

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT 8/13/2010

City Manager

- Mayor, City Manager and Utilities Director conducted a conference call with representatives of the **Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)** regarding the City's request for a total dissolved solids (TDS) variance extension from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and its impact on grant funding for a groundwater reverse osmosis plant. SWFWMD agreed to retain the grant monies in the budget pending outcome of the variance extension request.
- At its August 18 meeting, Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) and City Council will take up a number of discussion items some of which are summarized below.
 - **Lease for ceramics studio** and retail space in Herald Court Centre - Lease has been received for CRA review to lease out 1,274 square feet in area adjacent to Subway and across the courtyard from Artisan's Atelier. Lease proceeds to be received by the CRA in first year are \$20,384 (rent and common area maintenance).
 - **Noise ordinance amendments** – In June, we reported that current provisions in the City Code prohibit lawn mowers, leaf blowers, power tools, pressure washers and a host other mechanical or electrical equipment that generate noise customary to today's day to day activities. In order to rectify this situation, a public hearing will be held to permit the hours of operation of such equipment and machinery whose noise cannot be confined to the boundaries of a property to between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.
 - West Henry Street & West Marion Avenue intersection – Another concern has been raised over traffic safety and options for additional solutions for motorists failing to observe the yield sign will be presented.
 - Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Continuing discussion of process to obtain changes to board composition (adding an additional member from the City and Airport Authority) in light of recent action taken by the Board to retain current structure.
 - **Employee Pension Plans** – Alternatives for Plan changes for future employees that minimize future liability on the City.
 - **Sale of Alcoholic Beverages** – Discussion of suggestion to ease the current restriction that prohibits alcohol sales between 2 a.m. and Noon on Sundays.
 - History Park – Request from the Punta Gorda Historical Society to amend their lease with the City to allow a farmer's market on Sundays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., not to complete with the downtown farmer's market on Saturdays.
- The proposed **FY 2011 Budget** will be posted on the City's website, www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us, under *What's New* by 8/16/10.
- The **City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan** has been given an "Award of Merit" from the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association. The Plan was recognized for its "Grass Roots Initiative", primarily the support of TEAM Punta Gorda and the volunteer design professionals who aided in the Plan Charrettes. The award is being presented to the City at the American Planning Association's annual conference in Tampa on September 15.

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 www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us. Bridge and roadwork continues with single lane closures. Alternate routes will remain open.
- **Harborwalk East Improvements:** Pre-bid meeting held 8/6/10. Several contractors attended. Bid questions and comments are due by 8/23/10 with bid opening scheduled for 8/27/10.
- **City of Punta Gorda Welcome and Ponce/Peace River Wildlife Signs:** Received FDOT right-of-way permit and plan set approval for the proposed welcome sign to be placed near the northeast quadrant of U.S. 41 and Retta Esplanade.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park:** Contractor completed installation of the 6' vinyl fence. Pending is inspection approval and contractor invoicing, in addition to landscaping.
- **Herald Court Curbing:** Concrete work has been completed. Landscaping has started with assistance from TEAM Punta Gorda volunteers.
- **Public Works/Utilities Campus:** The train on the pylon sign faces at the Cooper St. Campus will be replaced with the City Seal logo the week of 8/16/10.
- **Herald Court Centre:** Painting has commenced in the Florida Gulf Coast University area upon installation of air conditioning ducts, drywall and electrical conduits. Electrical, air ducts and sprinkler heads installed in Artisan's Atelier area. The final design has been received from the consultant for the County Courthouse chiller screening wall. The required bid documentation is being prepared for Procurement. This work is necessary as part of agreement between City and County whereby County provided land for Herald Court Centre. Subway has contracted with local architectural firm to complete design documents.
- **San Rocco Drainage Improvements:** Final recommendation for golf course pipe replacement made. Staff will make a presentation to the Twin Isles Golf Course residents at their September meeting. Staff will present its findings and discuss the timing and logistics for replacement of the pipe within the golf course.
- **Linear Park Ph. I Construction Retta Esplanade & Olympia Ave.:** Staff submitted as-built certification for SWFWMD. The contractor has removed the flawed artificial turf; staff has approved the replacement material and installation is anticipated to occur within 7-10 business days. The Sweet Acia tree which was blown down during a recent storm has been replanted. Wayfinding signs have been approved and installation is anticipated to begin within 10 business days.
- **Carmalita Drainage Construction:** Pre-bid meeting held 8/6/10. Bid opening 8/24/10.
- **Retta Road Extension Construction:** Minor issues remain to complete FDOT permit punch list. Working with contractor on close out documents.
- **Mary / Showalter Decorator Lights:** Underground work completed; expect delivery of lights the week of 8/23/10.
- **Multi Use Recreational Trail – Shreve/Pompano/Virginia:** Surveying has commenced.
- **Cooper St. Playground:** Pre-bid meeting was held 8/12/10. Bid opening is scheduled for 9/1/10, and construction is anticipated to begin in the October/November timeframe.
- **MLK – Olympia Ave. Harborwalk Streetscape:** 50% plans completed and presented to Development Review Committee 8/13/10.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:

- Sinkholes were filled at 32 locations in Punta Gorda Isles.
- Seawalls are being set at 2811/2801 Ryan Blvd., 2031 Via Venice and 1312 Penguin Ct. Seawall is being removed at 1350 Red Bird. Cap completed at 400 Coronado. Seawall caps were poured at Lot 5 Mediterranean and 2001 W. Marion Ave. Recap work is underway at Lots 45/46 Deborah Dr. and 491 Capri Isles.
- City crews completed pouring oversized slabs for both the north and south side approaches to Peeples Bridge on W. Marion Ave. Coordination of temporary relocation of the power lines along the south side of the bridge is being worked on by FPL.

Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance:

- Backfill work was performed at 548 and Lot 44 Port Bendres Dr.

Police Department

- Department went live with Sungard's OSSI Records Management System (RMS) system and Mobile Field Reporting (MFR). These new systems employ several distinctive features that will allow the City's Police easy access to data and avoid redundant entry. It will automate many functions, simplify data entry and verify accuracy with data validation. It also contains robust reporting and analysis. The patrol officers will have the ability to submit and access data through easy-to-use, consistent interfaces, reducing training time and errors. In the upcoming weeks, the Police-2-Citizen module will be deployed allowing citizens to access accident and other reports via the City's Website.
- Punta Gorda Schools opened this week and police personnel were out in force both in the schools and monitoring vehicular traffic in the area. Parents of Charlotte High School students are asked to utilize the designated parent pick-up and drop-off route at the school. The entrance is located on Henry Street, the one-way street adjacent to the south side of the school. Police have observed parents dropping off and picking up their children in the middle of Cooper Street. It is a traffic violation and a **serious safety hazard** to stop in the middle of the road and drop off your student.

Growth Management Department

Urban Design

- Staff remains on task for the City's Evaluation & Appraisal Report (EAR). A Scoping Meeting with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and several other State agencies was held August 10 to discuss the major issues to be addresses in the EAR which were identified by citizen input and City staff. This meeting marked another milestone in the ongoing EAR process. For complete updates, please visit <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/growthmgmt/compplan.html>.
- On August 9, the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization Board (MPO) approved a change in the construction limits for the U.S. 41 Multi-Use Recreational Trail Phase II. This change will extend the trail further south along U.S. 41 to Taylor Rd. The project is scheduled to receive construction funding in the 2011 Florida Department of Transportation budget year which begins July 1, 2011.
- City and County staff met to discuss the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding City review and comment of future development proposals in the Shell and Prairie Creek watershed. City staff review and comment will be focused on any potential impacts to water quality for the Shell Creek Reservoir which serves as the City's water supply.

- This week's Design Studio included a meeting with a contractor regarding a proposed workshop addition to the Burnt Store Presbyterian Church and meeting with the owner of Celtic Ray about possible patio/balcony additions.

Fire Department

- Mayor, Vice Mayor as well as several Career and Volunteer firefighters presented a donation of \$2000 to St. Vincent DePaul Ministries. The firefighters union received the funds thru donations collected from the sale of firefighter license plates. The funds will be used to purchase much needed food items for pick-up and distribution to those in need. St. Vincent DePaul is located at the corner of Taylor Rd and Airport Rd.
- Department personnel responded to a commercial structure fire, the fire was confined to one room and the cause was determined to be oil/gas covered rags improperly stored within a non-approved container. This should be a reminder to all of us to place rags saturated with oil, fuel, paint or any petroleum products either in an approved safety can or allow rags to dry in a well ventilated area prior to disposal.

Utility Department

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.
- Staff continued locating the City's 20-inch forcemain and associated valves on Bermont Road as part of the County's road widening project. The County is currently soliciting bids for a Design & Build contract for these planned improvements.

Water Treatment Plant

- August 2009 Rainfall – 10.85" versus August 2010 Rainfall – 3.70"
- Currently the treated water has 7 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 "moderately hard".
- Reservoir Information:

Current Reservoir Level – 5.85'
 Record High for Aug 12 – 6.13'
 Record Low for Aug 12 – 4.90'
 40 Year Average for Aug 12 – 5.54'

Hendrickson Dam

- The contractor has finished with the work that would require the use of the barge and crane. The boat hoist is being placed back on the new concrete intake structure this week, as the project is nearing completion.



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 - 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 Alternate - 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.
- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee - Meets 2nd Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels (including BSI boat lock) within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes recommendations on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Code Enforcement Board (2 vacancies) - Meets the 4th Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board - 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 - 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.