

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT 8/20/2010

### City Manager

- Community input for the FY 2011 Strategic Plan is still being received. We plan to bring suggestions to City Council for its review at the September 1 Council meeting.
- The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) approved a lease with Creative Circle for a ceramic studio and **retail space at Herald Court Centre** (1,274 square feet adjacent to the soon to be built out Subway). With this action, the Centre will have leased out almost 7,000 of the 17,000 square feet available in the facility. The proposed restaurant has backed out of their letter of intent to lease 5,000 square feet in the east building.
- City Council took action on a number of items at its August 18 meeting, as highlighted below.
  - Amended the Code to allow for **lawn mowers, leaf blowers, power tools**, pressure washers and a host of other mechanical or electrical equipment that would generate noise customary to today's day to day activities between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The second reading of the Ordinance change will occur September 1.
  - Approved the variance to allow for an Artisan's Atelier in Herald Court Centre, in accordance with FEMA guidelines.
  - Agreed to install a solar powered blinking yield sign to enhance traffic safety at the intersection of West Henry and West Marion. A similar sign was installed near the crosswalk on Pompano between U.S. 41 and Shreve.
  - Agreed to research pension plan changes for future employees that will minimize future liability
  - Directed staff to amend the ordinance regulating **alcohol sales** to allow for such sales starting at 7 a.m. on Sunday. Previously Sunday sales were not permitted until noon. The ordinance amendment will be scheduled for a public hearing in the near future.
  - Revised the timing for utility improvements (water, sewer and drainage) and road **resurfacing of Bal Harbor** from a projected February 2011 initiation to the end of April 2011, in order to avoid the time when the City's population is at its peak. The project is anticipated to take 8 months.
  - Directed staff to amend the lease with Old Punta Gorda Inc. to allow for a more diverse set of activities at History Park to include a Farmer's Market on Sunday, parties, business meetings, small art shows, yoga, acoustical concerts and other special events.
  - Agreed to extend the ability to allow for off-premises directional open house signs on developed private property for an additional two years. Staff will bring the ordinance extension to Council for a public hearing in the near future.
  - Discussed recent action taken by the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regarding the City and Airport Authority recommendation to change the composition of the MPO Board to allow for an additional member from the City and Airport. In this manner, no one entity would have the potential to dominate to the exclusion and detriment of its other members. The MPO denied the request. City staff will develop a position paper/petition, possibly in conjunction with Airport staff, and send it to the Governor highlighting the issue and possible remedy, after review by City Council.

## **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. Project Administrator may be contacted at 941-505-2408. For the Project Status, Schedule and 3 Week Look Ahead, visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/publicworks/engineering.html>. Bridge and roadwork continues with single lane closures. Alternate routes will remain open.
- **Aqui Esta Sidewalks @ Magdalena to U.S. 41:** City & County staffs continue to discuss the design and right-of-way challenges required to construct sidewalk along this section of roadway.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park:** Purchase Order for installation of landscape material has been issued, staff met the contractor on site 8/13/10 to layout the plant material locations.
- **U.S. 17 Olympia Ave Traffic Signal Poles:** Staff will meet with FDOT on 9/01/10 to discuss the recommended repair work for the traffic signal mast arms.
- **Herald Ct. Curbing:** Concrete curbing complete, landscaping installation to commence 8/20/10.
- **Public Works/Utilities Campus:** The train on the pylon sign at the Cooper St. Campus was replaced with the City Seal 8/18/10. Fleet Building from the Henry St. campus will be relocated to the Cooper St. campus in place of pole barn canopies.
- **San Rocco Drainage Improvements:** Study is complete, and design is underway. Staff will present the findings to the Golf Course Board and discuss the timing and logistics for replacement of a pipe within the golf course in September.
- **Linear Park Ph. I Construction Retta Esplanade & Olympia Ave.:** Installing nailer boards in preparation of new artificial turf. Awaiting delivery of wayfinding signs.
- **Carmalita Drainage Construction:** Bid opening scheduled for 8/24/10.
- **Retta Road Extension Construction:** Staff met with FDOT 8/18/10 to discuss issues regarding ADA sidewalk ramps at U.S. 41 north and south bound.
- **Mary/Showalter Decorator Lights:** Delivery of decorator lights anticipated week of 8/23/10.
- **MLK – Olympia Ave. Harborwalk Streetscape:** DRC approved the plans 8/13/10.

### **Right-of-Way:**

- Performed drainage improvements on swales at 3706 & 3712 Candia Dr.
- Trimmed trees around schools for bus traffic.
- Mowed and trimmed dead end of Columbian Dr.

### **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:**

- Sinkholes were filled at 29 locations in Punta Gorda Isles.
- The seawalls are being set at 1350 Red Bird, 1775-1783 Boca Raton, 1793 Boca Raton and Lot 16 Crooked Island. The seawall is being removed at 3946 Crooked Island. The seawall cap has been poured at Lot 45-46 Deborah Dr., 2212 Via Veneto and Lot 15 San Mateo. Seawall caps were formed at 491 Capri Isles and Lot 8 San Mateo.
- Backfill work was performed at Lot 13 Darin Dr.
- Sod has been installed at 260 Coronado, 3817 La Costa Island, 844 Pamela, 5111 Almar, 261 Venezia and Lot 12 Cimarron.

### **Burnt Store Isles Canal Maintenance:**

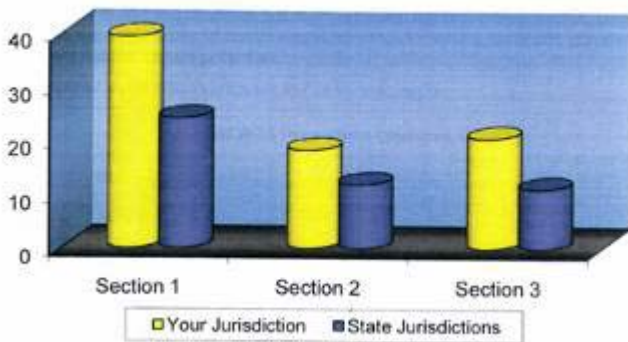
- Sinkholes were filled at 3 locations in Burnt Store Isles.
- The seawall cap is being formed at Lot 102 & 103 Palermo.

## Growth Management Department

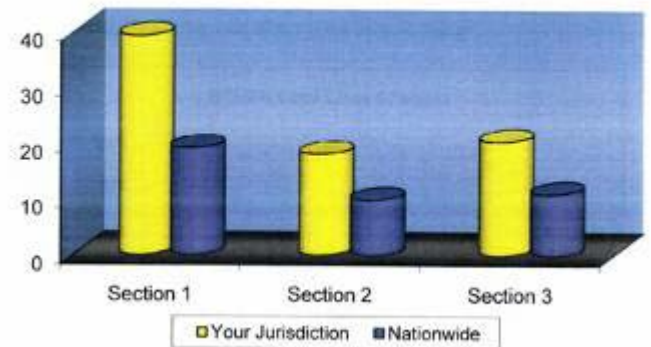
### **Building Division**

- ISO Properties, an independent statistical and rating organization which serves the property/casualty insurance industry, collects information from communities across the country on their adoption and enforcement of building codes (codes administration, plans review and field inspection) and uses the data to assign a classification number to the jurisdiction being evaluated. The classification number ranges from 1 to 10, with 1 being the most favorable classification of commitment to the adoption and enforcement of building codes. After a recent evaluation, the City has been classified as a number 3 in both commercial and residential categories. The City's commercial and residential overall points in all categories scored higher (better) when compared with the average of jurisdictions on a state or country basis.

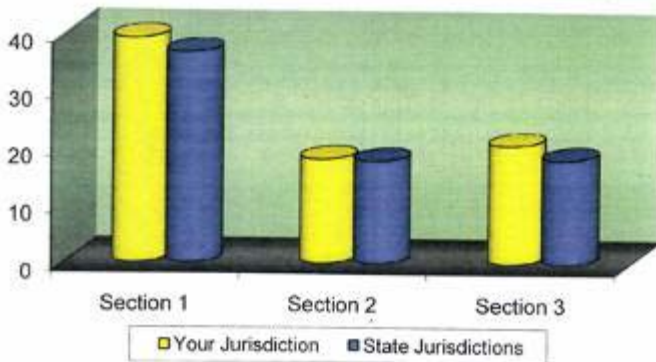
**B6-3 Residential Points Scored Compared to Your State**



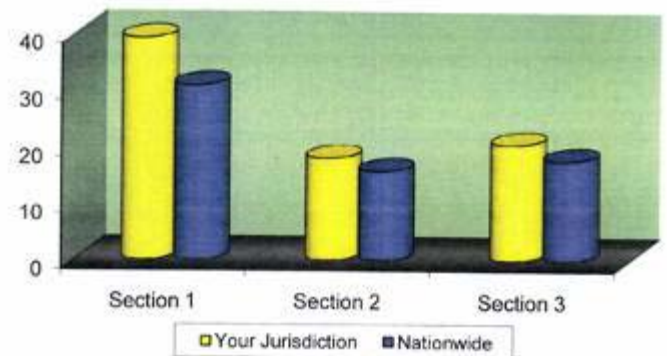
**B6-4 Residential Points Scored Compared Nationwide**



**B6-1 Commercial Points Scored Compared to Your State**



**B6-2 Commercial Points Scored Compared Nationwide**



### **Urban Design Division**

- Staff will be providing an update to the Planning Commission on the draft list of major issues discussed at the Agency Scoping Meeting. This list along with a Letter of Understanding to the Department of Community Affairs will be provided to City Council on September 1, 2010, for their approval. Once approved these issues will form the basis for the Evaluation and Appraisal Report. For complete updates, visit <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/growthmgmt/compplan.html>.
- Staff received the first draft of the Potable Water & Sanitary Sewer Updates from the consultant and is working with the Sanitation and Engineering Divisions to complete the Solid Waste and Stormwater Sections of the Infrastructure Element.

- Staff met with the wayfinding installation contractor in the field to verify sign locations. Final materials were approved; installation is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 6.
- City staff and the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a meeting to review both recently adopted and proposed changes to business signage within the City limits. The meeting will take place at **8.30 a.m. on Thursday September 2, 2010 at the PGI Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street in Punta Gorda.** Kindly RSVP your attendance to [heather@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:heather@puntagorda-chamber.com)

## **Police Department**

- On Wednesday, the Deputy District Director from Congressman Tom Rooney’s Punta Gorda office presented special commendations from the United States House of Representatives to the volunteer coaches and referees of the Police Department Jammers Youth Basketball Program. The commendations were in recognition of their selfless volunteer efforts with the youth of our community.

## **Fire Department**

- Fire Department conducted a meeting with representatives from the Coast Guard and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The goal of the meeting was to familiarize all participants with the capabilities and resources available, specifically in relation to pollution responses (oil/fuel spills) within the canal system. The results of our joint efforts will be a more comprehensive response and tracking of any pollution type calls either on land or within the waterways.

## **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.

### **Water Treatment Plant**

- August 2009 Rainfall – 10.85” compared to August 2010 Rainfall – 3.80”.
- Currently the treated water has 10 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 “hard”.
- Reservoir Information:

Current Reservoir Level – 5.52’  
 Record High for Aug 19 – 5.94’  
 Record Low for Aug 19 – 5.18’  
 40 Year Average for Aug 19 – 5.50’

### **Hendrickson Dam**

- **Spillway Replacement:** Contractor installed the tie back wall for the south abutment, intake fender system, and new dolphin for the boat hoist.



## **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.

### **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:
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Allison James Estates & Homes – 207 Cross St.  
DM Dean Inc – 207 Cross St.