

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT May 26, 2023

### City Manager

- Memorial Day will be observed in the City of Punta Gorda on May 29. All city offices will be closed in observance of the national holiday. Residential garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection, and commercial garbage collection schedules will be unaffected by the holiday. Several events are planned in the City of Punta Gorda to commemorate Memorial Day.

The Military Heritage Museum will feature a Memorial Day Commemoration beginning with a ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on May 29. Exhibits will be open from noon to 4:30 p.m. There is free admittance for Veterans and a complimentary hot dog lunch from noon until 1:30 p.m. At 1 p.m., a special documentary entitled The War Memorials will be shown. The documentary features the untold history and tales behind the creation of Washington D.C.'s beloved monuments. Observe and see the eternal flame at the grave of a fallen leader. At 3 p.m., the Military Heritage Museum will host the Punta Gorda Symphony Memorial Day Concert. Tickets are \$35.00 per person and are available at [www.gulftheater.org](http://www.gulftheater.org) or by calling (941) 205-8545.



Also taking place on May 29 is the Charlotte County Veterans Council Memorial Day ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Vietnam Memorial Wall of Southwest Florida located in Laishley Park. Steve Cornwell, chairman of the Charlotte County Commission's Veterans Council, will serve as master of ceremonies. A combined color guard of the Marine Corps League Detachment 756 and American Legion Post 110 will present the colors. County Commission Veterans Council liaison Stephen R. Deutsch will present the commission's Memorial Day proclamation. Amanda Mocanu, U.S. Air Force, Retired, will provide the invocation, and American Legion Post 110 Commander Jay Hemingway, U.S. Army, Retired, will lead with the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem will be performed by Darren Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired. A wreath presentation by John Brunton, Military Order of the Purple Heart, U.S. Army, Retired, and Tom Delaney, U.S. Army, Retired, will occur. The ceremony will feature a 21-gun salute by the Marine Corps League Detachment 756 Honor Guard; Todd Helt, U.S. Army, will play Taps, and Rev. Kevin Shaw, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, will deliver the benediction. Anthony Policelli, a retired law enforcement officer, will play the bagpipes to close the ceremony.

If you can't attend one of these events to honor our fallen military members, consider participating in a moment of remembrance. This simple moment of silence is a national act of unity and reflection. The official Moment of Remembrance is May 29 at 3 p.m.

We will never forget the men and women of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedoms. We appreciate the families of our fallen

warriors and have a never-ending appreciation of our men and women in uniform who sacrificed their lives to maintain the security of the United States. *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.*

- **Sales Tax Holiday** – The first 2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on May 27 and ends on June 9. A second Disaster Preparedness Holiday begins on Aug. 26, and ends on Sept. 8. During these sales tax holiday periods, tax is not due on the retail sale of eligible items related to disaster preparedness. A complete list of items included is available at [https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP\\_23A01-02.pdf](https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents/TIP_23A01-02.pdf).
- **Memorial Day Holiday** – All City of Punta Gorda offices will be closed on May 29 in observance of the holiday. There is no change to commercial or residential trash collection.

## **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 Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum
- May 26, Happy Hour Gardens, 317 E. Virginia Ave., will host a community history trivia event with county historian Jennifer Zoebelein at 5 p.m. The lecture represents a continuing partnership between Happy Hour and Charlotte County's Libraries and History Division of Charlotte County.
- May 26, Kick off to Summer, Leroy's, 201 W Marion Ave, For more information please contact [lee@leroyspg.com](mailto:lee@leroyspg.com)
- May 27, Downtown Bash, Taylor St between Herald Ct and W Olympia Ave, For more information please contact [jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com)

### **Lot Mowing Program**

- Still inspecting lots for completion that were mowed this last cycle marking and remarking lots throughout the city that have either worn off or are new to the program.
- Lots Mowed and Inspected
  - 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).
  - Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, West Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive, and Coronado Drive).
  - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
  - Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).
  - Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street, and Harvey Street)

- Planning Corner – Property Rights Element** – Urban Design staff has posted a draft copy of the updated *Property Rights Element* on the City’s website. The purpose of the *Property Rights Element* is to: identify specific property rights and state that local government will respect them; identify the rights of people to participate in decisions that affect their lives and property and provide standards for local government decisions to be transparent in respect for this right; and provide standards for local government decision-making to be reliable and predictable to promote sound, long-term investments in a community. Land values reflect how desirable a community is in many ways. Regulating land use and protecting property rights are not conflicting goals. Rather, local government rules generally create value in property and bring stability to real estate markets. Rules that benefit the public also protect property rights. Still, a local government’s process for regulating land greatly impacts real estate markets and property rights. Transparency, predictability, and reliability are three strategies for implementing land use rules in a way that benefits people and respects property rights. All of the goals, objectives, and policies contained in the *Property Rights Element* are mandated by § 163.3177(6)(i)1. (2021), *Florida Statutes*. It is the newest of all the elements and was added in 2021 as an off-cycle Comprehensive Plan amendment. This draft mostly corrects typographical and grammatical errors. To view the proposed element please visit: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/14220>



## **Building**

- Improvements** – The Building Division continues to make improvements since Hurricane Ian. Other processes to better service our contractors and residents include the following electronic and in-person improvements:
  - Customer Building Lobby improvements to include an additional workstation to accommodate in person wait times and new waiting areas.
  - Updated phone line and email messages.
  - A customer lobby queueing system, Qless, will be introduced within the upcoming months. This will allow our customers to log into the system prior to arrival. More information on how to use the system will be communicated prior to arrival.

Other improvements are proposed within the next year to increase efficiency and enhance the customer experience include:

- Online permit submittal
- Digital plan review

## **Public Works**

- Channel Marker Replacements** – Channel Marker signs have been received and the contract to install new channel markers is currently being advertised.
- Canal Maintenance Production** – Canal Maintenance crews filled depressions at 34 locations and manufactured 50 seawall panels.

- **Dockside Dredging** – Property owners that are listed on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list will not be allowed to have dockside dredging performed adjacent to the seawall until the seawall has been repaired. Any dredging along the damaged seawall may cause damage.
- **Stabilizing Erosion** – Just a friendly reminder for property owners to regularly check the condition of their tarps or plastic that is protecting the eroded areas. Tarps and plastic tend to become brittle in the sun and may start falling apart. Our area is still experiencing rain events and plastic will help keep the soil in place preventing further erosion.
- **Canal Maintenance Seawall Failure Update** – As schedules are submitted and approved the information is being posted on the Canal Maintenance website. All contractors are scheduled to begin work by May 31. Barges are already arriving, staging sites are getting set up and seawall panel material is being staged.
- **Canal Debris Cleanup** – The debris contractor hired by the State of Florida to clean the Punta Gorda canals, still has crews in Charlotte County. The team plans to use sonar to do another sweep through the canal system to identify any debris that has not already been collected below the water level. They are expecting to be completed by June 10 - weather permitting.
- **FEMA Update** – The City continues to work with FEMA to develop a schedule for inspection. Property owners that have damaged seawalls as a result of Hurricane Ian can expect to see City representatives along with FEMA inspectors walking through their yards to inspect and collect data for the damaged infrastructure.
- **Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has created a program that connects boat owners that need a temporary relocation of their boats with owners that have available dock space. This information can be found at [Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance (boat2puntagorda.org)) click on the Dock Match button for information.
- **Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with seawalls being damaged. City code states that the operation of vessels in the canals shall be Slow Speed Minimum Wake in the waterways within the City limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlet are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.

### Engineering

- **Ponce de Leon** – The contractor has been working diligently to install the new pilings for the new boardwalk. They have installed (8) 25-foot-long pilings and (80) 20-foot-long pilings. They have also demoed/disposed of approximately 320 feet of old boardwalk. Please take extra caution while driving thru the park due to construction personnel and equipment.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park** – The sod is fully established and looks beautiful for our dogs to enjoy. The park re-opened on May 25 at 7:30 a.m.





- **Swale Regrading** – The swale contractor has completed the swales on North Plum Tree, Scarlet Sage, Panarea Dr., Madrid Blvd, Tripoli, and South Crete Ct. Any sod that has not established will be replaced. They have excavated approximately 25,350 SF of material and re-sodded all areas with sod. The contractor will start to re-grade Narranja on Jun 5 and they will be excavating approximately 3100 SF of material and re-sodding these areas at the proper elevations. Once Narranja is completed the next location will be on Virginia Ave.

### Facilities

- **Gilchrist Fishing Pier** – Facilities has completed repairs to the fishing pier in Gilchrist Park. The pier has now been reopened.



### Sanitation

- **Bagged Garbage** – Trash must be bagged inside the cart to prevent any wind-blown litter during the collection process, or any leakage from wet garbage. It can also help keep animals out of your garbage. As a friendly reminder, please place any pet waste and pet hair securely inside a bag to prevent the debris from blowing onto the sanitation workers.
- **Whole House Clean-outs** – As a friendly reminder, whole house clean-outs are NOT included with your regular trash services. The property owner is responsible for the clean-up and removal of debris. The City does not rent dumpsters and the use of a dumpster may require a permit through Zoning and Code Compliance (941) 575-3352.



### Police

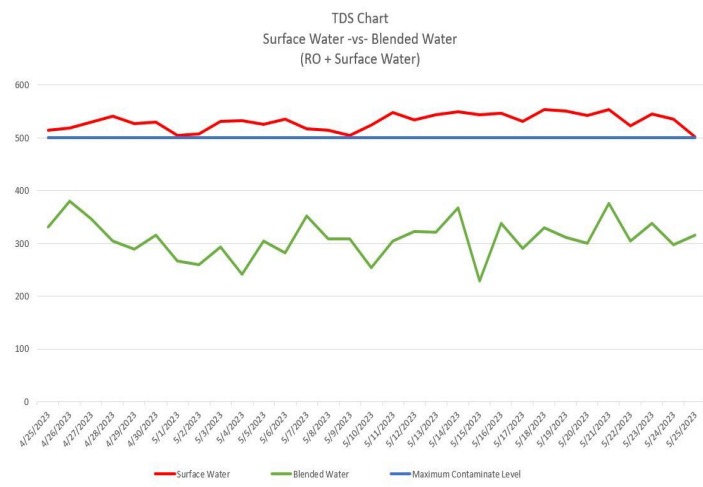
- **Police Officer Testing** – The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. We will be holding a virtual testing process in June. Applications must be received by June 26. The written exam will be completed online anytime between June 30 and July 7, with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on July 24. We are currently only accepting applications from candidates who are currently law enforcement certified or Equivalency of Training (EOT) eligible. **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

- **Safe Grilling**– The National Fire Safety Board offers the following tips for safe grilling:
  - For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks before use
  - Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
  - Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
  - Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
  - Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.
  - If you use starter fluid when charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. When you have or are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.
  - Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

## Utilities

### ➤ R.O. Plant



## **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- 66.4 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 9.5 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 800 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 800 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall May 2022 7.67” May 2023 3.52”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 9 –Total hardness 156 ppm
- TDS May 25 – Current 315 ppm, Low 315 ppm, High 593 ppm, 13 Year Avg. 475 ppm
- Reservoir May 25 – Current 5.05', Record Low 4.44, Record High, 5.82' 58 Year Average 5.11'

## City Clerk

- **Candidate Packets Now Available** – Candidate packets for the 2023 City General Election are now available for pick up at the City Clerk's Office, currently located at 117 Herald Court Centre, Unit 112. 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>. The 2023 General Election will take place on Nov. 7 and will include City Council Districts three and five. 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. 22 (11 weeks prior to the General Election). Qualifying for the 2023 General Election cycle begins Jun. 12 at noon and ends on Jun. 16 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.
- **Current Board and Committee Vacancies**  
If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/boards-committees>.
- **Code Enforcement Board** – (two alternates) 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.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** – (two alternates) Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a "Local Historic Landmark" or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- **Utilities Advisory Board** – 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** – Meets the fourth Monday at 2 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:
  - Carlisa Family Medical & Aesthetics, 525 E Olympia Avenue, Unit #8