

Weekly Highlights



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

Punta Gorda Presses Forward on Storm Recovery with Transparency and Purpose

MELISSA REICHERT
Interim City Manager

In the wake of back-to-back hurricanes that left their mark on Punta Gorda's treasured parks and waterfronts, the City is pressing ahead with determination, transparency, and a commitment to community engagement. While the road to full recovery will be long, significant progress is underway—and more is planned to keep residents informed every step of the way.

The City of Punta Gorda does not yet have a public-facing digital platform for storm recovery. However, that is set to change. The City is developing an ESRI-based interactive StoryMap to serve as a centralized hub for updates on storm damage, repair timelines, and project progress. This new tool will complement weekly reports, public meetings, and newsletters already in place to ensure residents stay connected.

Two of the City's most cherished green spaces, Laishley Park and Gilchrist Park, are undergoing City-led restoration. Punta Gorda has full responsibility for assessing damage, securing funding, and executing repairs. Electric power has been restored to Laishley Park, enabling the return of community events. Minor fixture repairs remain, but the focus is now on the damaged marina and piers, which require marine engineering, permitting, and federalized contracting. These projects—uninsured and complex—are expected to take two to three years, with the City actively seeking FEMA and grant funding.

At Gilchrist Park, restroom reconstruction is moving through the procurement process. Once the restrooms are operational, additional lighting throughout the park will be restored. Repairs are also in motion for the pirate ship playground, pickleball and tennis courts, fencing, and compass roses. City electricians continue to restore storm-damaged panels throughout Gilchrist Park, Linear Park, and the downtown area.

Harborwalk East is also seeing progress. While some pathways remain closed due to structural damage, temporary fencing under the U.S. 41 bridges now allows pedestrian access. Restoration of lighting systems is underway, with FPL meter installations pending. The most severely damaged areas of the Harborwalk, including boardwalk bridges and overlooks, require extensive engineering and permitting. Like the piers, these uninsured assets will also require long-term funding solutions and are expected to take two to three years to restore.

The City is also addressing broader infrastructure damage across key municipal facilities, including City Hall, City Council Chambers, and the Herald Court Parking Garage. With limited staff balancing storm recovery and daily operations, City officials continue to make steady headway.

In addition to major infrastructure, smaller—but no less beloved—features like the splash fountains at Laishley Park are nearing reopening. Final resurfacing and health department inspections are expected to wrap up in July, weather permitting.

Punta Gorda’s two electricians are working tirelessly to repair or replace electrical load centers and lighting fixtures throughout the community. Many light poles and components have been ordered, and diagnostics will begin once FPL completes power restoration.

Despite the scope of work, the City remains focused on rebuilding stronger and smarter. We are deeply committed to restoring and enhancing our parks, waterfront, and public infrastructure. With community support, we will emerge more resilient and better prepared for the future.

As the ESRI StoryMap rolls out in the coming months, residents can expect a new level of access and transparency. Until then, weekly highlights, council updates, and public meetings remain the best source of information. Through every challenge, Punta Gorda continues to move forward—one thoughtful, determined step at a time. For additional information, please contact interim *City Manager Melissa Reichert* at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

Dr. 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:

- 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.

- 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



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #24 FOR WEEK July 6 - July 12, 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



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)

- * Utility Engineer
- * Senior Purchasing Agent, Procurement
- * Controller, Finance
- * Treatment Plant Operator A – Water Treatment Plant
- * Engineering Design Analyst
- * Engineering Technician II
- * Canal Maintenance Worker I
- * Canal Maintenance Worker 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 more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.

SUMMER WATER SAFETY

Whether you are vacationing at the beach, visiting a lake or river, or just hanging by the poolside, don't take your safety for granted. Drowning deaths are the leading cause of death for 1- to 4-year-olds, and the second leading cause of preventable death through age 15. According to NSC research, 720 people ages 5 to 24 drowned in 2023. Enjoy the water this summer, enjoy your family and friends, and above all, Be Safe. Swimmers should keep a few safety precautions in mind:

- Don't go in the water unless you know how to swim; swim lessons are available for all ages
- Never swim alone

- Learn CPR and rescue techniques
- Make sure the body of water matches your skill level; swimming in a pool is much different than swimming at the beach, or in a lake or river.
- If you get caught in a current or riptide, don't try to fight it. Stay calm and float with it, or swim parallel to the shore until you can swim free
- Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard
- Don't push or jump on others
- Don't dive in unfamiliar areas
- Never drink alcohol when swimming; alcohol is involved in about half of all male teen drownings, according to KidsHealth.org



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)

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 mow, trim and edge is currently under way and is scheduled to be completed July 3.

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). 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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)**

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/>

Water Treatment Plant Tours
 Punta Gorda
 Florida's Waterworks Museum

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

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

CHARLOTTE/COUNTY PRESENTS
AUG 02 11AM
CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL
 Punta Gorda
LAISHLEY PARK
 FOOD X LIVE ENTERTAINMENT X DRINKS
 FOR VENDOR INFO PLEASE CALL: 888-298-4368

SAVE THE DATE
 SECOND ANNUAL
NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL
 FAMILY GAMES | TRICK OR TREATING
 COSTUME CONTEST
 OCTOBER 25, 2025
 3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
 PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY
 401 SHREVE STREET
 JOIN US AS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COME TO LIFE!
 PRESENTED BY:
 Punta Gorda

the
LAUGHING YOGA
 LAUGH MORE. FEEL GOOD.
JUNE 30 & JULY 28, 2025
9:00AM-9:45AM

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-4-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-1364830066469?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawkKzleHRuA2FbQkxMABicmkETFDblVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748amllVnpxbSQE1DopPpbBsofKkCCKuTgijTckVYPY9T8v1p6z-QgeVshBJQ_aem_qIQeJn9aNsypjY9T-Aosg

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

July

July 3
8 am - 1 pm **Market**
Downtown Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

July 6
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 ACCROSS NESBIT FROM
THE RAY

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

July 7
2 pm
Workshop
Business Owners
Laishley Community Room
120 Laishley Court

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

August

July 10 - August 18
City Council Summer Break

Caribbean Festival
August 2
11 am
Laishley Park
Punta Gorda

August 18
Pre-Agenda
Council Meeting
Laishley
Community Room
9 am - 10 am

August 20
Council Meeting
9 am - 12 pm
Laishley Community
Room

August 25
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Laishley Community
Room
9 am - 10 am

August 27
9 am - 12 pm
Council Meeting
Laishley Community
Room

BILLING & COLLECTION DEPARTMENT

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 (service fee of \$2.55/transaction)

On our website <https://punt-egov.aspgov.com/Click2GovCX/index.html> (service 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.

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.

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.

Punta Gorda Housing Authority (# regular) – Meets the third Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the Punta Gorda Housing Authority Community Room, 340 Gulf Breeze Avenue, Punta Gorda. Residency in the City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, or the City of North Port required. At least one member shall reside within the Housing Authority's jurisdiction and receive rent subsidy through a program administered by the Authority. Board of seven members. Terms of four years with no term limit. The mission of the Housing Authority is to provide quality, affordable housing that is well maintained and free from drugs, violent crime, and discrimination while serving residents with the highest degree of professional courtesy, empathy and respect.

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 businesstax@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:

- Flip Flop Shops, 1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard, Unit 1123
- Vacation Rental, 740 Elisa Drive
- Vacation Rental, 2477 Sierra Lane

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 Plan 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 .

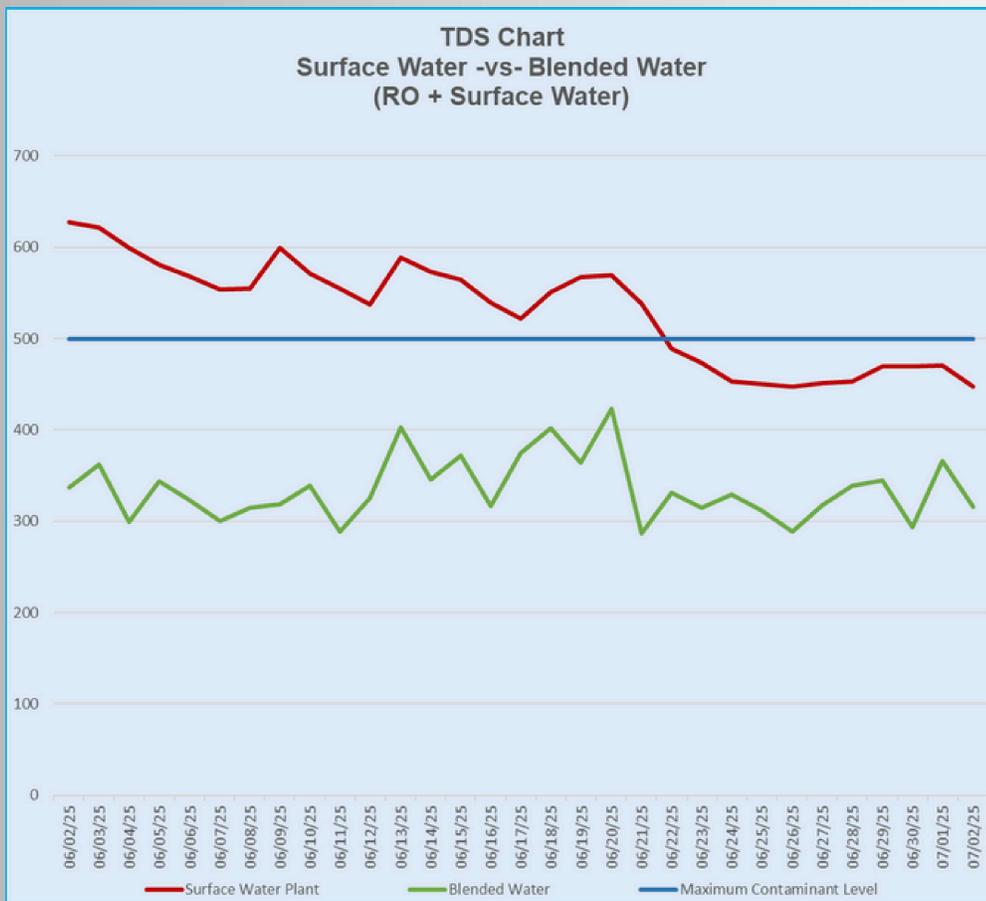
New Lawns - New lawns may be watered for the first 30 days following installation on any day.

Fountains, Car Washing & Pressure Washing

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

- 50.1 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last 7 days.
- 7.3 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

- July 2024 – 4.21”
- July 2025 - .28”

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
- 128 PPM Total hardness

TDS Information

- Current - July 2 – 316 ppm
- Low - July 2 – 291 ppm
- High - July 2 – 598 ppm
- 15 Year Average - July 2 – 403 ppm

Reservoir Information

Current Level July 3 – 5.48'	Record High July 3 – 7.20"
Record Low July 3 – 5.02'	59 Year Average July 3– 5.54'

Cross Connection Control Program

This program, which is mandated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, is the city’s backflow or back siphonage prevention program. It is the city’s responsibility to protect the drinking water system from contamination, so we are continually surveying and inspecting all commercial and residential connections to our system. To ensure that the proper devices have been installed and have up to date certifications performed on accounts and verified that the required backflow prevention assemblies were properly installed and certified.

Fire Hydrants There are 1,417 fire hydrants in the city’s water service area and each one is inspected and tested annually. We also do extensive vegetation control around all hydrants. This would have consisted of greasing, weed control, exercising, flushing and painting. We completed maintenance and repairs on no hydrants. Once we get a contract in place for a company to come in to maintenance and map out the hydrants we will be putting an employee to keep these in compliance.

Valves We have been exercising valves and remarking them on the roads that have been repaved. We have exercised a total of five valves this week.

Flushing: We have flushed a total of four hydrants through out our water system this week.

Meter sets - With all the new construction in the City of Punta Gorda. There has been a lot of new meter requests. This week we installed three new meter sets.

Service Requests - We have completed 11 service requests this week, which includes leaks, meter problems, low water pressures, meter shut-offs due to customer leaks and box change outs.

Cleanups - We have completed three cleanups. This consisted of filling holes with dirt and laying new sod.

AMI System - We currently aren’t using the AMI system and reading all meter until meter study is completed. New meter contract will go into affect in July to have Olameter read all meters.

URBAN DESIGN

The Future of Sustainable Zoning

Zoning is stepping into the future with some seriously cool new tools and ideas. Think digital zoning maps that let planners and residents explore neighborhoods with just a few clicks, and form-based codes that focus on how buildings look and feel to create more walkable, green spaces. Cities all around the world are experimenting with innovative zoning practices that prioritize sustainability—from clean energy goals to preserving green spaces—and there’s a lot we can learn from their successes (and even their challenges). Of course, changing the way zoning works isn’t always a smooth ride. There’s often pushback, cost hurdles, and old systems that need updating. But these challenges open up exciting opportunities to make zoning smarter, more flexible, and ready to support thriving, eco-friendly communities for years to come.



Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda

Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM—no permit needed during those hours! Need to park overnight? You’ll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can’t be combined to extend your stay.

The graphic has a light blue background. At the top, the title "Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda" is written in bold, dark blue text. Below the title is a paragraph of text: "Love getting out on the water? Just a quick reminder about boat and trailer parking rules in the City of Punta Gorda:". Underneath the text is a black silhouette of a pickup truck towing a boat on a trailer. Below the illustration is another paragraph of text: "Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 —no permit needed during those hours!". At the bottom is a final paragraph: "Need to park overnight? You'll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can't be combined to extend your stay."

PUNTA GORDA IN BLOOM REVITALIZES DOWNTOWN PLANTERS

Ever since its founding in 2020, Punta Gorda in Bloom (PGIB) has focused on harnessing benefactor generosity with volunteer initiative to vitalize the heart of Punta Gorda's downtown by distributing large planters and hanging baskets of colorful plants. The latest example is the June PGIB replanting accomplished by "Planter Parent" caregivers and additional volunteers, all referred to as "Bloomers."

Punta Gorda is blessed with a climate that allows outdoor plants to thrive year-round, but only provided that these plants are given regular irrigation and the attention of caring volunteers, coupled with three times yearly plant updates. Like the sturdy planters along Marion Ave. and Taylor St. and in Herald Square that have stood firmly through all sorts of weather, Bloomer volunteers have been undeterred from the mission of keeping the plants as healthy and attractive as possible despite high heat, humidity and those dreaded hurricanes.

PGIB founders Alan Schulman and Richard Polk continue to inspire volunteers and organize plant acquisition with a high level of dedication. Inspired themselves by the mission of the America in Bloom (AIB) organization, of which PGIB is a member, the founders believe strongly in the positive visual impact on Punta Gorda and by extension, the increased appeal of the city to visitors and impact on downtown businesses. Their belief was bolstered in 2022 when PGIB won the AIB National "Community Involvement Award," commending the organization's accomplishments as judged by a team of experts who spent time reviewing the city.

The new plants are still immature but are expected to flourish into the cascades of color that have come to be associated with PGIB's downtown plantings. None of this would be possible without the dedication of the Bloom volunteers who exemplify the volunteer spirit that powers so many of Punta Gorda's initiatives. For more information, and to find out how you can help PGIB continue its success, visit www.PuntaGordainBloom.org.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance - Canal Maintenance crews filled depressions at 33 locations.

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 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 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 breakdown. Using plastic during rain events can help protect the soil and minimize 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 completed the remodel at Herald Court Offices, and the Finance Department and City Clerk will be moving into the office spaces in August.

Facilities

- Crews have initiated the restoration of the showers at the Laishley Marina Building
- Crews are working with the vendor to review and confirm the appropriate sealant product for the Herald Court Parking garage seams
- Lighting along the Harborwalk East has been restored, with a few remaining connections pending
- Facilities have received the quote for fencing the Pickleball and Tennis courts. This is now going through out procurement process
- The fencing replacement at the Public Works campus is ready to be scheduled

Park and Grounds

- Work on the shade structures continues at the Hounds on Henry, at large dog park
- The restroom painting has been completed at Ponce De Leon park
- Crews are making repairs and repainting equipment located at Kiddieland Playground in Gilchrist Park
- Crews repaired the railings along the sidewalk to the fishing pier at Ponce Park
- Crews removed the shade sail at the Interactive Fountain due to potential approaching winds

Right of Way

- Crews completed the Rip Rap project laid sod at Colony Point
- Depressions surrounding the FPL light pole have been completed in the Downtown area
- Crews worked with Parks and Grounds crews with some soft cutting of poles for the shade structure at Hounds on Henry Dog Park
- Preparations for the 4th of July celebration are underway through Friday afternoon with street closures to ensure the safety of the public

Sanitation

- Sanitation collection change for the 4th 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 Recycling** – Waste Management is proud to work with the City of Punta Gorda to provide recycling services. The designated recycling carts must be curbside by 5:00 a.m. on the scheduled recycling collection day.



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](http://Sanitation|CityofPuntaGorda,FL) (punta-gorda.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.

- **Special Recycling Request** - To schedule a special recycling pick-up of the items listed below, please contact Public Works (941)575-5050 or Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us).
 - **Electronic Device Recycling Services:** Residents are allowed to place discarded electronics curbside for collection and proper disposal. These include, but are not limited to: computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCRs, and DVD players. They will be collected through a separate non-compaction box truck on Fridays after being scheduled.
 - **Tires:** Passenger car and street-size pickup truck tires (up to 25 inches in diameter) may be collected on your recycling day, with a special request being scheduled. You are allowed up to six (6) tires per year. Place the tires, with or without rims, at the curb on the recycling day.
 - **Waste Oil:** Residents can place waste oil at the curb, as long as it’s stored in a fully enclosed container. Use a self-contained receptacle with a screw on lid for your used motor oil.
 - **Batteries:** Non-leaking vehicle lead-acid batteries.



Police Department



Scam Alert

We all rely on technology to make our lives easier; however, we must be cautious because scammers also utilize this technology to facilitate their scams. Recently, a local business was contacted by a scammer impersonating the City of Punta Gorda Planning and Zoning Department. In this case, the scammers used information gathered from a recent Historic Preservation Advisory Board Meeting to solicit payment for a permit fee. Upon closer examination of this scam, several clues suggest that something was not right. Let's examine the most obvious clues in this case: the payment method, the sense of urgency, and the contact method to help recognize common scam patterns.

Strange Payment Methods

First, this scammer asked for a wire transfer of funds. Scams that require a wire transfer are common. Scammers often impersonate legitimate individuals or companies, like a boss, a supplier, or even a government agency, and pressure the target to wire money quickly. Once the money is sent via wire transfer, it's almost impossible to recover. Wire transfers are a preferred method for scammers due to the difficulty in recovering your money. This makes it an

attractive payment method for fraudsters who want to take your money and disappear quickly. Wire transfers also don't offer the same level of fraud protection as credit cards. Other standard methods of payment in scams include bitcoin, gold, or gift cards.

A False Sense of Urgency

Another red flag in these scams is a sense of urgency, for example, "This needs to be paid today!" or "Your account will be shut down unless you act now!" Scammers rely on panic to bypass normal verification steps. In this case, the scammer said, "Please be advised that your application will not proceed to public hearing or receive further administrative action until payment is received and confirmed. Delays in remittance may impact your place on the HPAB agenda and overall timeline for review." Do not be pressured into making decisions quickly. Take the time to make sure things are legitimate before proceeding.

Email Address Differences

One easy but often overlooked way to spot a scam is to scrutinize the sender's email address. Scammers frequently use addresses that look almost identical to real ones, with subtle changes such as replacing an "l" with a "1" (e.g.



john.smith@company1.com instead of john.smith@company.com), slight misspellings (e.g., @companny.com), or using public domains like @gmail.com instead of a corporate domain. In this case, the scammer used a fake email address (not a @cityofpuntagordafl.com address) and requested contact only by email.

Trust your gut. If something feels off, especially when money is involved, pause and verify. Contact the sender through a known, trusted channel (like calling their official phone number) before proceeding with any money transfer.

2025 Fireworks Traffic

This year, Punta Gorda will have fireworks at both Fisherman's Village and Laishley Park on Friday, July 4th. To ensure a safe and enjoyable evening, please note the following traffic changes following the fireworks displays. Remember that thousands of people come into Punta Gorda for the fireworks display, and everyone wants to leave simultaneously. These traffic changes are designed to minimize traffic congestion; however, substantial traffic delays are expected, so please plan accordingly.

Traffic leaving from the areas east of Tamiami Trail (US-41 North), including Laishley Park, will be directed onto E. Marion Avenue and can continue west on Marion Avenue or north on Tamiami Trail (US-41).

Traffic leaving the areas west of Tamiami Trail (US-41 North), except as specified below, will be directed to Cross Street (US-41 South). Traffic may then continue south

toward Fort Myers or be allowed to turn east onto Carmalita Street, north on Cooper Street, and east on East Olympia Avenue (US-17 East) toward I-75. Traffic can then go north or south on the interstate.

Traffic leaving the Courthouse parking lot will be directed south on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. to Olympia Ave. and then on towards I-75.

Traffic leaving the Herald Court Center parking garage cannot turn right toward Tamiami Trail (US-41 North). Traffic will need to turn left towards Taylor Street and will be directed in one of two ways, depending on the level of traffic congestion. Traffic may be directed to West Olympia Avenue (US-17 East) toward I-75, where traffic may go north or south on the interstate. Traffic may also be directed to West Marion Avenue (US-17 East) toward Cross Street (US-41 South), where it can then continue south toward Fort Myers or be allowed to turn east onto Carmalita Street, north on Cooper Street, and east on East Olympia Avenue (US-17 East) toward I-75.

Traffic exiting Fisherman's Village will be directed west on W. Marion Ave. or south on Maud Street and then east on E. Olympia Ave.

In addition to the traffic changes, the Laishley boat ramp will be closed 30 minutes before the fireworks display and will reopen 30 minutes after the display has concluded. However, the Ponce De Leon Park boat ramp will remain open until 11:00 p.m. to provide boat ramp access to residents and visitors.



Fire Department

Survey123 Implementation

This week, Todd Helt, GIS Analyst, Information Technology conducted training sessions for our Fire Department and Police Department staff on the use of the Survey123 program. This important tool is designed to assist city personnel in the aftermath of a natural disaster by enabling field teams to efficiently document critical hazards such as downed power lines, fallen trees blocking roadways, damaged street signs or lights, and other potential dangers to residents, visitors, and city staff.

Survey123 captures the precise location and time of each reported issue, allowing city departments to respond quickly and effectively. With this program, each department can address the specific needs within their area of responsibility, enhancing our overall emergency response and public safety efforts.



Thank you for reading!