

Weekly Highlights Report June 17, 2022

City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Last weekend's rains reminded residents of Punta Gorda that we have officially entered the rainy season. While this is a positive development for our Shell Creek Reservoir, it also challenges our residents. From flooding, to drainage, to mosquitoes, large amounts of rainwater cause a demand for services.

With low property elevations and the high water tables over much of our area, flooding is likely to occur during summer showers and thunderstorms. Residents must take precautions in advance of rain events. This includes securing outdoor furniture and securing items on docks. For city crews, this includes storm drain cleaning. City crews perform storm drain cleanouts to catch basins and drainage lines at least once a year using a specialized truck. Drainage work also includes reconstruction of swales, outfalls, and roadway culvert repairs or replacements to mitigate flooding. The Right of Way Maintenance Division works to keep 115 miles of improved streets and over 230 miles of stormwater drainage systems flowing smoothly. Every effort is made to close streets and limit access to flooded areas when a rain event takes place, but ultimately, situational awareness is critical. Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road when flood waters are present. Turn around and go another way. As the saying goes, "turn around, don't drown."



Swales are shallow grass areas along the road which collect and convey runoff so that our homes and roads are not flooded. Much of our community utilizes roadside swales to convey excess stormwater to the nearest body of water. Swales function much differently than an underground pipe system that many residents are more familiar with. Besides conveying water, swales also act to filter and absorb water, resulting in cleaner canals and aquifers. A swale is expected to retain small amounts of water after rainfall. Unless the swale retains water for more than 72 hours since the last rainfall, it is considered to be functioning properly. It is not uncommon for a swale to be wet for weeks at a time during the rainy season.

Public Works is responsible for maintaining common drainage areas of the city, including roadside swales in residential neighborhoods. Crews regularly clear blockages at inlets and remove sediment from inlet basins and pipes to ensure that water can flow freely. Drainage swales are inspected each year. GPS-enabled cameras are deployed across the entire city on appropriate days. From those videos, we can identify work areas for the following year. If you have questions about the drainage program, contact Public Work at (941) 575-5050.

Residents have been expressing concerns about mosquitoes in their neighborhoods. Charlotte County handles mosquito control services using a ground spraying and aerial strategy. To learn more and see when your neighborhood is scheduled for spraying, please visit <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/public-works/mosquito-aquatic-weed/mosquito-aquatic-weed-treatment.stml>. Individual homeowners can assist in these efforts by draining accumulated water from items that are stored outside and emptying and cleaning birdbaths and outside pet bowls at least once or twice a week.

The rainy season is a beautiful time of year; with efforts from city staff and residents, we can have a safe and enjoyable summer. We will continue to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling the general office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council Qualifying** – Qualifying for the 2022 General Election for Districts 1, 2 and 4 took place this week (June 13 at noon to June 17 at noon) and is now closed. Donna Peterman qualified for the District 1 seat. She is unopposed and thus has been elected to the District 1 seat. Qualifying for the District 2 seat are William Dryburgh and Rachel Keesling. The race for the District 2 seat will be on the Nov. 2022 ballot. Lynne Matthews has qualified for the District 4 seat. She is unopposed and thus been re-elected to the District 4 seat. Congratulations to all.
- **City Council Meeting** – City Council met on June 15 at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall. A few of the items of interest include:
 - America in Bloom - Approval for planters at Bailey Brothers Park
 - Historic City Hall Rehabilitation Project Update
 - FY 2023 Budget Update - General Construction Fund, 1% Sales Tax Fund, and Unfunded Construction Projects
 - FY 2023 General Fund Budget Update and Alternatives - General Fund and Information Technology

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://militaryheritagemuseum.org/find-upcoming-events/>
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community event and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- June 25, Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Water Sampling Event, Meet at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers for a presentation by EarthEcho on water quality sampling. At 9:45 a.m. the group will walk over to the Gilchrist pavilion to distribute sampling kits and demonstrate with hands-on kits volunteers can take home. For more information visit <https://www.chnep.org/>
- July 3, Smugglers Fourth fest, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact jerry@smugglers.com
- July 3 – July 4, Fishermen's Village Independence Day Celebration, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact kburnam@fishermensvillage.com.
- July 4, Party and fireworks viewing, Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact pgihyatts@embarqmail.com
- Sept 16, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact kpomerville@cbhcfl.org
- Oct 15, Charlotte County Out of the Darkness Walk, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact tsullivan@afsp.org

Lot Mowing Program

The City contractor will complete mowing the following areas the week of June 17:

- The area 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 (Magdalina 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

- **Planning Corner** – The Land Development Regulations provide the requirements for developing and using private property within the City of Punta Gorda, and over the last year have been reviewed and presented to both the public and the City Council. The first draft review is complete. The second draft is now underway, and staff will begin working with the consultant on making grammatical changes, inconsistencies, and begin the Code Testing. Staff will bring back these visual examples of the proposed code, making adjustments to match the community’s scale and vision. City staff welcomes your comments, questions or concerns regarding the Land Development Regulation updates. Please contact the staff through the website using the following link: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/urban-design/land-development-regulations>



Public Works

Engineering

- **Harborwalk parking and upland improvements** – Underground placement of electrical conduit continues in prep of electrical wiring for the future decorative lights and bollards. Sidewalk preparation continues on the park side between Gilchrist and McGregor Avenue. Concrete is scheduled this week into next week. The basins and cross pipes have been installed at the northern ends of Gilchrist St. and McGregor St. Chasteen St., is scheduled for closure Monday, June 20, to commence with street demolition and underground drainage installations. Pedestrian and vehicular detour maintenance and traffic devices are in place. Travelers are requested to drive with caution as workers and construction vehicles will be present within the work areas.



- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – The final property acquisition is scheduled for closing. The 90% plans continue to be a work in progress. The Florida DEO grant process continues.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale work on Bal Harbor, Sandpiper, Jacana Ct, and Whip-Poor-Will Blvd, between Eider Ct, and Partridge Dr., is still being watered by the contractor. The contractor has begun work on Sea Gull Ct./Turtle Dove Blvd. Grade stakes have been installed on McGregor St., Ann St., and Lemon St. for the contractor to re-grade the ROW. The re-grading for these locations will begin on June 20.

Canal Maintenance

- **Seawall Failures** – Punta Gorda Isles recently experienced seawall failures at two locations after the June 11, rain event. Approximately 475 LF of seawall will be replaced due to the storm damage. This fiscal year Punta Gorda Isles has replaced about 875 LF of seawall due to seawall failures. The cost to address the emergency repairs exceeds the available funds in the annual budget. Therefore, six seawall replacement projects have been rescheduled for the next fiscal year seawall replacement work program. Those projects are located at:

Don Quixote Dr. 2804 and portions of 2800

Ocean Dr. 20, 24, portions of 16 & 30

Riding Rocks 1244, 1238, 1234

Maria Ct. 142, portions of 132 & 152

Parisian Ct. 2612

Sancho Panza 2830, 2826, portions of 2834

- **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.



- **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 19 locations
 - Crews manufactured (33) 10 ft. 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).

Police

- **K9 Therapy Dog Chance** – We would like to welcome K9 Therapy Dog Chance to the Punta Gorda Police Department. Chance (a 14 month old beagle seen in the photo below with his handler Lieutenant Davoult) was a rescue dog who participated in the Brevard County Paws and Stripes College, where he was specially trained as a therapy dog for law enforcement agencies. Chance will be able to respond to situations where students and members of our community are experiencing crisis as well as being available to provide much needed stress relief for officers, dispatchers, law enforcement employees, and city employees. Welcome to the PGPD family Chance!
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We have three testing dates upcoming on July 14, Aug. 25, and Sep. 29. We are currently accepting applications to test for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher for all of these testing dates.
- **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.
- **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.



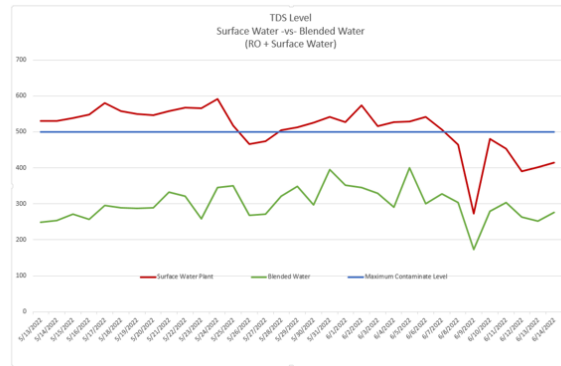
Fire

- **Service Awards** – The fire department would like to recognize and thank Lieutenant Derik Stewart for 15 years of service and Battalion Chief Joe Lindsey for 20 years of service to the Punta Gorda Fire Department. The department and community are appreciative of their service and sacrifice to always keep watch over the city.



Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 45.1 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.4 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 June 2021 8.5" June 2022 7.60"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 ppm – Total hardness 128 ppm
- TDS June 16 – Current 234 ppm, Low 234 ppm, High 597 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 442 ppm
- Reservoir June 16 – Current 5.83', Record Low 4.18', Record High, 6.37' 57 Year Average 5.35'

Wastewater Treatment

- **Maintenance** – Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds.
- **Operations** – The average daily flow for the past week was 3.80 million gallons for a total of 26.56 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.
- **Building Board** – (two regular) Meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers – City residency not required. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Four members must be involved with the building industry and three members must be consumer advocates who are not, nor ever have been, involved with building industry. Makes recommendations to City Council on the minimum qualifying requirements for obtaining Certificates of Competency in the various construction trades and the fees for same. Periodically reviews and holds public hearings on all building, electrical, plumbing, housing, gas, fire prevention and other related codes. Reviews enforcement of all codes relating to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.
- **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.

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:
 - Mattress by Appointment, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Unit 1113
 - Avenue Sunshine, 265 E Marion Avenue, #119
 - Hipnotique, 111 W Marion Avenue
 - Priddy Electric LLC, 275 Boca Grande Blvd., Unit 101
 - Sunny Gorda LLC Vacation Rental, 1371 Grebe Drive