



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

Preparing for Hurricanes and the Scam Season

As we move through hurricane season, the City of Punta Gorda remains focused on ensuring the safety and resilience of our community. While much attention is rightfully placed on securing homes, gathering supplies, and planning evacuations, there's another type of threat residents must be prepared for — scams that often surface during and after disasters.

Hurricane preparedness starts long before a storm is on the radar. City departments work year-round to reinforce infrastructure, improve stormwater systems, and strengthen emergency response capabilities. One major step forward this year is the City's investment in high-water rescue vehicles — including the amphibious Fat Truck and the Lenco BearCat. These assets allow first responders to reach residents in flooded areas swiftly and safely.

We're also upgrading our physical defenses, including the installation of Tiger Dams and the replacement of protective hardware for critical municipal buildings. These proactive measures are designed to minimize damage and restore essential services more quickly following a storm. Behind the scenes, emergency plans are continually refined to improve coordination between departments, safeguard facilities, and ensure continuity of operations throughout any crisis.

But while the City focuses on physical resilience, we also want to protect residents from a growing threat: fraudulent invoices and post-storm scams. Scammers are known to pose as contractors, utility workers, or even city representatives, issuing phony bills or demanding upfront payments for services that are never delivered.

A common tactic is the fake invoice scam — where victims receive a bill for debris removal, inspections, or permitting that was never requested or authorized. In some cases, scammers go so far as to copy city logos or forge signatures to make their invoices appear legitimate. These attempts often escalate in the days following a disaster, when residents are most vulnerable and eager to make repairs.

To protect yourself, be aware that the City of Punta Gorda does not charge "application approval fees." If you receive an invoice with that wording, it should raise an immediate red flag. Additionally, all official communication from the City will come from an email address ending in @cityofpuntagordafl.com — never from a Gmail, Yahoo, or other third-party provider. If you receive an email or invoice that seems suspicious, especially related to planning, zoning, or permitting, contact the City's Urban Design Department directly at (941) 575-3372 to confirm its validity.

When hiring for repairs, always work with licensed and insured contractors. You can verify licenses through the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation at www.myfloridalicense.com. It's equally important to get everything in writing — a detailed contract outlining the scope, cost, and timeline of the work can help protect you from fraud or disputes. Never pay in full upfront, and be wary of high-pressure tactics or vague agreements. If you suspect fraudulent activity, report it to the Punta Gorda Police Department or the Florida Attorney General's Office. Your vigilance could prevent others from falling victim.

Hurricanes test our strength, but they also remind us of the power of preparation and community. We thank our residents for staying alert, supporting one another, and working with City staff to ensure Punta Gorda remains safe, informed, and united. Together, we can weather any storm — and the scams that try to follow. For additional information, please contact 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



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
- Firefighter/EMT
- Right of Way Maintenance Worker I – Public Works

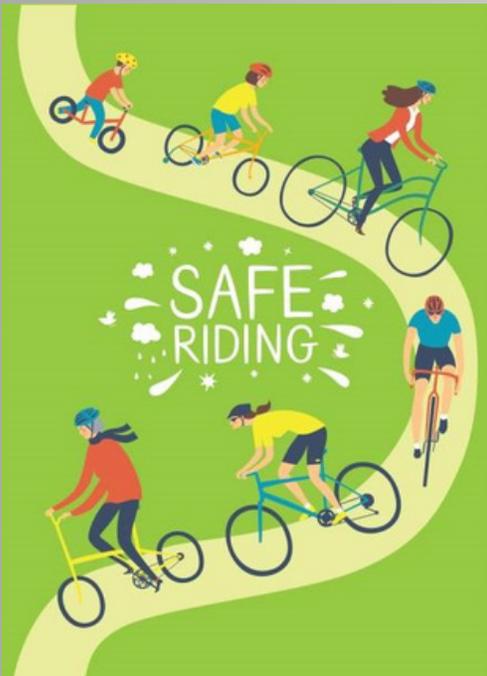
Upcoming Employment Testing

- 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 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](https://www.fdot.com/district-one-roadwatch)



Bicyclist Safety:

With so many active residents, and visitors to our beautiful City, bicyclist are everywhere. We love to stay active and have a connection with our community and sites, which you just can't get in a vehicle. Here are a few tips for the safety of our local, bicycle friendly, community. Please enjoy the sites, enjoy the exercise and excitement of bicycling, enjoy the company of your family, friends and neighbors, and Above all, Be Safe.

1. Always be aware of your surroundings, whether you are on a bike, in a car, or walking around.
2. When approaching an intersection, ensure you are watching out for oncoming or cross traffic activity on the street a sidewalks.
3. Stay hydrated and try to schedule your outdoor activities for the early morning or early evening, cooler hours.
4. If you are riding your personal bikes, ensure you are keeping it properly maintained. If you are renting or borrowing a bike, ensure you do a quick check that it is in a safe riding condition before you start riding.
5. **DON'T FORGET YOUR HELMET!
HAVE FUN, RIDE SAFE!**

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. 21 projects are under construction in Punta Gorda Isles, and 191 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.

Punta Gorda Named 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Award Winner



Post Office Box 1757 • Tallahassee, FL 32302 • (800) 616-1513 • Website: floridamayors.org

Punta Gorda Named 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Award Winner *City recognized by Florida League of Mayors for innovative project*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 25, 2025

CONTACT: Kara Irby
kirby@flcities.com / 850.701.3669

TALLAHASSEE, FL – The **Florida League of Mayors**, an organization for Florida’s mayors, founded and developed by Florida’s mayors, announced the winners of its 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Awards, including recognizing the **City of Punta Gorda** with the **Quality of Life Award** for its **Innovation in a Time of Recovery** project.

“The Mayors Municipal Innovation Awards recognize the bold ideas and smart solutions that move our communities forward,” said **Nancy Miller, FLM President and Mayor of Daytona Beach Shores**. “This year’s winners are leading the way with projects that not only meet local needs but also inspire a higher standard of excellence for municipalities across the state.”

“Punta Gorda, Florida, a municipality of approximately 20,000 residents, has recently faced a series of formidable challenges, including multiple hurricanes and a significant transition in city leadership in late 2024. In response to these disruptions, the city adopted a multifaceted and innovative approach to resilience, emphasizing transparent governance, robust public engagement, and strategic infrastructure investment,” expressed Dr. Melissa Reichert.

The Mayors Municipal Innovation Awards, sponsored by the Florida League of Mayors, aims to highlight and share creative initiatives that improve municipal governance and benefit residents.

The awards will be presented at the Florida League of Mayors’ Annual August Membership/Business Meeting, which is held in conjunction with the Florida League of Cities’ Annual Conference.

The other 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Awards winners are:

- City of South Bay – Quality of Life Award for Unity in the Community Day
- City of Lake Alfred – Quality of Life Award for CRA Residential Façade Grant Program
- City of Belle Glade – Service Delivery Improvement Award for Home Rehabilitation Program
- City of Tamarac – Service Delivery Improvement Award for Transforming Municipal Service Delivery Project

Additional information on the Mayors Municipal Innovation Awards is available on FLM’s website at floridamayors.org.

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The Florida League of Mayors is an organization for mayors, founded and developed by mayors. Only mayors are eligible for membership. The organization provides the mayors of Florida with the ability to explore, in great depth, areas of mutual concern and opportunity. Governed by a 53-member Board of Directors and staffed by the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors forges a powerful voice that serves Florida’s cities well. For more information, visit floridamayors.org.



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: 888-226-4146



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




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 awards
1105 Taylor Rd. Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Public for Sponsors: Island, Scotty Brook, Paul House
Entry Fee: \$20 per Person; Extra Draw \$5 (optional)
50-50 Raffle
Step 1: Santa Black Widow (Registration)
Step 2: Charlie Foxfoot
Step 3: Reef O' Bradsy, Sandhill Rd.
Step 4: Kings Roadhouse
Step 5: Reef O' Bradsy, Taylor Rd.
Food & Drink available
Live hand prizes
Lucky hand prizes
Awards given
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-dav-robert-l-cochran-jr-ch-82-tickets-1364830066469?aff=oddfldcreator&fbclid=IwY2jzjwKfzldleHRuA2FibQixMABicmkETF0blVPSXVQRIFzSXVPbnVnAR748gmilVNgkbSOE1DcqPpbBsoIKKcKuTGjTckVPY9TSv1pZz-QgeVshBJQ_aem_qj0EoJn9oNsypjY9T-Aosg

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

July

July 26
8 am - 1 pm Farmers Market
Downtown Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

July 27
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

August

City Council Summer Break
July 10 - August 18

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

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

August 2
11 am
Caribbean Festival
Laisley Park
Punta Gorda

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

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 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 18
Pre-Agenda
Council Meeting
Laisley
Community Room
9 am - 10 am

Billing & Collection Department

Notice: Temporary Issue with Online Portal Access

We are currently experiencing a technical issue where verification emails are not being received by users trying to access many of our online portals. As a result, customers may be unable to log in and use our online services at this time. This issue is affecting business tax receipts, code compliance, building and utility billing. We are actively working with our vendor to resolve the problem as quickly as possible, and we appreciate your patience.



Utility Billing accounts are maintained in the name(s) of the property owner(s) only. Bills may be mailed in care of a third party, such as a tenant, provided a written, signed request is submitted by the property owner.

It is the responsibility of the property owner(s) to keep a current mailing address and telephone number on file with the Billing and Collections division and provide written notice within twenty-four (24) hours of changes in property ownership from both the seller and buyer.

Written notice of all changes to account information can be submitted by the property owner to:

- Email to pgcollections@pgorda.us,
- By mail to the Harvey Street address, 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- In person at the Billing and Collections office, located at 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda, Florida

Billing and Payment Information

Bills are produced monthly for all residential and non-residential uses, whether occupied or vacant. Failure to receive the bill does not exclude the account from penalty charges. Monthly charges include, but are not limited to, the monthly rates for water, wastewater and refuse service, depending upon the number of City services available. If any charge remains unpaid for forty (40) days, the account shall be subject to immediate service disconnection, additional service fees, penalties and lien assessment.



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://punta-gov.asp.gov/Click2GovCX/index.html> (service fee of \$2.55/transaction)
- By mail to City of Punta Gorda 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- In person at 126 Harvey St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- Drop-boxes
- In the parking lot behind our building (accessible 24 hours)
- In the lobby on the ground level at 126 Harvey St (only accessible during business hours)

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**.

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@cityofpuntafordafl.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:

- Napa Auto Parts, 1810 Tamiami Trail

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.

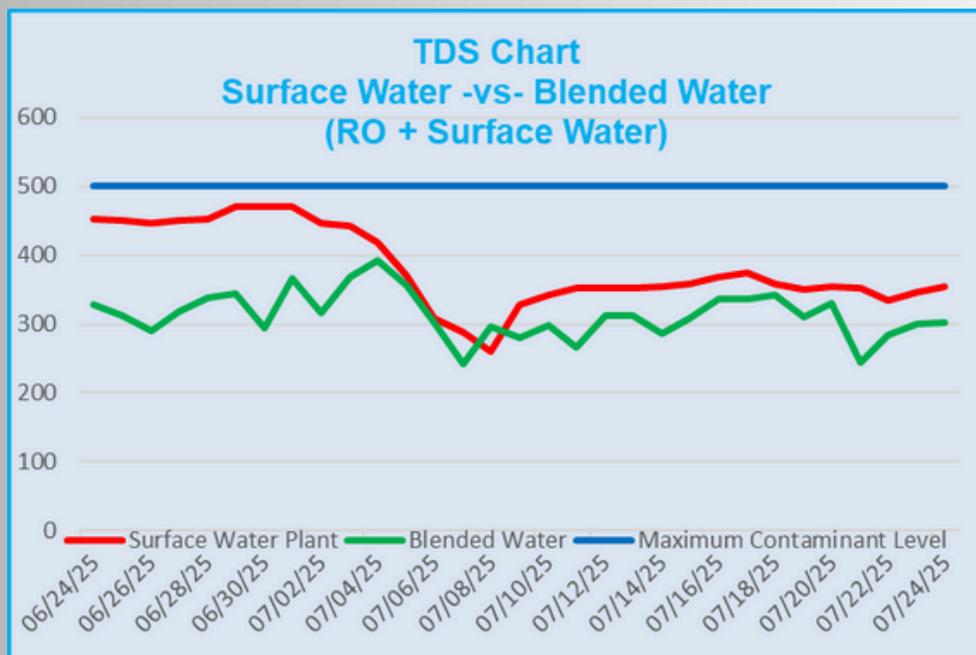
Fountains, Car Washing & Pressure Washing

- 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



Utilities

Plant Operations

- **48.6** 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 - 7.47”

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
- 120 PPM Total hardness
-

TDS Information

- Current - July 24 – 302 ppm
 - Low - July 24 – 139 ppm
 - High - July 24 – 506 ppm
- 15 Year Average - July 24 – 351 ppm

Reservoir Information

<p>Current Level July 24 – 5.87' Record Low July 24 – 5.00 '</p>	<p>Record High July 24 – 5.87' 59 Year Average July 24 – 5.51'</p>
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URBAN DESIGN

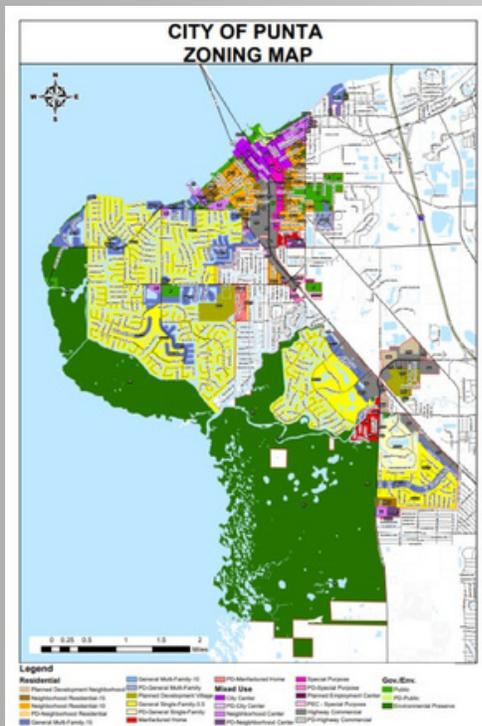
Zoning Back to Basics Series Introduction

Zoning affects more than just new construction — it shapes how neighborhoods look, feel, and function. From where homes and businesses are allowed, to how tall a building can be or how close it can sit to the street, zoning rules guide the growth and character of communities.

Over the next few weeks, this series will break down the fundamentals of zoning — what it is, how it works, and why it matters. Whether you're a property owner, a business operator, or just curious about how cities are planned, "Zoning Back to Basics" will help you better understand the rules that shape the spaces around us.

RV Parking Permits Required in the Special Residential Overlay

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

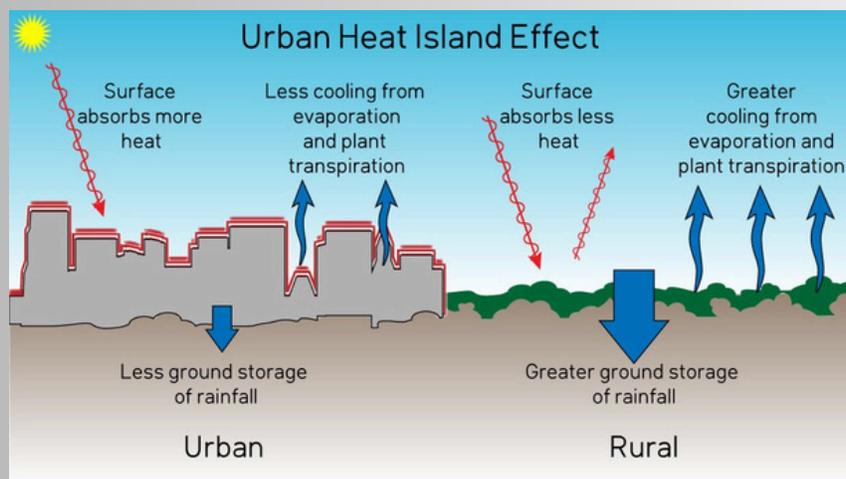


Seeking Shade in Punta Gorda: How Trees Keep Us Cool

As we enter the peak heat of the Florida summer, Punta Gorda residents are feeling the sizzle. With average highs reaching 95°F and "feels-like" temperatures soaring past 105°F, it can feel like there's no escaping the heat—unless, of course, you find yourself under a tree. This natural relief isn't just in your head—it's science. What you're experiencing is partly due to the urban heat island effect, where concrete, asphalt, and buildings absorb and radiate heat, making developed areas significantly warmer than their natural surroundings. But in Punta Gorda, where green spaces are thoughtfully integrated into our neighborhoods and downtown, there's a simple solution: shade.

Trees do far more than beautify our streets—they act as natural air conditioners. Under the shade of a tree canopy, it can be up to 15 degrees cooler than surrounding areas. That's a big difference when you're out for a stroll along the Harborwalk, enjoying Gilchrist Park, or biking around Historic Downtown. Punta Gorda's commitment to preserving and planting trees helps create a more livable, walkable city, especially during the sweltering summer months. Shade trees improve air quality, reduce energy bills, and make our parks, playgrounds, and pathways far more enjoyable—even in July.

Fun fact: Large, mature trees can transpire up to 100 gallons of water a day, cooling the air around them and making your shady spot feel even more refreshing. So next time you're feeling the heat, thank a tree—and maybe plant one, too.



Lot Mowing Program — The City will begin a new mowing cycle on July 25.

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 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.

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

Swamp Program — The contractor has completed re-grading Andora Drive., Madrid Boulevard., Monaco/Tripoli, Royal Poinciana, East Cashew, Rio Tiber and San Mateo. The contractor has begun re-grading the swales on Almar Drive. 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. The next location will be on Flora.

- **City Council Chambers:** The contractor has finished the mold remediation inside the council chambers.
- **City Hall Building:** The roofing contractor will be submitting the permit application this week into the building department for review to remove/replace the roof on the entire City Hall.

Right of Way

- Crews repaired pot holes on Rosa Lane, Magnolia Way, Green Briar and Acalypha. Crews also crews worked on a roadway repair at Shell Creek and US 17.
- Crews have replaced are working on replacing the sidewalk on Marion Avenue and Henry Street near the Sculpture Park.
- Mowing on Taylor Road and US 41 Northbound areas are completed
- Street sign repairs at Goldstein Street, Olympia Street are completed. Crews have begun work in the Meadows.
- Reflective pavement markers have been reinstalled from Marion Ave, from the City Hall Building to Fisherman's Village

Sanitation

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 metal bar across the front.

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

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

Vacant Lots – Vacant lots are not eligible for trash or yard waste services. Please do not place any trash or yard waste on vacant lots. The debris will not be collected. Vacant lots are private property and placing debris on vacant lots is trespassing.

Yard Waste Debris – Shrubbery, grass clippings and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers or biodegradable bags. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. All debris must be curbside the evening before your collection day or by 5am on the day of collection.

Yard Waste Containers – Small loose yard waste, leaves and grass clippings may be placed inside of a container or paper bag. Containers should not exceed 32-gallons in size or weigh more than 35pounds and MUST have handles. We would prefer the containers to have a lid, wheels and metal bar across the front to be compatible with the tippers on the refuse trucks. Storage containers, plant pots, wheel agriculture carts and other flimsy plastic containers are NOT an approved yard waste container. The City will not be responsible unapproved containers that may get broken in the collection process.





Police Department

Scammers Impersonate City's Urban Design Department

Beware of scammers claiming to represent the Punta Gorda Planning and Zoning Department. They can use information obtained from legitimate board and committee meeting agendas to target companies that have applied for various actions from the Planning and Zoning Department. Scammers typically send emails requesting an immediate wire transfer for payment of a fraudulent invoice. As a reminder, the City of Punta Gorda Department does not request wire transfers of funds for any payment. Anyone receiving similar correspondence from the City of Punta Gorda should contact the relevant city department at the phone number listed on the city's official website.

A few ways to identify a phishing email include:

1. Carefully examine the email address for strange or slightly altered email addresses.
2. Hover over email addresses or links to check for differences in the email address or link type.
3. Scammers will instill a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly. Slow down and check things out thoroughly.
4. Don't open links or attachments.
5. Look for poor grammar or misspellings.
6. Untraceable payment methods (wire transfer, bitcoin, gold)





Volunteers in Policing

The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program contributed 528.5 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during June 2025. Our volunteers are vital to this police department, and we appreciate them greatly! We are currently seeking new volunteers for our Records program and car patrol programs. Volunteers are required to live within Charlotte County to participate in the program. Community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or via email at vip@pgorda.us.



Alert Punta Gorda

With hurricane season in full swing, we wanted to take a minute to remind everyone about Alert Punta Gorda. Alert Punta Gorda is a public safety emergency alert and community notification system. This system allows the Punta Gorda Police Department and Punta Gorda Fire Department to contact the community in emergencies that require the public's immediate attention, such as:

- Natural Disasters (hurricanes, floods, fires, etc.)
- Man-Made Disasters (chemical spills, gas leaks, etc.)
- Search and Rescue Operations (missing children, endangered adults, etc.)
- Public Safety Issues (escaped criminal, bank robbery, etc.)



In addition to emergency alerts, users can choose to receive non-emergency community notifications such as:

- Sexual Offender Notifications
- Non-Emergency Missing Person Notifications
- Traffic Advisories
- Police Activity Notifications
- Weather Alerts

You can sign up by visiting www.AlertPuntaGorda.com and creating an account. Once your account is created, you can choose whether to receive alerts through a home or business phone, mobile phone call, email, text message, or the Everbridge mobile phone app (available in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store). You will automatically be signed up to receive emergency alerts, and you can choose to sign up for non-emergency alerts based on your preferences. You can update your contact information and notification preferences at any time, or stop receiving alerts, by simply logging into your account.



PLEASE NOTE: If you choose to receive weather alerts that the National Weather Service issues, please only choose those alerts you wish to receive. If you select all weather alerts, you will receive a lot of notifications. Lightning alerts in Florida are issued frequently. We suggest only receiving emergency weather alerts.

We encourage all our residents and long-term visitors to sign up to ensure they receive essential information promptly!

Employee Recognition

At Wednesday's Leadership Meeting, Chief Smith took the opportunity to recognize the excellent work of several staff members. Volunteer Diane Opeil was named the Volunteer of the Second Quarter of 2025. Diane is a member of the Volunteer Bike Patrol and is very active, donating many hours of service and representing the department well. The Employee of the Second Quarter of 2025 was Adrian Beltran. Adrian is a Crime Analyst and works in the Criminal Investigations Section. He was recognized for his hard work and many contributions to the department.





Fire Department

**YOU THINK FIGHTING FIRE IS HOT?
HAVE YOU BEEN OUTSIDE LATELY?**



STAY HYDRATED!

Heatstroke is a life-threatening condition characterized by a dangerously high body temperature (104°F or 40°C and above) and altered mental state. Symptoms include confusion, slurred speech, and even loss of consciousness. Other signs are rapid pulse, rapid breathing, and hot, dry, or flushed skin. Nausea and vomiting are also common.

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body overheats due to fluid loss from sweating, especially in hot weather. Symptoms include heavy sweating, headache, dizziness, nausea, and a rapid pulse. Other signs can include weakness, muscle cramps, and pale, clammy skin. If not addressed, heat exhaustion can progress to heatstroke, a more serious condition.

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p>ACT FAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move to a cooler area• Loosen clothing• Sip cool water• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve	<p>ACT FAST</p> <p>CALL 911</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move person to a cooler area• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers• Cool with water or ice
<p>Dizziness</p> <p>Thirst</p> <p>Heavy Sweating</p> <p>Nausea</p> <p>Weakness</p>	<p>Confusion</p> <p>Dizziness</p> <p>Becomes Unconscious</p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p>	<p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>
<p>  Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed! </p>	

Thank you for reading!