



MELISSA REICHERT  
City Manager

## ✦ HOT TAKES & FRESH DATES THE WEEKLY RUNDOWN

As the City of Punta Gorda closes out Fiscal Year 2025, it is worth pausing to reflect on the significant work accomplished by our City Council. This past year has been marked by robust discussion, thoughtful decision-making, and meaningful progress on issues that directly impact the lives of our residents. While not every vote taken has been unanimous, what has been consistent is the shared commitment of each Council member to work collaboratively toward the betterment of our city.

This work of our City Council has been recognized beyond our city limits. Vice-Mayor Greg Julian was recently appointed to the Utilities, Natural Resources and Public Works Policy Committee of the Florida League of Cities. His appointment ensures that Punta Gorda's voice is heard on critical statewide issues related to infrastructure, utilities, and environmental stewardship. Also, of statewide interest, Mayor Debi Lux was honored with the Florida League of Mayors Innovation Award, which she graciously shared with staff, underscoring that our progress is the result of dedicated teamwork between elected leaders and city employees alike.

Among this year's most visible achievements was City Council's guidance on the Historic City Hall and Council Chambers renovations. These improvements will preserve a cornerstone of our community's history and will rejuvenate the chambers to usable space for Council meetings. In addition, the Council implemented pre-agenda meetings, creating efficiencies for staff while also opening more opportunities for residents to provide input before decisions are finalized. Transparency was further strengthened through seven Council workshops and a joint session with the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, all aimed at ensuring residents are engaged in shaping the future of Punta Gorda.

The Council also delivered on public safety and resilience. Working alongside state partners, they secured a \$574,000 legislative appropriation to fund high-water rescue vehicles. These resources, together with proactive emergency planning, will improve the City's readiness in times of natural disaster. Council also met with the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners in a joint meeting to safeguard the City's public safety answering point, ensuring that emergency response times remain timely and effective for all who depend on them.

On the utilities front, the Council approved the City's Water Supply Plan and advanced several projects that will strengthen long-term water security. They also commissioned an in-depth study of the City's automated meter infrastructure, a step that will help identify solutions to improve accuracy and reliability. Additionally, Council advocated successfully for the State to retain the utilities surcharge on customers outside City limits, ensuring that local residents are not unfairly burdened with administrative costs. Significant progress was also made in land use and development policy. Council repealed Chapter 26 of the Punta Gorda Code, Land Development Regulations, to bring local rules into compliance with State Statutes, while creating a vested rights procedure to protect the interests of property owners with projects already underway. Updated impact fees were also adopted to ensure that growth pays its fair share, protecting existing residents from disproportionate costs.

Finally, Council established a committee to prepare recommendations for the possible extension of the 1% Local Option Sales Tax. This initiative, if approved by voters, would provide critical funding for capital projects without relying solely on property taxes. New staff positions were also added to better serve residents and support the delivery of high-quality city services.

Together, these actions reflect a City Council committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and forward-looking leadership. As Punta Gorda steps into Fiscal Year 2026, residents can be assured that their elected officials will continue to work diligently, even when perspectives differ, to move our community forward. For additional information, please contact City Manager Melissa Reichert at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.



As of August 2025, the City of Punta Gorda has received a 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Award from the Florida League of Mayors. The city was honored for its "Innovation in a Time of Recovery" project following Hurricane Ian.

#### 2025 Mayors Municipal Innovation Award

- Award Category: Quality of Life.
- Project: "Innovation in a Time of Recovery".
- Project Summary: The award recognizes the city's creative initiatives to improve governance and benefit residents, specifically highlighting its innovative approaches during the recovery period after Hurricane Ian.

Thank you to all city staff for all their hard work!



**DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #35 FOR WEEK August 31- September 5, 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](http://punta-gorda.fl.us))

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

## Upcoming Employment Testing

**Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** —The police department continually conducts new-hire testing to prepare for future openings. The department is currently 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 for more information, please visit [www.pgpdjobs.com](http://www.pgpdjobs.com) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).*

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND

BE SAFE THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

Whatever you are doing this weekend, be prepared and have a plan. By planning ahead you can help ensure you have a fun, relaxing, and safe, weekend.

1. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
2. Watch the weather and plan ahead
3. If you are celebrating outside or on the water, use sunscreen
4. If you are grilling, keep flammable materials away from your grill
5. If you are traveling, allow for extra time and traffic on the road



## 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.

[Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events](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](#)



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

August

August 30

8 am - 1 pm

Farmers Market Downtown

Punta Gorda

Every Saturday

September

September 1<sup>st</sup>



September 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>

10 am - 5 pm

Punta Gorda Chamber

of Commerce

Annual Sullivan

Street Arts & Craft

Festivals

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

September 9  
Pre-Agenda  
Council Meeting

9 am - 10 am

Laishley Community

Key Lime & Tropical  
Fest.

September 20

12 pm - 9 pm

August 30

8 am - 12 pm

Every Saturday



September 10

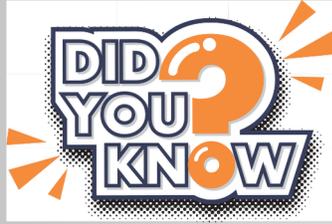
Council Meeting

Laishley

Community Room

9 am - 12 pm

# Billing and Collections



## RETURNED PAYMENTS

Returned items refer to payments that could not be processed against the payment originator's account. These may be returned for various reasons, such as insufficient or unavailable funds, stop payments, closed accounts, post-dated payments, questionable or missing signatures, account cannot be located, counterfeit or fraudulent activity, and others. If a payment is unable to be processed and is returned, Billing and Collections will adjust the account accordingly by reversing the posted payment. Additionally, a returned item fee will be assessed to the account, and a notification letter will be sent to the customer. **Under Florida law, you have 15 days from the date of the notification letter to pay the full amount due, including the service charge, which is as follows:**

- \$25 if the face value does not exceed \$50
- \$30 if the face value exceeds \$50 but does not exceed \$300
- \$40 if the face value exceeds \$300, or up to 5% of the face amount of the check, whichever is greater

***Please note that this fee cannot be waived.*** The fee schedule is governed by Florida Statute 832.07 and is *not determined* by the City of Punta Gorda.

**If you are enrolled in auto-pay and need to update your bank account information or request the cancellation of a pending payment *before the scheduled draft date*, please provide written notice immediately via one of the following methods:**

- **Email:** [pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com)
- **Mail:** 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
- **In person:** at the Billing and Collections office located at 126 Harvey Street, Punta Gorda, FL

### **Notice: Temporary Issue with Online Portal Access Continues**

We continue to experience 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.

# 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 ~ 57 DAYS TO GO!**

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

# THE FIRM

ADVERTISING AGENCY



**⚡ Charged with gratitude for our new Punta Gorda Powerhouse sponsors! ⚡**



**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](mailto:FallFest@cityofpuntagordafl.com)**

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



**ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE**



**KIWANIS CLUB  
PUNTA GORDA**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY**



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



# GOVERNMENT SERVICES

## 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.

**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](mailto: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:

- **Cambridge Federal, LLC, 2814 La Mancha Court**

## Utilities

### **A Big Thank You**

Kudos to our Water Distribution crew for their hard work repairing a water main leak on Riverside Drive on Saturday, August 23. We also want to thank our Public Works Right-of-Way crew for their assistance and, most importantly, our residents for their patience and understanding while the repairs were being made. Your cooperation made a tough job go smoother and we appreciate you.

### **Administration & Watering Reminders**



Got a leak? If you spot water or sewer issues after hours, give us a call at (941) 575-5070 or reach the Water Plant at (941) 639-2057.

**Watering schedules:**

We all want green lawns, but Florida law says no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. To keep it fair, here's when you can water based on your house number:

Ends in 0 or 1	Mon & Thurs
Ends in 2 or 3	Tues & Fri
Ends in 4 or 5	Wed & Sat
Ends in 6 or 7	Thurs & Sun
Ends in 8 or 9	Fri & Tues



You can only water early mornings (12:01 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.) or evenings (4:01 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.).  
New lawns: Feel free to water daily for the first 30 days.

**Car washing and pressure washing:** Go for it, just remember to use water smartly. A nozzle with a shut-off works best.

**Meter Updates**



We're in the middle of moving away from our old AMI (automatic meter) system. For now, all meters are being read manually by our contractor, Olameter. Meanwhile, our in-house tech team is testing a new maintenance app to track meter repairs and keep things running smoothly.

## Project Spotlight: Aqui Esta and Socorro Drive Upgrades

You may have noticed lane closures on Aqui Esta Drive and Socorro Drive. Here is the scoop. The project involves a much-needed upgrade to the underground water mains:

- **Aqui Esta Drive:** Upsizing the main line to 16 inches, from the intersection of Bal Harbor Blvd to the intersection of Socorro Drive.
- **Socorro Drive:** Upsizing from 6 inches to 8 inches.

These improvements will boost water flow and reliability for the homes served by these mains.

Because part of the work affects the Bal Harbor and Aqui Esta intersection, crews will be tackling that section at night to help limit traffic disruption and neighborhood impact.

This work is being completed by the developer of The Landing on Socorro Drive, as required by their project's utilities application, and is being carefully overseen by the City Utilities Department.

***We ask everyone to please be mindful of the construction areas and changing traffic patterns while this important project moves forward. Once completed, residents will enjoy stronger and more reliable service in the area.***

### Water Plant Snapshot

Here's what our water plant has been up to this week. We delivered 37.6 million gallons of water to the community, which averages out to about 5.4 million gallons each day. The Shell Creek Reservoir is at 5.78 feet, right in line with what we typically see this time of year. Rainfall for August measured 6.91 inches, a little less than the 9.23 inches we recorded last August.

When it comes to water quality, the current hardness is 84 parts per million, which equals about five grains per gallon. That puts our water in the "hard" category, so you might notice some mineral spots on faucets, glasses, or shower doors. We also monitor total dissolved solids, or TDS, which measures the minerals in the water.



Right now, that number is 227 parts per million. For perspective, this month we've seen it range between 173 and 405, while the fifteen-year average for this date is about 294. In other words, a little lower than normal right now. All in all, the water quality this week looks steady and in good shape!

### Wastewater Treatment

Behind the scenes, our team treated 29.5 million gallons of wastewater this week (about 4.2 million gallons a day). Crews also stayed busy mowing, trimming, and keeping the grounds neat.

### Water Distribution

Here's what our crews have been working on in your neighborhoods:

- Fire Hydrants: Out of 1,417 hydrants, we gave some extra care to four this week by checking, greasing, and making sure they're in top shape for emergencies
- Valves: 12 valves were exercised to ensure they work when needed
- Flushing: We flushed four hydrants to keep the system fresh and clean
- New meters: Installed three brand-new meter sets for new homes, including one that required a 200-foot underground bore
- Service requests: 13 jobs wrapped up, from fixing leaks to adjusting meters
- Yard cleanups: After digging, our crews filled holes and laid sod at three sites

That's the week in Utilities. We're always working hard behind the scenes to keep clean water flowing in and safely treated water flowing out. Thanks for doing your part by following watering schedules, keeping meters clear, and letting us know when you spot an issue.



# 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](mailto:pubworks@pgorda.us); Phone: 941-575-5050

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

**Canal Maintenance** — Canal Maintenance Crews filled depressions at 23 residences, patched sea wall caps at three residences. 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](http://boat2puntagorda.org) and click on the Dock Match button.

**Dockside Dredging** — Property owners included on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list are not permitted to conduct dockside dredging next to the damaged seawall until repairs are completed. Dredging in these areas could lead to further structural damage.

**Establishing sod after seawall replacement** Laying sod marks the final phase of seawall replacement construction. According to 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** — 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.

**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, 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 was set by our Engineering Department. The contractor has begun to re-grade Spoonbill Dr. and Spoonbill Ct. to the new proposed 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 roof materials will be delivered next week to the City Hall, and 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

- Electrician Staff members have repaired the decorative lights on Wood Street
- New light fixtures at the Laishley Park restrooms have been installed
- Staff complete the relocation of the Clerks and Finance Staff back into the Herald Court location
- Parks crews have completed mowing on Marion Avenue
- Crews have refilled behind the seawall at Ponce De Leon Park
- The drinking fountain on Shreve Street has been repaired, along with the dog bowl located at the bottom of the bridge on Marion Avenue

## Right of Way

- Crews continue to work on Gill Street drainage project (weather permitting)
- Mowing Crews continue to mow throughout the city
- Crews completed mowing at Linear Trail as well as sidearm mowing
- The sidewalk crew is working, prepping the sidewalks on Gill Street for replacement

## Sanitation

### YARD WASTE GUIDELINES

- The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in their trash, recycling or yard waste collections during this holiday. Commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in trash collection service during this holiday. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Hurricane & Impending Storm Preparation

- The City reminds all residents of the importance of maintaining their yards, especially as hurricane season approaches. Properly trimming trees, shrubs, and other vegetation not only keeps properties looking neat but also reduces the risk of loose debris becoming dangerous projectiles during severe storms. Residents are encouraged to place vegetation at the curb well in advance of hurricane season ramping up. This will allow collection crews adequate time to remove clippings and yard waste before storms develop. By preparing early, we can work together to keep our community safe and ready. Please follow the yard waste guidelines and be sure to secure all carts properly. Most landscaping companies provide hauling in their fees for faster service.
- The yard waste must be at least one cubic yard (3'x3'x3') or approximately two 96-gallon trash cans. and must not exceed 5 cubic yards (5'x5'x5') for bulk pickup of vegetative yard waste. The pile must be placed on the right-of-way at the edge of the pavement, not the driveway or roadway. Please do not place piles near or underpower lines or trees, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants, etc. This would impede access to the yard waste pile, and it will not be collected. Any yard waste pile that is less than one cubic yard shall be placed in yard waste cans or bundles for collection with weekly yard waste collections in accordance with the following:
- The following guidelines must be followed for yard waste collection. Each Residential property is limited to a combined total of three (3) for the following items:
  - Yard waste can
  - Paper lawn/leaf bags
  - Bundles (Less than four feet in length)

- Each can or bag shall not weigh more than thirty-five (35) pounds. Plastic bags are not permitted. Each yard waste can must have a lid and handles. We encourage residents to purchase a garbage tote with wheels, a lid, and a metal cross bar across the front that is compatible with the City refuse trucks found at any local hardware store.
- **Loose Piles** (to be collected by the clam shell truck):
  - If the pile exceeds five (5) Cubic yards (5'x5'x5'), the resident will be required to have the debris removed by a private hauler. Lot clearing and whole tree removal are NOT a part of the regular service provided by the City, and residents must contact a private hauler to remove the debris. Construction debris and household garbage must not be mixed in the yard waste piles. As a reminder, the city does not collect construction debris.
- Undeveloped properties, such as vacant lots, do not pay for yard waste services. Please do not place vegetation on vacant lots for collection; it will not be picked up. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Public Works Department at (941) 575- 5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Chapter 10 YARD WASTE AND SOLID WASTE**  
[Code of Ordinances | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)  
[\(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)

**ARTICLE II SOLID WASTE**

**Sec. 10- 3. Definitions.**

(d) "Yard waste" means every waste accumulation of lawn, grass and shrubbery cuttings, dry leaf rakings, palm fronds, tree branches or limbs, tree trunks, bushes or shrubs or parts thereof, green leaf cuttings and other vegetation, generated by the nature of normal yard maintenance or trimming.

**Sec. 10- 5. Yard waste cans or paper bags required.**

All owners of single-family residences located within the City can to provide at least one (1) but no more than three (3) yard waste cans or paper bags for once a week collection. Each multi-family residence and each non-residential use located within the City shall have a number of yard waste cans or paper bags as determined by the Director of Public Works, based on the amount and type of vegetation on the premises. Each yard waste can shall be labeled as such. If a garbage can is used for yard waste, the label shall be placed on one side, and that side shall face the street when the yard waste is placed curbside for pick-up; at all other times, the label shall either be covered or face away from the street. Yard waste shall be placed in each can, without the use of any liner, bag, box, paper, plastic, cardboard or other material. Limbs, branches and similar yard waste which is less than four (4) feet in length and does not weigh more than thirty-five (35) pounds shall be tied with string or rope into bundles.

**Sec. 10- 9. Collection.**

(b) Yard waste. Yard waste shall be picked up once each week. All yard waste cans shall be placed at the street curb, with the label facing the street, for collection not earlier than twenty-four (24) hours prior to scheduled collection. To assure collection, yard waste cans should be placed at the curb prior to 5:00 a.m. of the day of scheduled collection. Limbs, branches, and similar yard waste which is appropriately secured with string or rope into bundles may be placed curbside anytime during the week prior to the regularly scheduled collection date.

(e) Weight limitation. Garbage, trash and yard waste cans and bundled yard waste shall not weigh more than thirty-five (35) pounds. Cans weighing more than thirty-five (35) pounds shall not be picked up.

\*\*\*Please note the Chapter 10 has not been re-written for many years. Due to the amount of new construction homes and lack of new employees, we are simply enforcing the rules to make sure everyone receives the same level of service.

We appreciate your cooperation.

# Police Department

## High Water Risks



We are entering the part of the year when our annual rainfall deficits have been erased, and the ground is saturated due to regular summertime rainfall. That means that as the rains continue, the water takes longer to disperse, causing it to accumulate in certain areas, including certain streets. Even without a named tropical system, our afternoon rains dump tremendous amounts of water in a short period, potentially causing traffic issues on temporarily flooded roadways.

Always avoid driving through standing water. Driving through high water not only presents a physical risk to the vehicle's occupants but also poses the possibility of severe damage to the vehicle itself. If water is sucked into the vehicle's air intake, there is a good chance the car's engine will be irreversibly damaged. Even our own regular patrol vehicles run the risk of permanent damage and cannot be used for water rescue operations, which means specialized equipment must be called out, thereby extending our response times. Most city residents are familiar with areas where water takes a long time to recede after heavy rains, allowing them to plan alternative routes to avoid potential life-threatening situations and minimize vehicle damage.

### Dangers of Kratom / 7-OH

The Punta Gorda Police Department is urging residents to be aware of the serious health risks associated with Kratom, particularly its active metabolite 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). This compound is a powerful opioid-like substance that can cause sedation, respiratory depression, addiction, and even death, especially when mixed with other drugs or alcohol.

Although Kratom is often marketed as a "natural" supplement, 7-OH has been found to have effects comparable to potent opioids. Use among teens and young adults is growing, making awareness and prevention more important than ever. Kratom and its derivatives are not currently regulated, and products may vary widely in strength and purity, increasing the risk of overdose and serious side effects.



### WrightWay Emergency Services Feeds PG First Responders

We would like to thank WrightWay Emergency Services for the excellent lunches they provided to our first responders on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week. The support we receive from the community we serve is humbling and very much appreciated.





# Fire Department

## Watermanship Test

This week, the fire department is conducting its annual Watermanship Test.

This mandatory test is required for all personnel who hold a dive certification. It consists of five key components:

### 500-yard swim

- 15-minute tread
- 800-yard snorkel swim
- 100-yard inert rescue tow
- Free dive to a depth of 9 feet to retrieve an object

With approximately 55 miles of waterways throughout our city, it's crucial that our dive-certified personnel maintain strong water rescue skills. This annual test ensures they are prepared to respond effectively—not only for their own safety but also for the safety of our residents and visitors in the event of a water-related emergency.



*Thank you for reading!*