



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT JANUARY 27, 2012

City Manager

- City Council will hold a public hearing on the amended fair share impact fee ordinance, revising rates for parks and roads, at its upcoming February 1 meeting. Previous weekly reports highlighted results of the study performed by Clarion Associates which recommended fee revisions for roads & parks; suspension of fees for general government, police & fire and change of use; and extension of the installment payment plan from 3 to 5 years. An impact fee comparison from the current rates to the proposed new rates for both single family and commercial is shown below.

Single Family Residence (2,500 sq ft)
Current Impact Fees - \$1,813
New Impact Fees - \$1,273
Savings - \$540

Retail Establishment (3,000 sq ft)
Current Impact Fees - \$7,890
New Impact Fees - \$2,310
Savings - \$5,580

Office Establishment (1,500 sq ft)
Current Impact Fees - \$1,290
New Impact Fees - \$495
Savings - \$795

Restaurant Establishment (3,500 sq ft)
Current Impact Fees - \$9,205
New Impact Fees - \$2,695
Savings - \$6,510

Projected impact fee revenue is anticipated to yield 3.5% of growth related capital improvements project costs over the next five years.

- Also at the February 1 Council meeting, staff will present results of the Employee Health Center (Clinic) proposal process. Four proposals were analyzed based on 2 delivery models – City operated health facility or a contract with a local provider. In essence, the intent of a center is to reduce employee health insurance premium costs by providing and paying for the service directly, avoiding costs to the insurance carrier, thereby reducing claims experience. Staff will highlight keys in making an employee health center a viable health care alternative and the costs associated with such a center.
- The string lighting on the decorative street lights in the downtown area will be removed the week of January 30. This year the City left the lights in place a few more weeks than normal after the holidays at the request of businesses. Staff will be presenting the costs associated with a more permanent alternative for lighting the downtown core with LED bulbs at Council's February 1 meeting.
- The City Manager met with TEAM Punta Gorda representatives regarding future location possibilities for a community garden in Punta Gorda, similar to the one just completed in South County Park. Nature Park on Aqui Esta was discussed as a promising location. Staff & TEAM will research what it will take to develop a section of the Park for such a use and, if feasible, present findings to City Council.
- Mayor Albers presented the 2012 State of the City before members of the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce. Vice Mayor Goldberg, Council Member Freeland & City Manager were in attendance. The presentation provides an update on projects, services delivered and the planning process used to arrive at budgetary and strategic plan decisions.

Public Works Department

Parks & Grounds:

- The tennis courts nearest to Kiddieland in Gilchrist Park will be closed Monday, January 30, 2012, for surface painting in preparation of court usage for pickleball. The courts will be available for tennis and pickleball players on a first come, first served basis.

Engineering:

- **Burnt Store Road Widening:** For inquiries please contact the Charlotte County Public Works Project Manager, Gary Grossman at (941) 575-3600 or visit Charlotte County's project status link at <http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/CommunityDevelopment/Engineering/Projects>.
- **Aqui Esta Sidewalks from Magdalena to U.S. 41:** Procurement Division is awaiting additional documentation from McLeod Land Services, Inc. to complete the award package.
- **Downtown Flooding Phase 2:** Staff and engineering consultant met with representatives from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers 1/19/12 to discuss permit requirements.
- **Mary St. Parking (9 parking spaces):** Approximately 100 ft. of concrete curbing was poured.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance:

- 2nd annual seawall assessment continues in PGI with approximately 11 miles assessed so far.
- Seawall installation was completed at 2829 Don Quixote, 1127 Treasure Cay and on Bal Harbor between Via Dolce and Via Bianca. Seawall installation work commenced at 2541 & 2544 Rio Lisbo, in addition to 500 Via Tripoli & a vacant lot on Magdalena Dr.
- Seawall cap work was completed at 3439 Nighthawk Ct. and 1513, 1519 & 1522 Oriole Ct. Work has commenced to replace the seawall cap at 2829 Don Quixote and on Bal Harbor between Via Bolce and Via Bianca; work continues at 3324 Antigua.
- Backfill work was completed at 3924-3925 La Costa Island Ct. and 3600 Bal Harbor Blvd.
- Sod was installed at the following locations: 300 Coronado, 3517 Oriole, 1011 Henry, 1108 Rum Cay, 1546 Kinglet, 3324 Trinidad, 3612 Bon Aire, 2826 & 2828 Sancho Panza, 3657 & 3663 Aruba and 325 Bel Aire.
- Sinkholes were filled at 18 locations.
- Crews formed and poured 50 slabs to be used after curing for future seawall replacements.

Right-of-Way:

- Crews removed the concrete foundation at Marion Ave. & Taylor St. and installed brick pavers.

Growth Management Department

Urban Design

- Staff attended two workshops in Ft. Myers and Bonita Springs. The first, sponsored by Florida Sea Grant, focused on law and planning related to adaptation to sea-level rise. The workshop provided a brief overview of the science of sea-level rise and then discussed ideas for local adaptations as background for examining associated legal and planning issues. The second, hosted by the Florida Planning & Zoning Assoc., provided an opportunity to hear from planning professionals practicing in South Florida about the planning, modeling, and GIS challenges faced when handling Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management. Discussion focused on the recently published Regional Evacuation Studies, the challenges which resulted, and a variety of solutions. Both topics advance the completion of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Upcoming Events

- January 28, join the St. Vincent De Paul for the annual Walk for the Poor at Sacred Heart Church, 211 W. Charlotte Avenue. For information, contact Joe (941) 286-8045.
- The Punta Gorda CRA and Charlotte Harbor CRA request your presence at the 4th Annual Hands Across the Harbor 8K Run/5K Walk, with 10 and 20 mile bicycle rides, on January 28, 2012. For information and registration forms, contact Ron at (941) 505-8880 or visit <http://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/fest/festival.html>.
- Festa! Italia is back for their 2nd year in Laishley Park, January 28-29. Festival hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information, contact Michael (941) 769-2221 or www.festaitalianapg.com.
- February 11, 2012, join Smuggler's Event Management for the inaugural Charlotte Harbor Chili Challenge & Beer Festival, in Laishley Park. Event hours are 11 am to 10 pm. For additional information, contact Smuggler's Event Management, (941)637-5953 or www.smugglersevents.com.
- Join the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, February 18-19, 2012, for the annual Wine & Jazz Festival in Laishley Park. For tickets and concert information, contact the PG Chamber (941)639-3720 or www.puntagordachamber.com.
- February 18, 2012 in Gilchrist Park, join friends and family for the Nancy Lynch Cancer Benefit. Live music from 12 noon to 4 pm. For information, contact Julie, (941)815-6209.
- The Punta Gorda Rotary Club will host the annual Taste of Punta Gorda, Saturday, February 25, 2012 in Laishley Park from 11 am to 4 pm. For information, contact Tom Beck (941)575-2388.
- The Florida Warbird Squadron 24 will be holding its 3rd Annual Warbird Weekend on Saturday, 2/25 from 10 am-5 pm and Sunday, 2/26 from 10 am-3 pm at the Punta Gorda Airport. The event will feature a Static Warbird Display of over 50 classic planes and flyovers. Rides will be available by History Flight in the B-25, T-6, and Stearman Warbirds. This is a fundraiser for veteran's organizations. A donation of \$8 per person or \$15 for family (adults/children) is requested. The Florida Warbird Squadron 24 is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization. Go to www.floridawarbirds.org or call 941-639-6188 for details.

Police Department

- One of the Department's most critical service-related performance measures is response time. In December 2011, the department posted the lowest average police response in more than a year with an average response of 4 minutes and 19 seconds. This included an average dispatch handling time of 55 seconds and an average police response of 3 minutes and 26 seconds. Rapid response times remain a key customer service measure, a significant public safety issue, and a strong criminal deterrent.
- Department is constructing a City-wide Traffic Safety and Enforcement Plan, which will serve to organize the police department's traffic enforcement and education efforts to our City residents and business owners. The Operations Commander provided two community presentations this week on Traffic Safety and Enforcement. These presentations were made with the focus of gaining stakeholder input and feedback to ensure that the plan addresses all of the City's needs and concerns. The presentation included traffic-related statistical data on such things as crashes, citations, pursuits, and arrests, as well as available resources and more. The final presentation will be held at the PGI Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street on Monday, January 30, at 7:00 pm. All city residents and business owners are encouraged to attend.

- Department, in conjunction with the Department of Education, is participating in Literacy Week, January 23rd through January 2nd. Officers are reading to students in local day cares and elementary schools throughout the city.
- Department is proud to say they received inquiries all the way from the Warrensville, Ohio Police Department in regard to utilizing their monthly “Do The Right Thing” program, as model to start their own program.

Fire Department

- Department Paramedics continue preceptorship training (both in-house and at the emergency room). This week’s training included critical care medication administration, as well as performing 12 lead EKG’s and understanding the results. Training sessions will continue as we approach the initiation of providing Advanced Life Support service.
- Department hosted the Citizen Academy. Over 30 participants were in attendance and had the opportunity to learn more about the department. Participants enjoyed a presentation as well as “hands on” training involving fire extinguishers and their use, as well as a question and answer session about department operations.



Utilities Department

Engineering

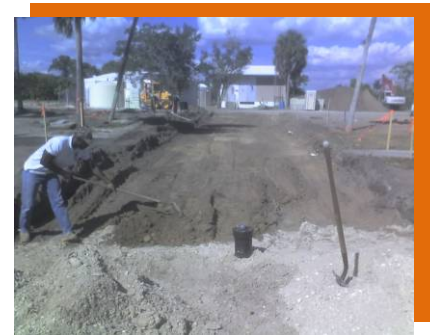
- **Bal Harbor Construction:** On 6/17/11, the City began utility work to include construction of new 12” water main and new 12” wastewater force main on the east side of Bal Harbor Blvd. between Marion Ave. and Aqui Esta. Final completion is now anticipated in March 2012.
Two Week Look Ahead: Week of January 30: Install Bal Harbor turn lane, Continue Phase 2 drainage, grade Phase 2 sidewalks, hand dig existing utility lines at Aqui Esta intersection. Week of February 6: Install water main and force main Aqui Esta intersection, install Phase 2 sidewalk and drives, continue Bal Harbor turn lane.

Water Treatment Plant

- **Plant Operations:** Jan 2011 Rainfall - 2.60” and Jan 2012 Rainfall (As of 1/26/12) - 0.00”. Currently the treated water has 18 grains of Total Hardness. Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. At the current level the City’s water is considered “very hard”.
- **Maintenance/Plant Operations:** The plant received the inspection report from the last Department of Environmental Protection inspection with no deficiencies. Congratulations to the plant staff for a job well done!
- **Reservoir Information:** Current Level – 5.06’; Record High for Jan 26 – 5.81’; Record Low for Jan 26 – 4.91’; and 45 Year Average for Jan 26 – 5.19’.

Wastewater Collection

- Staff laid out the design and elevations on the new driveway at the Master Pumping Facility (MPF) located at 900 W. Henry St. The existing dirt has been removed and a 12 inch shell base is being installed. Asphalt will then be placed over the shell. This driveway will enter the MPF property from Henry St.



City Clerk

Current Board & Committee Vacancies

- Volunteers interested in serving on the City’s Advisory Boards & Committees can download an [Appointment Information Form](#) from the City’s website and submit same to the City Clerk’s Office for consideration. Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (1 vacancy) - Meets the 3rd Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes recommendations on petitions for special permits to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) 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 businesses within our community this week:

God’s Precious Gifts - 429 E. Virginia Ave. #111
The Potter’s Studio - 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd. #1151