



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

✦ THIS WEEK IN FOCUS: INSIGHTS, TRENDS & UPDATES

Hurricane recovery continues across Punta Gorda, and residents can expect to see steady progress on several visible projects in the weeks ahead. While many repairs have already been completed, key work remains underway to restore public facilities, enhance safety, and reopen beloved community spaces.

One of the most anticipated improvements is the rehabilitation of the restrooms at Gilchrist Park. These facilities, which were damaged during the storm, are set to undergo major work beginning next week. Their reopening will provide a much-needed amenity for park visitors, from families enjoying picnics to individuals taking advantage of the waterfront trails. At the same time, the City has received new light panels, an important step toward restoring safe and reliable lighting in public spaces.

Additional efforts to enhance the park experience are also underway. Crews will soon begin painting the gazebos, ensuring these popular gathering spots are refreshed and protected from the elements. Many residents and visitors alike look forward to enjoying concerts, weddings, and community events under the newly painted structures. Meanwhile, progress continues on the Harborwalk. A new section is expected to reopen soon, thanks to the installation of fencing that will safely allow greater public access. Each step brings the community closer to fully reclaiming its treasured waterfront.

Another critical project nearing completion is the installation of anchors for the Tiger Dam system. This flood protection measure is designed to shield vulnerable areas from storm surge, adding a new layer of resilience to Punta Gorda's defenses. Once finished, the system will not only serve as an emergency safeguard but also stand as a testament to the City's commitment to proactive disaster preparedness.

While construction and repair crews work to strengthen the City's infrastructure, Punta Gorda's elected officials and advisory boards are also preparing for important public discussions. On October 7, at 5 p.m., City Council and the Historic Preservation Advisory Board will hold a joint meeting in the Laishley Community Room. This session will provide an opportunity for collaboration on matters that blend Punta Gorda's future with its unique historical character. Residents who value preservation and thoughtful planning are encouraged to attend and participate.

On October 8, at 9 a.m., City Council will meet at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. Among the items on the agenda is a topic that has generated growing community interest—boat lift canopy covers. Residents will have the chance to hear presentations both for and against allowing

canopies within City limits. This is an early, exploratory discussion, and Council will be considering whether the concept merits further evaluation. The issue has sparked strong opinions on topics such as canal maintenance, seawall replacement, and neighborhood aesthetics. The meeting offers a valuable forum for residents to share their perspectives with Council directly.

Together, these recovery projects and civic discussions reflect Punta Gorda's ongoing commitment to resilience, quality of life, and community engagement. From repairing the public restrooms and enhancing waterfront

amenities, to protecting neighborhoods against flooding and hosting transparent discussions on future policy decisions, the City is moving forward on multiple fronts.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed, attend public meetings, and witness firsthand the progress being made. Every step taken brings Punta Gorda closer to full recovery, while also laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient community in the years ahead.



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #40 FOR WEEK September 28- October 4, 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.pdf)

SUN SEEKER SIGNAL



SR 45 (South Tamiami Trail) from Kings Highway to Melbourne Street: Permit Project: Motorists should expect nighttime/overnight lane closures beginning Sunday, October 5, 2025, between 7 pm and 5 am Crews will be adjusting traffic heads. Motorists should expect delays, slow-moving traffic, and use caution as crews work near the roadway Furthermore, when the signal is getting ready to go into its "flashing" mode, we will issue an advisory



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>



National Preparedness Month

Wrapping up National Preparedness Month, here are some tips to stay safe and prepared around your home.

1. Always have an updated first-aid kit, everyone should know where it is, and how to use it
2. Always have at least one fire extinguisher in good working order, more if possible
3. Keep tripping hazards cleaned up to prevent someone from falling
4. Have a plan for emergencies, whether it is an injury in the home or a pending hurricane
5. Make sure someone outside of your home knows your plans and contact information

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 27

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

September 27

8 am - 12 pm

Every Saturday



October

October 1

Coffee With A

Cop Day



October 4



October 6

9 am

City County Pre-Agenda
Laisley Community
Community Room

October 8

9 am

Council Meeting
Burnt Store
Presbyterian Church
Punta Gorda

October 13

Columbus Day



October 20

9 am

City Council
Pre-Agenda Meeting
Laisley Community
Room

October 22

9 AM

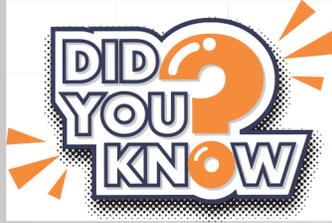
City Council Meeting
Laisley Community
Room

October 25

1 pm - 4 pm

Neighborhood Fall
Festival
Shreve Street

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

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

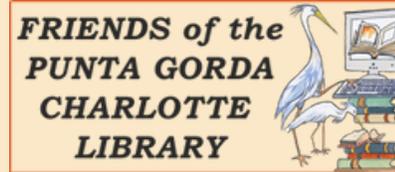
COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 30 DAYS TO GO!

👻 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 GARDEN CLUB



PARROT OUTREACH SOCIETY



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HONOR FLIGHT



CHARLOTTE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES



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



GOVERNMENT SERVICES

City Clerk

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 have begun being mailed! VBM ballots are also available over the county from the Supervisor of Elections Office. 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 in Council Chambers, which is currently located at the Lashley Community Room, 120 Lashley 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 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:

- **Little Guys Pizza, 117 West Marion Avenue, Unit 111**
- **Anthony’s Apparel Inc, 615 Cross Street**
- **The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles, 2001 Aqui Esta Drive**

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.



A Big Thank You

We'd like to thank our Utilities crews for another week of hard work. From fixing equipment at the plants to keeping hydrants and valves in shape, their behind-the-scenes efforts keep our water safe, reliable, and flowing right to your tap. And thank you to our residents for continuing to help us by reporting issues and keeping meter boxes clear—it really does make a difference.

THANK YOU!

Water Plant Snapshot



This week, our water plant delivered 44.9 million gallons of clean water to the community, which averages out to about 6.4 million gallons every day. That's like filling about ten Olympic-sized swimming pools each day.

Our Shell Creek Reservoir is currently at 5.80 feet, which is just a little above the long-term average of 5.62 feet for this time of year. For rain, we measured 6.06 inches in September, almost identical to last September's total of 6.15 inches.

The current hardness of our water is 92 parts per million, which equals about five grains per gallon. That means our water is considered "hard," so you may notice some spots on your glassware or shower doors. If you use a water softener, setting it to five grains should work well.

We also measure something called total dissolved solids, or TDS, which tells us how many minerals are floating around in the water. Right now, we're at 230 ppm, which is a little lower than the 15-year average of 282. In other words, our water is carrying fewer minerals than we typically see this time of year.

Wastewater Treatment

On the other side of the system, our wastewater team treated 19.4 million gallons this past week, averaging about 2.77 million gallons a day. Crews also stayed busy mowing and trimming around the plant and remote stations, and they replaced the motor on one of our hydro pumps as well as the flow meter on a monitoring well pump. Rainfall at the plant measured 4.10 inches this week.



Water Distribution

Around town, our crews kept the system running smoothly. Two hydrants were serviced and repaired, while five valves were exercised and re-marked on recently paved roads. Seven hydrants were flushed to keep the system fresh.

With new homes being built, five new water meters were installed, three of which required complete service lines. Crews also completed 15 service requests, including leak repairs, low pressure issues, and box replacements. Three water main breaks were fixed with new saddles, and we also completed one fire flow test.

Cleanup work was done at two sites where crews filled in holes and laid new sod.

For meters, our contractor Olameter is currently handling all readings while our AMI tech team works on building a new maintenance app. They've also been busy cleaning, replacing, and locating meter boxes, along with handling turn-offs and turn-ons for accounts.

That's the week in Utilities! Thanks for helping us keep things flowing by following watering schedules, keeping your meter boxes 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)

- Computer Support Specialist, IT
- Controller, Finance
- Facilities Maintenance Worker III, Facilities
- Maintenance Worker I, Parks & Grounds
- Utilities Maintenance Worker III, Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Utilities Maintenance Worker III, Water Treatment Plant
- Utility Engineer, Utilities
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator A

Upcoming Employment Testing

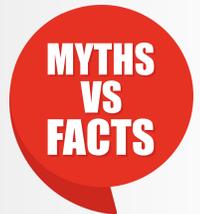
Police Officer Testing — The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. A virtual testing process will take place in October 2025. Applications must be received by October 17, 2025. The written exam will be completed online between October 24 and October 31, 2025, and oral board exams will be conducted on November 20, 2025. The department is accepting applications from certified and non-certified candidates.

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: Overlay Districts are just extra rules

Fact: Overlay districts are tools to protect special areas, like historic neighborhoods, residential districts, or waterfronts. They help preserve community character and unique features while guiding development in a thoughtful way.



Lot Mowing Program — The Mow, Trim and Edge were completed on September 21.

Keep Roofs Clean and Code Compliant

In Punta Gorda, maintaining a clean roof isn't just about curb appeal—it's also part of being a good neighbor and staying code compliant. Over time, roofs can collect mold, mildew, algae, and debris, especially in Florida's humid climate. If left untreated, this buildup can cause damage to roofing materials and detract from the overall appearance of the neighborhood.

City code requires that roofs be kept in good, clean condition to help preserve property values and community standards. Regular cleaning and maintenance can go a long way in preventing more costly repairs down the line. If your roof is showing signs of discoloration or buildup, it may be time to schedule a professional cleaning.

Let's work together to keep Punta Gorda looking its best!



TOUR OUR PARKS!



Our City is home to a network of parks, each with its own character, scenery, and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. To help residents and visitors explore them all, the Urban Design Department has created a Virtual Parks Tour—a fun and easy way to experience and get to know all 20 city parks.

This online guide takes you through Punta Gorda's green spaces, from our popular waterfront destinations to hidden neighborhood gems. Each park is highlighted with photos, maps, and key details so you can see what makes it unique. Whether you're looking for a shady spot to picnic, a playground for the kids, or the perfect place to watch the sunset, the virtual tour makes it simple to find the right park for your next outing.

The tour also showcases the variety of experiences our parks offer. Some feature trails and open spaces for walking and biking, while others provide pavilions, courts, or areas for community gatherings. There's truly something for everyone—whether you want to be active or just relax and take in the natural beauty of Punta Gorda.

Beyond exploring individual parks, the virtual tour highlights how these green spaces connect with the city's broader vision for accessibility, walkability, and community connection. By making it easy to discover our parks online, we hope to inspire more people to get outside, enjoy our community spaces, and celebrate the beauty that makes Punta Gorda special.

You may also get to the online tour through our city website: 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 filled 18 depressions at residences, removed a navigational hazard from the waterway, and completed mowing the Candia lock pass. The contractor is currently coordinating mangrove trimming in Ponce Pass and Sancho Panza.

Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects

- The 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 working in four zones overall. Active open construction sites total 22, and overall, completed a total of 235 worksites. City seawall program has one open worksite at Osprey, and has completed a total of two worksites that were severely damaged.
- Mangrove Trimming and cutting program update: BSI is completed, and three work areas are pending; and six work sites have been completed in PGI.
- Sonar surveys have been completed in BSI at the lock inlet project area, and in PGI at Ponce, Side Channel, Pompano, Bass, and Snook inlets. Readings were taken from channel marker pilings to the center of the channel across each inlet. The only area identified for dredging is a small section near the Ponce inlet, just south of the boat ramp. A Scope of Work (SOW) is being prepared and is expected to be issued before the end of the year.
- 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 two worksites, and work will begin soon on the 3rd SOW in PGI [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.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 continues making steady progress on the roof replacements at both City Hall and the Council Chambers. Pre-inspections by the Building Department have been completed. The crew is now in the process of installing the torch-down cap sheet, after which they will begin installing flashing over the parapet walls. Please exercise caution around the site and be aware that some areas may be temporarily closed due to ongoing work and equipment movement

Tiger Dams

- Public Works crews have completed installation of Earth anchors at the Herald Court parking garage and have now moved operations to the City Hall Annex and City Hall.
 - Crews are drilling 30-inch anchors into the ground and replacing bricks to mark each location for future use during tide and storm surge events.
 - Additionally, they are installing concrete anchors in the Annex parking garage and other concrete surfaces around the buildings.

To date

- 325 Earth anchors have been installed
- 50 concrete anchors have been set into concrete surfaces

Paving Program

- Olympia Avenue and Taylor Street (from the Event Center to US-41 North)
- Work will continue along Taylor Street, progressing towards Cooper Street

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 poured 5.5 yards of concrete to repair sidewalks around Allen Street, by Sally Jones Elementary and the Charlotte High School.
- Potholes along River Road, Nesbit Street, Shreve Street, Henry Street, and Jamaica Way.
- The vactor crews are out clearing pipes in various locations around the city.
- Mowing along Aqui Esta and completed tree trimming.
- Crews are setting anchors at the Annex building for the use of the Tiger dams.

Sanitation

- **ABCs of Sanitation** – Just a friendly reminder on the basics of Sanitation within the City of Punta Gorda. Visit our website for more information or to schedule a special pick-up. [Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Sanitation_City_of_Punta_Gorda_FL.punta-gorda.fl.us).
 - All trash, recycling, and yard waste must be out at the curb by 5:00 a.m. on the day of collection to guarantee service.
 - Construction (black) bags are not acceptable.
 - Trash must be bagged inside the can to prevent any wind-blown litter during the collection process. It can also help keep animals out of your garbage. As a friendly reminder, please place any pet waste and pet hair securely inside a bag to prevent the debris from blowing onto the sanitation workers.
 - Verify your service area. Did you know that some Punta Gorda addresses outside of the City of Punta Gorda limits are serviced by Waste Management? Simply enter your home address, and the City boundaries are outlined in blue: [Charlotte County GIS \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](http://Charlotte_County_GIS.charlottecountyfl.gov).



- Construction debris, whole-house clean-outs, and tree removals are not included in your regular service. The property owner is responsible for the clean-up and removal of debris. A whole-house clean-out might require a roll-off dumpster to be placed on the property. The City does not rent dumpsters, and residents are required to obtain a permit by contacting Zoning & Code Compliance at (941)575-3352.
- A special collection can be arranged for moving boxes, tires, used motor oil, electronics, car/boat batteries, and appliances/white goods by completing the online web request or calling Public Works at (941)575-5050.



Loose Yard Waste – Residents can request the special pick-up by calling the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 or completing the online web request <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/sanitation>. Staff will review the request, and the qualifying request will be processed in the order in which they are received. Below are some basic guidelines to follow.

- The yard waste must be at least one cubic yard (3'x3'x3') or approximately two 96-gallon trash cans
- If the pile exceeds five Cubic yards (5'x5'x5'), the resident will be required to have the debris removed by a private hauler
- Vacant lots do not pay for refuse or yard waste services; therefore, they are not eligible for clamshell truck collection
- Whole tree removals and lot clearing are not included in the regular yard waste service; the owner or contractor is responsible for the clean-up and removal of debris

Please do not place piles near or under power lines, trees, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants, etc.



Police Department

Arson Suspect Arrested - On Monday, September 22, 2025, the Punta Gorda Police Department arrested 31-year-old Blake Hoover for arson and criminal mischief related to the fire at the Chabad of Charlotte County on September 19, 2025. Chief Smith wishes to thank our partners at the Punta Gorda Fire Department, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, State Fire Marshal's Office, FDLE, and the 20th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. This was a team effort that enabled us to make a prompt arrest in connection with this heinous crime. We will continue collaborating with them and our federal partners to ensure a successful prosecution.

While Chief Smith extends her gratitude to all the agencies that have supported this investigation, above all, she deeply appreciates the hard work and perseverance of everyone in the Punta Gorda Police Department, most notably the detectives, Corporal Taylor Smith, Detective Jose Delgado, Detective Jed Nowak, Detective Michael Marro, as well as Crime Scene Technicians Savino Marotti and Adrian Beltran. Their relentless efforts will help bring justice to our Jewish community.

Police to Citizen Links – The P2C (police to citizen) links on the police department website, including the Daily Bulletin, Crime Mapping, and Away from Home, are now operational and accessible to the public. We apologize for the site being down for such an extended period. We believe the updated links will be an improvement over the previous versions.



Fire Department

Animal Welfare League

This week the Animal Welfare League stopped in, and brought a bunch of fur babies for a few glamour shots with the City's finest! Not only does it put a smile on our faces but it gives a chance to relieve some stress.

If anyone is interested in adopting one of these cuties, and we mean the puppies not the firefighters, please reach out to the Animal Welfare League.



Thank you for reading!