

Weekly Highlights Report Apr. 29, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – This past week we had the opportunity to celebrate the career of our Public Works Director, Rick Keeney. I have such a deep appreciation of the inner workings of the Public Works function, having spent a good portion of my own career working in a similar capacity. I also have a deep appreciation for Rick. As I began the challenge of getting to know this wonderful community, Rick was welcoming, transparent, and always responsive. Having joined the city at the young age of nineteen, he has spent his entire career working in and leading Public Works. I have yet to come up with a question that he doesn't immediately know the answer to or knows who to get the answer from quickly. This type of responsive engagement is vital to maintaining the level



of service our residents expect. Rick's 42-year career with the City of Punta Gorda leaves the city with a legacy of customer service excellence and a multitude of projects made easier through his leadership. He will be missed. We wish him all the best as his next adventure awaits.

Speaking of Public Works, the Canal Maintenance Division is also top of mind. This division is responsible for maintaining seawalls and dredging canals within the Burnt Store Isles and Punta Gorda Isles canal districts. Other duties include depression filling, seawall patching, cap patching, and cap replacement, maintenance of aids to navigation, inspections, and related tasks.

As a part of the budget process, The City of Punta Gorda Canal Maintenance Division is holding a special 'Public Meeting' to discuss future assessment fees. Learn about the seawall history, its current condition and replacement program; special projects scheduled in your Canal Maintenance district; and new assessment fees that may be recommended. The Burnt Store Isles public meeting will be held at Twin Isles Country Club located at 301 Madrid Blvd. Punta Gorda. The meeting date is May 2. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

A similar meeting is being held for the Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance District. The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (PGICA) is sponsoring the Punta Gorda Isles public meeting. PGICA is located at 2001 Shreve St. Punta Gorda. The meeting date is Thursday, May 12, 2022. It starts at 5:30 p.m. These meetings allow the opportunity for residents to provide public comments and feedback to staff regarding canal maintenance and the associated operating costs and projects.

I also encourage our residents to attend the May 4, 2022, City Council Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. Staff will be presenting a draft of Article 7 of the proposed Land Development Regulations. Article 7 focuses on the architectural provisions, encompassing many facets of construction that will be allowed to ensure a look that is defined and expected as development moves forward. City staff will take direction from City Council as we work to refine the Land Development Regulations to ensure that we 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **Looking for a place to hold a small event?** – Consider the Laisley Park Community Room. Located in a beautiful waterfront setting the room comes equipped with chairs and tables to seat 75 people comfortably. It is the perfect space for wedding and baby showers, club meetings or non-profit workshops. Visit <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/visitors/municipal-marina/laisley-park-community-room> or call Rusty at (941) 575-0142 for more information.



- **America in Bloom Visit** – Judges from America in Bloom were hosted by TEAM Punta Gorda this past week. The judges were provided tours of many of the parks, gardens and treasures of Punta Gorda. City staff and Mayor Matthews welcomed the group on Monday.
- **City Council** – The Punta Gorda City Council will meet on May 4, at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. Some of the items of interest include:
 - Land Development Regulations Article 7 review
 - A Weekly Flea Market application for 361 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
 - A Community Redevelopment Agency update



Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Going on now until Jul. 1, CHNEP 2023 Nature Calendar Photo Contest. For more information visit <https://www.chnep.org/calendar-photo-contest>.
- 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.charlottecountycommerce.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.

- Apr. 30, Charlotte County Heart Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., more information at 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.
- May 7, Bands, Brews, & BBQ, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact jerry@smugglers.com
- May 7, Girls on the Run of SWFL, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For additional information, visit Charlotte County 5K Detail | GOTR Southwest Florida (gotrswfl.org)
- May 7, Mental Health Walk, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact kpomerville@cbhcf.org
- May 13-15, Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information contact events@paragonartfest.com
- May 26 –May 31, Healing Field of Honor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact adairjrobin@gmail.com
- May 30, Memorial Day Veterans 10K & 5k Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact info@memorialdayrace.org
- May 30, Memorial Day Ceremony by Charlotte County Veterans Council (CCVC) at Veterans Park gazebo by the Southwest Florida Vietnam Memorial Wall from 10:00-11:00AM. Limited bench seating available, consider bringing your own folding chair if needed. For additional details contact CCVC at charlottecountyveteranscouncil@gmail.com

Lot Mowing Program

The mowing contractors are scheduled to start the next rotation of mowing to the following areas May 9:

- 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).
- Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)
- PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
- Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, West Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado 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).
- 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).

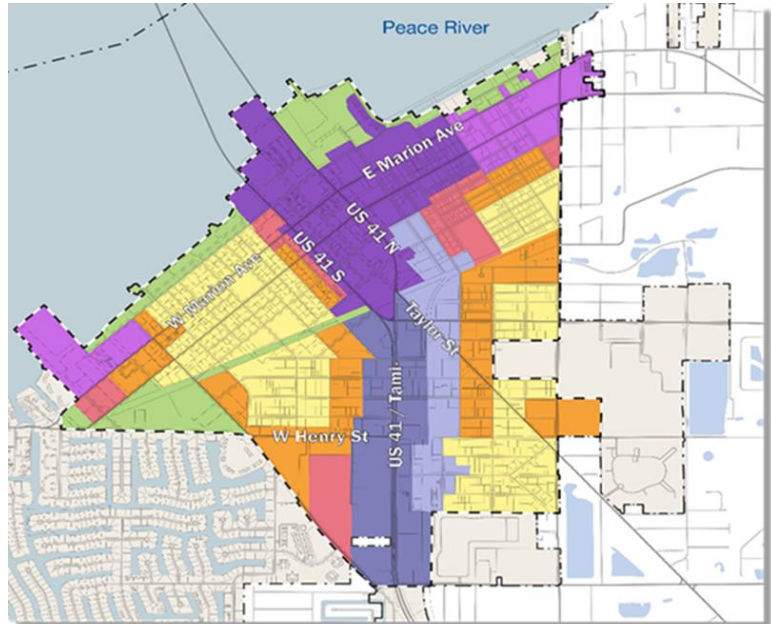
Planning Corner

Land Development Regulations – City Land Development Regulations (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 proposed amendments will cover only a small portion of the city, including the downtown and surrounding historic neighborhoods.



Staff will present the proposed changes to Article 7- Architectural Provisions at the May 4 City Council Meeting. The discussion will include architectural style, general building standards, and street frontage standards. Public comments are welcome.

The draft documents are available as part of the City Council Agenda package. 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

- The Public Works staff honored Rick Keeney's 42 years of service on Apr. 25 with a retirement luncheon. Rick has provided exceptional dedication to his home City of Punta Gorda, as it is near and dear to his heart. We are all sad to see him leave and wish Rick the very best in his retirement.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Replacement** - Punta Gorda Isles has 44 seawall replacement projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2021/2022, and the seawall replacement contractor has 12 projects under construction and has completed 14 projects. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2021/2022 and the seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction at this time and has completed two projects. 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 16 locations.
 - Crews patched/repared (71 lineal) seawall caps/seams.
 - Crews manufactured (45) 10'ft of seawall panels.
- **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 may bump planned projects to the following year).
- **Canal Maintenance Assessment Fees Public Meetings** – Learn about the seawall history, its current condition and replacement program; special projects scheduled in your Canal Maintenance district; and new assessment fees being considered.
 - **Burnt Store Isles** – Public meeting will be held at Twin Isles Country Club located at 301 Madrid Blvd. Punta Gorda. The meeting date is May 2 and starts at 5:30 p.m.



- **Punta Gorda Isles** – The Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association (PGICA) is sponsoring the Punta Gorda Isles public meeting. PGICA is located at 2001 Shreve St. Punta Gorda. The meeting date is May 12 and starts at 5:30 p.m.

Engineering

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – The engineer of record continues to move toward making the submittal for the Environmental Resource Permit Application to the Southwest Florida Management District.
- **Harborwalk parking and upland improvements** – Grade and base rock work continues on the phase one parking lot area.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale regrading is scheduled to begin next week at the corner of Bal Harbor and Redwing Ct. The northbound lane of Bal Harbor will be closed temporarily with flaggers directing traffic using the southbound lane for both directions of travel. Travelers are requested to use extreme caution while workers are present. Allow additional time for travel. Swale regrading on Sandpiper Dr., will begin on May 9.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – Installation is scheduled for the first week of May 2022.

Right Of Way

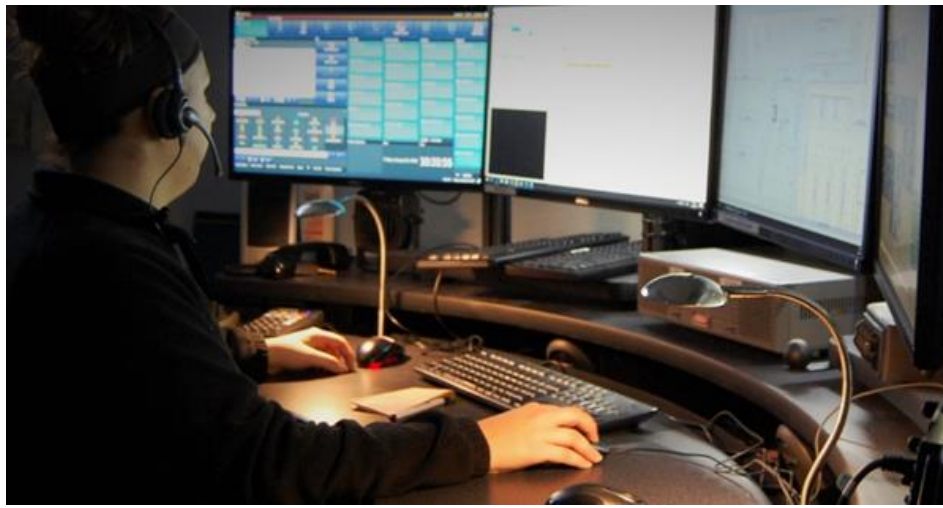
- **Reflective Strips** – The installation continues to place reflective strips on the bollards and hopes to have the job completed by next week. The area from Fishermen Village along the MURT all the way to 41 South. Work will begin next week on East Marion Ave by the hospital and continue back to Fishermen Village along the waterfront.

Police

- **Academy Graduation** – Both of our Police Cadets, Nathan Salisbury and Marissa DiMatteo graduated from the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy as part of the 164th Basic Law Enforcement Class. Congratulations to our cadets!
- **Service Awards** – Officer Dean Irving was recognized for 15 years of dedicated service to City of Punta Gorda at this week's City Council Meeting. In addition, we recognized several of our volunteers including Deputy Coordinator Ilene Hochman, Pat Taylor, Joan Lech, Maureen Heger, and Phil Arciero for their five year service awards at this week's Leadership Meeting.



- **Safety Dispatcher Testing** – Public Safety Dispatchers handle 911 and administrative calls and all dispatching for the Punta Gorda Police Department and Punta Gorda Fire Department. To be a Public Safety Dispatcher you must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen of the United States, have graduated from high school (or GED), have good communications skills, have strong computer and data entry skills, be able to multi-talk in a fast paced environment and work well with others, and successfully complete the hiring process including new hire testing, background investigation, psychological exam, and drug screen. We will be testing for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher on May 12 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex, located at 1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950. To apply, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For additional information, please contact Employee Development Coordinator Glen Ritta by calling (941) 575-5571.



Fire

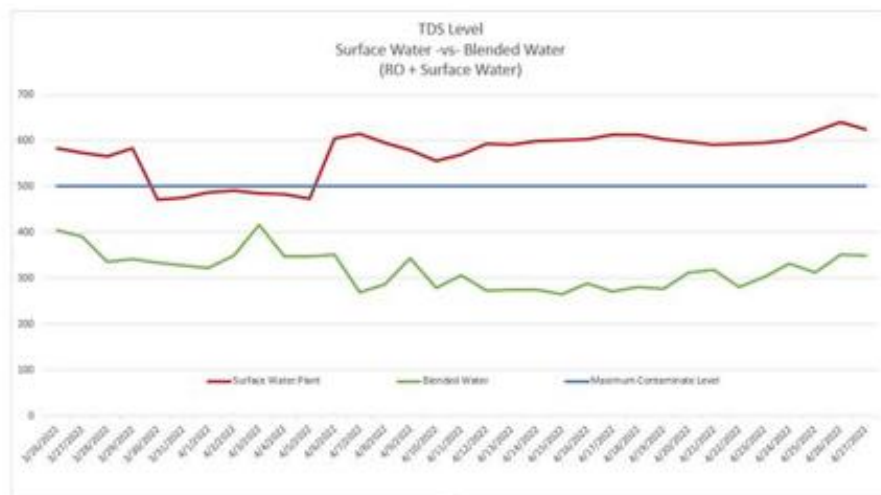
- **Brush Fires** – We are approaching the time of year when conditions become favorable for brush fires here in Southwest Florida. There are a few fire safety rules to remember, as the drought index continues to get higher this creates ideal conditions for brush fires to easily start. Even though the City does not have a considerable amount of brush or wooded land, we do have close proximity landscaping around some structures that could easily become a fire hazard. Please keep the following tips in mind:



- Always place cigarette butts in the proper receptacles.
- Instead of using flammable mulch like wood chips, bark and pine needles, try using lava rocks, stone or gravel around the shrubs and trees.
- Do not allow flammable vegetation like dead or dried weeds, tree limbs or shrubs to come in contact with a structure.
- Keep a 30-foot zone around a structure clear from debris piles of flammable or dried vegetation; this is called a defensible space.

Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 59.8 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 8.5 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 1600 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1250 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall April 2021 3.03" April 2022 1.20"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 8 ppm – Total hardness 140 ppm
- TDS Apr. 28 – Current 289 ppm, Low 289 ppm, High 605 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 505 ppm
- Reservoir Apr. 28 – Current 4.85', Record Low 4.62', Record High, 5.65' 57 Year Average 5.07'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members were able to haul and inject 2800 gallons of bio-solids to field seven this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.67 million gallons for a total of 18.69 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

- **Candidate Packets Now Available** – Candidate packets for the 2022 City General Election are now available through the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 326 West Marion Avenue. The 2022 General Election will take place on Nov. 8 and will include City Council Districts 1, 2 and 4. Councilmembers serve a two (2) year term and are elected at-large. Only opposed candidate races will appear on the ballot. If more than two candidates seek election for any one district seat, a primary election must be held on Aug. 23 (11 weeks prior to the General Election). Qualifying for the 2022 General Election cycle begins Jun. 13 at noon and ends on Jun. 17 at noon. For information or questions regarding qualifying, please contact Karen Smith, City Clerk, at (941) 575-3369 or email pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com. Questions regarding voter registration, vote-by-mail ballots or precinct and polling information should be directed to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400. Candidate forms can also be obtained online from the city's website at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us> as well as from the Division of Elections website at <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections>.

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.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – (one regular) Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency required. Seven-member board. Three-year terms, maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.

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:
 - Mark's Custom Painting LLC, 2117 Deborah Drive
 - Pinwheel Properties, 2705 Tamiami Trail, Suite 217
 - Walt's Garage, 201 E Ann Street