

Weekly Highlights



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

Meet Melissa Reichert City Manager of Punta Gorda

It is both an honor and a privilege to introduce myself as the City Manager of Punta Gorda. With over 22 years of experience in public service, economic development, and strategic planning, I am deeply committed to supporting our community through thoughtful leadership, transparent governance, and meaningful collaboration.

My journey with the City began in 2018 when I was selected from a pool of over 150 applicants to serve as Communications Manager. After a rigorous hiring process—including interviews, reference checks, and screenings—I embraced the opportunity to modernize and enhance the City's communication strategies. One of my first initiatives was to bring our marketing program in-house, a move that saved the City more than \$60,000 annually. I also served as Public Information Officer during emergency operations, helping keep the public informed during critical moments and strengthening our outreach.

In 2021, I was appointed Assistant City Manager, working closely with our City Manager and Council to address constituent needs, support departmental operations, and lead several high-priority initiatives. I had the privilege of coordinating the City's strategic planning efforts and leading the successful 1% Sales

Tax ballot initiative. I also helped guide our community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with emergency management teams. Additionally, I have written grants and legislative appropriation requests resulting in over 5 million dollars' worth of funding coming into the city.

Since November I have had the honor of serving as the Interim City Manager. During my time in this role, I have selected and on boarded new department heads, renewed the focus on succession planning and improved resident engagement. Our team has worked tirelessly to restore our community after back to back hurricanes.

Before my time in Punta Gorda, I spent nearly two decades in Wisconsin, including serving as President of the Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce for eight of those years. There, I managed a revolving loan fund with a perfect repayment record, worked collaboratively to secure millions of dollars in grant funding, and was honored by the Mid-America Economic Development Council for best practices in business retention and expansion. I also co-chaired state legislative visits that led to significant regional investments and policy reforms. I worked closely with the city,

administering a façade improvement program and the downtown revitalization study on their behalf.

Throughout my career, I've worked to bring people together—whether leading the City's "Journey to the Future" initiative that brought 700 residents into the planning process, or fostering partnerships that strengthen our neighborhoods, businesses, and infrastructure. I believe in listening first, acting strategically, and always striving to build a stronger, more resilient community.

Academically, I hold a Doctorate in Public Health from Capella University, along with master's degrees in Business Administration and Public Health Administration. I've also completed FEMA emergency response training and advanced leadership development programs to better serve our residents, especially in times of crisis.

Community involvement is important to me. I serve on the boards of the United Way of Charlotte County and the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. Sharing insights through speaking engagements and learning from others continues to inspire and inform my work.

As City Manager, I look forward to working alongside our dedicated staff, elected officials, and residents to protect what makes Punta Gorda special while planning wisely for its future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this incredible community—I'm excited for what we will accomplish together.

— Melissa Reichert
City Manager, Punta Gorda

(941) 575-3302; reichert@cityofpuntagordafl.com

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.](#)

City Council Meeting Video Available: The video from City Council's regular meeting on July 9, 2025, is now available on [the City's YouTube page.](#)

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



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)

- Controller, Finance
- Treatment Plant Operator A – Water Treatment Plant
- Engineering Design Analyst
- Engineering Technician II
- Firefighter/EMT
- Senior Project Manager – Public Works
- Executive Assistant – Urban Design
- Right of Way Maintenance Worker I – Public Works

Upcoming Employment Testing

Internship Program — The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall 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 or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #25 FOR WEEK July 20 - July 26, 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

ROAD CLOSURE

Thursday, July 24, into the early morning hours of Friday, July 25, mast arms will be installed on Tamiami Trail at the Sunseekers Resort. There will be nighttime closures to facilitate this work. As always, the construction schedule may change due to weather or other unexpected conditions.

The specifics are below

SR 45 (Tamiami Trail) from Kings Highway to Melbourne Street: Construction Project:

Motorists should expect nighttime/overnight lane closures on US 41 (SR 45) northbound and southbound on Thursday, July 24, 2025, between the hours of 7 p.m. through 5 a.m. This closure will be taking place for the installation of new mast arms at the Sunseeker Resort. Motorists should use caution, expect delays, and slow-moving traffic as crews will be working on and near the roadway.

TIPS

The City received a \$5,000 reimbursement from the Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust through the annual TIPS submission. The Preferred TIPS program offers matching funds for training and safety-related purchases and is available to all current members of the Preferred group. Each participating entity may apply for up to \$5,000 in matching incentives per year. This year, the City's eligible purchases included sidewalk repairs for right of way, police body armor, a turnout gear extractor for the fire department, high-visibility hats and shirts for the sanitation department, safety inspections and training for wastewater collection, as well as personal protective equipment and oxygen testing sensors for the water treatment plant.





WORKPLACE STRESS, MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS:

Remember to take time to take care of yourself. If you are not managing your stress at work or at home, you are not going to be your best at either. Here are a few tips to remember. Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and Above All, Be Safe.

When you feel stressed or overwhelmed;

- a. Take a break to catch your breath and clear your head.
- b. Prioritize the top few things that you are stressed about.
- c. Focus on one thing at a time.
- d. Eat a balanced meal.
- e. Get a little exercise every day.

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. 22 projects are under construction in Punta Gorda Isles, and 188 projects have been completed. City in-house program has one site under construction and one completed in PGI. 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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)

[Storm & Recovery](#)

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)



Tickets on Sale NOW \$45 PP
Sponsorships Available

Speakeasy Soiree'
Thursday, July 31, 2025
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Elk's Lodge Deep Creek
1133 Capricorn Blvd., Punta Gorda
<https://onecua.com/vb/speakeasy>

Hors D'ouvres, music by Lady Z and the Suncoast Swing, cash bar, 50/50, Lottery Tree, and optional costume contest-\$300 for the winner.




CHARLOTTE/COUNTY PRESENTS
AUG 02 11AM
CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL
Punta Gorda
LAISHLEY PARK
FOOD X LIVE ENTERTAINMENT X DRINKS
FOR VENDOR INFO PLEASE CALL: 888-268-3146



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



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



Poker Run
WREATHS AMERICA
FUNDRAISER
All Proceeds go to Wreaths Across America
Saturday, July 19th at 9:30 a.m.
Starts: Santa Black Widow 5:00am
2224 E. Johnson Rd. Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Finish: Reef O' Bradsy 2:00 pm
1105 Taylor Rd. Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Public for Sponsors: 8am-9:30am, 50/50 Raffle
Entry Fee: \$20 per Person; Extra Draw \$5 (optional)
• Stop 1: Santa Black Widow (Registration)
• Stop 2: Charlie Foxrest
• Stop 3: Reef O' Bradsy, Sandhill Rd.
• Stop 4: Kings Roadhouse
• Stop 5: Reef O' Bradsy, Taylor Rd.
Food & Drink available
1 Best hand prize
1 Long hand prize
Attendance gifts
Vendor table
Wreaths Across America - Punta Gorda
Event Manager: @pgwraa | Phone: 239-448-8112



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-robert-l-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-1364830066469?aff=oddfldcreator&fbclid=IwY2xjawKfzldleHRuA2FibQixMABicmkETf0blVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748gmilVNgkbSOE1DcqPpbBsoIKKcKuTGjTckVPY9TSv1pZz-QgeVshBJQ_aem_qj0EoJn9oNsypjY9T-Aosg

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

July

July 19
8 am - 1 pm Farmers Market
Downtown Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

July 19
9:30 am - 3 pm
Poker Run
Berts Black Widow
for details call
239-446-8112

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



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

July 20
9 am - 1 pm
History Park Sunday Market
Every Sunday

July 31
6 pm - 9 pm
Speakeasy Soiree'
Elks Lodge Deep Creek
1133 Capricorn Blvd..
All proceeds to benefit Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community

Clinic
Sponsorships Avail



August

City Council Summer Break
July 10 - August 18

August 2
11 am
Caribbean Festival
Lashley Park
Punta Gorda

August 5
5:30 pm - 7 pm
Punta Gorda
Fire Department
Family & Friends
CPR program
401 Shreve Street
Register at
<https://charlottecountyfl.libcal.com/event/14764360>

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

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

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

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

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 one 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. 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:

- LeBeau Construction Inc, 1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard, Unit 1113
- Brouile/Anderson Vacation Rental, 3715 Spoonbill Court
- Kuiper Vacation Rental, 803 Napoli Lane
- Muhlfelder Vacation Rental, 261 Venezia Court
- Pomerantz Vacation Rental, 220 Venezia Court

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.

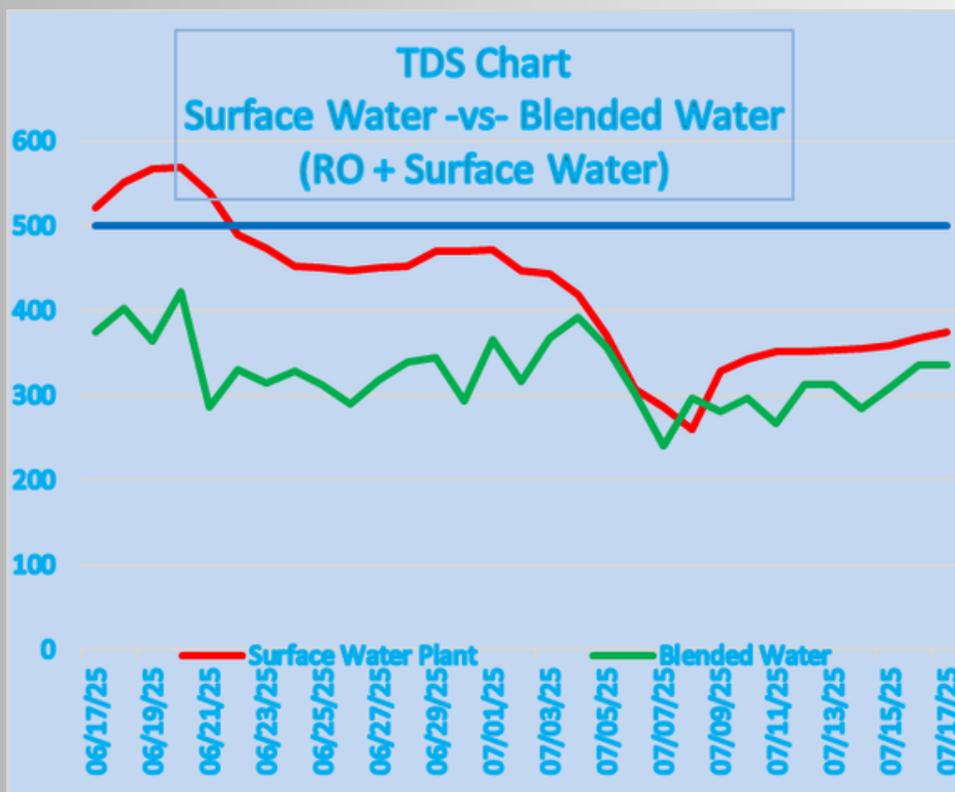
Fountains, Car Washing & Pressure Washing

- 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

- 50.0 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last 7 days.
- 7.1 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 - 4.93”

Total Hardness/Grains of Hardness

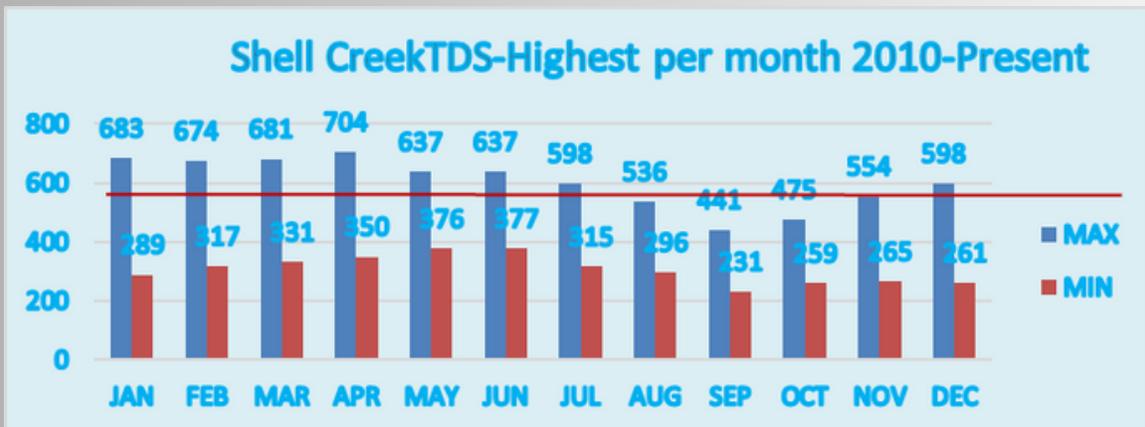
Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. At the current level the City’s water is considered “Hard”.

Current Condition

- 7 Grains of hardness
- 128 PPM Total hardness
-

TDS Information

- Current - July 17 – 336 ppm
- Low - July 17 – 242 ppm
- High - July 17 – 524 ppm
- 15 Year Average - July 17 – 366 ppm



Reservoir Information

<p>Current Level July 17 – 5.83' Record Low July 17 – 5.05'</p>	<p>Record High July 17 – 6.14" 59 Year Average July 17 – 5.48'</p>
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URBAN DESIGN

Series Wrap-Up

Sustainable Zoning in Focus

That concludes the sustainable zoning series—but the momentum doesn't have to end here. Across the country and around the world, communities are reimagining what it means to grow responsibly, and zoning is a key part of that story. Thoughtful land use, walkable neighborhoods, access to green spaces, and climate-conscious development all begin with intentional planning—and intentional participation. When residents, planners, developers, and decision-makers come together with a shared commitment to sustainability, meaningful change is possible. By staying informed and engaged, every community has the power to shape a future that is not only resilient, but thriving, inclusive, and built to last



Code Compliance Reminder

Vacation Rentals & Local Business Tax

Operating a vacation rental in the City of Punta Gorda? Property owners are reminded that all short-term rental properties must obtain a **Local Business Tax Receipt** before renting. This requirement helps ensure compliance with local regulations and supports the continued safety and accountability of vacation rental operations within the city. If you are renting your property—even occasionally—be sure to complete the necessary steps with the appropriate departments before listing or leasing. Compliance helps protect both guests and neighborhoods.

For more information, please contact the City's Code Compliance Division.



Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane season is here—from June 1 to November 30—so it's time to get storm-smart and ready. The first step? Stay informed! Check forecasts regularly and get familiar with the storm categories: tropical depressions have winds up to 38 mph, tropical storms range from 39–73 mph, and hurricanes kick off at 74 mph.

Avoid the last-minute rush by prepping early. Stock up on non-perishable food and clean drinking water to last at least three days for everyone in your household (pets included!). Make sure your first aid kit is ready to go, prescriptions are easy to grab, and personal hygiene and sanitation items are on hand. Don't forget the essentials for a power outage—battery-operated radios, flashlights, and extra batteries are lifesavers when the lights go out.

Don't forget, your home needs some TLC too. Secure windows with shutters or plywood, bring in outdoor furniture and decorations that could turn into flying objects, and double-check that your roof and doors are in good shape. If you live in a flood-prone area, know your flood zone and evacuation routes—this can make a huge difference when time is tight. One more pro tip: fill up your gas tank early. Fuel shortages are common before big storms, and a full tank means you can hit the road without hesitation if an evacuation is ordered. Getting prepared might not be the most exciting task, but it brings peace of mind and helps protect what matters most. So take a little time now to get ready—you'll thank yourself later. Stay safe, stay ready, and let's take on this hurricane season with confidence!



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing program is on hold at this time due to the Solicitation Contract.

Public Works

Administrative Office – As a reminder:

Residents may report a problem using any of the following methods:

- Online: Report a Problem | City of Punta Gorda, FL
- Email: pubworks@pgorda.us
- Phone: 941-575-5050

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

Canal Maintenance — Canal Maintenance crews filled 15 depressions at locations and produced 60 seawall panels.

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.

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.

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 continue to make repairs at Herald Court

Park and Grounds

- Crews continue to catch up with day to day duties

Right of Way

- Crews repaired a depression and a drain in the right of way at Jamaica Way
- Access to a junction box was exposed for a contractor to complete a pipe repair on Henry Street, Jamaica Way, and Olympia Street. The Contractor will be relining the drain pipe.
- Crews have replaced the hardware at Herald Court for the installation of stormwater barriers
- Reflective pavement markers have been reinstalled from Marion Ave, from the City Hall Building to Fisherman's Village.

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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#).
 - **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

Chief Smith Appointed FPCA Secretary/Treasurer

With the retirement of Chief Melanie Bevan of the Bradenton Police Department, Florida Police Chiefs Association President Bage has appointed Chief Pam Smith of the Punta Gorda Police Department to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the association. Chief Smith will join the FPCA Executive Board and will also become the Foundation's Secretary/Treasurer. **Congratulations, Chief Smith!**



2025 Public Safety Summer Youth Academy

The Police Department and Fire Department held their annual Summer Youth Academy for middle school-aged students this week. During the week-long event, students had the opportunity to observe how police and fire departments operate, as well as attend special presentations from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Peace River Wildlife Center, Iguanaland, K9 Team, Evidence Technicians, and more. The kids had a fantastic time, and the staff had some fun too!





Fire Department

Fourth Annual Public Safety Youth Academy a Success!

This week, the Fire Department and Police Department proudly hosted the Fourth Annual Public Safety Youth Academy. This week-long program is designed for youth ages 10–14 and offers an inside look at the dynamic roles of both firefighters and police officers.

Throughout the academy, cadets engaged in hands-on learning and team-building exercises, gaining valuable lessons in respect, discipline, and community service. They explored the many facets of public safety careers—from emergency response to law enforcement procedures.

One of the highlights of the week was a live vehicle extrication demonstration, where cadets watched in awe as our skilled firefighters showcased the tools and techniques used during real-life rescue operations.

The academy continues to be a powerful way to inspire and educate the next generation about the vital work of our public safety professionals.



Thank you for reading!