



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

✦ THIS WEEK IN FOCUS: INSIGHTS, TRENDS & UPDATES

The City of Punta Gorda has announced plans to apply for significant federal disaster recovery funding to support long-term infrastructure resilience and community safety. Through the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program, Punta Gorda intends to request approximately \$43,750,000 to address critical needs that arose from the devastating storms of 2023 and 2024.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by Florida Commerce, the CDBG-DR program is designed to help communities rebuild stronger in the aftermath of federally declared disasters. The program focuses on projects that serve low- to moderate-income areas, strengthen public safety, protect water resources, and mitigate future risks.

City leaders emphasize that this funding represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to harden vital systems against future storms while also ensuring that recovery dollars are invested in projects that will provide long-term community benefit. Each proposed project includes a five percent allocation for administrative costs to ensure that federal grant requirements are met, financial management is properly handled, and public accountability remains a priority.

One of the City's largest priorities is the construction of a new police station equipped with a modern emergency operations center. The current facility lies within the surge zone and remains vulnerable to severe weather events. The proposed station will be permanently hardened to withstand major hurricanes, and equipped to continue operations through extended power outages. This project is vital to ensure that law enforcement and emergency management can operate without interruption during crises.

Reliable communications are also at the core of effective emergency response. The City plans to implement system-wide improvements, including encrypted radios, upgraded consoles, and other essential infrastructure. These enhancements will bolster the reliability, interoperability, and resilience of 911 and first responder systems before, during, and after a disaster.

In addition to public safety, the City is targeting much-needed upgrades to its wastewater system, particularly in the Lift Station 30 service area. Plans include replacing more than 8,300 feet of sewer mains, rehabilitating 24 manholes, improving 28 service connections, and upgrading Lift Station 30. Together, these investments will reduce stormwater and groundwater infiltration, improving system efficiency and protecting water quality.

To extend the life of aging wastewater mains, Punta Gorda will also use trenchless Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) technology. This method restores structural integrity and prevents stormwater inflow while minimizing disruptions to the community.

Finally, the City is seeking funds to complete comprehensive master plans for water and wastewater management, as well as a disaster cost recovery strategy. These efforts will help guide long-term investment in infrastructure and ensure swift financial recovery following future storms.

The City of Punta Gorda is inviting residents to review and comment on this proposed grant application. Public input is a critical part of the process, ensuring that projects reflect community priorities and needs. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on September 22, 2025, and can be submitted by email at urbandesign@cityofpuntagordafl.com, by phone at 941-575-3414, or by mail or walk-in delivery to the Urban Design Department, 326 W Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

By working together, Punta Gorda aims to turn recovery into resilience—ensuring the community is safer, stronger, and better prepared for the future.



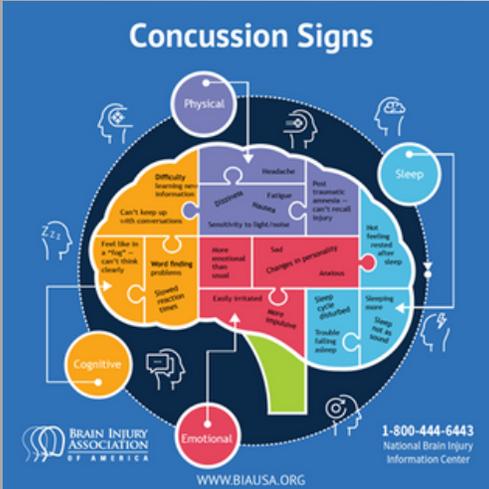
DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #40 FOR WEEK September 14 - September 20, 2025 District One is twelve counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, and Sarasota Click on the link below for updates from FDOT road watch. [fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf](#)



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>



September 19th is National Concussion Awareness Day.



September 19th is National Concussion Awareness Day. Whether it is from a sports injury, a trip, a fall, if it happens at work or at home, head injuries can happen anywhere. If you have suffered a head injury or a possible concussion, you need to seek medical attention.

1. Know and look for the symptoms of a concussion
2. If symptoms are severe, get immediate help
3. If symptoms are not severe, talk to your medical professional for testing
4. Sometimes symptoms might not show up for several days
5. Look out for yourselves and your loved ones if a head injury has occurred

Visit

Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St., for events visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>

Fishermen's Village for events visit <https://www.fishville.com/events/>

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce for events visit <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce for events visit <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>

Military Heritage Museum for events visit [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for events visit <https://pgica.org/>

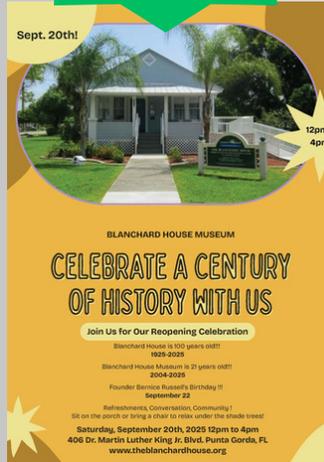
The Visual Arts Center for events visit [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)

The Blanchard House for upcoming events visit www.theblanchardhouse.org

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

September

September 20
12 pm - 4 pm



September 24
5:01 pm
City Council &
Budget Hearing
Lashley Community
Room

September 20
8 am - 1 pm
Farmers Market Downtown
Punta Gorda
Every Saturday

October

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

October 6
9 am
City County Pre-
Agenda
Lashley
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

September 20
8 am - 12 pm
Every Saturday



September 22
9 am
Pre-Agenda Council
Meeting
Lashley
Community Room

October 8
9 am
Council Meeting
Burnt Store
Presbyterian Church
Punta Gorda

September 20
12 pm - 9 pm
Key Lime & Tropical Fest
Fishermen's Village
Punta Gorda, FL

September 23
5:00 pm
City Council

Workshop/Buildin
g Permitting
Lashley
Community Room

October 25
1 pm - 4 pm
Neighborhood Fall
Festival
Shreve Street

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

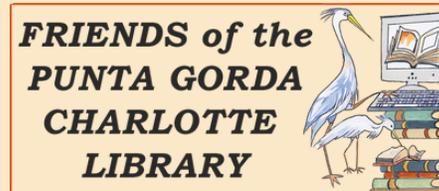
COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 37 DAYS TO GO!

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

THE FIRM

ADVERTISING AGENCY

⚡ Charged with gratitude for our Punta Gorda Powerhouse & Custom 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com

WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRICK OR TREAT PARTNERS!



**PUNTA GORDA
LIONS CLUB**



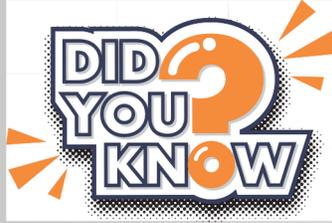
**GILSTAD LITERACY FOUNDATION &
IMAGINATION LIBRARY**



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



Billing and Collections



Many customers are often unsure about what an estimated bill actually signifies. Here's a simple and straightforward explanation to help clarify things.

What Is an Estimated Bill?

An estimated bill is a forecast of your utility charges for a specific period. It's based on your past usage patterns, so it provides an educated guess of what you might owe.

Why Do We Use Estimates?

Sometimes, we don't have an actual meter reading at the time your bill is generated. Instead, we estimate your usage using your previous bills and/or usage patterns. Think of it like a weather forecast—an informed prediction based on past trends.

How Accurate Is an Estimate?

Since it's based on predictions, an estimated bill might be a little higher or lower than your actual usage. Once we take an actual meter reading, your next bill will reflect your real usage.

What Happens When the Actual Usage Is Recorded?

When we get an actual reading, your bill is adjusted accordingly. If you've used more than estimated, you'll see an increase; if less, you might receive a credit or a reduced bill.

A Helpful Analogy

Imagine budgeting for groceries based on what you normally buy. You estimate your monthly costs, but the actual amount can vary slightly. That's similar to how estimated bills work—they're educated guesses, with adjustments made once real data is available.

Questions? We're Here to Help!

Billing and Collections
City of Punta Gorda
126 Harvey Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8 AM – 4:30 PM
(excluding Holidays)

pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com
(941) 639-2528

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

City Clerk

Important Property Tax Update – The Florida House Select Committee on Property Taxes will meet on Monday, September 22, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The Florida League of Cities will present the municipal perspective on property taxes at the September 23 meeting at 9:00 a.m. in order to inform Committee members of the impacts and importance of property taxes to Florida cities. Both meetings will be available for the public to view on [The Florida Channel](#).

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.

Vote-by-mail Ballots – Vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots will begin being mailed at the end of this month. In order to receive a VBM ballot, you must have placed a new request with the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office [(941)833-5400; 226 Taylor Street] on or after January 1, 2025. The last day to request a VBM ballot is October 23, 2025.

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.

New Businesses – Are you thinking of opening a business in the City? You can learn more about filing for a City business tax receipt [on our website](#). Still have questions? Contact the City Clerk's Office via email businesstax@cityofpuntafordafl.com or call us at (941)575-3369. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred businesses within our community this week:

- G.I.G. Music Lessons (online), 401 Boca Grande Boulevard
- Bula Bay Kava Bar, 318 Tamiami Trail, Unit 111
- McLendon Vacation Rental, 2522 Brazilia Court

Utilities

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.

We've updated the Utilities Story Map to include several water main upgrades and our plans for the elevated storage tank on Burnt Store Road. Please visit the Story Map and check back frequently for updates! <https://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/ratestory>



Watering schedules:

We all want green lawns, but Florida law says no watering between 10 am and 4 pm. 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

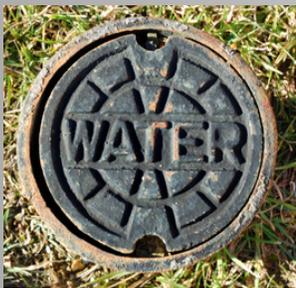
You can only water early mornings (12:01 a.m. to 9:59 a.m.) or evenings (4:01 pm to 11:59 pm).



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.

Fire Hydrant Maintenance & Flushing Program

Punta Gorda will be giving every fire hydrant in the city some much-needed care. Crews will be inspecting, painting, and flushing hydrants to make sure they're ready when firefighters need them, while also helping to keep our drinking water clean and fresh. During this work you may see water running from hydrants or notice brief discoloration at your tap, this is completely safe and should clear quickly. We'll keep the community updated with schedules and reminders so you'll know when hydrant work is planned in your area, all to ensure reliable fire protection and high-quality water for our neighborhoods.



Water Plant

This past week, the water treatment plant delivered 41.7 million gallons of water to the community, averaging about 5.9 million gallons a day. Our emergency interconnect with the Peace River Authority is currently moving 1,390 gallons per minute both into the new pipeline and into the tank on Highway 17.

Rainfall has been lighter this year compared to last. In September 2024 we recorded 6.15 inches, while so far this September we've measured only 3.27 inches. Even small shifts in rainfall can affect our water sources and help explain why reservoir levels matter so much.

Speaking of the reservoir, Shell Creek is holding steady at 5.76 feet. That's above the long-term average of 5.63 feet for this date, though not quite as high as the record of 6.96 feet. The lowest level ever recorded for this day was 5.09 feet, so we are in a comfortable range.

When it comes to water quality, hardness is at 128 parts per million, which equals about 7 grains per gallon. That places our water in the "hard" category. If you use a water softener, you'll want to keep that number in mind when setting your system. Hard water isn't harmful, but you may notice spots on dishes or faucets.

We also monitor total dissolved solids, or TDS, which measures the minerals in the water. On September 18, the reading was 270 parts per million, with a low of 185 and a high of 377. For comparison, the fifteen-year average for this date is 282. That means this week's water quality is right in line with what we normally see.

Wastewater Treatment

Behind the scenes, our wastewater team treated just under 20 million gallons of water this past week, averaging 2.8 million gallons a day. The crew also stayed busy keeping the plant and remote station grounds trimmed and mowed. Rain totals were light, with no measurable rain at the MPF site and just half an inch at the plant itself.

Water Distribution

Out in the community, our distribution crews have been working to keep the system running smoothly. Seven valves were exercised and remarked on newly paved roads. Four hydrants were flushed to keep the system fresh, and two new meter sets were installed for new homes.

Crews also handled 12 service requests, ranging from leak repairs to low pressure issues, and completed two fire flow tests for engineering projects. One cleanup was finished, which included filling holes and laying sod to restore yards after work was done.

Our team is also continuing to manage the transition away from the old AMI meter system. Right now, meters are being read manually by our contractor Olameter while our technicians focus on building a new maintenance app and keeping up with turn-ons and shut-offs. Two meter tests were completed this week as part of that effort.

We've updated the Utilities Story Map to include several water main upgrades and our plans for the elevated storage tank on Burnt Store Road. Please visit the Story Map and check back frequently for updates! <https://ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/ratestory>

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.



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)

- Controller, Finance
- Facilities Maintenance Worker III, Facilities
- Maintenance Worker I, Parks & Grounds
- Maintenance Worker I, Right of Way
- Public Works Project Engineer, Engineering
- Utilities Maintenance Worker III, Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Utility Engineer, Utilities

Upcoming Employment Testing

Internship Program — The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring 2026 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 or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.

Urban Design

Zoning Myths & Facts Series

Myth vs Fact: It's a common misconception that you can build anything desired on your lot. In fact, every property in Punta Gorda is subject to zoning regulations. These rules cover setbacks (how far buildings must be from property lines), height limits (to maintain neighborhood scale and sunlight), and lot coverage (to preserve open space and manage drainage). These standards help protect neighborhood character, ensure safety, and promote fair and consistent land use throughout the community.



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle for September 1 was completed on September 15 due to the rain. The City will begin a new mow, trim and edge cycle on September 15.

RV Parking Permits Required in the Special Residential Overlay

Recreational vehicles (RVs), including motorhomes, campers, and travel trailers, require a permit to be parked or stored on residential property within the Special Residential Overlay in the City of Punta Gorda. This helps ensure that neighborhoods remain safe, orderly, and in keeping with community standards. RV permits regulate where and how long these vehicles may be parked and are an important part of local zoning and code compliance. Before bringing an RV onto your property, please contact the City’s Code Compliance Division to obtain a no charge RV permit and avoid potential violations.



Urban Design’s Capital Improvements Program!

The City of Punta Gorda is moving forward with a slate of Capital Improvement Projects designed to enhance our community’s public spaces, strengthen infrastructure, and preserve the city’s unique character. Led by the Urban Design Division, eight projects are currently in progress, each focused on improving and creating places that residents and visitors can enjoy for years to come.

This tour highlights the projects by location, showing how improvements are distributed across the city. From the waterfront to neighborhoods each initiative reflects planning, community input, and the city’s long-term vision for growth and resiliency. Some projects are in the design phase, where our team is fine-tuning concepts and narrowing down priorities. Others are under construction, with completion dates approaching soon.

The projects include upgrades to parks and public spaces, and climate friendly updates that ensure Punta Gorda remains resilient in the face of changing environmental conditions. Shade trees, native landscaping, pedestrian-friendly features, and gathering spaces are recurring themes, reinforcing the city’s commitment to sustainability and community-centered design.

By organizing the projects into a tour, everyone can experience firsthand how each improvement fits into the larger fabric of the city. These efforts not only beautify Punta Gorda but also strengthen its sense of place, making our city more welcoming, and connected.

Link to the tour here or visit our city website: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/> then click Government then Urban Design.

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 manufactured 48 seawall panels, filled 16 depressions at residences. The contractor is currently coordinating mangrove trimming in Punta Gorda Isles.

Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects City has resumed duties for construction engineering inspections until the end of the project. Review took place of all worksites and updated from 7/30/2025 totals: BSI – 30 Worksites completed. PGI currently has 17 open construction sites, 11 staging lots open, and a total of 234 completed worksites overall. City Seawall Program: PGI has 21 worksites completed. There are currently 12 open staging sites with 234 overall completed sites in PGI. City seawall program has completed 2 worksites, and work will begin soon on the 3rd SOW in PGI [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Engineering

City Hall Roof: The roofing contractor has been diligently progressing with the roof replacements at City Hall and the Council Chambers. Four of the six roofs have been dried in, and pre-inspections have been scheduled with the Building Department. Once inspections are approved, the final roofing layer will be installed. Please be mindful of equipment and personnel working in the area, and take note of any sections that may be temporarily closed off during this operation.

Tiger Dams

- Public Works staff continue to install Earth anchors for the Tiger Dams at the Herald Court parking garage. The crew is removing brick at each anchor location, drilling a 30-inch anchor into the ground, and then replacing the brick, marking each location for future reference during tidal surge events. To date, 215 anchors have been installed beneath the brick, and installation of concrete anchors is scheduled for this week. Engineering has laid out anchor locations at the City Hall Annex and City Hall, where the crew is scheduled to begin work next week.

Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Crews worked with Florida Power and Light to reset the meter at Hounds on Henry parking lot.
- Mowing at Gilcrest Park is completed.
- Crews completed work on the Hounds on Henry parking lot island.
- Crews have completed setting the Tiger dam anchors at Herald Court and will be moving crews to the City Annex building on Harvey Street.
- Facilities electricians are working on bringing the parks and street lights, which are maintained by the city, back on.

Right of Way

- Crews have formed up for sidewalk replacements on Allen Street. New sidewalks will be poured next week.
- The culvert behind the Justice Center has been repaired.
- Mowing along southbound US 41 has been completed.
- The vector crew has been working through a large number of requests throughout the city.
- Crews have completed setting the Tiger dam anchors at Herald Court and will be moving crews to the City Annex building on Harvey Street.

Sanitation

- Improper Disposal of Batteries: Batteries, like the ones found in many rechargeable electronic devices, computers, and cell phones, are prohibited from being placed inside the trash, recycling or dumpster containers. These batteries easily rupture, catch fire, and cause the trash to smolder when compacted in the refuse truck hopper. The toxic fumes, smoke, and fire

impose a huge safety risk for the sanitation workers. See the picture below of when the Fire Department had to extinguish a fire in the refuse truck hopper from a resident placing a battery in the trash cart.

- **Hazardous Products** – A product is considered hazardous if it is corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Watch out for signal words on labels such as poison, danger, warning, and caution. These include everyday items such as paint, insecticides, cleaners, automotive products, and unused medications. Please do not place inside the trash, recycling, or dumpster containers. These items must be disposed of properly.
- **Improper Disposal Dangers** – As a friendly reminder, please do not place chemicals inside the regular trash. Hazardous products must be disposed of in the proper way to reduce environmental impact and any safety hazards. Toxic products tossed in the trash may injure sanitation workers, damage collection vehicles, or leak into the environment. Dumping or illicitly household hazardous waste illicitly down the drain, on the ground, or in a stormwater drain will cause water pollution, damage plumbing, and septic systems.
- **How to Properly Dispose of Hazardous Products** – See the complete list and instructions [Household Hazardous Waste | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/hazardous-waste).



- Residents can bring their household hazardous waste to the [Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/mini-transfer-recycling). Residents are allowed 12 free visits per fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Recycling and household hazardous waste do not count towards the 12 visits. Proof of county residency is required. Residents need to bring a valid form of identification to include name, photo, and local address. Photo identification from other areas must be accompanied by a current utility bill or document showing proof of residency at a Charlotte County residential address. P.O. Box addresses are not accepted as proof of residency. The facility is located at 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., Port Charlotte.



Police Department

Contact Police Directly – This serves as a friendly reminder that if you notice a non-emergency issue, problem, or something suspicious that requires police attention, please call our non-emergency line at 941-639-4111 immediately so we can respond while the incident is still happening. We often hear about issues after the fact, through third parties or other city employees. It's difficult or impossible to address these issues unless we can respond in real time. When reports come through a third party, it is often too late, or we need more information to respond effectively. In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1.



Operation of Golf Carts - A reminder that unregistered golf carts are not allowed to be operated on streets or public sidewalks in Punta Gorda, except on W. Retta Esplanade from the Tidal Basin to the Shreve Street intersection. A golf cart must be registered, and the operator must possess a valid driver's license when operating a golf cart legally on the street.

Open Carry of Firearms - Carrying firearms openly in Florida is now legal following a September 2025 First District Court of Appeal decision that struck down the state's open-carry ban. However, this right comes with important restrictions, such as prohibiting the open carry of handguns in places like schools, courthouses, and bars. Additionally, you must be legally allowed to own a firearm to carry it openly. Nothing in this decision permits individuals to exhibit a firearm in a rude, careless, angry, or threatening manner, not in necessary self-defense. F.S.S. 790.10. It is also important to note that private property owners (including private businesses) also retain the right to restrict the carrying of firearms on their property.



Fire Department

Today, Field Training Officer (FTO) McLeod led an airway management training class, focused on equipping our staff with the skills and knowledge to provide effective emergency airway care for patients of all ages from infants to adults.

This training is a vital part of ensuring we're prepared to respond confidently and competently during critical situations.

Thank you, FTO McLeod, for leading such an important training



Thank you for reading!