

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT 8/6/2010

City Manager

- Reminder – The City is seeking input to our **FY 2011 Strategic Plan**. Please provide all suggestions to the City Manager by mail to 326 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 or email at citymgr@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us. You can review the July progress report of the FY 2010 Strategic Plan at the City's website – www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us under *What's New*.
- The City was recently notified by Public Risk Management (PRM) that employee health and dental **insurance premiums for FY 2011 will increase 11.8%** and 5%, respectively. The proposed budget forecasted a 10% increase in health and retention of the current rate for dental based on earlier communication and projections. The impact of the premium increase over budget is \$48,500, of which \$29,500 is associated with the General Fund. Necessary reductions to eliminate the gap will come from operating expense funds as recommended by City Council.
- The City will be submitting a **Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) variance** request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for an additional five years (2016) in order to meet secondary state standards. This extension, if granted, will enable timing of construction of a proposed groundwater reverse osmosis facility to more closely match customer demand based on current growth projections. Council will review the variance request at its August 18 meeting.
- The Economic Development Working Group, represented by County Commissioner Starr, Council Member Wallace and members of the private sector, completed their tasks, which culminated with a number of incentive alternatives that can be used for business retention and expansion in Charlotte County, including the City. These incentives have been highlighted in previous weekly reports.

Public Works Department

Engineering:

- **Aqui Esta Road Improvements:** Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. is the Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) firm overseeing the construction project and will provide Public Inquiry responses to Citizen or Officials inquiry. The Project Administrator may be contacted at: 941-505-2408. For the Project Status, Schedule and 3 Week Look Ahead, visit the City's website <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/>. Bridge and roadwork continues with single lane closures. Alternate routes will remain open.
- **Harborwalk East Improvements:** Procurement has placed this project out for bid, which are due 8/27/10.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park:** Contractor commenced site preparation and fence installation. Staff obtained proposal to provide and install landscape materials.
- **Laishley Park Marina Floating Day Docks:** Pile design delivered on schedule. Project out for bid, which are due 8/25/10.
- **Herald Ct. Curbing:** Work to install curbing has commenced.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:

- The seawall has been set at 2001 W. Marion Ave.
- Sinkholes were filled at twelve locations in Punta Gorda Isles.
- The seawall cap has been poured at 430 Coronado Dr. The caps are being formed at 400 Coronado and Lot 5 Mediterranean. Recap work is continues at Lot 8 Casey Key Dr. and 2170 Palm Tree Dr.
- Channel marker pilings were installed in Ponce and Pompano Inlets.
- Sod installed at 1215 & 1224 Appian, Dolphin Club Condos, 5019 Bal Harbor, 1639 & 1645 Casey Key Dr., 2000 Via Venice, 261 Venezia and 260 & 290 Coronado Dr.
- City crews have been pouring over-sized seawall panels for wall replacement on both sides of the Peeples Bridge on Marion Ave. Work is taking place on vacant lots on Colony Point Dr. north and on the cul-de-sac of La Mancha Ct.

Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance:

- The seawall cap was poured at 548 and Lot 44 Port Bendres Dr.

Police Department

- Department, along with the **Neighborhood Marine Watch** coordinated by William Geunther, has increased crime prevention efforts in our canal systems by installing new Neighborhood Marine Watch signs at specific entrances in Punta Gorda Isles. This is an additional effort to advise potential criminals that the citizens of Punta Gorda are watching and criminal behavior will not be tolerated in our City. The Neighborhood Marine Watch Group is well over fifty volunteers strong who rotate patrolling our canals during the late night hours.
- **Two Schools Open Monday:** This coming Monday school begins at Charlotte High and Punta Gorda Middle. Children will be scurrying through your neighborhoods in attempts to catch their buses or walk to school. Please use due care when driving to work and through your neighborhoods before and after school hours. These hours are typically between 6:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. in the morning and 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. Also, please be cognizant of the **school zones** which are depicted by the flashing yellow lights, located on the streets adjacent to our schools.



Bus Safety: The Police Department would also like to ask parents to remind their children to follow a few simple safety rules while riding the school bus. First, do not approach the bus until it has come to full stop. Next, make sure you stay seated while the bus is in motion and never put your head, arms, or hands out the window. Finally, cross the street in front of the bus, never behind it. Following these simple safety rules can go a long way in keeping our kids safe this school year. For these tips and other great traffic safety tips, you can visit <http://www.flhsmv.gov/fhp/misc/TrafSafeTips.htm>.

If you observe any unsafe conditions or have concerns with certain bus stops or intersections in your respective neighborhoods; please contact Community Services Sergeant Joe King at jking@ci.punta-gorda.fl.us or at (941) 575-5525.

- Police Chief and Community Services Sergeant attended the Punta Gorda Kiwanis meeting and were presented with a \$250 donation to Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County, Inc. Thank you Punta Gorda Kiwanis! A reminder that our first Do the Right

Thing Program of the 2010/2011 school year will take place at City Council Chambers on Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Growth Management Department

Building

- The planned 7-11 at Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta submitted their building plans for review and permitting.

Urban Design

- Staff attended the *Planning for Climate Change Workshop* at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, GA where a case study describing what our community is doing to prepare for sea level rise was given to audience of planners, planning commissions, local, state and federal governments and coastal resource managers. This workshop was the first in a series of workshops for this region that will focus on climate change, sea level rise and needed strategies for the Georgia/North & South Carolina coastal area. The workshop was hosted through a partnership with GA Dept. of Natural Resources/ Coastal Zone Management Program, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, GA Sea Grant and the local Coastal Regional Commission of Planners.
- Staff is moving forward with the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process of the City of Punta Gorda's Comprehensive Plan 2025. After a recent public workshop, staff is hosting the jurisdictional agencies in a Scoping Meeting on August 10, 2010 at the MPO Offices located at the Charlotte County Environmental Campus on Harborview Road. For complete updates please check out the City's website <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/growthmgmt/compplan.html> .
- Outstanding issues have been resolved with the contractor doing the work on Linear Park – Retta to Olympia. Wayfinding signs are in production and a new installer for design compliant artificial turf has been contracted. Existing turf will be removed and product that meets the specifications will be installed.

Fire Department

- Fire Marshal met with the construction manager overseeing the Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) build out at Herald Court Centre to discuss fire protection systems and life safety code requirements for the school's interior design layout.
- Department provided station tours as well as several Q&A sessions with a group of both children and adults from the Chabad of Charlotte County. The group included a stop at the Public Safety building as part of their week long Church camp.

Utility Department

Hendrickson Dam

- **Spillway Replacement:** The contractor prepared and poured the last section of concrete cap on the south abutment and boat hoist platform. This pour consumed 60 cubic yards of concrete bringing the total concrete poured on this project to 796 cubic yards.



Wastewater Treatment Plant

- **Fleet Maintenance:** The fleet crew has been busy fielding calls and showing potential buyers the vehicles and equipment up for sale on the city's auction at www.govdeals.com.

Wastewater Collections

- Reminder to residents...If you see a "red light" on at any of the City's Lift Stations please call the Utilities Department emergency number at 575-5070.

Water Distribution

- **Water Distribution Meter Change out Program:** Distribution employees changed out two (2), 6-inch diameter water meters this week; one at the Windjammer Point complex on Bal Harbor Drive, and the other at the Motel 6 on Jones Loop Road. As a meter ages and its internal parts wear, a meter's accuracy can be affected. The City has an established change out program and will publish such information in response to a recent letter to the editor.

Water Treatment Plant

- **Plant Operations:** ASR injection totals – 182 MG , ASR Recovery total - 16.48 MG. August 2009 Rainfall – 10.85" versus August 2010 Rainfall – .90"
- Currently the treated water has 13 Grains of Total Hardness. Hardness is a measurement of the calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. At the current level the City's water is considered "very hard".
- **Reservoir Information:**
 - Current Reservoir Level – 5.57'
 - Record High for Aug 5 – 6.28'
 - Record Low for Aug 5 – 5.00'
 - 40 Year Average for Aug 5 – 5.49'

Main Street Punta Gorda

- Contact MSPG by phone at 941-575-9099, by email at info@mainstreetpuntagorda.org, or on the Web at www.mainstreetpuntagorda.org.

City Clerk

- Volunteers interested in serving on the City's Boards and Committees can download an [Appointment Information Form](#) and submit same to the City Clerk's Office for consideration.

Board and Committee Vacancies

- Board of Zoning Appeals (1 vacancy) - Meets 4th Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Makes recommendations to City Council on certain variances to the zoning code.
- Building Board (1 alternate vacancy) - Meets the 4th Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. 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.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board (1 vacancy) - Meets the 4th Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers. 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 policy recommendations for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff regarding certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
- Utility Advisory Board (1 vacancy) - Meets the 4th Monday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. 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.
- Code Enforcement Board (1 vacancy) – Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.

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: