

## Weekly Highlights Report May 13, 2022

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – With the continued population growth in Southwest Florida, residential and commercial building continues to flourish. Construction is a continuous state for most Florida municipalities, and Punta Gorda is no exception. A host of projects that enhance services to the public and benefit our growing population are moving forward in Punta Gorda.

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and security work at the City Hall Annex building continue. We appreciate the patience of our residents, contractors, and utility customers as we wrap up the updates to the building. The end result will be a safe, secure workspace for city employees and ADA accessible areas for the public to engage in business with the City.



The Gilchrist Park/Harborwalk parking and upland construction project is a highly visible undertaking. This project began back in 2015 with design and planning. Council has approved numerous changes in the plan throughout the years. The project started when the City proposed to expand the Punta Gorda Pathways along the water. The existing pavilions needed to be relocated with the improvement. Additional amenities requested by residents included; pavilions and grills, benches, lighting, playground, and restroom facilities. These items were completed over the last seven years. The current final phase of the construction includes the remaining items requested by residents and approved by City Council, including additional parking, additional shade trees, and site furnishings. Contractors will also repair the Gilchrist park gazebo while other construction is occurring. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Another long-term project is wrapping up in the downtown area, wayfinding sign installation. Wayfinding signs are important to help visitors and residents to feel comfortable in the community and aid in navigating the amenities of the downtown. After many years of tedious revisions, the signs are currently being installed.

The rehabilitation of Historic City Hall work continues. Testing of the building for hazardous materials has been completed. Consultants met with city staff regarding potential levels of LEED certification to pursue for the building. In June City Council will consider options for space utilization, desired level of LEED certification, and additional design elements.

The A.C. Freeman House rehabilitation project will correct the building's current deficiencies. As a part of the project, Council directed staff to apply to have the structure listed on the historic registry. The state review of the application has been delayed until August. Southwest Florida Water Management District permitting is also on hold to determine the feasibility of applying for one permit for the entire campus, including the Historic City Hall project.

Each of these projects furthers the City's mission to 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. The City's work continues throughout the year, and we look forward to a summer that brings each of these enhancements to resident and visitor services a little closer to completion. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

## Urban Design

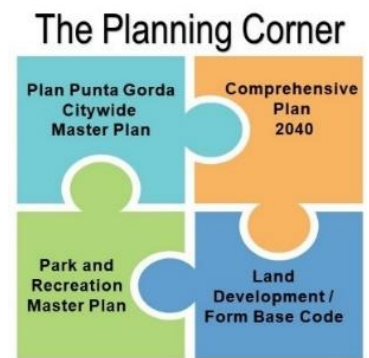
### Upcoming Events

- 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.charlottecounty-chamber.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 and 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](http://www.puntagordahistory.com).
- May 13-15, Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St., For more information, contact [events@paragonartfest.com](mailto:events@paragonartfest.com)
- May 14, A Day of Celtic Music at Fishermen's Village from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sponsored by The Cultural Heritage Center of Southwest Florida and The New World Celts
- May 26 –May 31, Healing Field of Honor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information, contact [adairjrobin@gmail.com](mailto:adairjrobin@gmail.com)
- May 30, Memorial Day Veterans 10K & 5k Race, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information, contact [info@memorialdayrace.org](mailto: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 10:00–11:00 a.m. Limited bench seating is available; consider bringing your own folding chair if needed. For additional details, contact CCVC at [charlottecountyveteranscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:charlottecountyveteranscouncil@gmail.com)

### Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed/started mowing/trimming/edging the following areas:
  - 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 – Land Development Regulations** – City Land Development Regulations (LDRs) contain the 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. At the May 18 City Council Meeting staff will present the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of “Other” Land Development Articles with minor revisions and clarifications to ensure consistency with the proposed form based code and State Statutes.



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The discussion will include:

- Article 2 – Purpose and Intent
- Article 4 – Uses Permitted with Conditions
- Article 5 – Planned Developments
- Article 6 – Application of Regulations
- Article 8 – Historic Districts and Standards of General Applicability
- Article 9 – Streets
- Article 10 – Parking and Loading
- Article 11 – Sign Standards
- Article 12 – Landscape Standards
- Article 13 – Events
- Article 15 – Review Authorities
- Article 16 – Application Review and Approval
- Article 17 – Non-Conformities
- Article 19 - Definitions

The draft documents are available as part of the [City Council Agenda package](#) and the video of discussion presented at the April 25 Planning Commission meeting the can be viewed on the [City’s YouTube Page](#). Please send any questions or comments regarding the proposed Land Development Regulation (Form Base Code) Update to the Urban Design Division at [UrbanDesign@cityofpuntaordafl.com](mailto:UrbanDesign@cityofpuntaordafl.com)

## **Public Works**

### **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 15 projects. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2021/2022. The seawall replacement contractor has six projects under construction 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 15 locations
  - Crews patched/repared (79’ linear feet) seawall caps/seams
  - Crews manufactured (30) seawall panels
  - Crews conducted three sonar depth readings at Ponce De Leon inlet, Bass/Snook inlet, and Mayors Cut/Lagoon for dredging project(s).

- **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).
- **Mangrove Trimming** - The Contractor has completed mangrove trimming in Ponce and Bass Inlet, PGI Perimeter Canal, Surfbird Section, Sancho Panza Point, Nature Park, and Navigational Bird Section and is currently working in the BSI Perimeter Canal and boat lock.
- **Inlet Dredging** - Canal Maintenance staff has completed the annual sonar study to determine the locations of inlet dredging. Sonar readings were taken in PGI at the Ponce, Bass, and Snook Inlets, and in BSI at Mayors Cut and the lagoon. This data will be submitted to the contractor to schedule and perform the dredging. Public announcements will be advertised when the actual dredging process is to begin.

### Engineering

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – The Engineer of record continues with the 90% design revisions and preparation of the Southwest Florida Water Management District permit submittal. The Rebuild Florida DEO Scope of Work for the grant funding opportunity has been submitted.
- **Harborwalk Parking and Upland Improvements** – The contractor continues to remove and haul away overburden from the site. A materials proctor has been taken by the testing company for compaction density testing in the proposed parking area in phase one between Gill St. and McGregor St. Concrete form and concrete placement have been scheduled within the next two weeks in this section. Tentatively, the contractor plans to close phase two A – between McGregor St to Chasteen St. to begin mobilization, demo, site survey, and layout to include pickleball court light removals nearing the end of the month to early June 2022.
- **Wayfinding Signage** – The sign installations are complete. Pending is the FDOT ROW permit sign-off and receipt of final documents from the contractor to close out the project by May 20.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – The contractor continues to water the sod on Padre Island and Bal Harbor. The contractor has finished re-grading the swales at Sandpiper and will begin the watering process. Grade stakes have been installed on Whip-poor-will Blvd between Eider and Partridge. The contractor will begin re-grading the swales on May 16. Calculations and grade stakes are to be completed by next week on Jacana Court. The contractor is scheduled to begin re-grading the swale on May 31.

### Right of Way

- **Reflective tape installed on bollards** – **Reflective Tape Installed on Bollards** – The Right of Way department has completed the bollard enhancements project through all City parks, sidewalks, pathways, and trails. We have installed reflective strips on each bollard to improve visibility day or night.

### Sanitation

- **As a friendly reminder, the items listed below are not part of your regular service and may be brought to the Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility** – This is a FREE facility for use by Charlotte County Residents. Proof of residency is required – a valid driver's license, utility, or tax bill will be accepted. It is located at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd in Murdock (Port Charlotte). It is open Tues. thru Sat. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All unloading must be completed by 4 p.m., with no exceptions. For more information on this facility, or a complete list of items accepted, please call the Charlotte County Solid Waste Services at (941) 764-4360 or visit [Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/Mini-Transfer-Recycling-Facilities).

- **Construction Debris** – Construction debris and demolition debris will not be collected by the City crews. Disposal of the material should be arranged by the contractor or the homeowner doing the work.
- **Household Hazardous Waste** – Items such as antifreeze, batteries, cleaners/polishers, flares, gasoline/kerosene, pesticides/ herbicides, pool chemicals, mercury, motor oil, used oil filters, paint, stains, and varnishes, are considered Household Hazardous Waste.
- **Tree Removal** – Tree removal and lot clearing is NOT a part of your regular service. If you have a whole tree removed you must first contact Urban Design to obtain a permit (941)575-3372 or [Tree Removal Permit Request | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/Tree-Removal-Permit-Request). The company that removes the tree is responsible for hauling away the remains. The City does not collect whole tree remains or lot clearing remains.
- **Whole House Cleanouts** – The City does not collect any large bulk quantity of items from whole house cleanouts, renovations, remodels, ejections, etc.

## Police

- **VIP Program** – The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed a total of 795 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during the month of April 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](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 June. Applications must be received by May 25. 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.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall Semester of 2022 and the Spring Semester of 2023. 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 Fall Semester of 2022 is June 17. **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).**

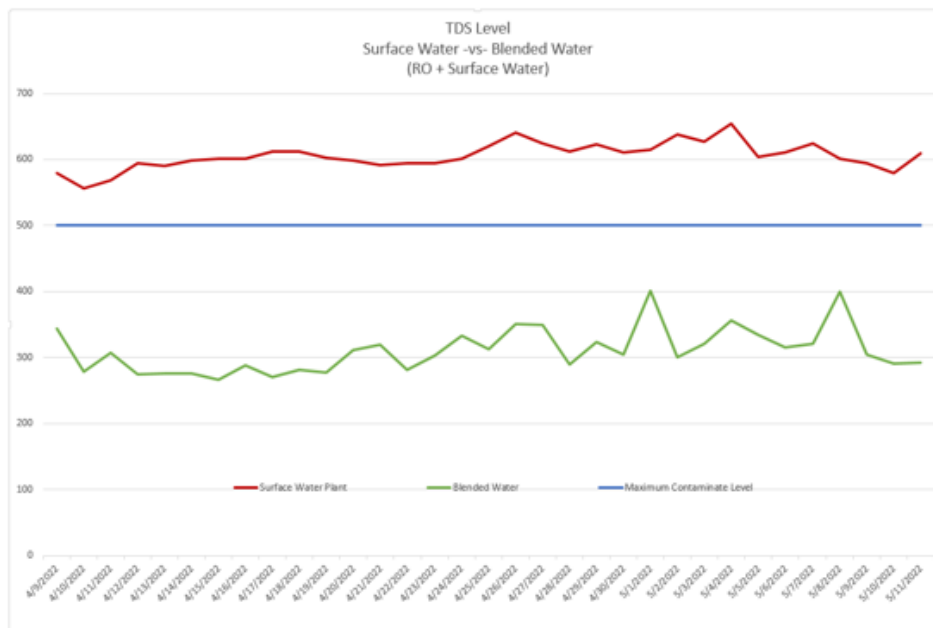
## Fire

- **Honor Flight** – This Saturday, four members of the Fire Department will accompany many local heroes to Washington D.C. to be honored at their memorials. It is truly a privilege to fly with these local heroes to visit and reflect at the memorials built in their honor. The flight will return Saturday evening at Punta Gorda Airport at approximately 9:46 p.m. Anyone looking for something different to do on a Saturday night is welcome to show up at the airport and welcome the Veterans home from their Honor Flight to Washington D.C.



## Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 52.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.4 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 2.95” May 2021 1.00” May 2022 4.10”
- 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 136 ppm
- TDS May 12 – Current 296 ppm, Low 294 ppm, High 619 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 499 ppm
- Reservoir May 12 – Current 5.11’, Record Low 4.30’, Record High, 5.45’ 57 Year Average 5.06’

## **Wastewater Treatment**

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. A crew has performed preventive maintenance on several pieces of equipment including several small pumps and mowing equipment. Staff was able to haul and inject 399000 gallons of Bio-solids.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 3.11 million gallons for a total of 21.79 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](mailto: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:
  - Lomazzo Vacation Rental, 3010 Amanda Street
  - Wildwood Pizza, 117 W Marion Avenue, #112