

## Weekly Highlights Report June 3, 2022

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Last week our friend, Fire Chief Ray Briggs, retired. Chief Briggs faithfully protected the residents and visitors of Punta Gorda for over 30 years. He started his career as a Volunteer firefighter, then progressed through the ranks as a career Firefighter, Lieutenant, Training Chief, Operations Chief, and has held the position of Fire Chief/Emergency Manager for the last eight years. The advice and leadership Chief Briggs provided throughout the public health emergency that COVID created and the many potential hurricanes and actual hurricanes that hit Punta Gorda are greatly appreciated. Special thank you to Ray's wife, Debbie, and his children for the sacrifices they have made throughout his career.



As a lifelong Charlotte County resident Chief Briggs added value far beyond the firehouse, creating new programs to benefit the community and serving others. Chief Briggs introduced a bike medic program to the community in 2014. This program allows emergency personnel to reach people quickly during festivals and mass gatherings, rather than waiting for an ambulance or fire truck to navigate through the crowd. Ray's leadership was felt by those outside the United States as well. Mission trips to Guatemala that Chief Briggs helped organize and participate in brought basic medical care and supplies, installed cooking stoves, and made a difference in the lives of families. His leadership of the Punta Gorda Fire Department is appreciated and has set the department up to continue excellence into the future. All appreciate his volunteerism and community engagement. We wish Chief Briggs all the best in the next chapter of his life.

Holden Gibbs has been named the new interim Fire Chief. Holden has most recently served as the Fire Operations Chief and has been a Punta Gorda Fire Department team member for more than 21 years. Interim Chief Gibbs has been instrumental in drafting the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) application to fund additional fire personnel and has played a vital role in union negotiations.

Holden has recently worked closely with Charlotte County Emergency Management and City of Punta Gorda IT staff to update the Punta Gorda Fire Department's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). The COOP is an action plan to ensure that essential functions will be met when activated in response to a wide range of events or situations – from a fire in the building; to a natural disaster; to the threat or occurrence of a terrorist attack. We appreciate Interim Chief Gibbs willingness to take on the additional responsibilities and his commitment to the department.

Careers in emergency services are by no means easy or glamorous. It takes an individual with courage, intelligence, and compassion to be the best of the best in these professions. We are fortunate in the City of Punta Gorda to have leaders with those characteristics that are committed to serving our residents and visitors. Thank you again, Chief Briggs, for your service, and welcome Interim Chief Gibbs to this vital role. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or by calling the general office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **The Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial of Florida** – Mr. Udovich has notified City Council that they are no longer considering Punta Gorda as an option for the memorial. Space and maintenance concerns were cited as the reasons for the decision.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on June 1 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. A few of the items of interest included:
  - Approval of the second reading for River Haven annexation process
  - CRA update including financial update
  - FY 2023 Budget Status Update for Gas Tax Funds
  - City Council Expense Reimbursement Policy amended to follow General Services Administration rates
  - 2022 Charter Review Committee Report
  - FY 2023 Budget Status Update for Sanitation Fund proposed fee \$25.56
  - Fiscal Year 2023 Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District Budget Status and Discussion with consensus to increase by \$300.00
  - Fiscal Year 2023 Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District Budget Status and Discussion with consensus to increase by \$300.00
- **The Meridian Senior Living Punta Gorda Update** – A new progress video is available at <https://youtu.be/abWqmI2h6X4>.

## Urban Design

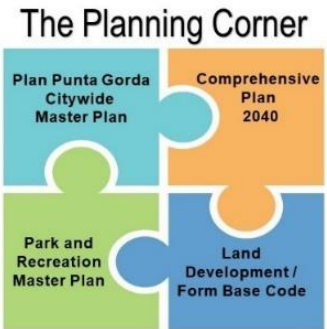
### Upcoming Events

- 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.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at <https://militaryheritagemuseum.org/find-upcoming-events/>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community event and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- May 7– June 14, "Florida's Best" exhibit, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maude Street, for more information, please visit <https://visualartcenter.org>.
- May 15 – June 13, "The Artistry of Dance" exhibit, Visual Arts Center, 210 Maude Street, for more information, please visit <https://visualartcenter.org>.
- July 3 – July 4, Fishermen's Village Independence Day Celebration, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact [kburnam@fishermensvillage.com](mailto:kburnam@fishermensvillage.com).
- Sept 16, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact [kpomerville@cbhcf.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcf.org)
- Oct 15, Charlotte County Out of the Darkness Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact [tsullivan@afsp.org](mailto:tsullivan@afsp.org)

### Lot Mowing Program

- The City will start mowing/trimming the following areas the week of June:
  - 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 – Permits** – As a friendly reminder to our residents, many outdoor home improvement projects, such as paver patios, sidewalks, landscape walls, etc., may require permits through the Building and/or Zoning and Code Compliance division. Staff invites residents to contact Zoning and Code Compliance while in the planning stage of a project, prior to commencing construction to determine if permits will be required, [pgcode@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com](mailto:pgcode@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com) or (941) 575-3352.



## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Bass and Snook Inlet Dredge** – Beginning June 6, through June 17, (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Bass and Snook Inlet are scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will offload dredge material at the easterly end of Elizabeth Park and then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks. Boaters are asked to please use caution in this area during construction.
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- **Ponce De Leon Inlet** - Beginning the week of June 13, through June 30, (weather and equipment operation permitting), the Ponce Inlet is scheduled to be dredged. The contractor will offload dredge material at the vacant lot at the southerly end of Colony Point; then the material will be transported to another location by dump trucks.



- **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 eight locations
  - Crews patched/repaired (79' linear feet) seawall caps/seams
  - Crews manufactured (18) 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).

## **Engineering**

- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – The Engineer of record continues with the 90% design revisions to address utility conflicts and preparation of the Southwest Florida Water Management District permit submittal. The next bi-weekly meeting is scheduled for June 17.
- **Harborwalk Parking and Upland Improvements** – Harborwalk two parking and uplands improvement project – underground drainage and catch basin installation is occurring. The pickleball court parking area has been closed in preparation for demolition. Tree removals have commenced in this area. Gilchrist St. near W. Retta Esplanade is closed to accommodate drainage pipe and stormwater inlet modifications.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale work on Swale work on Bal Harbor, Sandpiper, and Whip-poor-will Blvd between Eider and Partridge is still being watered by the contractor. The contractor has begun re-grading the swales on Jacana Ct. Work will begin on Sea Gull Ct./Turtle Dove Blvd., by the contractor on June 6. Pipe elevations have been calculated on McGregor, Ann, and Lemon St. Grade stakes will be installed this week for the contractor to re-grade the ROW. The re-grading for these locations will begin on June 20.



## **Police**

- **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).
- **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](mailto:vip@pgorda.us).



## Fire

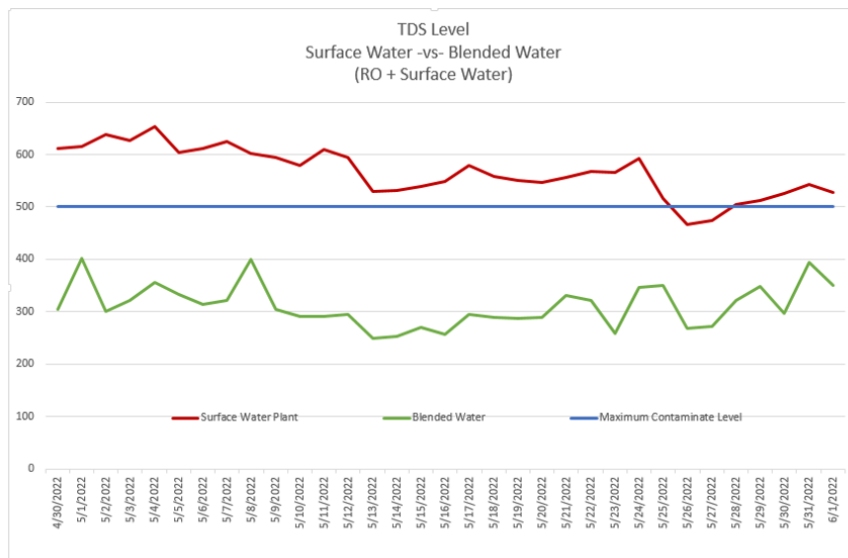
- **Storm Preparation** – The fire department would like to share some tips to prepare your yards before a storm hits. These tips can save you clean up time after a storm and possible a broken window or two.

### **Storm preparation for your yard:**

- Remove all yard debris such as fallen branches and lawn decorations
- Remove unsecured items such as hanging potted plants, decorative pillows, BBQ grills and patio furniture
- Make sure your gutters and storm drains are clear to allow water to drain
- Inspect trees for rotting branches that may break off during a storm
- Have trees trimmed before a storm hits

## Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 47.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.7 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 May 2021 1.00" May 2022 7.62" June 2021 8.50" June 2022 0.00"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 10 ppm – Total hardness 164 ppm
- TDS June 2 – Current 346 ppm, Low 295 ppm, High 611 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 479 ppm
- Reservoir June 2– Current 5.22', Record Low 4.46', Record High, 6.07' 57 Year Average 5.16'

## **Wastewater Treatment**

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds. Staff was able to haul and inject 140000 gallons of Bio-solids to field four this week.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 2.84 million gallons for a total of 19.87 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, 117 Herald Court Centre, Unit 112. 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** – (three 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.