



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

YOUR WEEKLY SCOOP: WHAT JUST HAPPENED + WHAT'S UP NEXT

As Punta Gorda continues its journey toward full recovery following recent storm seasons, significant strides have been made this week in restoring lighting and infrastructure across the city. The dedication of Public Works crews has been on full display as they work through heat and humidity to bring public spaces back to life and prepare for the next potential storm event.

One of the most visible achievements is the progress in lighting restoration. Approximately two-thirds of the Linear Park is now illuminated, with the final section awaiting a meter installation by Florida Power & Light (FPL). Harborwalk East is also now fully lit, providing safer and more inviting conditions for evening strolls. Meanwhile, work continues in other parts of the city, including Wood Street and Pittman Park. The restoration is a meticulous process, completed one electrical panel at a time to ensure safety and reliability.

In Gilchrist Park, service panel parts have been ordered to restore power to the park's bathrooms and a portion of the lighting. The goal is to energize the restrooms ahead of their planned reconstruction. Once this work is complete, crews will shift focus to the western portion of the park, where further lighting restoration will proceed as parts become available.

Stormwater system improvements have also been a major focus. Earlier this week, a damaged stormwater pipe along Bal Harbor—compromised during a dry utility company installation—was replaced. The Right-of-Way Department has remained proactive in addressing citywide infrastructure needs, tackling potholes, cement restoration, pipe repairs and replacements, and ongoing pipe cleaning.

In preparation for heavier seasonal rainfall, the City's vacuum truck crew has been diligently clearing stormwater pipes, driveway culverts, and inlets. These preventative measures help reduce the risk of flooding and ensure that the drainage system remains fully functional.

On the sidewalk front, the concrete crew poured more than 10 yards of new ADA-compliant sidewalks in the Sculpture Park area along Marion Avenue this week, enhancing accessibility and walkability in a popular downtown space.

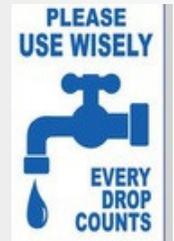
As storm season approaches its peak, hurricane preparedness remains a priority. Work continues on storm surge protection panels at Herald Court, where crews are regasketing and upgrading hardware to improve long-term resilience. Additionally, preparations are underway for the placement of Tiger Dams—temporary flood barriers—with underground utility locators identifying safe areas for anchor installation.¹ This crucial storm-readiness initiative is progressing on schedule.

In another strategic move, the City's Canal Maintenance Division has taken on more inspection responsibilities now that the consultant inspector contract has ended. Transitioning these duties in-house is expected to lower costs while maintaining high standards of documentation required for federal reimbursement and continued public safety.

All of these efforts are being completed alongside the daily tasks performed by the City's Public Works crews—mowing, trimming, edging, tree maintenance, and drain cleaning—all of which have continued without disruption.

From sanitation and parks to facilities and engineering, the men and women of Punta Gorda's Public Works Division continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication. Their commitment not only keeps the city running but also ensures that Punta Gorda is better prepared for the future—resilient, responsive, and ready. For additional information, please contact *City Manager Melissa Reichert* at citymgr@cityofpuntagordaf1.com or by calling (941) 575-3302

Dev. Missy



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

Beginning August 4, 2025, twice a week irrigation returns to the City of Punta Gorda. Twice-per-week watering allows customers additional flexibility for determining when to water. Residents are encouraged to water only if their lawn and landscape needs it and to turn off irrigation systems when rain is forecast. Some of the signs that a lawn needs water include a blue-gray appearance, blades folded in half lengthwise and footprints remaining on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

Lawn Watering & Micro Irrigation of Plant

Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and any time. Lawn watering is limited to no more than twice per week.

ADDRESSES ENDING WITH:	MAY WATER ON:	MORNING HOURS:	OR	EVENING HOURS:
0 OR 1	MON & THURS	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
2 OR 3	TUES & FRI	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
4 OR 5	WED & SAT	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
6 OR 7	THURS & SUN	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
8 OR 9	FRI & TUES	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.
LETTER OR NO ADDRESS	FRI & TUES	12:01 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.	OR	4:01 p.m. – 11:59 p.m.



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
- Engineering Design Analyst
- Firefighter/EMT
- IT Data Analyst, IT
- Treatment Plant Operator A, Water Treatment Plant
- Utility Engineer, Utilities

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.

Interactive StoryMap

We invite you to view the Utilities Department's interactive StoryMap!

[Click to take a virtual trip around Punta Gorda to see the critical projects the utility rate adjustments will fund!](#)



Utilities Department High-Priority Projects and Initiatives

Proposed rate adjustments will fund vital projects that protect service reliability and future capacity.



**DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE
ROADWATCH REPORT #32 FOR WEEK**

August 3 - August 9, 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)

**AUGUST IS NATIONAL TRAFFIC SAFETY
MONTH**

And if you are planning an End-of-Summer Road trip, here are some considerations:

Whether you are a full-time resident or a visitor heading home, we want to see everyone again, so be prepared before your trip. However you are traveling, taking the interstate straight to your destination, or enjoying the journey on backroads and highways, here are some things to consider. Whatever your purpose, enjoy the journey, be prepared, and above all, be safe.

1. Thoroughly check your vehicle or have it professionally inspected.
2. Monitor the weather in advance and frequently. Summer weather can change quickly.
3. Pack appropriately, including emergency supplies like extra food and water, emergency lights or markers, jumper cables or a jump box, a first aid kit, and emergency blankets.
4. Plan your route ahead of time.
5. Keep in touch with family, friends, or neighbors.



City Maintenance Updates

City Seawall Maintenance Program – Seawall yearly inspections are currently in progress in the NW2 section. The city seawall program has one work site completed, one active site with backfill being performed.

Canal Maintenance Seawall Failure Update – Construction schedules for the next six months have been updated and posted on the Canal Maintenance website. 20 projects are under construction in Punta Gorda Isles, and 196 projects have been completed. The city's 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.

Applications Now Open for the My Safe Florida Home Program

Homeowners can now apply for the My Safe Florida Home program, which provides funding to harden homes against hurricanes. The Florida Legislature has allocated \$280 million for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to low- to moderate-income homeowners age 60 and older. To qualify, applicants must own a single-family, site-built home or townhouse with a homestead exemption. Click Learn More for additional information or to apply.

[Helping Florida GET READIER for Hurricanes AND Save Money!](#)

mysafehome.com [Lean More](#)



[Helping Florida GET READIER for Hurricanes AND Save Money!](#)
mysafehome.com



Tax Information Publication

TIP

No: **25A01-05** Date Issued:

July 1, 2025

New Sales Tax Exemptions Beginning August 1, 2025

Effective **August 1, 2025**, the following items, which have been temporarily exempted during past tax holidays, are always exempt:

Batteries – only sizes specified below are exempt:

- AA-cell
- AAA-cell
- C-cell
- D-cell
- 6-volt
- 9-volt

Bicycle helmets – Youth bicycle helmets were previously exempt; all bicycle helmets are exempt beginning August 1, 2025.

Carbon monoxide alarms – As defined in section 553.885, Florida Statutes (F.S.), “carbon monoxide alarm” means a device that is meant for the purpose of detecting carbon monoxide, that produces a distinct audible alarm, and that meets the requirements of and is approved by the Florida Building Commission.

Fire extinguishers – As defined in s. 633.102, F.S., “fire extinguisher” means a cylinder that:

- (a) Is portable and can be carried or is on wheels.
- (b) Is manually operated.
- (c) May use a variety of extinguishing agents that are expelled under pressure.
- (d) Is rechargeable or nonrechargeable.
- (e) Is installed, serviced, repaired, recharged, inspected, and hydrotested according to applicable procedures of the manufacturer, standards of the National Fire Protection Association, and the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (f) Is listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Reference: Section 46, Chapter 2025-208, Laws of Florida

For More Information

This document is intended to alert you to the requirements contained in Florida laws and administrative rules. It does not by its own effect create rights or require compliance.

For forms and other information, visit the Department’s website at floridarevenue.com or call Taxpayer Services at (850) 488-6800, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

For a written reply to tax questions, email

fdortaxpayerservices@floridarevenue.com.

Ground anchor systems and tie-down kits

Insect repellent – products registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency which are designed to deter insects and are intended for application to the skin of a person

Life jackets – personal flotation device approved by the US Coast Guard intended to be worn by a person to provide buoyancy to support a person in the water

Portable gas cans - portable gas or diesel fuel cans with a capacity of **5 gallons or less**

Portable generators – portable engine-driven generators capable of producing 10,000 running watts or less

Smoke detection devices – As defined in s. 83.51, F.S., “smoke detection device” means an electrical or battery-operated device which detects visible or invisible particles of combustion and which is listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Factory Mutual Laboratories, Inc., or any other nationally recognized testing laboratory using nationally accepted testing standards.

Sunscreen – excludes cosmetics or other products that are not primarily intended to absorb, reflect, or scatter ultraviolet radiation

Waterproof tarpaulins – flexible waterproof tarps and sheeting that are 1,000 square feet or less

Want the latest tax information?

- ✓ Subscribe to our tax publications or sign up for due date reminders at floridarevenue.com/dor/subscribe
- ✓ Visit the Taxpayer Education webpage at floridarevenue.com/taxes/education for online guides and tutorials
- ✓ Follow us on **Instagram, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube**

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 \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)



Hosted by The Church of the Good Shepherd of Punta Gorda

Open to the public!

10 am-2 pm August 16th, 2025

Family Health Fair

Bring the entire family (3 to 80+) for an exciting day filled with fun activities and a focus on health!

Join us as local Lions Clubs unite to make a difference in our community!

Lions of District 35-I Lions Club
Punta Gorda Lions-Venice Lions Club-Fort Myers
Lions-Bonita Springs Lions-Cape Coral
Lions-Sarasota Lions-Port Charlotte Lions

FREE SCREENINGS by The Punta Gorda Lions Club

- Hearing
- Diabetes
- Sight

Food Trucks

Health information Demonstrations Community Resources

RAFFLES~ GIVEAWAYS + MORE

Lots of Vendors Local Area Hospitals

FREE Reading Glasses while supplies last!

Logo: Lions International

Logo: We Serve



2nd Annual Neighborhood Festival



Join us as community connections come to life at the Second Annual Neighborhood Fall Festival!

Be ready for a free event full of family fun, food, and fall festivities!

Follow us on Facebook for updates: [City Of Punta Gorda - Government](#) | [Facebook](#)

Nonprofits

If your nonprofit is interested in participating in the Fall Festival please contact Alex Friend at 941-575-3309 or via email AFriend@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com

Sponsoring

Interested in sponsoring the fun? Looking to connect your brand to the community? Want to know how you can help? For more information contact: *Alex Friend at 941-575-3309 or via email AFriend@CityofPuntaGordaFL.com*

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



August

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

August 9
8 am - 1 pm Farmers
Market Downtown
Punta Gorda Every
Saturday

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

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

August 16
10 am - 2 pm
The Punta Gorda Lions
Club is hosting a free
Health Fair
at Good Shepherd
Church on Henry Street

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

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.

Signature Update – Did you know your signature can change significantly over the years? Stop by the Supervisor of Elections' Office (226 Taylor Street, Unit 120, Punta Gorda, FL 33950) to update your signature.

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 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.*

Utilities

Leaks

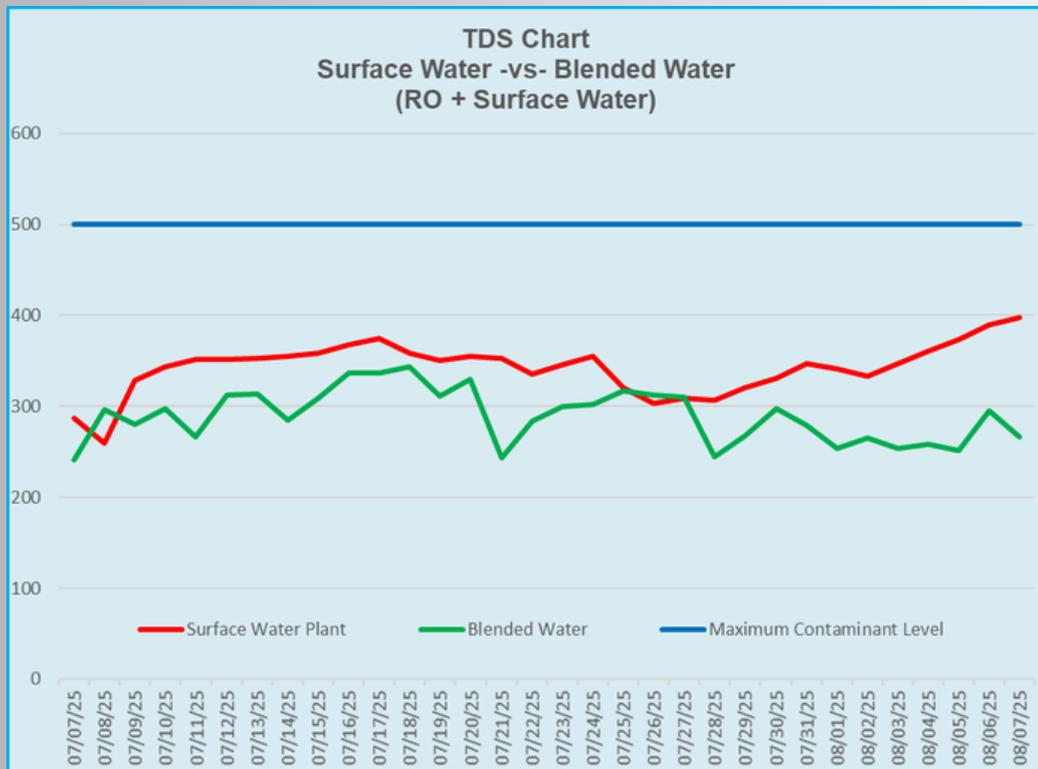
If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

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.

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

Water Treatment Plant



Plant Operations

- 55.7 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last 7 days.
- 7.9 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

- **August** 2024 – 4.21”
- August 2025 - 7.69”

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

- 5 Grains of hardness
- 92 PPM Total hardness
-

TDS Information

- Current - August 7 – 279 ppm
- Low - August 7 – 215 ppm
- High - August 7 – 598 ppm
- 15 Year Average - August 7 – 368 ppm

Reservoir Information

<p>Current Level - August 7 – 5.44' Record Low - August 7 – 4.98'</p>	<p>Record High - August 7 – 6.19' 59 Year Average August 7- 5.52'</p>
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Maintenance: Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds.

Staff hauled and injected 54,000 gallons of Bio solids to field 2 this week.

A crew assisted the contracted tank repair contractor to remove two twelve inch ductile iron overflow pipes from the south tank at the Booster Pumping Facility.

Operations: The average daily flow for the past week was 2.60 million gallons for a total of 18.21 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

Rain totals Plant = 0.35

URBAN DESIGN

Your Land, Your Rules (Well... Zoning's Rules)

Every piece of land is part of a bigger picture—and zoning is what helps all the pieces fit together. Zoning districts decide what can go where, whether it's homes, businesses, parks, or something in between.

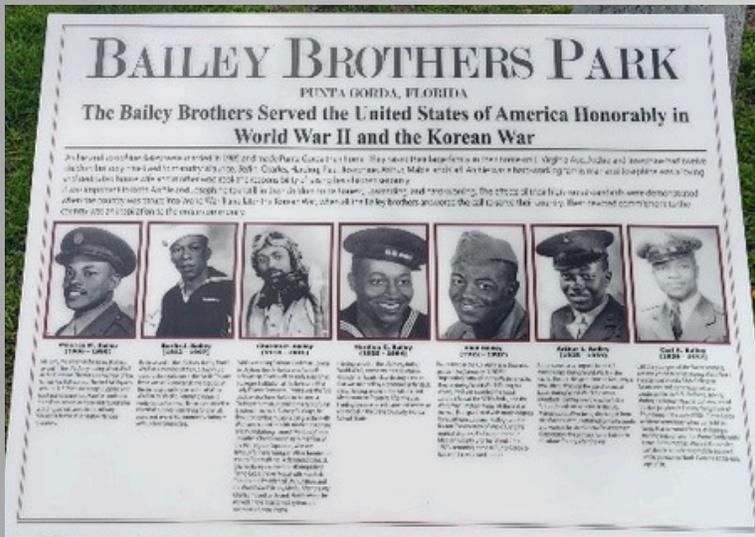
Think of a city like a giant puzzle. Each zoning district is a different type of piece —some fit best with houses, others with shops or apartments. When everything lines up, the result is a well-balanced, functional community.

Whether you're building, buying, or just curious, knowing your zoning district gives you a better idea of what's possible (and what's not) on your property and beyond.

Paying Tribute to Our Past

The Bailey Brothers Park historical plaque was recently reprinted to replace the weathered and discolored one, and to "correct a few errors and typos," noted Blanchard House historian Scot Shively. The plaque and the park are located at 361 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard in the Punta Gorda historic district.

This city park pays tribute to the seven Bailey brothers who selflessly answered the call to serve our country during World War II and the Korean War. Their devoted commitment was an



Code Compliance

Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda-Special Residential Overlay (SRO)

Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM—no permit needed during those hours!

Need to park overnight? You'll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can't be combined to extend your stay.

WHAT'S MY ZONE? AND WHY IT MATTERS



Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda

Love getting out on the water? Just a quick reminder about boat and trailer parking rules in the City of Punta Gorda:



Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 —no permit needed during those hours!

Need to park overnight? You'll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can't be combined to extend your stay.

inspiration to the entire community. You can find and view the plaque using the Otocast app, along with 28 other historical markers throughout Punta Gorda. Otocast is a geo-location app that helps you discover the rich history of Punta Gorda through its historical markers and murals. Kelly Gaylord, Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society

Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle was completed on August 3.

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, removed a navigable hazard. Contractors have started the maintenance of Mangrove trimming in Burnt Store Isles.

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.

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

Establishing sod after seawall replacement Laying sod marks the final phase of seawall replacement construction. According to the 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 Inlets are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.

Engineering

Swale Program — The contractor has completed Andora Dr, Madrid Blvd, Monaco/Tripoli, Royal Poinciana, East Cashew, Rio Tiber, San Mateo, and Almar Dr. All these locations have been regraded with either new Floratam or Bahia in the ROW. The new sod has been installed at the correct elevations that were set by our Engineering Department. The contractor will be heading to Flora next week to re-grade some swales there to the new elevations. After Flora is complete, the contractor will be heading to Coral and Spoonbill. Please be aware of the equipment and personnel that will be present working in the Right of Way, and pay attention to all regulatory signage and flagging operations.

- **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.

Facilities Parks and Grounds

- Crews completed laying sod along with fresh mulch at the Playground at Ponce De Leon Park
- Crews have repaired the gate to the entrance of Ponce De Leon Park
- The gate located at Kiddie Land in Gilchrest Park has been adjusted
- Crews continue to work alongside Right of Way crews to replace Hurricane anchors for the surge panels at Herald Court Parking Garage
- The surge panels at the parking garage have been prepped for installation
- Electricians have repaired the street lights located on Olympia Avenue
- The benches and plaques have been installed at Hounds on Henry

Right of Way

- Crews continue to work alongside Parks and Grounds crews to replace Hurricane anchors for the surge panels at Herald Court Parking Garage
- Crews trimmed back trees on Retta Esplanade between US 41 and Harvey Street, near the Freeman House
- The Vactor Crew assessed the storm drains on Colony Point and Hibiscus Drive
- The concrete apron on Sullivan Street and the alleyway near the Women's Club has been repaired
- The Sign Crew replaced reported missing signs as received by the County

Sanitation

- Collection Information – City of Punta Gorda – Waste Management Guidelines

Yard Waste

City of Punta Gorda – Waste Management Guidelines

Yard Waste

- Limit: Three (3) cans or bags per week
- Cans not provided by the City – purchase your own with:
 - Lid
 - Wheels
 - Metal bar across the front

Vacant Lots

- Not eligible for trash or yard waste services
- Do not place debris on vacant lots – it's considered trespassing and will not be collected

Tree Removal / Lot Clearing

- Not part of regular service
- Permit required for tree removal:
Contact Urban Design at (941) 575-3372 or
- Tree Removal Permit Request
- Tree removal company is responsible for debris removal - The Responsibility of the tree removal company and the property owner.
- The City does not collect:
 - Whole tree remains
 - Lot clearing debris

Tree Removal Permit Request

- Tree removal company is responsible for debris removal - The Responsibility of the tree removal company and the property owner.
- The City does not collect:
 - Whole tree remains
 - Lot clearing debris

Unacceptable Yard Waste Materials

- Tree removal/lot clearing debris: Wood, dirt, rocks, pavers
- Cement edging, mulch, sod

Household Items

- Limit: One (1) – Two (2) pieces per collection
- Examples: couch, end table, dresser, kitchen table, mattress
- Glass inserts must be wrapped with tape to protect collection crews
- Sanitation crews do not collect whole-house cleanouts

Remodeling/Home Repair materials – Construction debris

- Our sanitation crew does not collect construction debris such as: concrete, PVC, drywall, flooring, plywood/wood, or metal studs, windows, roofing materials, fencing, etc.

Boxes

- New residents: Contact the City for large box pickup
- Special arrangement made with Waste Management on your regular recycling day

Appliances

- Collected on Fridays and Saturdays
- Schedule by Noon on Thursday by contacting the Public Works department at 941-575-5050 or by email: pubworks@pgorda.us



Police Department

Volunteers in Policing

The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program contributed 528 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during July 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.



Scams in 2025

While the frequency and variety of scams continue to increase, we are pleased to report a notable decrease in the amount of money residents have lost to scammers in 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This is a reassuring sign that our efforts to warn and educate the people of Punta Gorda about these fraudulent activities are making a difference, helping to protect your hard-earned money.



Derelict Vessel Investigations - Residents often have questions about derelict vessels in the waterways around Punta Gorda. The following information aims to educate citizens about the derelict vessel removal process. First and foremost, all derelict vessels currently in our city's waterways are accounted for. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) has already investigated most of them. A link to the derelict vessel interactive map is also provided at the end of this segment. When an officer investigates a derelict vessel, that information must be added to the map. Punta Gorda Police Marine Corporal Russell is experienced in derelict vessel investigations and knows all the boats in the Gilchrist area. All marine officers in our region (FWC, CCSO, and PGPD) work collaboratively and communicate regularly whenever a new at-risk or derelict vessel is identified. They conduct joint operations and often assist each other with calls for service.



The Charlotte County Marine Advisory Committee has approved funding for the police department, allowing us to remove a derelict vessel once the investigation is complete. However, these investigations can still take months to finish because of the many legal requirements officers must follow. Once the vessel is found, the owner has 21 days to bring it into compliance. If the boat is brought into compliance and then becomes derelict again, the 21-day period resets. If the owner is not nearby, officers must locate them and send a notice via certified mail. The owner needs time to respond to this mailing, which adds to the overall length of the investigation.

When FWC conducts an investigation, it must wait for its funding to be released to the contractor, who then schedules the removal. Sometimes, the contractor waits until they have a batch of derelict vessels to remove all at once, which slows down the process. FWC has carried out many derelict vessel investigations in our area for various reasons, such as storm-related issues, receiving notification first, or our Marine officer being unavailable. This has allowed Marine Corporal Russell to focus on removing vessels from the park and Laishley. He was solely responsible for securing the owners' cooperation in all those boat removals to help speed up the process. Most of the Punta Gorda derelict vessels that FWC has investigated are now in the pending removal stage. The current stage of each investigation can be viewed on the interactive map, which also displays the officer handling the case, contact phone number, and case number.

The police department is also pleased to announce the addition of a second marine officer to the Marine Unit sometime in early September 2025. With the added marine officer, there will be increased patrols and enforcement on Punta Gorda's waterways to keep our boating community safe.

[Derelict Vessels Experience](#)





Fire Department

Huge Achievement Announcement Congratulations!

The Fire Department is proud to send a huge shout-out to our newest Fire Medic, Trevor Harris!

Over the past year, Fire Medic Harris has demonstrated exceptional commitment and perseverance as he worked tirelessly to complete paramedic school — a rigorous, yearlong program demanding long hours, sleepless nights, and time away from loved ones. Despite the intense workload, he continued to serve on his regular 24/48 shifts with excellence and dedication.

We thank you, Fire Medic Harris, for your unwavering hard work and dedication to the City of Punta Gorda and its residents.

Congratulations on this well-earned achievement!



Thank you for reading!