

Weekly Highlights Report Mar. 11, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – March is Florida Bicycle Month, and if you've ever spent time on the Harborwalk or Punta Gorda Pathways, you know that bicycling is immensely popular in Punta Gorda. Bicyclists enjoy leisurely rides about town and use bicycles as a means of transportation to visit local restaurants and shops. Whether riding your own bike or one of the free yellow loaner bikes provided by TEAM Punta Gorda, it's essential to understand proper bicycle etiquette in the State of Florida.



In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways and must obey the same traffic laws as the drivers of other vehicles. These laws include the need to stop for stop signs and red lights. Bicyclists must ride with the flow of traffic. Bicycles must be equipped with head and tail lights if you are operating them at night. When entering a roadway, bicyclists must yield the right-of-way. Bicyclists must also yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Bicyclists are also granted rights. Bicycles are allowed on all roadways in Florida except where expressly prohibited. Bicyclists have the right to occupy the travel lane if the travel lane is not wide enough for the safe passage of both a vehicle and a bicycle. A vehicle passing a bicycle must give a minimum of three feet of clearance to the bicyclist. A vehicle may legally cross a double yellow line to pass a bicycle.

While many bicycle riders in Punta Gorda are quick with ringing a bell or letting people know they are passing them, not everyone is this courteous. Speeding bicyclists along the Harborwalk is the number one concern brought to our Volunteer Bike Patrol Teams' attention. Measures are obviously necessary to remind operators of "wheeled" vehicles of all types to help reduce the speeding situation. At the March 16 City Council meeting, City Council will discuss adding additional bicycle and pedestrian signs to the Harborwalk. In researching the options, the best alternative being utilized among other bicycle-friendly communities is thermoplastic pavement markings with messages that say slow your wheels and yield to pedestrians. The added signage will serve as a reminder to enhance safety on the Harborwalk. Brochures used by many that are exploring our city will also be updated to incorporate reminders of proper etiquette when sharing the road and pathways with others.

Governments across the state are participating in activities to create awareness around bicycle safety and the health benefits of riding a bicycle. Workplaces are invited to take part in the Florida Bicycle Month Challenge 2022. Love to Ride offers an online platform to get more people riding bikes. Learn more about the benefits of the program and register at https://www.lovetoride.net/world/user_sessions/new?locale=en-GB. Another excellent opportunity to take part in bicycling in the City of Punta Gorda is TEAM Punta Gorda's Pedal and Play in Paradise. The event offers 60, 30, and 15 miles rides, along with a mystery ride. Learn more and register at <http://pedalandplayinparadise.com/>. Please be safe out there as you enjoy Florida's Harborside Hometown. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council** – City Council will meet on Mar. 16 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. Items of interest included:
 - First reading of Overnight Parking in the Historic District Ordinance
 - Discussion regarding signage along the Harborwalk
 - Discussion of Utility Advisory Board and Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee bylaws
 - Listening session for resident input regarding FY2023 Budget and Strategic Plan
- **Assisted Living Update** - The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, located at 2001 Aqui 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 in 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 here <https://youtu.be/LWutj5WjSjA>. For more information about The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, visit www.themeridianatpgi.com or call (941) 800-5567.
- **Daylight Savings Time** – The Utilities Department is reminding residents to check the timers on their irrigation system controllers this weekend, which is the beginning of daylight saving time. Saturday night is when we will turn our clocks ahead one hour. The time change is also a good time to make sure irrigation system timers are set correctly to ensure that the systems operate consistently with year-round water conservation measures.
- **Procurement Division to Host Event** – The Procurement division as members of the Gulf Coast Association of Governmental Purchasing Officers (GCAGPO) 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

PROUREMENT

SAVE TIME REGISTER BY EARLY

Register by April 1st, 2022 to receive the "Early Bird" discounted rate of \$75 per person. After this date, the rate will be \$50 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 People - GCAGPO, Inc. - City of Punta Gorda - Altis, Chelvey Rodgers - 228 W. Marion Ave., Florida 33550

Urban Design

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/>.
- 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.
- 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. 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/>
- Apr. 1, Port Charlotte Adventist School Walk-A-Thon, Laishley Park., For more information contact mercado@pcadventistschool.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://www.2.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

- The City has completed trimming the following areas:
 - 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).
 - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, West Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).

Planning

- **The Planning Corner** –Historic District Overnight Parking Ordinance – City Council will hear the first reading of the Historic District Overnight Parking Ordinance at the March 16 meeting. The purpose of this ordinance is to limit overnight parking, between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., to residents and guests only within a defined area (map below). A maximum of three (3) Historic District Parking Permits will be issued per each Parcel Identification Number with a single dwelling to the residential property owner. The parking permit application will be available through the City Clerk’s office. The draft proposed Ordinance is available as part of the City Council Agenda package located at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-council/agendas-meetings>



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement Projects** - Punta Gorda Isles has 44 seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has 10 projects under construction and has completed eight projects. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has four projects under construction at this time and has completed one project. 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 30 locations.
 - Crews manufactured (40) 10’ft., panels and (8) 12.5’ft., panels
 - Crews removed one large piling and installed one manatee sign at Candia lock channel.
- **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** – The design and permitting process continues for this project. The City continues to seek grant opportunities for the project.
- **Pavement Rejuvenation** - The contractor has completed the application of asphalt rejuvenation product on various City streets for this fiscal year.
- **Harborwalk 2B parking and upland improvement project** – The project continues to move towards commencement of construction. Survey and site layouts are scheduled the first two weeks of Apr.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – The concrete base installations are in the cure period. The contractor continues to move forward with the fabrication of the signs.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Work has been completed on Rum Cay Ct., with watering of sod continuing for establishment of the sod. Work will begin on Parisian Ct., to excavate the swales with Big League Builders on Mar. 21.
- **Railroad Crossings McKenzie St** – Work has begun with the railroad crossing rehabilitation. Relining of the storm drain pipes is underway. Preparation of road base and alignment is also underway.

Fire

- **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Training** – The Punta Gorda Fire Department conducted EMS training this week that focused on bradycardia or “slow heart rates”. The training was led by Field Training Officer Justin Bala and crews rotated through the training facility to participate in a classroom portion followed by a hands on protocol treatment process. The fire department is trained to treat this condition with medication and pacing which is electrical current that stimulates cardiac muscle externally through a cardiac monitor.



Police

- **Historic District Civic Association** – Chief Davis and members of the Punta Gorda Police Department provided an update and fielded questions from the Historic District Civic Association on Thursday night.



- **Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 862.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of February 2022. 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.



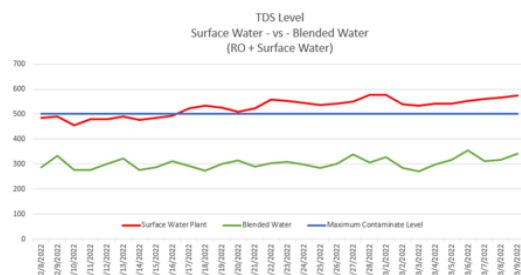
Open Positions

- **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 June. Applications must be received by May. The written exam will be completed online anytime between June 1, and June 9, with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on June 20, and June 21. 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.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer Semester and Fall Semester 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 Summer Semester of 2022 is Mar. 4.
- **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.

Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 60.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.6 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 1080 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1250 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Feb. 2021 1.20” Feb. 2022 0.70” Mar. 2021 .30” Mar. 0.00”
- 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 156 ppm
- TDS Mar. 10 – Current 307 ppm, Low 202 ppm, High 668 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 474 ppm
- Reservoir Mar. 10 – Current 5.07', Record Low 4.90', Record High, 5.96' 57 Year Average 5.21'.

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members were able to haul and inject 245,000 gallons of bio-solids to field seven this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.61 million gallons for a total of 18.24 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.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (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:
 - Downtown Kava, LLC – 1009 Taylor Road
 - Maureen Dimone – 1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard
 - The Punta Gorgeous Store – 252 West Marion Avenue
 - Tranquil Cove PG Isles (Vacation Rental) – 1420 Appian Drive

- Valiant Recovery – 610 East Olympia Avenue
- Woofs on Wood Street – 219 Wood Street
- Polk Law Firm, PA – 207 Cross Street
- Whitco Insurance Agency – 6210 Scott Street