

Weekly Highlights Report May 20, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – May 21 through May 27 is National Safe Boating Week. Boating is a popular recreational activity that nearly 100 million Americans enjoy. With many of those boaters living right here in Punta Gorda, the City of Punta Gorda has a vested interest in boater safety.

At the May 18 City Council meeting, the city officially recognized this week as National Safe Boating Week to draw attention to the factors contributing to fatalities. Five factors contributing to boating fatalities are operator inattention, improper or no lookout, operator inexperience, machinery failure, excessive speed, and alcohol consumption (the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents).



One of the key points from the proclamation includes drowning being the cause of 75% of all boating-related fatalities. 86% of the fatalities were not wearing a life jacket. It has been proven time and again that life jackets save lives. Make sure your life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard approved, appropriate for your water activity and fits properly. A life jacket that is too large or too small can cause different situational problems.

Proper education and training are also critical to boating safety. Those without this advantage are five times more likely to die in a boating mishap. Fortunately, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 98 Charlotte Harbor offers Safe Boating Courses at the Military Heritage Museum. Offerings include Boat America, Paddlers Guide to Safety, Weekend Navigator, and Suddenly in Command. For a list of available course dates and times and to sign up, visit http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php and search by zip code to find the current offerings.

Additionally, as a reminder, every person operating or navigating any vessel in, on, or under any waters within the city shall do so carefully and prudently, taking into consideration the weather conditions and range of visibility, water turbulence, proximity to bathers, water skiers and other vessels, and all other attendant circumstances, so as not to endanger the life, limb or property of any person. The final reminder is that vessels cannot be operated in a careless manner or any manner such as to produce a wake capable of causing damage to other vessels, docks, seawalls, shorelines, or other property by wash or erosion. With 55 miles of seawall in Punta Gorda, this is extremely important to maintain the integrity of the canal system.

The Punta Gorda Police Marine Officer and Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Marine Patrol, patrol all city waterways with an emphasis on public education and safety. They address unsafe vessel operations, excessive wakes and speeds, depositing of waste, refuse, and debris, anchoring in a way that interferes with navigation and illegally securing boats to markers and mangroves. Residents should report violations to the Punta Gorda Police Department at (941) 639-4111 for further investigation.

The Punta Gorda Isles (PGI) Marine Watch members also patrol the waterways of PGI reporting suspicious boats or situations on the water. Additionally, the PGI Marine Watch hosts educational meetings throughout the year to keep its members current on water regulations and conditions.

Boater safety is the responsibility of everyone that operates a vessel. By following the simple safety rules, we can all enjoy the best of life in what may be the state's most picturesque, enjoyable, and accessible waterfront destination. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council meeting** – City Council met on May 18. A few of the items of interest included:

- Recognition of Chief Briggs regarding his upcoming retirement and 32 years of service to the City of Punta Gorda
- A presentation and discussion regarding Land Development Regulations
- First reading of the annexation process for River Haven
- Presentation of wastewater treatment plant improvements and authorization to apply for stat revolving loan funds



- **Odor Coming from Harbor** – Algae has been causing an odor this past week in the areas adjacent to the harbor. Algae are plant-like organisms that sustain marine life. They contribute to the food chain and to the oxygen that keeps water bodies healthy. But sometimes, when conditions are right—warm water and increased nutrients—certain algae can quickly grow and overpopulate. These foam- or scum-like masses are called blooms, and can be pushed to the shore by winds, waves, tides and current. Learn more at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/aquatic-toxins/harmful-algae-blooms/index.html>.

UrbanDesign

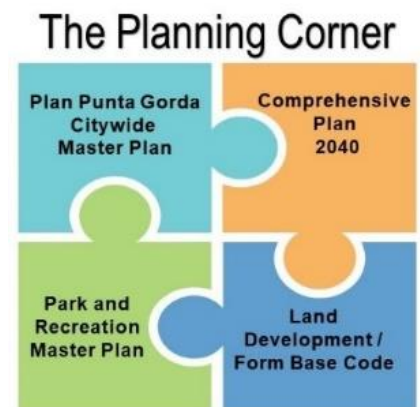
Upcoming Events

- 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 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.
- 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 10:00–11:00 a.m. Limited bench seating is available; consider bringing your own folding chair if needed. For additional details, contact CCVC at charlottecountyveteranscouncil@gmail.com
- July 3 –July 4, Fishermen’s Village Independence Day Celebration, Fishermen’s Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact

Lot Mowing Program

- The City will start mowing/trimming the following areas the week of May 23:
 - 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.



Staff completed the public presentation of the 1st draft revisions and amendments to the Land Development Regulations – Chapter 26 – City Code of ordinances which include:

- Article 3 - Regulating Districts which establish development rights and standards, and ensure protections for historic character
- April 20 – [City Council Presentation](#)
- Article 7 – Architectural Provisions - Codify architectural style standards
- May 4 – [City Council Presentation](#)
- Other Articles - Minor revisions and clarifications
- May 18 – [City Council Presentation](#)

Over the next several weeks staff will be working with the consultants on the 1st draft revisions. 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

Canal Maintenance

- **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment Fee Public Meeting** – Several residents attended the public meeting held on May 12. Special projects and assessment fees were discussed at length. Thank you to everyone that attended and participated, and a special thank you to Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association for hosting this event.
- **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 16 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 19 locations
 - Crews patched/repared (62' linear feet) seawall caps/seams
 - Crews manufactured (50) 10 ft., and (4) 12.5 ft., of 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.

Engineering

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – A Change Order for grant writing assistance with the engineer of record has been processed. 90% of design revisions continue. The next bi-weekly meeting is scheduled for May 20.
- **Harborwalk Parking and Upland Improvements** – Phase one parking lot preparation for concrete continues, and pond excavations are occurring. Pipe and structures have been received for this phase. Phase 2a - The parking lot adjacent to the pickleball courts is tentatively scheduled to close on June 1 post the Memorial Day holiday. The contractor is preparing for demolition work to commence. The pickleball courts will remain open from the park side however public access at that park near the pickleball courts will require alternative parking.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale work on Padre Island, Bal Harbor, and Sandpiper continues to be watered by the contractor. The contractor has begun re-grading the swales on Whip-poor-will Blvd between Eider and Partridge. The re-grading of the swales on Jacana Ct will begin on May 31. Grades have been calculated and grade stakes have been installed on Sea Gull Ct., and Turtle Dove Blvd. The contractor will begin work on June 6.



- **Wayfinding Signage** – The construction activities for sign installations are complete.

Right of Way

- **Maintenance** - The Right of Way department continues to trim trees, mow, and pothole repair along Monaco Tripoli, and Madrid.

Police

- **Law Enforcement Memorial** – Chief Davis and department members attended the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service held at the William R. Gaines Memorial Park. This service is held in remembrance of the officers who made the ultimate sacrifice for this community.
- **25 Year Service Award** – Captain Jason Ciaschini received his 25 Year Service Award at this week’s City Council Meeting. Thank you Captain Ciaschini for so many years of dedicated service to the City of Punta Gorda.



- **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 or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.**

Fire

- **Honor Flight** – This past Saturday, four members of the Fire Department accompanied many 73 heroes to Washington D.C. to be honored at their memorials. It was truly a privilege to fly with these local heroes to visit and reflect at the memorials built in their honor. The flight returned Saturday evening at Punta Gorda Airport to a massive crowd, including Mayor Matthews and Councilmember Cummings, welcoming our honored veterans home.

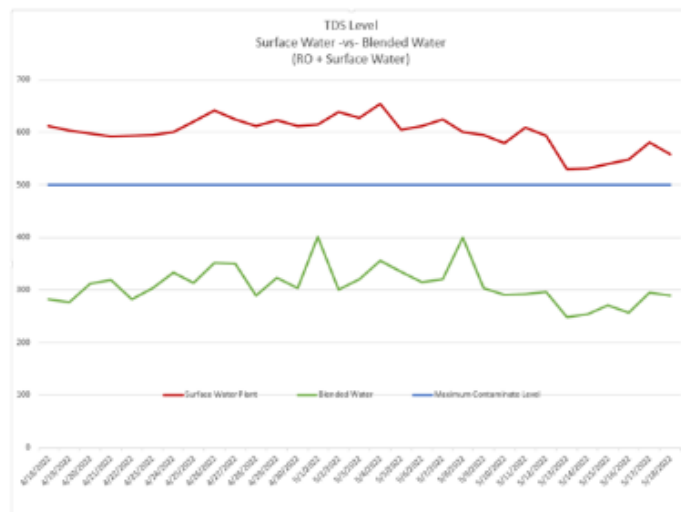


(Photo by Steve Lineberry)



Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 55.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 7.9 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 144 ppm
- TDS May 19 – Current 288 ppm, Low 288 ppm, High 591 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 492 ppm
- Reservoir May 19 – Current 5.06’, Record Low 4.50’, Record High, 5.76’ 57 Year Average 5.09’

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. staff made repairs to a washed out section of berm at the main roadway into the plant. The washed was filled in with rock and fill dirt and then sod was placed down to stabilize the area.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.88 million gallons for a total of 20.14 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

City Clerk

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.
- **Planning Commission** – (two regular) Meets the 4th Monday at 2:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to amending, extending or adding to the comprehensive plan for the physical development of the City, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending a zoning ordinance.

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:
 - Happy Skin by Sara B, 1105 Taylor Road, Studio 13
 - Lauren Degaeta, Dream Salon, 117 Herald Court, Unit 115
 - Keenan Vacation, 270 Delido Court
 - Thames Vacation, 409 W Ann Street