

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT 8/27/2010

### City Manager

- The Charlotte County Property Appraiser mailed out the 2010 notice of **proposed property taxes** and non-ad valorem assessments from all taxing authorities. When reviewing your notice, it will show how much you pay for each jurisdiction. Percentages may vary slightly depending on how much your property increased or decreased in value from the previous year.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Approx. % of Tax Bill</b>
Public Schools	48%
County	33%
City	15%
Water Management	3%
Other	1%

- The first public hearing on the City's proposed **FY 2011 Budget and millage rate**, and the final public hearing on the canal maintenance assessments will be held September 1 at 5:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The budget can be viewed on the City's website [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us) under *What's New*.
- At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 1, City Council will review input from boards, committees, civic associations, citizens and staff regarding the FY 2011 Strategic Plan. Input has been grouped within six strategic focus areas – Administration, Business Development, Quality of Life, Stakeholders, Utilities and Waterfront/Canal System. The information can also be viewed on the City's website under *What's New*.
- The Punta Gorda **Entrepreneurial Academy**, a partnership among the City of Punta Gorda, Punta Gorda Chamber and Florida Gulf Coast University, will conduct orientation meetings on September 15 from 6-8 p.m. and September 18 from 9-11 a.m. at the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. The meetings are for prospective businesses who want to attend the academy, which is a training and technical assistance program for start up businesses and those in business for less than one year. For more information about the academy and orientation email [sbdsllc@comcast.net](mailto:sbdsllc@comcast.net) or call 740-0335.
- Charlotte Harbor Regatta Inc will present an overview of the 2012 **Combined World Disabled Sailing Championships** to City Council at its upcoming September 1 meeting. The regatta will be staged at Laishley Park and other facilities around upper Charlotte Harbor. The 10-day event is expected to attract some 300 sailors, coaches, family members, race officials and media from all over the world. St. Petersburg hosted the championships in 2001, the last time they were held in Florida. The event represents an opportunity for the County and City to promote our area as a top sailing destination.
- The City and Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce are hosting a meeting to review recent changes as well as new proposals being suggested regarding business signage within City limits. This meeting will take place at 8.30am on September 2nd at the PGI Civic Association at 2001 Shreve Street in Punta Gorda.

## Public Works Department

- The City of Punta Gorda will be participating in the United Way's 2010 Days of Caring by holding a non-perishable food drive. Collection boxes will be delivered to City locations 8/31/10 with official kick-off on 9/01/10. The last day for donations is 9/21/10; collected items will be delivered to the Homeless Coalition of Charlotte County on 9/22/10. Collection sites for the public include the City Hall lobby, City Hall Council Chambers lobby, City Hall Annex Building 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor lobbies, Public Safety Building lobby, Fire Station #2 and Fire Station or #3. Lend-A-Hand....no one should ever be left hungry.

### **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.
- **Hounds on Henry Dog Park:** Gulf Breeze Landscaping completed installation of plant material. City staff has accepted the materials and work.
- **Public Works/Utilities Campus:** The bids for the canopies for Canal Maintenance and Utilities are under review. Foundation design for steel Fleet Building underway.
- **Linear Park Phase I Retta Esplanade to Olympia Ave.:** Awaiting delivery of way finding signs and artificial turf.
- **Carmalita Drainage Construction:** Bids opened 8/24/10; 7 bids under Procurement review.
- **Burnt Store Road Widening:** Charlotte County Public Works conducted the first Project Progress Meeting 8/25/10 with representatives in attendance from the City and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), in addition to the prime contractor, Boness Construction, and sub-contractor, Kelly Brothers. For project information, please visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/publicworks/engineering.html>. Charlotte County Public Works will be overseeing the project. For public information inquiries, please contact Project Manager, Gary Grossman at 941-575-3600.
- **Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Program:** Charlotte County staff completed installation of the City countdown pedestrian equipment provided by the FDOT at all signalized intersections with pedestrian crosswalk features. Countdown pedestrian crosswalk equipment is fully operational.
- **U.S. 41 Roadway Lights:** The FDOT Assistant District Traffic Operations Engineer contacted City staff requesting the City obtain additional pricing to relocate the poles currently in the swales. FDOT will compare pricing received from their General Contractor and plan to work with the City to develop the scope of work, design and program funds for the U.S. 41 roadway light repairs. City staff contacted Davco to request a proposal for the expanded scope of work.
- **Laisley Park Marina Floating Day Docks:** Bids opened 8/25/10; under Procurement review.
- **Downtown Flooding Improvements:** As-built drawings & certifications were supplied to FEMA as part of the project closeout.
- **Retta Esplanade Road Extension:** Concrete was poured for ADA ramps for installation of ADA domed mats which will take place the week of 9/06/10.
- **Cooper St. Playground:** Formal bids due 9/01/10.
- **Harborwalk East Beautification:** Procurement scheduled the bid opening for 9/03/10.

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

- Sinkholes were filled at 39 locations in Punta Gorda Isles.
- The seawalls are being set at 3946 Crooked Island. Seawall caps have been poured at 2212 Via Veneto and Lot 8 San Mateo. Seawall caps were formed at 491 Capri Isles and Lot 30 Coral Way.
- Backfill work was performed at 2001 W. Marion. Backfilling in progress at Lot 21, 380, 400, 430, 460 & 500 Coronado.
- Completed sod work at Park Beach Circle and repaired sink holes.

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

- The seawall cap is underway at Lot 102 & 103 Palermo.
- Sinkholes were filled at 1 location in Burnt Store Isles.

## **Growth Management Department**

### **Urban Design**

- Staff provided an update to the Planning Commission of the draft list of major issues discussed at the Agency Scoping Meeting held August 10<sup>th</sup>. This list along with the Letter of Understanding to the Department of Community Affairs will be provided to City Council, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 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>
- As a reminder to real estate companies holding open house events and residents holding yard sales, no signs are permitted to be placed in any City right-of-way. Any such sign placed in the right-of-way will be removed by City personnel. Complete information on signage and other City regulations can be found on the City's web site at the following link: [http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/userdata/cityclerk/Ch\\_26\\_004.pdf](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/userdata/cityclerk/Ch_26_004.pdf) or contact Lisa Hannon at (941) 575-3314.
- Staff is working with the community on several landscaping/beautification projects. Staff met with members of the Seminole Lakes Property Owners Association (POA) to discuss the proper pruning of oak trees. Corrective measures are being developed for several trees in the subdivision and educational pruning pamphlets will be provided for the residents in their association newsletter. This project is part of a continuing public education tree program the City previously developed through a Forestry Grant. This information is also available to everyone in the City. Pamphlets, detailing a variety of proper tree care information, are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor waiting area located outside the Urban Design Office.
- The Burnt Store Isles Property Owners Association (BSI POA) is working with staff to refurbish their entrance planters. Additions to the planters will be reviewed by the BSI POA who will be funding the changes to the planter boxes.
- Work continues on the Herald Court Plaza. Staff is scheduled to assist TEAM Punta Gorda with the installation of new plants over the next few weeks. Work on the project is expected to be completed before the end of September.

## **Fire Department**

- Training Chief met with Charlotte County Sheriff's Office representative at their request to discuss the details of the Medication Take Back Program (Operation Medicine Cabinet). The program continues to be very successful, with participation from residents on a daily basis. Program details have been requested and shared with several communities from around the state.

## Utility Department

### Water Treatment Plant

- **Plant Operations:** ASR injection totals – 24.8 MG. August 2009 Rainfall – 10.85” compared to August 2010 Rainfall – 5.70”.
- Currently the treated water has 11 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 – 5.81’
  - Record High for Aug 26 – 7.64’
  - Record Low for Aug 19 – 5.11’
  - 40 Year Average for Aug 19 – 5.61’

- **Hendrickson Dam:** Despite heavy rains the contractor was able to get the paving done on the north abutment access road. They also started to lay sod in disturbed areas, and placed the boat hoist back on its rails. The City and Stanley Consultants Inc are in the process of developing the final “punch” list.



### 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.
- On Wednesday, the City began smoke testing which will last through September 12. Staff distributed door hangers to those affected by the testing this week.

#### Dates and areas that will be affected by **smoke testing** are as follows:

**Aug. 25-26:** Basin #1- located south of E. Marion Ave. north of the Railroad tracks, east of US 41 N. and west of Cooper St. Contractors completed the smoke testing of the gravity sewer line in the basin #1 area. The smoke testing exposed several broken pipes and other defects some of which were in the swale areas allowing an excessive amount of storm water to enter the wastewater system. City staff repaired the more severe breaks located in the swales that were detected by the smoke testing. All other defects will be addressed at a later date.

#### **Aug. 26-30**

Basin #2- Areas south of Charlotte Harbor/ Peace River, north of W. Henry St., west of US 41 S., east of Maude St. /Fisherman’s Village

#### **Aug. 30 –Sept. 1**

Basin # 3- Areas south of the railroad tracks north of Airport Rd, west of Cooper St. and east of US 41 N.

#### **Sept. 1- 12**

Basin #14 - Aqui Esta Dr. and all adjacent streets west of Magdalena Dr., Magdalena Dr. south of Conecta Dr., All streets east & west side of Bal Harbor Blvd. south of Appian Dr., Coronado Dr. and all adjacent streets, Appian Dr and all adjacent streets.

**What is Smoke testing?** ~ conducting leak tests in the sanitary sewer system by blowing smoke into these pipes. This smoke will reveal sources of sewer odors in your neighborhood as well as places where storm and other surface waters are entering the sanitary system. A special nontoxic smoke will be used in these tests. This smoke is manufactured for this purpose, leaves no residuals or stains and has no effects on plant and animal life. The smoke has a distinctive, but not unpleasant odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes, where there is adequate ventilation.

Because the plumbing appliances in your house or building are connected to the sanitary sewer system, some of the smoke may enter your home or business if the:

- Vents connected to your building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers and other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed or missing.
- Pipes, connections and seals of the wastewater drain system in and under your building are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

All residents are advised that if traces of this smoke or its odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that gases and odors from the sewer also may enter. These can be both unpleasant and dangerous as well as a health hazard to the occupants. Location, identification and correction of the source of smoke that enters your house is urgently advised.

While the City will render all possible cooperation, the correction of any defects in the pipes and sewer on private property is the sole responsibility of the owner. The services of a professional plumber are advised.

If you have any questions or desire more information, please contact the City of Punta Gorda Utility Department during regular business hours at one of the below numbers:

**Monday – Friday**  
**7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. 575-5088**  
**8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 575-3339**

## **City Clerk**

### **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:

Robert M. Mandelkorn, MD, Inc, 615 Cross Street #1109

- 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 Alternate (1 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.
- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee (1 vacancy) - 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.
- 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.