

Weekly Highlights



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

The City of Punta Gorda recently hosted a business listening workshop, bringing together business owners, city staff, and community partners to address concerns, answer questions, and identify opportunities for collaboration and improvement. The session, held in a welcoming and interactive format, reflected the City's commitment to building a more business-friendly and vibrant downtown.

Local business owners voiced a variety of concerns and ideas aimed at strengthening visibility, accessibility, and overall aesthetics. Among the frequently mentioned needs was the desire for additional signage options—particularly flutter flags and directional street signs—to help businesses attract attention from both visitors and residents. City staff noted these suggestions and pledged to explore options for more flexible signage solutions.

One of the key topics of the day was the future of the City Marketplace property. Downtown business owners expressed hope that this highly visible area could be transformed from an eyesore into a downtown attraction. While the future of the site is in the hands of the owner, all are hopeful for the site to enhance downtown.

Street lighting was also discussed, especially concerns raised by a business owner on West Marion Avenue. The Public Works Department is already taking action to resolve the issue and enhance visibility and safety in the area. Landscaping was another focus, with several attendees pointing out properties in need of attention. The City reminds residents and business owners that code compliance concerns can be reported online at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to-/report/a-code-violation>.

Flood protection was another critical concern raised, particularly regarding Herald Court Centre. The City responded by noting that Tiger Dams have been approved for purchase to protect the facility. Additionally, all new hardware and gaskets are being ordered and installed to reinforce the existing storm protection panels.

TEAM Punta Gorda offered its support for aesthetic improvement projects and potential fundraising efforts. Their willingness to partner with the City underscores the strong community spirit that continues to define Punta Gorda. Potential enhancements such as upgraded welcome signage, interactive QR codes, and mobile-friendly tools to help guide visitors to local businesses were warmly received.

An idea that sparked considerable enthusiasm was the suggestion of launching a shuttle service using upgraded, street-legal golf carts. These “revved-up” carts would operate within a roughly nine-mile radius, making it easier for visitors to park in the downtown garage and access businesses throughout the area without additional vehicle congestion.

The need for better restroom availability during events like the Farmers Market was also brought forward. Business owners emphasized the strain placed on their facilities and asked the City to consider alternative options for the market. Attendees were encouraged to stay informed and connected through the City’s communication platforms, including Alert Punta Gorda and e-notifications. Residents and businesses can sign up at Alert Punta Gorda and e-notifications.

As the workshop came to a close, one common theme emerged: collaboration is key. The City, business community, and civic organizations are united in their belief that by working together, Punta Gorda can overcome seasonal slowdowns, have strong partnerships, and continue building a thriving, beautiful downtown that serves everyone. For additional information, please contact City Manager Melissa Reichert at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.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:

- 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 13 - July 19, 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)



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)

- Senior Purchasing Agent, Procurement
- Controller, Finance
- Treatment Plant Operator A – Water Treatment Plant
- Engineering Design Analyst
- Engineering Technician II
- Canal Maintenance Worker II
- Firefighter/EMT
- Senior Project Manager – Public Works

Upcoming Employment Testing

Internship Program — 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 employeeedevlopment@pgorda.us.

W.A.L.K. WHEN WALKING:

With so many beautiful destinations to visit in and around our community, we find ourselves walking around a lot of different environments. Whether we are walking on a beach, in a park, or around our Historic Downtown District, keep your head up and look around you. Walking while looking at your phone keeps you distracted from seeing any possible safety concerns that could cause you to trip or fall. Here are four steps to promote safety while walking.



City Maintenance Updates

City Seawall Maintenance Program – Construction staging sites at one location have opened, and letters have been mailed to one homeowner 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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)

Hurricane Milton Updates

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 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.

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

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

CHARLOTTE COUNTY PRESENTS

CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

AUG 02 11AM

Punta Gorda

LAISHLEY PARK

FOOD X LIVE ENTERTAINMENT X DRINKS

FOR VENDOR INFO PLEASE CALL: 941-266-4146

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:

Punta Gorda | CHARLOTTE COUNTY

the YOGA

LAUGH MORE. FEEL GOOD.

LAUGHING YOGA

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-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-13648300664697>

aff=oddidcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawKf1zdeHRuA2FibQlxMABicmikETF0blVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748qmllVnPkbsQE1DcqPpbBsofKkCCKuTGjTcKVY9Tsv1p6z-QgeVshBJQ_aem_qloEoJn9oNsyjY9T-Aosq

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

July

July 12
8 am - 1 pm Farmers Market
Downtown Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

July 13
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 16
4pm - 6pm
**2050 Long Range
Transportation Plan
Workshop - West County**
Charlotte County Tringali
Community Center
3460 North Access Road
Englewood

July 17
10 am - 12 pm
**2050 Long Range
Transportation Plan
Workshop - Mid-County**
Charlotte County Family Services
Center
21500 Gibraltar Drive
Port Charlotte

July 17
4 pm - 6 pm
**2050 Long Range Transportation
Plan Workshop - South County**
Charlotte County Family Services
Center
21500 Gibraltar Drive
Port Charlotte

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

August

City Council Summer Break
July 10 - August 18

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

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

August 2
11 am
Caribbean Festival
Lashley Park
Punta Gorda

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

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.asp.gov.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.

JULY'S SERVICE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

We want to acknowledge and celebrate our employees who received service awards. Your commitment and years of hard work are a vital part of what keeps our city running smoothly. Thank you for your continued service and dedication to excellence. We also want to congratulate the recipients of the Certificate of Recognition, whose contributions have made a meaningful impact on our community. Your dedication and service do not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for your continued efforts.

Please join us in congratulating all of this months honorees!



Presented Harvey Goldberg with a Certificate Recognizing his years of service on the Planning and Zoning Board.



35 Year Service Award
Nathaniel Larrison
Engineering Technician II, Engineering
Public Works



15 Year Service Award
Alexander Davenport
Fire Lieutenant
Punta Gorda Fire Department



10 Year Service Award
Chesley McLeod
Firefighter/EMT
Punta Gorda Fire Department

**Say Hello to Our New City Manager
Melissa Reichert!**



We are excited to announce that Melissa Reichert is officially the new City Manager!

Melissa brings with her a wealth of experience in public service, strategic leadership, and community development. With a strong background in municipal administration and a passion for building vibrant, sustainable communities, she is well-positioned to guide our city into its next chapter of growth and innovation.

As City Manager, Melissa will oversee the day-to-day operations of our city government and work closely with City Council, staff, and residents to ensure we continue delivering high-quality services while planning for a strong future.

Melissa is known for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to transparency, and dedication to public service. We look forward to the fresh ideas, inclusive leadership, and thoughtful stewardship she brings to our city.

Congratulations

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.

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.

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.

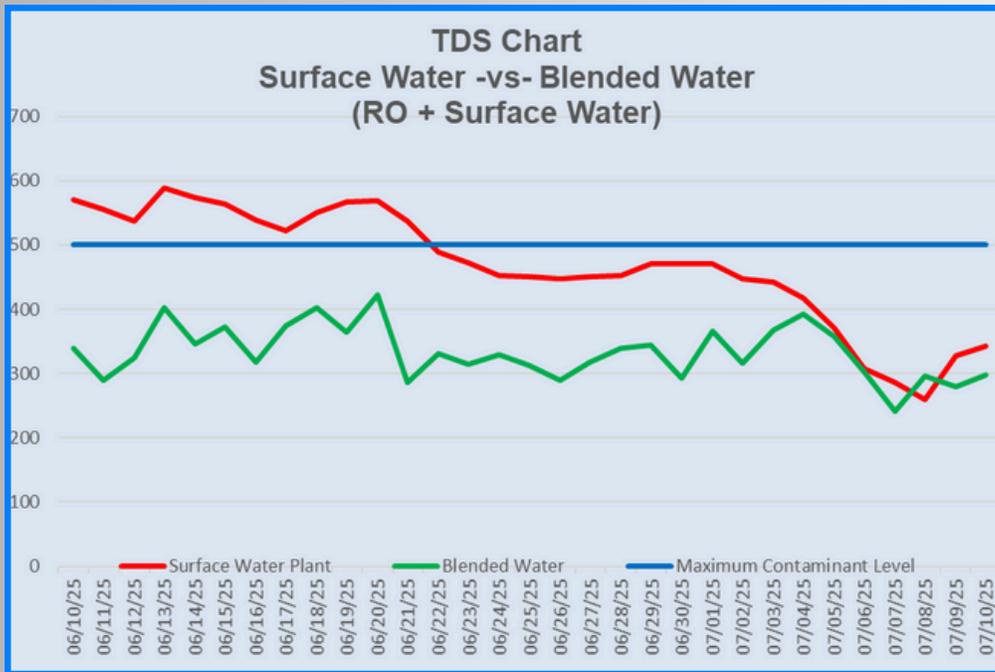
Fountains, Car Washing & Pressure Washing

- 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, décor, 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

- 48.4 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last 7 days.
- 6.9 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 - 3.75”

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
- 112 PPM Total hardness
-

TDS Information

- Current - July 10 – 297 ppm
 - Low - July 10 – 219 ppm
 - High - July 10 – 566 ppm
- 15 Year Average - July 10 – 369 ppm

Reservoir Information

<p>Current Level July 10 – 5.80’</p> <p>Record Low July 10 – 5.11’</p>	<p>Record High July 10 – 6.60”</p> <p>59 Year Average July 10 – 5.50’</p>
--	---

URBAN DESIGN



Let's Zone Together!

Sustainable zoning works best when everyone gets a seat at the table! Whether it's through community meetings, hands-on workshops, or just neighbors speaking up, getting involved can help shape greener, more livable neighborhoods. Some communities have even led the charge themselves—advocating for zoning changes that make a real difference. When residents, planners, developers, and local leaders team up, big things can happen. It's all about working together to build smarter, more sustainable places to live, work, and play.



Trash Container Storage

In the Special Residential Overlay District, Punta Gorda's Code requires that all garbage and trash containers be stored out of public view when not at the curb for collection. Containers should be kept inside the garage or behind a buffer screen, such as a solid masonry wall that matches the home's design, an opaque fence panel (up to 6 feet high, 8 feet long, and 4 feet wide), or a fully opaque landscape screen.

These containers must not be visible from the street or neighboring properties at ground level. The landscape or screen must fully conceal the containers and be maintained in good condition at all times. This helps ensure the community remains visually appealing while adhering to district-specific standards.

Bloom Like Punta Gorda!

Much like the vibrant “Punta Gorda in Bloom” initiative, you can transform your own yard into a colorful, fragrant oasis. Flowers do more than brighten up your space—they create inviting environments that attract pollinators, add curb appeal, and provide lovely scents for you to enjoy every day.

To get started, pick a sunny spot in your yard. Remember: more sun usually means more blooms! Preparing your area is key, so clear out any weeds or debris and amend your soil as needed. Next comes the exciting part: choosing your plants! For a visually interesting, professional-looking landscape, be sure to use a mix colors, textures, and heights. Consider Florida natives like firebush for vivid orange-red blooms that attract butterflies, ornamental grasses like muhly for airy movement, and hardy perennials that keep the show going year-round.

Fun fact: Many flowers have evolved unique shapes and colors specifically to attract certain pollinators. For example, red tubular flowers often signal hummingbirds, while flat, open blooms are perfect landing pads for bees! Once you’ve selected your plants, lay them out before digging. This lets you experiment with arrangements and spacing to get the look you want. When you’re ready, plant them at the appropriate depth, water thoroughly, and finish with a layer of mulch. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and gives your garden a neat, finished look.

Now all that’s left is to sit back, relax, and watch your yard come alive with color, fragrance, and visiting wildlife. Your very own blooming paradise!



Lot Mowing Program — The mow, trim and edge was completed on July 3.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance — Canal Maintenance crews filled depressions at 28 locations.

Dockside Dredging — Property owners included on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list are not permitted to conduct dockside dredging next to the damaged seawall until repairs are completed. Dredging in these areas could lead to further structural damage.

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 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

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, Rio Tiber, and 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 are continuing to work on the downtown lighting repairs
- The replacement panels for Gilchrist Park have been submitted to our purchasing process

Park and Grounds

- Work on the shade structures continues at the Hounds on Henry, at large dog park
- Crews completed cleanup after the July Fourth celebration
- Crews continue to work on the large shade structure at the Hounds on Henry, among other daily duties

Right of Way

- Crews have replaced and repaired signage at Ponce De Leon Park
- Barriers from the Fourth of July celebration have all been removed by the Crews
- Drainage repair at 2063 Padre Island Drive has been completed

Sanitation

- **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.



- **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](mailto:Sanitation@CityofPuntaGorda.com) (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

Florida's New "Super Speeder" Law

What Punta Gorda Drivers Need to Know

The Punta Gorda Police Department wants to alert all motorists that, effective July 1, 2025, Florida's House Bill 351, also known as the "Dangerous Excessive Speeding" or "Super Speeder" law, has taken effect statewide. This legislation marks a significant shift. Extreme speeding is now a criminal misdemeanor, not just a traffic infraction. Under the new statute, speeding becomes a criminal offense if either of the following occurs:

- You exceed the posted speed limit by 50 mph or more, or
- You are driving 100 mph or more, regardless of the posted limit, in a way that endangers others. Law enforcement is already cracking down. For instance, the Orange County Sheriff's Office made an early stop after a vehicle was clocked at 104 mph on July 1,

This shift brings significantly tougher consequences. A first offense can result in up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$500. A second or subsequent offense can result in up to 90 days in jail, fines of up to \$1,000, and a license suspension of up to 1 year. Additionally, offenders must appear in court; these violations can't be handled by mail or payment alone.

Florida's legislature expressed concerns over rising fatalities related to extreme speeding. In 2023, more than 683,000 speeding tickets were issued statewide, including nearly 2,600 for violations exceeding 50 miles per hour. Legislative leaders emphasize that drivers exceeding the speed limit significantly reduce their reaction times and increase the severity of crashes.

The Punta Gorda Police Department reminds you that this law was introduced to save lives, not to unfairly penalize drivers. Safe driving benefits our entire community. Let's keep Punta Gorda roads safe. Please drive responsibly.





Fire Department

Service Award Announcement - Congratulations!

The Fire Department would like to send a huge shout out to Lieutenant Davenport and Firefighter Mcleod.

LT. Davenport has been with the City of Punta Fire Department for 15 years, and Firefighter Mcleod has been with the City of Punta Fire Department for 10 years! Please join us in congratulating both LT Davenport and Firefighter Mcleod on their well-deserved service awards. Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to the Fire Department and to the residents of Punta Gorda!



Thank you for reading!