



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

The City of Punta Gorda is taking a transparent, forward-thinking approach to utility management with the launch of a new interactive StoryMap, developed by Utilities Director Tom Spencer. This online tool offers residents a detailed look at the City's water and wastewater infrastructure, highlighting both ongoing projects and future investments essential to maintaining a safe, reliable system.

Available at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3sc5t4>, the StoryMap provides an accessible way for the public to understand the scope of work required to keep Punta Gorda's utilities operating at peak performance. Projects range from critical repairs and rehabilitation to major capacity expansions and upgrades aimed at meeting stricter environmental standards.

One of the central features detailed in the StoryMap is the City's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Treatment Plant. This facility treats brackish groundwater and is vital for meeting peak demand, especially during Florida's dry season. The City plans to expand the RO plant to produce more high-quality drinking water and meet long-term demand projections.

Supporting the RO plant expansion is a major wellfield project designed to provide an additional 4.0 million gallons per day of raw water.

This increase in capacity will not only meet projected demand but also strengthen operational resiliency. By adding new wells and building redundancy into the system, the City will reduce the risk of service interruptions and ensure a secure supply even during peak use or unexpected challenges.

The StoryMap also spotlights improvements at the Shell Creek Water Treatment Facility, which processes surface water and forms a key part of the City's water supply. Over the years, components at this facility have aged and now require modernization. Planned rehabilitation will update critical equipment, ensuring the plant remains reliable and efficient for decades to come.

Wastewater system enhancements are another major focus. The Wastewater Master Pumping Station, which directs all collected wastewater to the treatment plant, is undergoing a significant upgrade. Improvements include re-sizing pumps to handle increased flows, replacing the generator, switchgear, and transfer switch, and modernizing control systems and telemetry for enhanced operational awareness. Additionally, detailed hydraulic modeling is being performed to confirm that the force main leaving the facility is properly sized for the future. These updates will help prevent failures and ensure the station can meet growing community needs.

On the water distribution side, strategic upgrades are being implemented to improve water pressure, fire flow, and overall system reliability as the City grows. This includes upsizing key water mains along Bal Harbor Boulevard, Aqui Esta Drive, Socorro Drive, and Airport Road. In the southern service area, modifications to the Burnt Store Elevated Storage Tank will help stabilize pressure during peak demand and reduce reliance on the Bal Harbor Pump Station.

All these projects share a common goal — protecting public health and safety, complying with regulatory standards, and ensuring long-term service reliability. The City encourages residents to

explore the StoryMap to see firsthand how these investments are shaping the future of Punta Gorda's utility systems.

"We want residents to understand the complexity of our utility systems and the importance of these improvements to our daily quality of life," said Spencer. With the StoryMap now live, Punta Gorda is making it easier than ever for residents to stay informed and see how today's investments will meet tomorrow's needs.

For additional information, please contact City Manager Melissa Reichert at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #33 FOR WEEK August 17 - August 23, 2025 District One is twelve counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, and Sarasota Click on the link below for updates from FDOT road watch. [fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf](https://www.fdot.com/district-one-roadwatch)



The City of Punta Gorda offers a very generous benefit package to include medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and an employee pension plan. If you are interested in a position listed below, submit an application on the Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)

- Controller, Finance
- Engineering Design Specialist
- 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.



Back-to-School Safety Reminder

As the new school year begins, let's work together to keep everyone safe.

- **On the Road** - Slow down in school zones, obey posted speed limits, watch for crossing guards, and stop for school buses with flashing red lights unless the roadway is divided by a raised barrier. Be alert for children walking or biking, especially near crosswalks and intersections, and eliminate distractions such as texting, eating, or phone use while driving.
- **For Students Walking or Biking** - Use sidewalks or designated bike lanes, cross only at crosswalks, walk bikes across busy intersections and crosswalks, obey cross signals, and wear bright or reflective clothing for visibility.
- **For School Bus Riders** - Wait in a safe location away from traffic, board only when the bus is fully stopped and the driver signals it's safe, and cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus, never behind it.

A safe start sets the tone for a successful school year. Let's make safety everyone's first subject of the day.

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 192 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.

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.

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.



The City of Punta Gorda has implemented **Alert Punta Gorda**, an emergency public notification system. This system allows the City of Punta Gorda to contact the entire community or to target specific areas in case of an emergency or for urgent situations that require the public's immediate attention such as natural disasters (hurricane warnings or fires), man-made disasters (chemical spills or gas leaks), search and rescue situations (missing children or endangered adults), sexual offender alerts, etc. Users can choose how they want to receive time-sensitive alerts. You can choose to receive alerts on your home or business phone, mobile phone, email, text message, or more based on your settings. Need to sign up for a new Alert Punta Gorda account and choose your alert settings? **Sign Up for Alert Punta Gorda**. Already have an account and need to make changes or update your information? **Log In to Alert Punta Gorda** <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/public-safety/alert-punta-gorda>



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:

- Is portable and can be carried or is on wheels.
- Is manually operated.
- May use a variety of extinguishing agents that are expelled under pressure.
- Is rechargeable or nonrechargeable.
- 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.
- 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!

We Serve

SAVE THE DATE

SECOND ANNUAL

NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

**TRICK OR
TREATING**

**FAMILY
GAMES**

**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
Libraries & History





NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

SAT, OCT 25, 2025

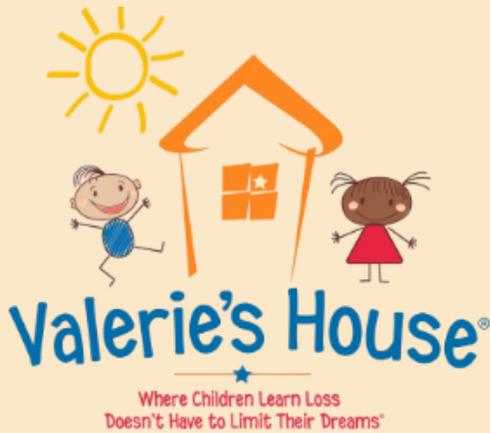
PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY

1:00 - 4:00 PM

COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 71 DAYS TO GO!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRICK OR TREAT PARTNERS!

**Interested in sponsoring the fun?
Have a nonprofit for trick or treating?
Want to know how you can help?**

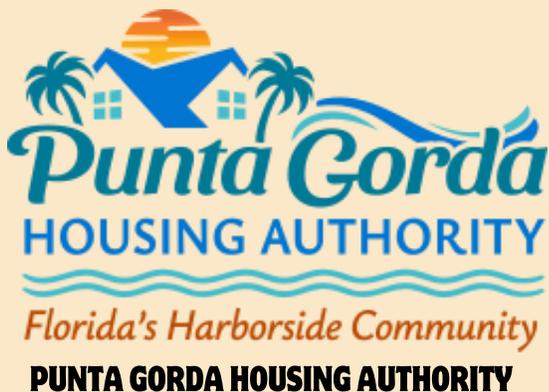


VALERIE'S HOUSE PUNTA GORDA

**For more information contact:
Ph: 941-575-3309
FallFest@cityofpuntagordafl.com**



PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



Follow us on Facebook & the City website for updates!

[Facebook - City of Punta Gorda](#)

[Fall Fest - City of Punta Gorda](#)



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 16
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 ACROSS
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://puntegov.aspgov.com/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 Council Chambers, which is currently located at the Laishley Community Room, 120 Laishley Court. The following boards have current vacancies:

Building Board (one (1) alternate and one (1) 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 (1) regular and two (2) 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 (1) 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 businesses within our community this week:

- Dominick Dolecki LLC, 1900 Tamiami Trail
- S. Yvette Sutter, 6210 Scott Street
- Vacation Rental – McGregor Court, 197 Gulfview Road

Utilities

Leaks

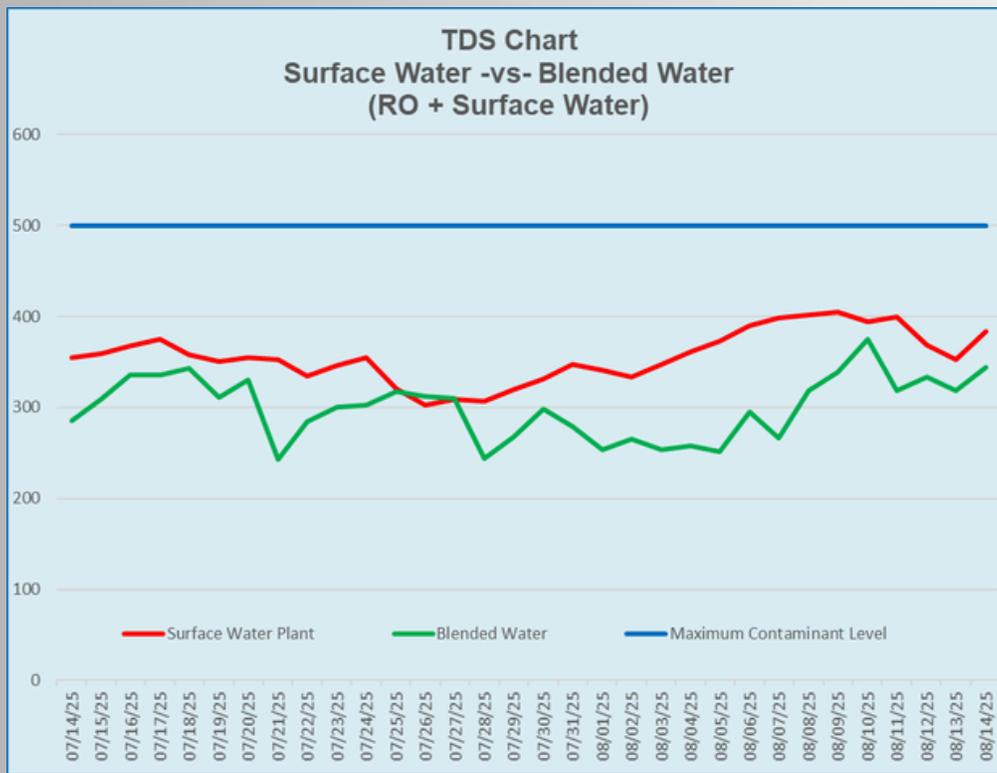
If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

Per Florida Statutes, irrigation is prohibited daily between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.- 40 D - 22 . 201 (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

- 49.6 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system during the last seven (7) days.
- 7.1 MG for a daily average

Peace River Authority Emergency Interconnect

Current Condition

- 750 gpm from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline)
- 1740 gpm to the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline)
-

Rain

- August 2024 – 9.23”
- August 2025 - 3.17”

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 - August 14 – 344 ppm
- Low - August 14 – 212 ppm
- High - August 14 – 469 ppm
- 15 Year Average - August 14 – 322 ppm

Reservoir Information

Current Level - August 14 – 5.62' Record Low - August 14 – 5.10'	Record High - August 14 – 6.18' 59 Year Average August 14- 5.54'
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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 two (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

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!](#)

URBAN DESIGN

What Can I Do on My Property?

Zoning isn't just about where buildings go — it also shapes how they look, feel, and function within the community. Regulations address details like building height (how tall your structures can be), setbacks (how far they sit from property lines), accessory structures (rules for sheds, garages, and pools), and permitted uses (what activities are allowed on your property).

These guidelines help protect neighborhood character, maintain property values, and ensure spaces remain safe, attractive, and functional for everyone. Understanding your zoning rules can save time, money, and headaches down the road.



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle started on August 12 and is scheduled to be completed August 20.

Paying Tribute to Our Past

Parks Update; Sculpture Park Makeover Underway!

The City of Punta Gorda is thrilled to announce exciting updates for the Sculpture Park at the corner of Henry Street and West Marion Avenue! Team Punta Gorda, in collaboration with local artists, is crafting a revitalization plan to enhance this park space. The project aims to elevate the park's role as a cornerstone in our historic downtown, aligning with the Citywide Master Plan's vision for accessible, community-driven spaces.

The revitalization includes stunning new artworks by local sculptors, showcasing Punta Gorda's rich artistic heritage and commitment to public art. To ensure year-round enjoyment, modern shade structures will provide comfort during sunny days, making the park a welcoming spot for families, visitors, and art enthusiasts. A striking new sign will also be installed, celebrating the park's identity and inviting passersby to explore its beauty. Stay tuned for more updates on how we're enhancing our city's cultural and recreational spaces.

Sign Compliance

Keeping It Clear & Classy - Signs play an important role in helping businesses get noticed, but they still need to follow a few important rules. In Punta Gorda, sign regulations are in place to keep our streets safe, uncluttered, and visually appealing. These rules help ensure that signs fit within the character of our city, whether they're for a small shop downtown or a community event. That means paying close attention to details like size limits, placement on the property, lighting, and how long temporary or event signs can be displayed. Following these guidelines not only keeps things orderly, but also helps preserve clear sightlines for drivers and pedestrians, avoids visual clutter, and protects the small-town charm that makes Punta Gorda special. Whether permanent or temporary, keeping signs compliant benefits both businesses and the entire community.



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 - Canal Maintenance crews produced 24 seawall panels, filled depressions at 12 residences, and patched seawall caps at two (2) locations. Crews are currently working with the Contractor, who is completing the maintenance of Mangrove trimming in Burnt Store Isles.

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 regrading and sod installation at the following locations: Andora Drive, Madrid Boulevard, Monaco/Tripoli, Royal Poinciana, East Cashew, Rio Tiber, San Mateo, Almar Drive, and Flora. Each site has been restored with either Floratam or Bahia sod, installed at the proper elevations as specified by the Engineering Department. This week, the contractor will begin work on Coral Way and Coral Court, followed by Spoonbill upon completion. Please use caution in these areas. Be aware of construction equipment and personnel operating within the right-of-way, and observe all posted regulatory signage and flagging operations for your safety.

Facilities Parks and Grounds

- Staff members have been meeting with FEMA to discuss reported damages with appointed attendees.
- Crews have started the relocation process of the City Clerks and Finance Departments back into Herald Court.
- Parks and Grounds crews have repainted the stadium seating at the interactive fountain at Laishley Park.
- Crews have completed painting at the small pavilion at Gilchrist Park.
- Electricians have been working closely with FPL at Mary Street and Olympia Avenue

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
- Mowing Crew, mowed along Taylor Road
- Signage crews continue to install new signage from the County
- Crews restored the storm drain at Gill Street and Marion Avenue

Sanitation

Hurricane & Impending Storm Preparation - The City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Department would like to remind residents of the storm debris preparation and collection guidelines. Trimming around your home should be well before any storm warnings or watches are issued. To place yard waste out at this time could block storm drains and cause flooding or allow the materials to become dangerous projectiles. Do NOT cut down trees or vegetation or do any major yard work. Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal yard waste collection process, and collecting this debris a few days before the storm's landfall is NOT guaranteed. During a Watch or Warning, do not place materials at the curb. Public Works may suspend services, and facilities may close early to prepare for the storm. Remember to always secure trash, recycling, and yard waste carts.

Post-Hurricane - It is the property owners' responsibility to bring the debris to the curb. Residents should properly sort the storm debris into the following six categories and place the piles in the City-maintained right-of-way, ensuring they are off the road and not on private property: Do not place debris in the following locations: under overhead utilities, near fire hydrants, near mailboxes, or on driveways.

- Construction and Demolition Materials
 - Non-recyclable building materials (e.g., drywall, asphalt shingles, plastic sinks/tubs, floor tiles, etc.)
 - Non-recyclable building contents and personal items (e.g., carpeting, rugs, furniture, clothing, etc.)
 - Do NOT use black plastic bags; use clear plastic bags or pile the loose debris.

- Electronic Waste (E-Waste)
 - Discarded electrical or electronic devices intended for refurbishment, reuse, resale, or recycling through material recovery.
- Household Hazardous Waste
 - Items such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides must be taken to one of Charlotte County's mini-transfer stations for safe and proper disposal. Both facilities are open Tuesday through Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. West Charlotte:
 - 7070 Environmental Way, Port Charlotte
 - Mid-County: 19765 Kenilworth Boulevard, Port Charlotte
- White Goods
 - Large household appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, and dryers. Please ensure refrigerators are free of any food waste and the doors are removed when placed curbside.
- Vegetation
 - Includes trees, limbs, brush, and leaves. Please note that crews will not enter private property to collect or remove debris.
 - Place debris in one large pile and do NOT spread out across the right-of-way.
 - Do NOT use plastic bags. Material placed in plastic bags cannot be collected.
 - **Regular Household Garbage**
 - Normal household waste, recyclables, and bagged debris will not be collected with storm debris. Please do not attempt to place garbage or other household refuse with storm debris, as it will not be accepted and will delay your debris collection. Please continue to follow your regular curbside collection schedule.



Police Department



• **Officer SpongeBob visits Daycare** – Officer SpongeBob and Lt. Davoult paid a visit to a local daycare facility, where the kids got a chance to interact with SpongeBob and take some pictures with him as well. Officer SpongeBob likes the kids as much as they like him, so he enjoys going on outings like this and meeting new friends.



Traffic Crash Safety - The Punta Gorda Police Department has identified an increase in traffic crashes during this period compared to last year, according to our recent 2025 Second Quarter Traffic Crash Analysis Report. This rise highlights the need for increased awareness and teamwork to improve roadway safety.

As outlined in our longstanding Traffic Safety and Enforcement Plan, the PGPD remains committed to its mission: **“to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs associated with motor vehicle crashes.”** This is achieved through data-driven education and enforcement efforts targeting impaired driving, aggressive behaviors, distracted driving, and speeding.

We depend on our quarterly reports, including the 2025 Q2 Traffic Crash Analysis Report, to identify problem areas and guide coordinated enforcement and community outreach. It helps us recognize dangerous intersections and contributing factors, such as the fact that many accidents happen at or near intersections and are caused by issues like running red lights, failing to yield, rolling stops, distracted driving, and similar violations. Some of the notable accident locations include intersections like Tamiami Trail at East Marion Avenue, Aquí Esta at Tamiami Trail, and Olympia Avenue at Cross Street, which are among the most crash-prone in Punta Gorda.



To address the rise in crashes, the PGPD implements various targeted strategies, including radar, laser, and proactive patrols in trouble spots. Our Traffic Safety Plan supports these initiatives with specialized equipment and training. The department regularly conducts high-visibility enforcement in key zones, especially those identified by crash data and frequent violations. PGPD collaborates with schools, neighborhoods, and civic groups to raise traffic safety awareness, focusing on distracted driving, seatbelt use, child passenger safety, and pedestrian safety. Regular review of crash reports helps us allocate resources to areas with the greatest need—such as busy intersections or community hotspots. In severe or fatal crashes, the department assigns Traffic Homicide Investigators to conduct thorough and prompt investigations. In September, we will also add a dedicated traffic officer to the department to focus on these issues.

The PGPD encourages everyone traveling on Punta Gorda's roads to promote safety by following traffic laws, obeying signals, speed limits, stop signs, and right-of-way rules, especially at intersections. Avoid distractions like phone use, eating, or adjusting electronics while driving. Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians; yield appropriately, especially at crosswalks. Use proper child restraint systems and ensure seat belts are worn at all times. If you notice unsafe road conditions or risky driving behavior, don't hesitate to get in touch with us through non-emergency dispatch at 941-639-4111. For complete quarterly reports or traffic enforcement requests, please visit our website's Traffic Safety and Performance section. [Traffic Safety and Performance | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)

Together, we can work toward safer roads and a safer Punta Gorda.

Charlotte High School Tarpon Pride

For the first day of school this Monday, PGPD unveiled its newly wrapped Charlotte High School Fighting Tarpons car. We couldn't be more excited to showcase our Tarpon pride while keeping students and staff safe. A huge thank you to the community for your ongoing support and to Charlotte High School for being such excellent partners. Here's to another safe and successful school year, Tarpons!





Fire Department

This week the Punta Gorda Fire Department conducted a new hire evaluation, which included a swim test, an underwater dive segment, and a physical agility assessment.

These rigorous and demanding tests are designed to simulate real-life scenarios that our firefighters may encounter on a daily basis. With approximately 55 miles of canals within city limits, it is essential that all personnel are confident and capable of performing water-related rescues in emergency situations.

The physical agility assessment consists of tasks that simulate those faced during structure fires, medical emergencies, and vehicle accidents. This portion of the evaluation ensures that our candidates possess the strength, endurance, and skill necessary to serve the Punta Gorda community effectively and safely.

We push hard because our community depends on us when it matters most!

Thank you to everyone who tested and that is wanting to be a part of the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department family!



Thank you for reading!