

## Weekly Highlights Report July 1, 2022

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Citizen advisory boards and committees, to which the City Council makes appointments, are an integral part of the governmental process in the City of Punta Gorda. The citizens that serve on these various boards and committees have an interest or experience in the area of service, and the necessary expertise to accomplish the goals and objectives of the specific advisory group. Several of these boards and committees are seeking volunteers to serve.



The Utility Advisory Board has three regular seats available. The board meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency is required to serve on this seven-member board. Members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two terms. The board makes recommendations to City Council with regard to, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies, rates, and review of utility drawings and specifications.

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) has two alternate positions available. This board makes recommendations to City Council on variances to City Code. BZA meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 4 p.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency is required for this seven-member board with two alternate members. Volunteers serve three-year terms, with a maximum of three terms or partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure is required.

The Building Board (BB) has two regular seats available. The board meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City residency not required for this seven member board with two alternate members. Volunteers serve three year terms, with a 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. The board 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. It 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. The BB also hears alleged complaints against contractors.

Members are also sought for two alternate seats on the Code Enforcement Board. It meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. City is residency required to serve on the seven-member board with two alternate members. Members serve three-year terms, with a maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure is required.

As information, all meetings, including City Council meetings, will be temporarily relocated to the Military Heritage Museum while Historic City Hall is under construction. If you have an interest in serving in any of the available seats, please fill out the online application at <https://tinyurl.com/56ev8xe2> or give the Punta Gorda City Clerk's Office a call at (941) 575-3369. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling the office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **Independence Day Holiday** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice **NO CHANGE** in their trash, yard waste, or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers will notice **NO CHANGE** in trash collections during this holiday. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.
- **Firework Safety over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend** – While many enjoy fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, animals, Veterans, First Responders, and others may suffer emotional distress. Most fireworks are illegal in Florida. Florida allows the sale and use of non-aerial and non-explosive fireworks like novelties, fountains, and sparklers. Anything that leaves the ground or explodes is illegal to be sold to and used by residents here and has been since 1941. As a reminder, Florida’s fireworks laws define “fireworks” as everything that goes into the air or explodes. Fireworks safety entails practicing safety precautions to avoid injuries, such as keeping a safe distance from active fireworks, keeping water sources at hand, lighting fireworks one at a time, and so forth. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals and not use fireworks at home. Enjoy fireworks July 3 at Laishley Park and July 4 at Fishermen’s Village.
- **City Council** – The Punta Gorda City Council will meet on July 6, at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall a few of the items of interest include:
  - CRA project update
  - Setting of lot mowing rates
  - Consideration ad valorem tax exemption ballot language
  - Setting of BSI and PGI Canal Advisory Assessment Districts



## Urban Design

### Upcoming Events

- 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/>.
- July 3, Smugglers Fourth fest, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact [jerry@smugglers.com](mailto: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](mailto:kburnam@fishermensvillage.com).
- July 4, Party and firework viewing, Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 W Retta Esplanade, For more information contact [pgihyatts@embarqmail.com](mailto:pgihyatts@embarqmail.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)

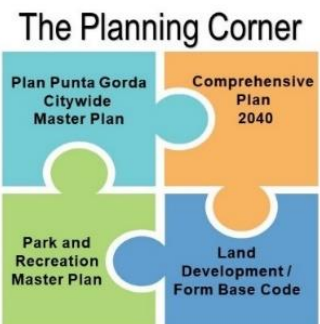
## Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed mowing the following areas:
  - East Side 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, Whipoorwill 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 – Comprehensive Plan – Future Land Use Element (FLUE)** is the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan providing its most critical guiding policies in the form of Future Land Use Categories. The Future Land Use Categories describe the fundamental types of development the community envisions in broad classes of residential densities, commercial, industrial, institutional, and open space/preservation uses. These Future Land Use Categories are arranged on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to describe generally the pattern of habitation and commerce across the City. State statute (Chapter 163) requires that the FLUE achieve the compatibility of adjacent lands and the following community development goals:

- Encourage the preservation of water-dependent uses.
- Encourage the location of schools proximate to urban residential areas.
- Coordinate future land uses with the topography, soil conditions, and the availability of facilities and services.
- Ensure the protection of natural and historic resources.
- Provide guidelines for the implementation of mixed-use development.
- Density and intensity of each use.
- Balance land uses that foster vibrant, viable communities and economic development opportunities and address outdated development patterns.



## Building

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued the letter of final determination for the effective date of Charlotte County's new flood risk maps. The new Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) will become effective on Dec. 15. For more information on this item and to see how your property may be affected, please go to : <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/legal-notice/flood-and-natural-disaster-information>.

## Public Works

### 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, Maria Ct. 142, portions of 132 and 152, Ocean Dr. 20, 24, portions of 16 and 30, Parisian Ct. 2612, Riding Rocks 1244, 1238, 1234, Sancho Panza 2830, 2826, portions of 2834.
- **Bass and Snook Inlet Dredge** – Dredging operations are completed and the contractor is in the process of restoring the staging site. Elizabeth Park is expected to be graded prior to the holiday, but the sod will not be placed.



- **Ponce De Leon Inlet** – This project has been delayed until after the holiday. Beginning the week of July 11, through July 29 (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 14 projects under construction and has completed 17 projects. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2021/2022. The seawall replacement contractor has two projects under construction and has completed six 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 23 locations
  - Crews assisted Right of Way with Maintenance of Traffic pedestrian fencing in downtown Punta Gorda.
- **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

- **Harborwalk parking and upland improvements** – Due to the heavy rain, high tides and high standing water work has been limited. The grading of the parking lot in preparation for asphalt continues, weather permitting. Chasteen St., remains closed at this time.
- **Boca Grande Drainage Improvement project** – The final property acquisition is scheduled for closing. The revised 90% revised plans are anticipated to be received by the City the first week of July. Upon approval of the revised 90% plans by City Staff, the revised plans are to be submitted to Southwest Florida Water Management District.
- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale work on Jacana Ct, Sea Gull Ct, Turtle Dove, and Whip-Poor-Will Blvd, between Eider Ct, and Partridge Dr., is still being watered by the contractor. The contractor has finished re-sod at McGregor St and Ann St. The re-grading of Ann St and Lemon St will be finished this week. The swales will be staked out for the re-grading at E. Virginia Ave, between Milus St and Mary St., this week. The contractor will be re-grading this area starting July 5.



## Police

- **Public Safety Appreciation Night Awards** – Congratulations to Officer Jessie Richards and Public Safety Dispatcher Heather Shaughnessy who were recognized as the Officer of the Year and Civilian of the Year respectively at the Public Safety Appreciation Night dinner.



Photo by Steve Lineberry

- **Fourth of July Weekend Traffic** – There are traffic changes planned for after the Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Laishley Park on July 3. Please visit [www.pgpdfnews.com](http://www.pgpdfnews.com) to read the press release.
- **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](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

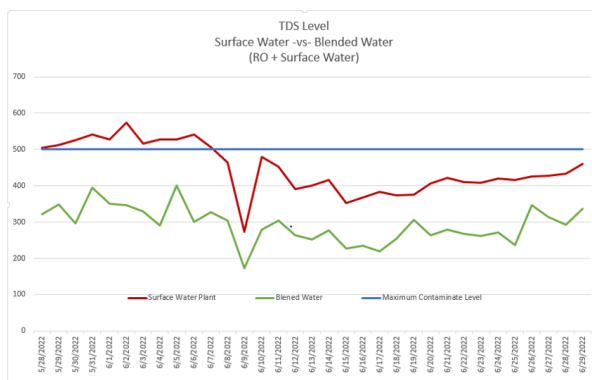
- **Fireworks** – For many, the Fourth of July holiday is a time to celebrate with barbecues, parades and fireworks. But, experts say, when it comes to fireworks, it's best to leave it to the professionals. Each July Fourth, thousands of people, most often children and teens, are injured while using consumer fireworks. In 2021, nine people died and over 11,500 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers. Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

### **Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks**

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
- Always have adult supervision.
- Wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands.
- Don't point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Only light one firework at a time.
- Watch them from a safe distance.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

## Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 48.3 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.9 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 June 2021 8.50" June 2022 10.35"
- 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 June 30 – Current 318 ppm, Low 274 ppm, High 637 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 418 ppm
- Reservoir June 30 – Current 5.45', Record Low 5.00', Record High, 7.37' 57 Year Average 5.55'

## **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 2.89 million gallons for a total of 20.24 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.
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### **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 Hour Market Place, 361 Martin Luther King Blvd.