

# Weekly Highlights



MELISSA REICHERT  
Interim City Manager

## HERE'S WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST WEEK AND WHAT'S TO COME!

July marks the celebration of Independent Retailer Month, a time dedicated to recognizing and supporting the invaluable contributions of locally owned small businesses. This nationwide observance not only shines a spotlight on independent retailers but also serves as a call to action for consumers to shop local and invest in the heartbeat of their communities.

In Punta Gorda and across the nation, independent retailers play a vital role in shaping the character and economic health of our towns and cities. These businesses are more than just storefronts; they are family-run operations, dream chasers, and community pillars. They offer unique products, personalized service, and a shopping experience that can't be replicated in big box stores or online giants.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Small Business Administration, independent retailers are responsible for employing approximately 51 percent of the American workforce, excluding non-farm workers. This means that more than half of working Americans are employed by small business owners who are deeply rooted in their communities. These retailers not only create jobs, but also cultivate vibrant neighborhoods, foster entrepreneurship, and generate local tax revenue that supports public services such as parks, infrastructure, and emergency responders.

The importance of Independent Retailer Month goes beyond mere statistics. It's a reminder that every dollar spent at a local shop stays within the community and circulates through other local businesses and services. When you buy a gift from a Main Street boutique, grab lunch from a family-owned café, or purchase hardware from a local supply store, you're not just making a transaction—you're making an investment in your neighbors, your downtown, and the future of your city.

Independent Retailer Month is also an opportunity to rediscover the charm and diversity of our local shopping districts. Small businesses often provide products and services that reflect the unique flavor and needs of their communities—items that may not be available at national chains. They are more likely to support local artists, partner with nearby farms, and adapt quickly to meet customer preferences. These retailers are also known for building relationships with their patrons, offering an unmatched level of service and connection.

In support of this celebration and the success of Punta Gorda’s independent business community, the Punta Gorda City Council invites all business owners to participate in a Business Listening Session on July 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Laishley Community Room. This forum offers an opportunity for local entrepreneurs to share their perspectives, voice their concerns, and provide input directly to City Council. It is a chance for open dialogue on the challenges and opportunities facing independent retailers and other businesses in our city.

In Punta Gorda, we are fortunate to have a city filled with locally owned shops, restaurants, and service providers. These businesses give our city its distinctive identity and make it a destination for both residents and visitors. As we celebrate Independent Retailer Month, it’s a great time to explore a new shop, introduce a friend to a local favorite, or simply say thank you to the small business owners who make our city thrive.

Whether it’s a bookstore, a clothing boutique, a specialty food shop, or a local salon, every independent business plays a role in building a more resilient and sustainable economy. Their success depends on community support, and our support ensures that they remain a vital part of our lives for generations to come.

So this July, let’s shop local, and make a conscious effort to celebrate the independent spirit that keeps our communities strong, connected, and full of life. For additional information, please contact interim City Manager Melissa Reichert at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.

*Dev. Missy*



**Lawn Watering Schedule Table**  
**Attention Punta Gorda Residents!**

**Reminder:** Once-Per-Week Watering Restrictions are in place! The irrigation of established lawns and landscaping is restricted to a maximum of once-per-week. Lawn watering is limited. Violating this ordinance is considered a civil offense, with penalties escalating for repeated violations. The first complaint will result in a written warning, followed by a \$25 fine for the first documented violation, a \$50 fine for the second, and a \$250 fine for the third. In addition to these penalties, the City may suspend water service to any individual, business, or organization found in violation of the restrictions. Water service would be restored once the city is assured that the violation will not occur again. Allowed: Hand watering, car washing, and pressure washing (with shutoff nozzle) New Lawns: Can be watered daily for the first 30 days after installation. This ordinance will be in effect for 180 days unless extended or repealed. Let’s work together to protect our water resources. For more information about Punta Gorda’s water restrictions, go to [Check Your Irrigation Timer When You ‘Fall Back’ to Standard Time.](#)

Lawn watering days and times for city residents are as follows:

<p>Addresses ending in 0 and 1 - Monday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.                  Addresses ending in 2 and 3 - Tuesday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.                  Addresses ending in 4 and 5 - Wednesday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Addresses ending in 6 and 7 - Thursday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.                  Addresses ending in 8 and 9 - Friday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.                  Addresses ending in a letter - Saturday - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. or locations without a discernable address</p>
--	--



**DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #23 FOR WEEK June 29 - July 5, 2025** District One is twelve counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, and Sarasota Click on the link below for updates from FDOT road watch. [fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf](https://www.fdot.com/district-one-roadwatch.pdf)

**Roundabout opened downtown Punta Gorda**  
**Motorist should reduce speed when approaching the roundabout and follow all posted signage**



**FDOT**  
 Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS GOVERNOR | 801 N. Broadway Avenue Bartow, Florida 33830 | JARED W. PERDUE, P.E. SECRETARY

For Immediate Release June 23, 2025 | Contact: FDOT-D1COMM (863) 519-2743 | [FDOT-D1COMM@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:FDOT-D1COMM@dot.state.fl.us)

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Newly Constructed Roundabout to Open in Downtown Punta Gorda**  
**New Traffic Pattern at US 41 and Carmalita Street**

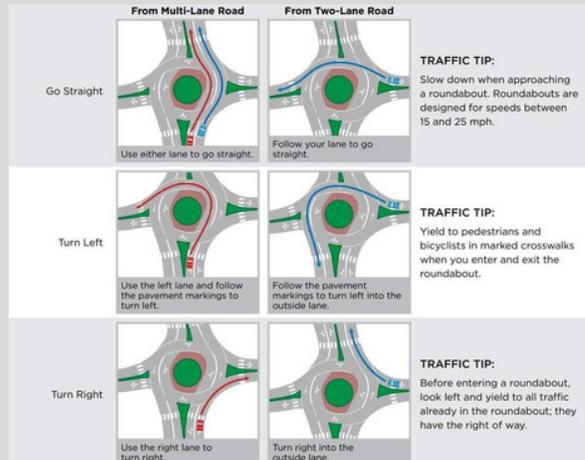
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY, Fla.** – Motorists are advised that a new traffic pattern will be implemented in downtown Punta Gorda at the intersection of US 41 and Carmalita Street beginning in the early morning hours of Thursday, June 26, 2025. This change marks the official opening of the newly constructed roundabout at this location.

Motorists should reduce speed when approaching the roundabout and follow all posted signage.

For additional information on roundabouts and how to navigate them safely, please visit [FDOT.gov](https://www.fdot.gov).

For real-time traffic updates, visit [FL511.com](https://www.fl511.com).

###





The City of Punta Gorda offers a very generous benefit package to include medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and an employee pension plan. If you are interested in a position listed below, submit an application on the Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL ([punta-gorda.fl.us](http://punta-gorda.fl.us))

- Utility Engineer
- Senior Purchasing Agent, Procurement
- Controller, Finance
- Treatment Plant Operator A – Water Treatment Plant
- Sanitation Worker II
- Engineering Design Analyst
- Engineering Technician II

### Upcoming Employment Testing

**Internship Program**—The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Winter 2025 semester. Our program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Spots fill up quickly, and the selection process can be competitive; therefore, we encourage potential interns to apply as soon as possible.

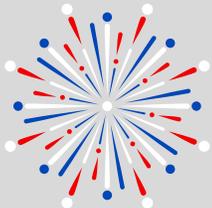
To apply for employment or for more information, please visit [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).



**FIREWORKS SAFETY MONTH**

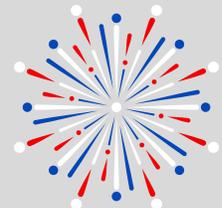


**CELEBRATE SAFELY.** We have some amazing displays of fireworks in and around our community. If you are using fireworks yourself, remember to take proper precautions so that you can enjoy the fireworks and avoid injury to yourself or anyone else. Enjoy and celebrate our National and individual freedoms, gather with family and friends, eat some great food, and above all, Be Safe.



### Fireworks Safety Tips

- ★ Never allow **children** to play with or ignite fireworks.
- ★ Never try to **re-light** or **pick up** fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- ★ Keep a **bucket of water** or a **garden hose** handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- ★ Make sure fireworks are **legal** in your area before buying or using them.
- ★ Light fireworks **one at a time**, then **move back** quickly.



## City Maintenance Updates

**City Seawall Maintenance Program** - Construction staging sites at two locations have opened, and letter have been mailed to three homeowners regarding upcoming construction.

**Canal Maintenance Seawall Failure Update** - Construction schedules for the next six months have been updated and posted on the Canal Maintenance website. 19 projects are under construction in Punta Gorda Isles, and 185 projects have been completed. All seawall projects in Burnt Store Isles have been completed. Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL ([punta-gorda.fl.us](http://punta-gorda.fl.us))

**Stabilizing Erosion** — This is a friendly reminder for property owners to routinely inspect the condition of any tarps or plastic covering eroded areas. Over time, exposure to sunlight can cause these materials to become brittle and break down. Using plastic during rain events can help protect the soil and minimize further erosion.

**Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Placing the sod is the final phase of seawall replacement construction. As per the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for establishing the sod after it has been placed and the City will not reimburse the owners for their water usage.

## Hurricane Milton Updates

**Lot Mowing Program** - The lot mowing cycle was completed on June 13.

**Beware of Solicitors** - Soliciting is prohibited in the residential areas of the city. If you are approached by a solicitor, please contact the Code Compliance Division at (941)575-3352 during business hours or the non-emergency Police line at (941)639-4111.

**Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has created a program that connects boat owners who need a temporary relocation of their boats with owners with available dock space. This information can be found at Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance ([boat2puntagorda.org](http://boat2puntagorda.org)). Click on the Dock Match button for information.

**Unlicensed Contracting** - Unlicensed contracting is a felony of the third degree per State law. Protect yourself and contact the City's Building Department at (941)575-3324 to verify a contractor is registered with the City before entering a contract for repair work.



**Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>**

**Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>**

**Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>**

**Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>**

**Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum**

**Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.**

**The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL ([visualartcenter.org](http://visualartcenter.org))**

**WHEELS AND WINGS XV A WEEKEND OF CYCLING FUN!** Receive a Beautiful Event Jersey!  
Saturday July 12th- Gravel Grinder; Saturday Evening July 12th Pub Ride; Sunday July 13th Register now for Ride!! at <https://wheelsandwings.raceroster.com/>

# THE 1ST INAUGURAL WALK-A-THON

Honor Their Strength — Step By Step

Join us for a community walk-a-thon to support and celebrate our military veterans! Walk with purpose, raise mental health awareness, and show your appreciation for those who served.



Port Charlotte Town Center

Date: August 2 9am-12pm

Indoor Walking Route | Veteran Resource Booths  
Live Music | Face Painting

Proceeds support Chapter 82 Disabled American Veterans  
Open to all ages and fitness levels – walk a little or walk a lot!

**REGISTER NOW!** \$20 for participants  
Ages 0-5 FREE

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-inaugural-walk-a-thon-dav-robert-l-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-1364830066469?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawKflzdlzleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETF0blVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748qmIIVNpksQE1DcqPpbBsofKkCCkuTGijTckVPY9TSv1p6z-QgeVshBJQ\\_aem\\_qloEoJn9oNsyjY9T-Aosg](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-inaugural-walk-a-thon-dav-robert-l-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-1364830066469?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawKflzdlzleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETF0blVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748qmIIVNpksQE1DcqPpbBsofKkCCkuTGijTckVPY9TSv1p6z-QgeVshBJQ_aem_qloEoJn9oNsyjY9T-Aosg)

# Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!

City Offices will be closed July 4th, in Observation of Independence Day

## Water Treatment Plant Tours

Punta Gorda  
Florida's Heartside Hometown

Join us for an exclusive tour of Punta Gorda's Water Treatment Plant. Tours are offered quarterly and tickets are free!

This guided tour offers a unique opportunity to see how your drinking water is treated.

Spots are limited, so sign up now to secure your spot!

Reserve your spot now at [www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/utilities/utilities-tours](http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/utilities/utilities-tours)

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/utilities/utilities-tours>

### Charlotte County Chamber Presents Fourth - Fest 2025 at Lashley Park, Punta Gorda FRIDAY JULY 4, 2025

#### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

<b>AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL:</b> \$80,000 1 Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIP access up to 30 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Business signs/banners at main stage if gate</li> <li>• Logo on event website</li> <li>• Free Booth Space</li> <li>• Logo name on banner/booth, emcee, TV, Radio, press releases</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE:</b> \$4,000 1 Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banner on Stage and naming rights to Stage</li> <li>• VIP access up to 4 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Business name on banners at main stage if gate</li> <li>• Name on event website</li> <li>• Free Booth Space</li> <li>• Name on banner/booth, emcee, TV, Radio, press releases</li> </ul>
<b>WATER MAINS:</b> \$3,000 1 Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banner at Entrance to the Kids Area</li> <li>• VIP access up to 4 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Business name on banners at main stage if gate</li> <li>• Name on event website</li> <li>• Free Booth Space</li> <li>• Name on banner/booth, emcee, TV, Radio, press releases</li> </ul>
<b>BORN IN THE USA:</b> \$2,000 6 Available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIP access up to 4 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Business name on banners at main stage if gate</li> <li>• Name on event website</li> <li>• Free Booth Space</li> <li>• Name on banner/booth, emcee, TV, Radio, press releases</li> </ul>
<b>THIRLAND IS YOUR LAND:</b> \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIP access up to 4 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Business name on banner at main stage if gate</li> <li>• Name on event website</li> <li>• Name on banner/booth, emcee, promotional flyers</li> </ul>
<b>VANKEE DOODLE DANDY:</b> \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VIP access up to 2 ppl incl. food &amp; beverages</li> <li>• Name on event website</li> <li>• Name on banner/booth, emcee</li> </ul>
<b>STARS AND STRIPES:</b> \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All star recognition by emcee, name listed as a supporter of the fireworks on website and banner/booth</li> </ul>

To Secure Your Sponsorship Today Click: **Fourth - Fest 2025**  
Fourth Fest is 100% Funded by sponsors & donations

## LAUGHING YOGA

LAUGH MORE. FEEL GOOD.

JUNE 30 & JULY 28, 2025  
9:00AM-9:45AM

To sign up, Email Asha:  
[ashacampbell@ymcaswfl.org](mailto:ashacampbell@ymcaswfl.org)

Thanks to our community partner:



THE Y AT THE REC | 650 MARY ST. | PUNTA GORDA FL 33950

## SAVE THE DATE SECOND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

FAMILY GAMES | TRICK OR TREATING | COSTUME CONTEST

OCTOBER 25, 2025  
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY  
401 SHREVE STREET

JOIN US AS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COME TO LIFE!  
PRESENTED BY:

## AUG 02 11AM CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

Punta Gorda  
LAISHLEY PARK  
FOOD X LIVE ENTERTAINMENT X DRINKS

FOR VENDOR INFO PLEASE CALL: 941-268-4140

# SAVE THE DATES - EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS !

**June**

**June 28**  
8 am - 1 pm Farmers Market  
**Downtown Punta Gorda**  
Every Saturday

**June 29**  
9 am - 1 pm  
History Park Sunday Market  
Every Sunday

**CELTIC RAY CAR SHOW**  
2ND THURSDAY EVERY MONTH-2-5PM  
ALL MAKES AND MODELS



SPONSORED BY THE CELTIC RAY AND THE PGI CAR CLUB  
PARK IN THE EMPTY LOT ACROSS NESBIT FROM THE RAY

**June 30**  
9 am – 10 am  
**Pre-Agenda Meeting**  
Laisley Community Room  
Room 120 Laisley Court

**June 30 & July 28**  
9 am - 9:45 am  
**LAUGHING YOGA**  
**LAUGH MORE.**  
**FEEL GOOD.**  
**THE Y AT THE REC**  
650 MARY ST.  
To sign up, Email  
Asha:  
ashacampbell@ymcas  
wfl.org

**July**

**July 2**  
5:01 pm  
**City Council Meeting**  
Laisley Marina Community Room



**July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Gates open at noon  
Fourth-Fest & Fireworks  
Laisley Park

**July 4**  
Charlotte County Chamber Presents  
Fourth - Fest 2025  
at Laisley Park, Punta Gorda  
12 pm - 10 pm

**July 7**  
9 am  
**Pre-Agenda Meeting**  
Laisley Community Room  
120 Laisley Court

**July 7**  
2 pm  
**Workshop**

**Business Owners**  
Laisley Community Room  
120 Laisley Court

**July 9**  
8 am - 12 pm  
**Joint Meeting with Charlotte County**  
Charlotte Harbor Event Center

**July 10 - August 18**  
**City Council Summer Break**

**Caribbean Festival**  
**August 2**  
11 am  
Laisley Park  
Punta Gorda

The Billing & Collection department offers two convenient drop boxes at the City Hall Annex for your City of Punta Gorda utility bill payments:

- In the parking lot behind our building
- In the lobby on the ground level

**\*\*\*DO NOT PLACE CASH IN THE DROP BOXES - CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY\*\*\***



**OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- Autopay - sign up using the enrollment form on the back of your statement.
- By phone 1-844-795-7984 (convenience fee of \$2.55/transaction)
- On our website <https://punt-egov.aspgov.com/Click2GovCX/index.html> (convenience fee of \$2.55/transaction)
- By mail to 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- In person at 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

**ALL** payments received in our office  
**AFTER 2:30 PM**  
of the **DUE DATE** printed on your statement  
will be posted **THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS DAY**

(c) Current charges for which full payment has not been received in the billing and collections office by 2:30 p.m. of the due date shall incur a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the unpaid charges. Property owners are entitled to receive a waiver of a current penalty once per calendar year by completing and returning the "Waiver of Penalty" form available from the Billing and Collections office. Said waiver is granted to property owners only, can be used to waive current penalties only, is limited to one penalty per calendar year, and the waiver form must be returned to billing and collections office prior to the due date shown on the bill on which the penalty appears.

# GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

## City Clerk

**2025 Vote-by-mail Ballot Requests** – All requests to receive vote-by-mail ballots on file with the Supervisor of Elections Office expired at the end of the 2024 calendar year in accordance with Florida Statutes. In order to renew your request to vote by mail, contact the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941)833-5400, visit her office at 226 Taylor Street, or visit her website.

**Current Board and Committee Vacancies** – If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application. Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet in Council Chambers, which is currently located at the Laishley Community Room, 120 Laishley Court. The following boards have current vacancies:

**Building Board** (one alternate and one contractor) – Meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members with two alternates; four members must be involved with building industry and three members must never have been involved in the building industry. City residency not required. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Reviews enforcement of all codes related to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.

**Code Enforcement Board** (one regular and two alternate) – Meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members with two alternates; a background in architecture, business, engineering, contracting, or realty is preferred but not required. City residency required. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City

Code of Ordinances, requests for fine reductions, and contests of revocation of lot mowing exemptions.

**General Employees' Pension Board** (one regular) – Meets quarterly and as called. Board of five members; two City residents at-large, two pension plan members, and one board-appointed member. Term period is four years with no term limit. Financial disclosure required.

**Historic Preservation Advisory Board** (one alternate) – Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members with two alternates; members must be residents, property owners, or business owners of the City, except one member may be a resident, property owner, or business owner of Charlotte County. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Identifies for the 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 recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign, or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.

**Planning and Zoning Board** (one alternate) – Meets the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. Board of seven members with two alternates. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. City residency required. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to amending, extending or adding to the Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending a zoning ordinance; hears petitions for Special Exceptions.

**New Businesses** – Are you thinking of opening a business in the City? You can learn more about filing for a City business tax receipt on our website. Still have questions? Contact the City Clerk’s Office via email [businessstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:businessstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or call us at (941)575-3369. 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:

- Palm Parking, 209 West Olympia Avenue
- Vacation Rental, 890 Coronado Drive
- Vacation Rental, Eleuthera Drive
- Vacation Rental, 333 Trieste Drive

## Utilities

**Leaks** – If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

Per Florida Statutes, irrigation is prohibited daily between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.- 4 0 D - 2 2 . 2 0 1 ( 3 ) F . A . C .

New Lawns - New lawns may be watered for the first 30 days following installation on any day.

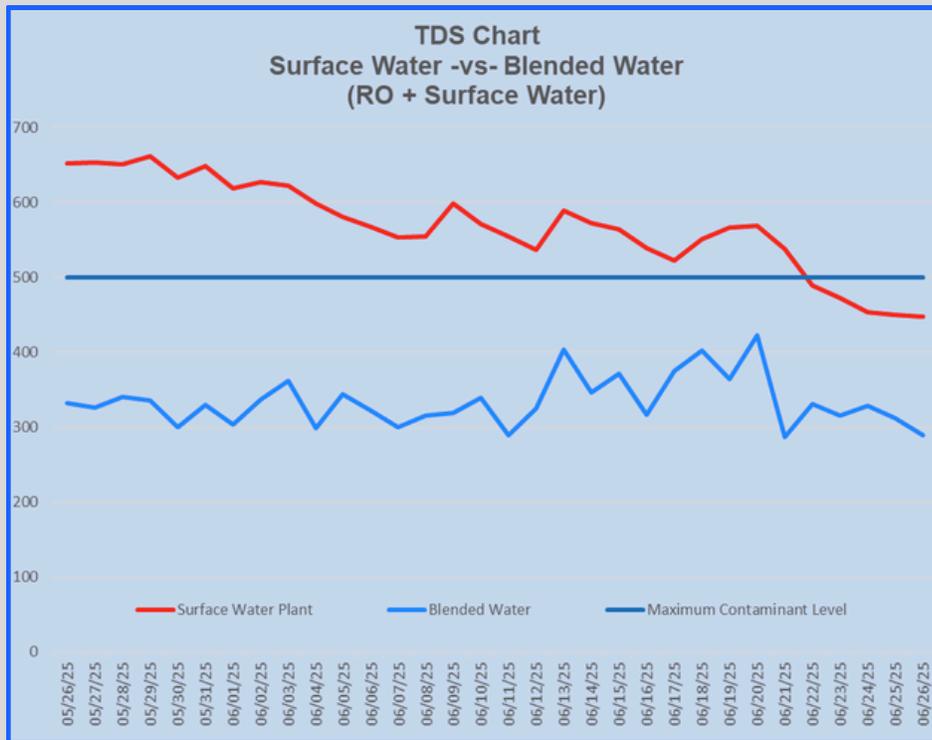
### **Fountains, Car Washing & Pressure Washing**

- There are no specific restrictions on fountains, car washing, hand watering of landscaping, and pressure washing.
- Hand watering of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and any time.
- These and other water use should be conducted as efficiently as possible, using a shutoff nozzle on each hose.

### **Water Meters**

Our crews are out reading water meters, and we need your help! Please make sure your meter box is not blocked by plants, rocks, decor, vehicles, or anything else. Clear access is essential for safe and accurate readings. Notices will be issued where meters are obstructed. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Water Treatment Plant



### Plant Operations

- 47.9 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last 7 days.
- 6.8 MG for a daily average

### Peace River Authority Emergency Interconnect

#### Current Condition

- 700 gpm from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline)
- 1740 gpm to the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline)

#### Rain

- June 2024 – 7.73”
- June 2025 – 7.64”

### Reservoir Information

<b>Current Level</b> June 26 – 5.48'	<b>Record High</b> June 26 – 7.20"
<b>Record Low</b> June 26 – 5.02'	<b>59 Year Average</b> June 26 – 5.54'

### Total Hardness/Grains of 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 “Hard”.

#### Current Condition

- 7 Grains of hardness
- 116 PPM Total hardness

#### TDS Information

- June 26 – 289 ppm Current
- June 26 – 248 ppm Low
- June 26 – 571 ppm High
- 15 Year Average - June 26 – 402 ppm

# URBAN DESIGN

## Zoning for Less Waste and a Greener Future

This week's all about turning trash into treasure—literally! Zoning can help make space for things like recycling centers, composting spots, and even waste-to-energy facilities. Imagine neighborhoods where buildings are designed to cut down on waste from day one—that's the idea behind Zero Waste Zones. Plus, smart zoning can guide stores and makers to focus on sustainable products and reduce how much gets tossed in the first place. It's all about using what we have, wasting less, and planning for a cleaner, greener future!

## RV Parking Permits Required in the Special Residential Overlay

Recreational vehicles (RVs), including motorhomes, campers, and travel trailers, require a permit to be parked or stored on residential property within the Special Residential Overlay in the City of Punta Gorda. This helps ensure that neighborhoods remain safe, orderly, and in keeping with community standards. RV permits regulate where and how long these vehicles may be parked and are an important part of local zoning and code compliance. Before bringing an RV onto your property, please contact the City's Code Compliance Division to obtain the necessary permit and avoid potential violations



### **Planning Corner – Food forest within City Limits**

Tucked away in cities across Florida, a quiet revolution in edible landscaping is taking root: the food forest. Inspired by pioneers like David the Good, who champions resilient and productive home gardens in Florida's unique climate, food forests mimic the structure of natural ecosystems while producing an abundance of fruits, herbs, and perennial vegetables. Rather than relying on tidy rows or manicured beds, food forests layer canopy trees, understory fruits, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and root crops in a harmonious, self-sustaining system. Even a modest backyard or unused city lot can be transformed into a lush, low-maintenance source of fresh food for years to come.

Rooted in the principles of permaculture, food forests are designed to create sustainable, productive environments by replicating the natural patterns and relationships found in wild forests. By integrating diverse layers of useful plants—such as fruit trees, nitrogen-fixing shrubs, herbs, and groundcovers—these systems build soil health, attract beneficial wildlife, conserve water, and require far less upkeep than conventional gardens. Once established, a food forest becomes a resilient ecosystem that supports both people and the planet.

Best of all, planting a food forest is surprisingly affordable and accessible, even for beginners. Start with a sunny spot and plant hardy, low-maintenance fruit trees suited to our region, such as mulberry, loquat, or Barbados cherry. Layer in nitrogen-fixers like pigeon pea or perennial peanut, herbs like lemongrass and mint, and groundcovers such as sweet potato or sunshine mimosa to retain moisture and suppress weeds. With basic propagation techniques, you can grow most of these plants for free—from rooting cuttings and dividing clumps to starting seeds or grafting new varieties onto wild rootstock. When you haven't invested heavily in each plant, you're free to experiment, adapt, and watch your edible landscape evolve. With a bit of curiosity and care, anyone can turn a simple yard into a vibrant, self-sustaining food forest.

## Public Works

**Canal Maintenance** - Canal Maintenance crews filled depressions at 21 locations, patched 8 seawall caps, and manufactured 15 seawall panels.

**Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has launched a program that helps connect boat owners in need of temporary docking with others who have available dock space. To learn more or participate, visit the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance website at [boat2puntagorda.org](http://boat2puntagorda.org) and click on the Dock Match button.

**Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Laying sod marks the final phase of seawall replacement construction. According to City ordinance, property owners are responsible for maintaining and establishing the sod once it has been installed. The City will not reimburse water costs incurred during this process.

**Seawall Canal Assessment** — The City Seawall Program has awarded a construction extension contract for Marine Construction Group. Work will begin in May.

**Stabilizing Erosion** — This is just a friendly reminder for property owners to regularly check the condition of their tarps or plastic protecting the eroded areas. Tarps and plastic become brittle in the sun and may start falling apart. Utilizing plastic during a rain event will help keep the soil in place, preventing further erosion.

**Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with damaged seawalls. The city code states that vessels in the canals shall be slow at speed with minimum wake in the waterways within the city limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlet are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.

### Engineering

**Understanding Roadside Swales:** Many areas in our community rely on roadside swales to manage excess stormwater. These swales are shallow, grassy channels located alongside roads that help collect and direct runoff, preventing flooding around homes and streets. Unlike underground pipe systems, which transport water away, swales serve multiple purposes: they not only convey water but also filter and absorb it, leading to cleaner canals and replenished aquifers. It's normal for swales to hold small amounts of water after rainfall. As long as this water drains within 72 hours of the last rain event, the swale is functioning properly. If rain begins during the 72-hour period, the 72-hour period starts over. During the rainy season, it is not uncommon for swales to appear wet for extended periods, sometimes lasting weeks. [Drainage and Stormwater Management | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)

**Swale Program:** The contractor has completed re-grading Andora Dr., Madrid Blvd., Monaco/Tripoli, Royal Poinciana, East Cashew, and Rio Tiber. The contractor is working on regrading and reinstalling the sod on San Mateo. The next location the contractor will be heading to is on Almar Dr. Please be aware of the equipment and personnel that will be present working in the right-of-way. Please pay attention to all regulatory signage and flagging operations.

**Herald Court Office:** The contractor has installed all of the flooring throughout the entire building and will be installing the baseboards next. They will be calling in the final inspections and completing the final clean-up next week.

### **Facilities**

- Crews completed the finishing work on the ramp at the YMCA and trim work around the windows
- Installed new locks and rekeyed the Gulf Breeze PD offices
- Lights and poles have been erected in the Public Works Campus, along with the continued effort to repair/replace the Decorator lights around the City.

### **Park and Grounds**

- Crews are constructing the second shade structure at Hounds on Henry Large Dog Park.

### **Right of Way**

- Crews repaired sidewalks on Taylor Road. Crews are preparing repairs for Taylor Road and Cooper, Airport Road between the Railroad tracks and Cooper Street
- Crews are applying rip rap to the roundabout near Colonel Point Drive
- Assisting the Parks and Grounds Department with the removal of the concrete at the dog park in preparation for the new shade structure
- Crews are preparing the city for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration

### **Sanitation**

- Sanitation collection change for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday
- The City of Punta Gorda's government offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.
- Due to holiday closures, the recycling schedule has been changed. Residents with Friday, July 4, recycling will have their recycling collected on Saturday, July 5. This also includes special e-waste requests.
- Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in their trash or yard waste collections during this holiday. Commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in collection service during this holiday.
- As collection times may vary, residents are reminded to have all materials out at the curb the evening before or NO LATER than 5 a.m. on the day of collection.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- **Residential Yard Waste** – Yard waste debris must be curbside by 5:00 a.m. on the scheduled yard waste collection day. If you have any questions or need to schedule a special pick-up, please contact Public Works (941)575-5050 or [Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](mailto:Sanitation@CityofPuntaGorda.fl.us).
- **Cul-de-Sacs** – Residents are not allowed to place yard debris that is generated from their property, vacant lots, or greenbelts on the cul-de-sac for collection. If a resident trims the cul-de-sac and vegetation remains, please contact Public Works for collection.

- **Loose Yard Waste Pile** – Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4” in diameter or 4’ in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds. Shrubbery, grass clippings, and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yard waste collection are allowed. Staff are not required to rake, pick up, or remove any remaining leaves or small pieces of debris from the ground left behind by the grapple truck.
- **Single Family Residents** - Are allowed no more than three (3) yard waste cans or bags per week. The city does not provide cans for yard waste, and residents can purchase a cart from any local hardware store. Please be sure the cart has a lid, wheels, and a metal bar across the front.

**Tree Removal** – Tree removal and lot clearing are NOT a part of your regular service. If you have a whole tree removed, you must first contact Urban Design to confirm if a permit is required (941)575-3372 or Tree Removal Permit Request | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us). The homeowner or company that removes the tree is responsible for hauling away the remains. The City does NOT collect whole tree remains or lot clearing remains.

**Unacceptable Material** – Lot clearing debris, tree removal, wood, dirt or rocks, cement edging, mulch, sod, fruit, straw and hay will not be collected by yard waste crews.

**Vacant Lots** – Vacant lots are not eligible for trash or yard waste services. Please do not place any trash or yard waste on vacant lots. The debris will not be collected. Undeveloped properties do not pay for trash, yard waste, or recycling services.



# Police Department

**New Hire Recognition and Promotions** - On Wednesday evening, Chief Smith and the Command staff welcomed some of our newest employees and celebrated the promotion of a few others. Recent hires included the swearing in of Officer Chelsea Willis and the recognition of Public Safety Dispatcher Lisa Wheeler. The promotions included Public Safety Dispatcher Emma Pase being promoted to Lead Public Safety Dispatcher and Second Lieutenant Shane Chodakowsky being promoted to First Lieutenant. Welcome aboard to our new hires, and congratulations to those who have been promoted!



**Theft of Vehicles and Burglaries from Vehicles:** We would like to remind everyone of the importance of locking your vehicle, even if you're only stepping away for a moment. Criminals are lazy and prefer to steal from you when you make it easy for them by leaving your cars unlocked. They especially love it when you leave your keys or key fobs in your unlocked vehicles. It makes your car an easy target for them to drive away in. Please remember to always take your keys and key fobs with you when you leave your vehicle unattended.

It is also essential to know that if you leave your vehicle running and then walk away from the vehicle with the fob on your person, the car can





still be stolen and driven by a criminal. It is a common misconception that the car shuts off when it gets a certain distance from the fob, but that is not true with most modern vehicles. The majority of cars will continue to run without a key fob in the vehicle until they are either shut off or run out of fuel. So, please turn off your vehicle when you leave it unattended, even if you take the key fob with you.

Additionally, never leave firearms in your vehicle. Even if locked, cars are not secure storage for weapons. A stolen firearm can quickly end up in the wrong hands and contribute to violent crime in our community.

Please, lock your vehicle, take your keys and fobs, and secure your firearms properly.

---

**US 41/Carmalita St. Roundabout Opens** - The new roundabout at US 41 and Carmalita officially opened on Thursday morning, followed quickly by the first traffic crash. Please be aware of the new traffic pattern at this location and use caution. Northbound traffic on US 41 must yield to traffic that is already in the roundabout.



## Fire Department



### When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

- Florida has more lightning per square mile than any other state in the country. Lightning kills on average 20 people each year across the United States. There have been 4 deaths in the United States this year, with two of those deaths occurring in Florida. Lightning has also averaged over \$6 million in damages each year to property in Florida.
  - Florida ranks number one in the number of deaths due to lightning, 94% of which occur between late May and end of
  - Lightning can strike as far as ten miles away, about the distance you can hear thunder.
  - Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder.
  - **NO PLACE** outside is safe during a Thunder Storm!! Immediately move to safe shelter and stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.
- If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:
- Squat low to the ground. Kneel or crouch with your hands on your knees (“lightning position”).
  - Avoid tall structures (towers, trees, fences, poles).
  - Get away from bodies of water. Leave pools, rivers, lakes, and beaches. Come ashore and land any boats, kayaks, canoes, or other watercraft.
  - Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks. Move into valleys, ravines, or low areas.
  - Avoid water and wet items, metal objects, tents, natural lightning rods (golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles).
  - In the woods, stay under a low clump of trees. Never stand under a tall single tree in an open area.
  - If you feel your hair stand on end, drop to your knees, bend forward, and put your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.



### Interesting Facts:

- Lightning is five times hotter than the sun's surface.
- Lightning hits each square mile in Central Florida 40 times a year.
- There can be as many as 500 cloud-to-cloud strikes within a 45-minute storm.
- The average flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than 3 months.

### Myth versus Fact:

- **Myth** - Lightning never strikes in the same place twice.
- **Fact** - The Empire State Building is struck about 23 times in an average year.
- **Myth** - Rubber-soled shoes protect you from a lightning shock.
- **Fact** - It is unreasonable and suicidal to think that something so powerful as lightning can be stopped by a half-inch of rubber.
- **Myth** - Lightning follows the most direct path to the ground.
- **Fact** - It has been known to travel through clear air and strike 10 miles from the storm like a "bolt from the blue!"
- **Myth** - Rubber tires on a car protect you from the strike.
- **Fact** - Actually, it's not the tires. The metal body conducts the current around you, to the ground, providing windows are rolled up and you are not touching the metal. Not the case if it's a convertible, utility, or 4x4 vehicle with a fiberglass roof!

### Promotion Announcement

#### Congratulations!

The Fire Department would like to send a huge shout out to our newest Battalion Chief and Lieutenant!

Jim Klages was promoted last week to Battalion Chief. BC Klages has proudly served the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department for 18 years!



Kyle Raymond was promoted last week to Lieutenant. LT Raymond has dedicated 13 years of service to the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department!



Please join us in congratulating both BC Klages and LT Raymond on their well-deserved promotions. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the Fire Department and to the residents of Punta Gorda!

*Thank you for reading!*