

## Weekly Highlights Report July 8, 2022

### City Manager

- **City Manager Column** – Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month. Created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Park and Recreation Month specifically highlights the essential and powerful role local park and recreation professionals, such as our staff at the City of Punta Gorda, play in building more robust, more vibrant, and more resilient communities all across the country. This July, we are bringing attention to how important it is to rise up and support the field of parks and recreation because every day, park and recreation professionals rise up for their communities in service of equity, climate-readiness, and overall health and well-being.



Many municipalities have a formal Park and Recreation Department that is a standalone department. The City of Punta Gorda has a bit different structure. We rely on our Urban Design Department for park design, park rentals, climate readiness, and physical programming of our parks. Our Parks and Grounds Division of Public Works handles our park maintenance. Their work together has resulted in beautiful waterfront and neighborhood parks for our residents and visitors to enjoy year-round.

Four in five U.S. adults say that access to a nearby park, playground, open space, or recreation center is essential in deciding where they want to live. Living close to parks and other recreation facilities is consistently related to higher physical activity levels for both adults and youth. Moreover, parks provide a connection to nature, which studies demonstrate relieves stress, strengthens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health.

According to NRPA's 2021 Engagement with Parks Report, people place a high value on the programs and services that park and recreation agencies deliver to their local communities daily and strongly support their mission. Two hundred sixty million people in the United States visited a local park or recreation facility at least once during the past year. More than seven in 10 U.S. residents have at least one local park, playground, open space, or recreation center within walking distance of their homes. Four in five U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live. Eighty-seven percent of people agree that parks and recreation are essential services their local government provides. Nearly nine in 10 people agree that it is vital to fund local park and recreation agencies.

The City of Punta Gorda continues to invest in our park assets. A few of the latest investments include improvements at Gilchrist Park, our 11-acre waterfront park. The park is undergoing construction of on-street parking, parking lot improvements, and receiving additional site furnishings to make visiting the park even more convenient. Laishley Park's interactive fountain area is being expanded to include splash pad amenities and equipment, enhancing the quality of life for our residents and visitors of all ages. Nature Park and Ponce Park are also receiving investment in updates and repairs. Additionally, Punta Gorda in Bloom is taking on the beautification of Bailey Brothers Park.

Parks significantly contribute to our ability to preserve our small-town character while promoting diversity, economic development, and sustainability. Our park and recreational opportunities are vitally important to the community. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling the general office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council** – The Punta Gorda City Council will meet on July 13, at 9 a.m. at the Historic City Hall a few of the items of interest include:
  - Lobbyist Update
  - Setting of BSI and PGI Canal Advisory Assessment District Budget Hearing Dates
  - Safe Streets Grant Application

## 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.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/>.
- 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)
- Oct 22, Blues, Brews, and BBQ, History Park, 501 Shreve St, for more information contact [jwright@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:jwright@puntagorda-chamber.com)
- Nov 5, Veterans Appreciation Parade, for more information contact [cam4fire@yahoo.com](mailto:cam4fire@yahoo.com)
- Nov 12, Lighting of the village, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact [kburnam@fishermensvillage.com](mailto:kburnam@fishermensvillage.com)
- Nov 19-20, Season Opener Arts & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta esplanade, for more information contact [mypromo@mypromotions.com](mailto:mypromo@mypromotions.com)

### Lot Mowing Program

- The City has started mowing the following areas the week of July 5.
  - 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).
  - 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 Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).

## Planning

- **Planning Corner** – The City of Punta Gorda has a prohibition against door-to-door soliciting and littering. Please see the code sections below regarding these regulations. Chapter 15, Sec. 15-45. Door-to-Door Selling, Soliciting and Canvassing [excerpt], the full chapter can be found at Soliciting, beginning on page 15-22. (b) Prohibition Against Door-to-Door Selling, Soliciting, Hawking or Peddling. It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct any door-to-door selling, soliciting, hawking or peddling within in any residentially zoned district of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida. Chapter 9, Sec. 9-2. Public Nuisances Described [excerpt], the full chapter can be found at Public Nuisances, beginning on page 9-4. (h) The placement, deposit, or maintenance of any litter, trash, debris, stagnant water, or a dense wild growth of trees, vines, underbrush, wild growth and weeds and/or grass in excess of twelve (12) inches in height from the ground upon property located within the City and on the sidewalks and parkways abutting thereon, except as may be provided by the City Council. (j) The creation of litter as the same is defined by Section 403.413, Florida Statutes, “The Florida Litter Law”, as the same may, from time to time be amended.



## 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 approximately 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:  
Maria Ct. 142, portions of 132 and 152    Don Quixote Dr. 2804 and portions of 2800  
Ocean Dr. 20, 24, portions of 16 and 30    Parisian Ct. 2612  
Riding Rocks Ln 1244, 1238, 1234    Sancho Panza Ct. 2830, 2826, portions of 2834
- **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. The seawall replacement contractor has 17 projects under construction with 17 projects having been completed. Burnt Store Isles has eight seawall replacement projects scheduled for the fiscal year 2021/2022. The seawall replacement contractor has two projects under construction at this time with six projects having been completed. A seawall replacement project can consist of multiple properties and a seawall project is not considered complete until the sod has been placed.
  - Crews filled depressions at 21 locations.
  - Crews assisted Right of Way with Maintenance of Traffic pedestrian fencing.
- **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 and may bump planned projects to the following year).



## Engineering

- **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 in the second 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.
- **Harborwalk parking and upland improvements** – The contractor continues with site layout, preparation, grade, and base work between Gill and Chasteen streets. The parking lot between Gill and McGregor St. received the first asphalt lift. Irrigation installation is also on the look ahead in this area.



- **City Wide Drainage Swale Regrading** – Swale work at the following locates continues to be watered by the contractor: Jacana Ct, Sea Gull Ct, Turtle Dove, McGregor St, Ann St, Lemon St. The swales have been staked out for re-grading at E. Virginia Ave, between Milus St. & Mary St. this week. The contractor will be re-grading this area starting July 11. The elevations have been recorded at the pipe inverts at Dupont / Elizabeth / Myrtle. Grade stakes will be installed this week and the contractor will be re-grading the area the week of July 18.

## Sanitation

- **Regular Yard Waste** – Just a friendly reminder that regular yard waste is collected once per week and must be out to the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee pickup. Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4” in diameter or 4’ in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds. Shrubbery, grass clippings, and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. If you have a large quantity of loose yard waste, branches, etc.

that is a wheelbarrow full or larger, you will need to schedule a special collection by calling (941)575-5050 or [Schedule a Special Pick Up | City of Punta Gorda, FL](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us) ([punta-gorda.fl.us](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us)).

The regular yard waste crews are unable to pick up large loose



piles such as those shown at right. These large loose piles will require the use of the clamshell truck to collect the vegetation material.

## Police

- **Punta Gorda Police Department Receives Eighth Reaccreditation** – In April of 2022 the Punta Gorda Police Department hosted a team of assessors from the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). Law enforcement accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that the police department is in compliance with approximately 235 prescribed standards. These standards help to ensure that agencies are using best practices in their policies and procedures. Every three years accredited agencies undergo an assessment where all aspects of the police department are examined to ensure compliance. On June 16, the Punta Gorda Police Department went in front of the CFA in Orlando, Florida, who voted unanimously to reaccredit the police department. As this was our eighth reaccreditation without conditions the department also received our fourth Excelsior Award. The police department was first accredited in 1998 and has remained accredited since that time. We believe that accreditation is important for the department and our community and are proud to be an Excelsior Agency.
- **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

- **Storm Definitions** – Hurricane Season Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. Hurricane Tropical storm with sustained winds of 74 mph or greater. A typical hurricane starts as a Tropical Wave. If the tropical wave becomes better organized it becomes a Tropical Depression. If conditions are favorable, it then can become a Tropical Storm, at which point it gets a name. Once the sustained winds reach 74mph or greater it becomes a Hurricane.

Hurricane Categories The Saffir-Simpson Scale assigns hurricanes to five categories based on wind speed and damage potential:

Category Wind Speed Damage

One 74-95 mph Minimal

Two 96-110 mph Moderate

Three 111-129 mph Extensive

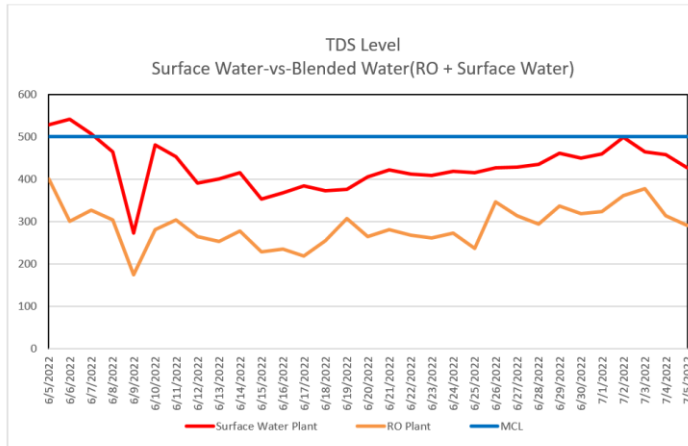
Four 130-156 mph Extreme

Five 157 mph or greater Catastrophic

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11077/637251307008930000>

## Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



### **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 44.5 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 8.50" June 2022 10.35" July 2021 13.17" 1.10"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "moderately hard" – Grains of Hardness 6 ppm – Total hardness 108 ppm
- TDS July 7 – Current 225 ppm, Low 164 ppm, High 564 ppm, 12 Year Avg. 386 ppm
- Reservoir July 7 – Current 5.59', Record Low 5.03', Record High, 7.10' 57 Year Average 5.52'

### **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 2.76 million gallons for a total of 20.19.34 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:
  - Nichole M Vahlkamp Inc., 1080 Coronado Drive
  - Desiree Julian Vacation Rental, 1428 Kittiwake Drive