



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

As City Manager, I want to take a moment to share the latest updates on the important work taking place across Punta Gorda. Each week, our dedicated staff focuses on restoring, maintaining, and improving city assets to ensure that our community remains safe, attractive, and well cared for. These efforts, though sometimes behind the scenes, are essential to preserving the quality of life that our residents and visitors enjoy.

This past week, several projects and maintenance activities were successfully completed. Streetlights along Olympia Avenue were repaired, helping restore visibility and safety for drivers and pedestrians. Our Public Works team also ensured that Tiger Dams, which serve as an important flood protection measure, were safely stored for future use. Surge panels at Herald Court Centre were cleaned, keeping this flood protection equipment in ready condition.

At our parks, visible improvements are helping to keep these community spaces inviting and accessible. Fresh sod was installed at Hounds on Henry and Ponce De Leon Park, while new mulch was added at the Ponce De Leon

playground. Bushes were trimmed at both Ponce Park and City Hall, and trees throughout the city were pruned to maintain safety and aesthetics. In addition, memorial plaques were reinstalled on benches, reflecting our community's respect for those honored in these spaces.

Gilchrist Park also received attention, with fresh painting to revitalize its facilities. Weed control and mowing were carried out across city-owned properties, while edging and trimming added to the overall appearance. These regular efforts may appear routine, but they represent the ongoing commitment of our staff to keeping Punta Gorda beautiful and welcoming.

In addition to completed projects, preparatory work is also underway for future improvements. Locates were performed for the installation of braces on the Tiger Dams, ensuring that this critical flood protection measure will be ready when needed. Streetlight repairs continue at locations across the city, part of our ongoing work to enhance safety in neighborhoods and along major corridors.

Looking ahead, the next City Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, August 27th at 9 a.m. in the Lashley Community Room**. Several important items are on the agenda that will help shape our city's future.

One major topic is a discussion and possible action on the downtown flood study, which will inform how we plan for long-term flood protection in the heart of our community. Council will also consider a resolution adopting the Charlotte County/City of Punta Gorda 2025 Local Mitigation Strategy. This document, which is required by the Florida Department of Emergency Management to be reviewed and updated every five years, serves as our formal guide for hazard mitigation activities.

Other items of interest include a lease agreement with the Charlotte-DeSoto Building Industry Association for use of a city-owned building, and a presentation regarding a proposed helicopter display at Veterans Park. The UH-1 Huey helicopter, often recognized as a symbol of the Vietnam War, represents hope and rescue.

The Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida, Inc. has proposed donating a Huey for permanent display near the Armed Forces Flag Court, creating a powerful addition to this important tribute space.

Finally, City Council will review design ideas for the Bayfront section of Gilchrist Park, providing direction on future improvements, and hold a discussion on the barge canal landing, with possible action to follow.

Our city continues to balance immediate maintenance needs with long-term planning for resilience, beauty, and growth. I thank our staff, City Council, and residents for working together to keep Punta Gorda strong and moving forward. For additional information, please contact *City Manager Melissa Reichert* at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.

Dr. Missy



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #34 FOR WEEK August 24- August 30, 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 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>

Human Resources



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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/employment-opportunities).

- Controller, Finance
- Engineering Design Specialist
- Treatment Plant Operator A, Water Treatment Plant
- Sanitation Worker II - Sanitation
- Utility Engineer - Utilities
- Utilities Maintenance Worker I - Water Distribution
- Utilities Maintenance Worker III - Water Treatment Plant

Upcoming Employment Testing

Internship Program — The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Fall Upcoming Employment Testing

Public Safety Dispatcher Testing — The police department continually conducts new hire testing to prepare for future openings. Currently, the department is accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. The exam will be held virtually between September 12 and September 19, 2025. Applications must be received by Friday, September 5, 2025.

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.*

SUMMER BOATER SAFETY TIPS

With so many people trying to make the most out of the end of summer, there are going to be a lot of boats out on the water. We want everyone to have fun and make it home. Please be prepared, be aware, and above all, be safe.

- Know before you go, plan ahead for the weather and be prepared in case it changes.



- Have a plan and share it with someone who is not going with you.
- Ensure you have the proper boating supplies and safety gear, especially life jackets.
- Know your skill level and do not exceed it.
- Never drink while driving a boat.

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 – 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.



**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 \[Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \\(visualartcenter.org\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Punta Gorda Historical Society Newsletter - PGHS Newsletter - August 2025](#)



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**

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

August

August 23
8 am - 1 pm
Farmers Market Downtown
Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

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 23
10 am - 12 pm
Pet Safety Day at
Punta Gorda
Library

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

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

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

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

September



September 9
**Pre-Agenda
Council Meeting**
9 am - 10 am
Laishley Community

September 10
Council Meeting
Laishley
Community Room
9 am - 12 pm

September 20 and 21st
10 am - 5 pm
Punta Gorda Chamber of
Commerce
Annual Sullivan
Street Arts & Craft Festivals

SAVE THE DATE

SECOND ANNUAL

NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL

**FREE TO
ATTEND**

**TRICK OR
TREATING**

**FAMILY
GAMES**

**COSTUME
CONTEST**

OCTOBER 25, 2025

1:00P.M. - 4:00P.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 ~ 64 DAYS TO GO!

👻 No reason to fear, our first Fright & Delight sponsor is here! 👻

Thank you to The Firm for their continued commitment to our community

THE FIRM

ADVERTISING AGENCY



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

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

**WELCOME OUR NEWEST
TRICK OR TREAT PARTNERS!**



CHARLOTTE HARBOR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



BLANCHARD HOUSE MUSEUM



FL DEPT OF HEALTH



**Follow us on Facebook & the City website for updates!
Facebook - City of Punta Gorda Fall Fest - City of Punta Gorda**



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 alternate) – 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 alternates) – 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.

Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (PGI CAC) – Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance District. Seven-member board. Three-year terms Maximum of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for Canal Construction Special Permit.

New Businesses – Are you thinking of opening a business in the City? You can learn more about filing for a City business tax receipt on our website. Still have questions? *Contact the City Clerk's Office via email businesstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com or call us at (941)575-3369.*

Utilities

Leaks

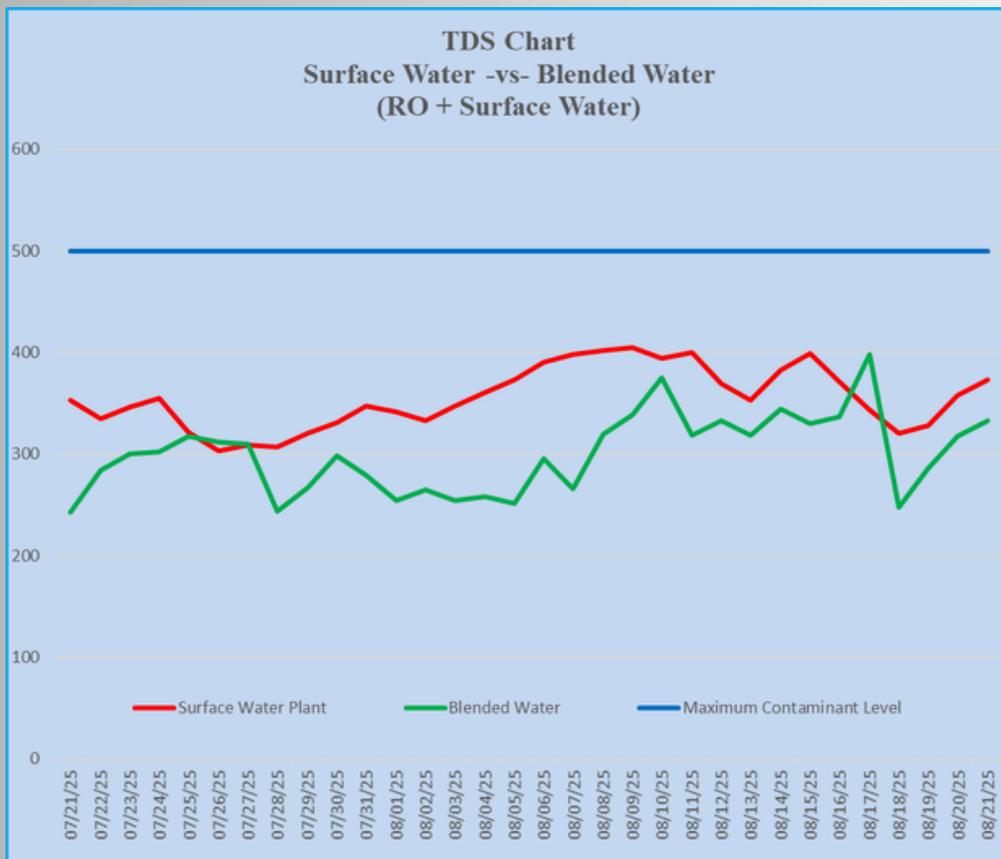
If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

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

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

Peace River Authority Emergency Interconnect Current Condition

- 1000 gpm from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline)
- 1000 gpm to the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline)
-

Rain

- August 2024 – 9.23”
- August 2025 - 4.73”

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 21 – 333 ppm
- Low - August 21 – 220 ppm
- High - August 21 – 386 ppm
- 15 Year Average - August 21 – 319 ppm

Reservoir Information

Current Level - August 21 – 5.62' Record Low - August 21 – 5.10'	Record High - August 21 – 6.18' 59 Year Average August 21- 5.54'
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Maintenance: Team members continue to mow and trim the plant and remote station grounds.

Staff hauled and injected 117,000 gallons of Bio solids to field 2 this week.

A crew replaced the gateway and probe on the Total Suspended Solids meter for the quality control structure after a failure was diagnosed to be an intermittent output card problem.

Operations: The average daily flow for the past week was 3.30 million gallons for a total of 23.10 million gallons of wastewater being treated this week.

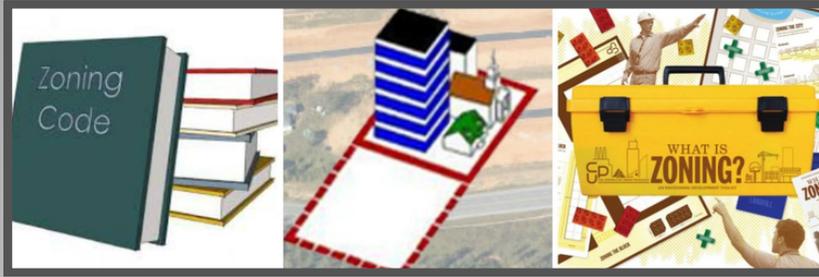
Rain totals Plant = 0.80

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's a Variance and When Do You Need One?

Sometimes a project doesn't quite fit the zoning rules—like a setback that's a few feet short or a building feature that doesn't align with the code. In those cases, you may need a variance. A variance is special permission granted when strict application of the rules would create a unique hardship. But remember: variances aren't automatic. Each request is carefully reviewed to make sure it's truly necessary and won't negatively impact the surrounding community.

Code Compliance Reminder Do You Need a Permit?

Before starting any project—big or small—it's important to check whether a permit is required. Permits help ensure work is safe, meets code, and protects property value. From building decks and sheds to installing fences or even certain repairs, skipping this step can lead to code violations and costly fixes later. When in doubt, reach out to confirm if a permit is needed before you begin.



Punta Gorda is Sponge City!

So far this summer, we've absorbed about 23.4 inches of rain. Through thoughtful planning and design, our city uses "sponge city" strategies—like green spaces, bio-swales, and permeable surfaces—to naturally capture and filter stormwater. Take a look at these images to see our sponge city practices in action!



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle was completed on August 15

Public Works

Administrative Office – As a reminder:

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

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

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

Canal Maintenance — Canal Maintenance Crews filled depressions at 20 residences, patched sea wall caps at 5, and removed navigable hazards from the canal system. The contractor will be moving to Punta Gorda Isles to begin Mangrove trimming.

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

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.

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 Drive, Madrid Boulevard, Monaco/Tripoli, Royal Poinciana, East Cashew, Rio Tiber, San Mateo Drive, Almar Drive, Flora Lane, and Coral Way. 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 Spoonbill Drive. Next week to re-grade swales to the new elevations. 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 Hall Roof — The contractor has received the permit from the Building Department and has ordered all the materials to replace the old roof. The contractor will be on-site next week to begin removing the old roof and replacing it with a new. Please be aware of the equipment and personnel that will be present working in the area, and pay attention to certain areas that will be closed off during the operation.

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 Lashley Park.
- Electricians continue to work closely with FPL at Mary Street and Olympia Avenue
- Parks Crews work on mowing across the city, along with trimming vegetation at Ponce De Leon Park and the City Hall/Annex grounds
- Parks Crews are working on the Ponce De Leon Fountain located at Gilchrist Park by cleaning out the planter and repair the Fountain lights

- 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.
- If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri.



Police Department



Boating Safety Tips

As a coastal community with beautiful waterways and year-round boating opportunities, Punta Gorda is a destination for boaters of all experience levels. Whether you're fishing in Charlotte Harbor, cruising the Peace River, or heading out into the Gulf, boating can be both relaxing and exhilarating. But with great fun comes great responsibility. The Punta Gorda Police Department wants to ensure everyone enjoys the water safely. Here are some essential boating safety tips to protect yourself, your passengers, and others on the water.

Wear a Life Jacket - Florida law requires all children under 6 to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket while onboard a vessel under 26 feet, but we strongly encourage everyone, regardless of age or swimming ability, to wear one. In the event of an accident, it could save your life.

Don't Boat Under the Influence - Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and dangerous. Boating under the influence (BUI) impairs your judgment and reaction time, putting you and others at serious risk. Just like on the road, if you're caught boating impaired, you will face severe penalties.

Know the Rules of the Water - Familiarize yourself with local navigation laws, right-of-way rules, speed zones, and channel markers. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) offers online boating safety courses that are helpful for both new and experienced boaters.

Be Weather-Aware

Check the forecast before heading out and monitor conditions throughout the day. Afternoon storms can roll in quickly and create hazardous situations, especially for smaller vessels. Have a plan to return to shore or safe harbor if conditions change.

Equipment Check Before Every Trip - Before you leave the dock, ensure your boat is properly equipped:

- Life jackets for every passenger
- A working fire extinguisher
- Sound-producing device (like a whistle or horn)
- Visual distress signals
- A VHF marine radio or fully charged cell phone
- Functional navigation lights

File a Float Plan - Let someone on shore know where you're going and when you plan to return. In the event of an emergency, this information can be critical for search and rescue teams.

Report Dangerous Activity - If you witness unsafe boating, reckless behavior, or emergencies on the water, please contact local law enforcement or FWC. In Punta Gorda, you can also call the Punta Gorda Police Department's non-emergency line at (941) 639-4111 or dial 911 in an emergency.

The Punta Gorda Police Department is committed to keeping our waterways safe for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned captain or new to boating, following these safety guidelines can help prevent accidents and ensure a fun, worry-free time on the water.



Fire Department

🚒 Hose Testing in Progress! 💧

If you see your City of Punta Gorda firefighters out and about this month with a lot of fire hose spread out, don't worry — it's just our annual hose testing!

We're making sure all our hoses are ready to perform under pressure during an emergency. A faulty line during a fire could be catastrophic — so this testing is critical. Give the crew a honk or a wave when you see them! 🙌



Thank you for reading!