.08', Record Low 4.94', Record High, 5.90' 57 Year Average 5.22'.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – The contracted vendor is finishing up the work repairing the walls of the North tank at the Master Pumping Facility. Our maintenance crew has re-installed the mixer rail and mixer in preparation to return the tank to service next week. Team members were able to haul and inject 238,000 gallons of bio-solids to field seven this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.75 million gallons for a total of 19.25 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

Charter Review Committee

- Review of the City's Charter, a process that occurs once every six years, is underway. Video of the Committee's meetings are available on the City's Agendas and Meetings page and YouTube channel. The Committee's next meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall (326 West Marion Avenue) on Mar. 14, at 9 a.m. Topics for discussion at the next meeting include term length draft language, economic development powers, ad valorem tax exemptions, historical exemptions, frequency of the Charter Review Committee, Capital Improvements by Special Assessment and the Planning Commission. All meetings of the Charter Review Committee are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

Current Board and Committee Vacancies (Volunteer Appointment Information Form)

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – (two alternate) Meets monthly on 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.
- **Code Enforcement Board** – (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.
- **General Employees' Pension Board** – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two general employees and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Four year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees' Pension Fund.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (one regular and one alternate) Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Two members must reside within the Historic District. Three year terms, maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more 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.

- **Police Officers' Pension Board** – (one City resident member). Meets quarterly and as called in City Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two general employees and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms, no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees' Pension Fund.

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:
 - Dream Kitchens & More LLC, 3941 Tamiami Trail, #3117
 - J. Gavin Energy LLC, 645 Monaco Drive