



**MELISSA REICHERT**  
City Manager

## 📰 ✨ THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: NEWS THAT MATTERS ✨ 📰

Over the past week, the City of Punta Gorda has been advancing multiple projects across the community, ensuring that recovery and improvement efforts remain on schedule. From FEMA documentation to paving programs and park facilities, progress continues to unfold in visible and meaningful ways.

One of the most significant undertakings has been the detailed verification of FEMA reports. This work is vital to ensure accountability in the reporting process and to secure reimbursement funding that helps drive many of the city's recovery projects. Careful review is underway, with coordination among multiple departments to bring the effort to completion.

Meanwhile, on the ground, the city's paving program is moving toward completion. The contractors work to redo the previous work with different materials has been closely managed and supported by the city's project manager, keeping the program on track for an anticipated finish by the end of this week. Residents can expect smoother and safer streets as a result of this coordinated push.

Progress is also visible at Gilchrist Park. A building permit for the long-awaited bathroom rehabilitation has been submitted, and conversations are underway to determine whether the process can be expedited. Once approvals are in hand, construction can begin to restore this much-used facility, which remains a priority for park users and visitors.

Several additional projects are expected to advance from engineering to procurement review this week. These include the Gilchrist Park gazebo, the Herald Court Centre membrane replacement, and the City Council Chambers rebuild. Procurement will require several days to complete its review before posting, but the transition marks a critical step forward in moving these projects closer to construction. Looking ahead, staff also hopes to release the "Pirate Ship" project from engineering next week, further underscoring the city's steady momentum.

Smaller but equally important infrastructure repairs have been addressed as well. The Durrance Street pipe repair and sidewalk replacement have been completed, restoring safety and accessibility in that area. At Lashley Park, crews have formed up the replacement sidewalk near the transformer at E Dock, with concrete scheduled to be poured tomorrow. This repair is necessary to resolve an electrical issue and restore power to the dock, ensuring the area remains fully functional for boaters and visitors.

Other projects are moving into position. Core drilling for the temporary fencing project on the Harborwalk has been scheduled, with work slated to begin on October 6 once the equipment arrives. Additionally, a requisition has been submitted for the pickleball and tennis improvements, and discussions are underway to finalize the Public Works priority list.

The city has also wrapped up its annual swale program, a recurring initiative that ensures stormwater systems function properly during the rainy season. With the final payout processed, the program has officially been completed for this year, providing residents with improved drainage and reduced flooding risks.

Taken together, these projects demonstrate the City of Punta Gorda's ongoing commitment to rebuilding stronger, maintaining essential services, and creating spaces that enhance quality of life. Whether through the verification of FEMA documentation, the resurfacing of streets, or the revitalization of community facilities, each step represents steady progress toward a more resilient city.

Residents are also encouraged to stay engaged by attending the upcoming City Council meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church. The agenda includes important items such as discussion of boat canopy covers, speed cameras in school zones, employee survey results, the process for selecting a new City Attorney, and upcoming community events like Downtown Halloween and the Premier Auto Auction. Participation in these meetings ensures the community's voice continues to shape the future of Punta Gorda.



**DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #41 FOR WEEK October 5 - October 11, 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>



## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 5-11 is National Fire Prevention Week. Take this time to check around your workplace and home for potential fire hazards. Also, look for ways you can update or improve your fire prevention measures.

1. Know what to do to prevent, stop, or escape a fire,
2. Ensure your extinguishers are checked at least annually and easily accessible,
3. Know your exit path and keep it clear of obstructions,
4. Never overload your electrical circuits or use multiple heating appliances at the same time,
5. Check and test your fire, smoke, carbon monoxide detectors regularly

# 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](http://www.theblanchardhouse.org)

United Way - <https://www.unitedwayccfl.org/united4youth>

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

**October**

**October 4**



**October 4**  
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

**October 4**  
8 am - 12 pm  
Every Saturday

**THE CELTIC RAY MARKET**  
EVERY SATURDAY!  
8AM-12PM [ISH]

The Market will be located on the corner of Wall Street. Parking will not be available. Please park in our parking lot by pub and across the street from the market area.

THE OUTSIDE BAR AT PUB WILL BE OPEN AT 9AM FOR

- BACON, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE GRAY PASTY-
- BREAKFAST CHIPS & SAUSAGE GRAY-
- MOSIS - BLOODY MARYS - ICED IRISH COFFEE - IRISH COFFEE.

CELTICRAY.NET

**October 6**  
9 am  
City County Pre-Agenda  
Laishley Community Room

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



**October 18 & 25**  
**Halloween Haunted Trails**  
Cedar Point Environment  
Park  
<https://www.checflorida.org/halloween-at-cedar-point>

**October 20**  
9 am  
City Council  
Pre-Agenda Meeting  
Laishley Community Room

**October 22**  
9 am  
City Council Meeting  
Laishley Community Room

**October 23**  
5 pm - 7 pm  
City Council Workshop  
Laishley Community Room

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

**November 8**  
11 am - 5 pm  
Moose Lodge  
#2121 Port Charlotte

**November 10**  
**Veterans Car Show**  
at the Wall  
9 am 1 pm  
Charlotte County Justice Center  
\$10 Donation

# UPCOMING EVENTS

COME LAUGH WITH US.

## COASTAL ISLES COMEDY

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY-  
**JIMMY MORAN**

FEATURING-  
**CARMEN VAZ**

\$10 COVER | OCT 4TH  
\$20 BUFFET | 7:00 PM

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:  
[WWW.COASTALISLESWINEBAR.COM](http://WWW.COASTALISLESWINEBAR.COM)

[www.coastalislswinebar.com](http://www.coastalislswinebar.com)

## Family Feud

FRIDAY, OCT. 10<sup>TH</sup> 6:00PM

### COASTAL ISLES WINE BAR

ENJOY AN EVENING OF LAUGHS AS SEETHA THE COMIC HOSTS A GAME SHOW WHERE YOU ARE THE PARTICIPANTS!

TICKET \$10

[www.coastalislswinebar.com](http://www.coastalislswinebar.com)

Cedar Point Environmental Park

# HALLOWEEN HAUNTED TRAILS

18 25 OCT. | 6-9 PM

## SATURDAY NIGHTS

You are invited to a special night when the ghosts and monsters dance happily in the Park

\$10 PER TICKET | EARLY BIRD \$8  
UNDER AGE 6 FREE

2300 Pineda Road, Englewood, FL 34224  
[www.cedarpoint.org/halloween-at-cedar-point](http://www.cedarpoint.org/halloween-at-cedar-point)

<https://tinyurl.com/yeyjabfx>

## Veteran's Car Show at the WALL

In Punta Gorda

November 9th  
9am - 1pm \$10 Donation

Presented by Florida West Coast Car Club

- Judges Choice Trophies
- Music by Tommy Tunes
- Food Vendor
- Short Memorial Ceremony

Contact Bruce Olmsted - 941-445-3555

## Veteran Family Fun Day

November 8, 2025  
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Moose Lodge #2121  
3462 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte

### SPONSORS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presenting Sponsor—\$5,000           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free member space inside or outside, plus 20% off display location</li> <li>Handed sign with company logo</li> <li>Company logo on all event print materials</li> <li>Preceding sponsor information event space release</li> <li>Handed sign at the event</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sponsor—\$3,000           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free member space inside or outside</li> <li>Handed sign with company logo</li> <li>Company logo on all event print materials</li> <li>Preceding sponsor information event space release</li> <li>Handed sign at the event</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor—\$1,500           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free member space outside</li> <li>Handed sign with company logo</li> <li>Company logo on all event print materials</li> <li>Preceding sponsor information event space release</li> <li>Handed sign at the event</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sponsor—\$1,000           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free member space outside</li> <li>Handed sign with company logo</li> <li>Company logo on all event print materials</li> <li>Preceding sponsor information event space release</li> <li>Handed sign at the event</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Die of Honor \$200  
Registration at the event  
You get with business name  
In Kind \$

Sponsorship Deadline: Oct. 1st

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Web: \_\_\_\_\_

How money spent by Helping Heroes For Heroes (H3) is used:  
- 50% goes to support the organization's mission  
- 25% goes to support the organization's administrative expenses  
- 25% goes to support the organization's marketing and promotion expenses

Presenting Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Die of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Must provide your own tent (tablecloth). Setup will be on Nov. 8, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.  
\* Beneficiary: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittees: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fundraising: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dignity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agitation: \_\_\_\_\_  
"Every dollar counts!"

## TOY DRIVE

Monday, December 1, 2025  
7:00 AM

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STRAY CHILDREN OF ALABAMA

Free Admission with Toy Donation per person

8:00 LULU

Complimentary Appetizers, House Wine, and Beer  
101 East Punta Gorda, Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-445-3555

# Can YOU help us reach our goal?



It's been our goal from the beginning to obtain a Huey to be placed at the Vietnam Wall of South West Florida in Veterans Park

The Huey was one of the most iconic and significant helicopters of the Vietnam War. Its impact was profound on both military operations and the overall conduct of the war.

- Revolutionized Air Mobility (Air Cavalry)
- Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)
- Firepower and Gunships
- Symbol of the War
- Scale of Use

Over 7,000 Huey's were deployed during the war. More than 3,000 were destroyed, showing how widely and heavily they were used. The Huey changed how wars were fought, especially in tough environments like Vietnam. It brought speed, flexibility, and firepower to the battlefield, saved thousands of lives through medevac missions, and became a powerful symbol of both innovation and the brutal reality of the Vietnam War.

## VIETNAM WALL OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

*A community project in conjunction with*



Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida is a 501 (c)(3) Florida nonprofit corporation CH48445  
100 Nesbit Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
Tel: 941.268.4245



**Please Donate Today**

**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**

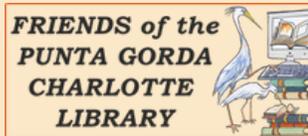
**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

**COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 23 DAYS TO GO!**

**No reason to fear, our Fright & Delight sponsors are here!**



**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@cityofpuntagordaf1.com**

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



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY**

**LEAGUE OF UNITED  
LATIN AMERICAN  
CITIZENS**

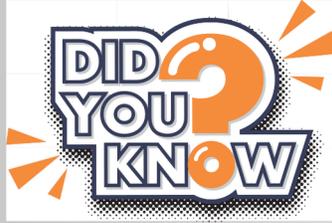
**VIRGINIA B. ANDES  
VOLUNTEER  
COMMUNITY CLINIC**



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](mailto:pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com)

(941) 639-2528

# 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) are being mailed! VBM ballots are also available over the counter from the Supervisor of Elections Office during their normal hours of operation, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto: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:

- 3336 Tripoli Boulevard Vacation Rental, 3336 Tripoli Boulevard
- Blanchard House Museum, 406 Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
- Elizabeth Ameruoso, 2511 Vasco Street
- Rhythm of Learning Montessori, 425 West Helen Avenue
- Suite Evolution, 1105 Taylor Road
- Supercuts #82945, 3941 Tamiami Trail
- Quin Vacation Rental, 561 Via Esplanade

## 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 am to 9:59 am) 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.



**THANK YOU!**

## A Big Thank You

Our utilities crews have been busy this week keeping everything flowing smoothly. From water treatment to hydrant care, their hard work ensures that our community always has safe, reliable water. We truly appreciate their dedication behind the scenes

### Water Plant Snapshot

This past week, the plant delivered 47.6 million gallons of water to the community.



That works out to about 6.8 million gallons every day, enough to fill more than 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools daily.

Our water comes from a mix of local sources and the Peace River Authority. Right now, we're receiving about 1,390 gallons per minute through the interconnect pipelines, which helps keep our supply steady.

When it comes to rainfall, the numbers are interesting this time of year. In September, we measured just over 6 inches, which is very close to what we saw last year. But October is off to a much drier start, with only 0.06 inches recorded so far compared to more than 10 inches last October. The Shell Creek Reservoir, which stores our drinking water, is holding steady at 5.44 feet. That's close to the long-term average of 5.60 feet for early October. For perspective, the lowest we've ever seen on this date is 5.02 feet and the highest is 7.05 feet.

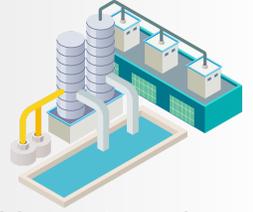
### Water Quality Update

The water's hardness is currently about 108 parts per million, which equals 6 grains per gallon. If you use a water softener at home, this is the number you'll want to know. At this level, our water is considered "hard," which means you may notice some mineral spots on dishes, faucets, or shower doors.

We also measure something called Total Dissolved Solids, or TDS. This is a way to track the minerals in the water. Right now, it's reading 279 parts per million. For context, the fifteen-year average for early October is 291, so we're right in line with what's typical.

## Wastewater Treatment

Just as important as clean water going in is making sure wastewater is safely treated on the way out. This past week, our team treated 20.15 million gallons of wastewater, which comes out to about 2.9 million gallons a day. The crews also stayed on top of regular maintenance, mowing and trimming the grounds, and even disassembled a backflow preventer to fix a leak on the plant's main line. Rainfall measured at the wastewater plant added up to just over two inches this week.



### Water Distribution in Your Neighborhood

Keeping water moving around the city takes a lot of daily effort. Here's a look at what the distribution team accomplished this week.

Our fire hydrants are always a top priority. Out of the 1,422 hydrants across the city, two received maintenance and repairs this week. Hydrants are checked, greased, painted, and flushed regularly to make sure they're ready to go if firefighters need them.

Crews also exercised 27 valves and flushed 22 hydrants to keep water fresh in the system. With all the new homes being built, one brand-new meter was installed this week as well.

In addition, 18 service requests were completed, which included things like fixing leaks, adjusting meters, and repairing line breaks caused by contractors. Two fire flow tests were also performed to ensure strong water pressure for firefighting.

For meters, our contractor Olameter is handling the reading while our in-house techs are busy improving the system. They're testing a new maintenance app and taking care of cleaning, replacing, and locating meter boxes. They're also handling shut-offs and turn-ons for accounts when needed.

That wraps up this week's snapshot of your utilities. Thanks for doing your part by reporting leaks, following watering schedules, and keeping an eye out in your neighborhood. Together, we help make sure Punta Gorda's water system stays reliable and ready for everyone.



## 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
- 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

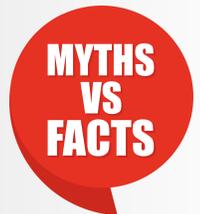
### Upcoming Employment Testing

- **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](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).

## Urban Design

### Zoning Myths & Facts Series



**Myth:** Variances are automatic.

**Fact:** Variances are not guaranteed approvals—they are exceptions to zoning regulations that are only granted under specific circumstances. Each request must meet legal criteria, demonstrate a unique hardship, and go through a review process to ensure the integrity of the zoning code is maintained.

**Lot Mowing Program** — The City will begin a new mowing cycle on October 20.

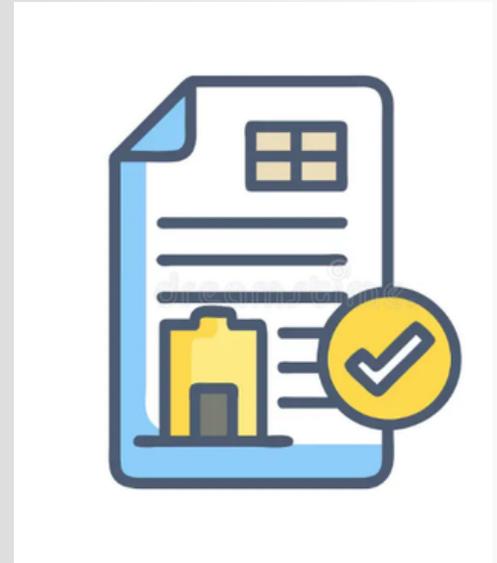


## Outside Storage – Keep It Neat, Keep It Compliant

Visible outside storage—such as tools, equipment, furniture, or materials—can take away from the beauty and character of our neighborhoods. Chapter 26 of the City of Punta Gorda Code sets standards to help keep our community attractive and orderly:

- ✓ No storage is allowed in any established yard and items must be kept at least 40 feet from any street right-of-way.
- ✓ Outdoor storage must be screened from view using a fence or privacy wall and a 30-foot-wide landscape buffer in line with Buffer Area requirements.
- ✓ Storing items in front yards, driveways, or open areas without proper screening may lead to a code violation.

Please store outdoor items in garages, sheds, or behind approved fencing and landscaping.



Let's work together to keep Punta Gorda clean, safe, and welcoming for all.

### Urban Design

#### Housing Needs in Punta Gorda

Recent hurricanes have highlighted the vulnerability of our community's housing stock. Oak Tree Village, a 30-unit tract of low-income housing, was severely flooded and destroyed. The loss of these units underscores the pressing need for a broader conversation about low-income housing, workforce housing, and what planners call the "missing middle."

Low-income housing generally refers to housing options that are subsidized or priced below market rates to serve households with limited financial resources. These units are critical for residents on fixed incomes or service workers who make up much of Punta Gorda's labor force.

Workforce housing, by contrast, is often targeted toward teachers, nurses, first responders, and other essential workers who earn too much to qualify for traditional low-income housing but still struggle finding

affordable options in today's market. Many of these essential workers currently commute from neighboring counties due to lack of options locally. The "missing middle," a term used in urban planning, describes housing types that once provided attainable options for many families—such as duplexes, fourplexes, courtyard apartments, and townhomes—but are now largely absent from modern development patterns. Reintroducing these housing forms would help fill the gap between single-family homes and larger multifamily complexes, providing scalable and context-sensitive solutions that fit within existing neighborhoods.

As Punta Gorda continues to grow and recover, identifying opportunities for low-income housing, encouraging workforce housing, and introducing "missing middle" housing types will be essential to maintaining an inclusive and resilient community.

# Public Works

## Administrative Office



Registration Opens October 1, 2025, for the Harborside Hometown University (Citizens Academy)!

Take the challenge and commit to this interactive 8-week program to discover what it takes to run the City of Punta Gorda.

Apply today to reserve your spot—we look forward to welcoming you to Harborside Hometown University (Citizens Academy). For more information, [Harborside Hometown University - \(Citizens Academy\) | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#), or contact Laurel Adelmund, Senior Executive Assistant of Public Works, at 941-575-5002.

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

- Online: Report a Problem | City of Punta Gorda, FL [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** – Canal Maintenance Crews filled 12 depressions at residences and poured 48 seawall panels.
- **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 – 20 Worksites completed. PGI currently has working in four zones overall. Active open construction sites total 22, and overall, completed a total of 238 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 6 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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.
- **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.

#### **Right of Way**

- Crews assisted with the repaving contractor
- Currently working on sidewalks at Laishley Court and completed Durrance Street

- Vactor crew worked on Gold Tree St
- Continue to work on placing anchors at the Fire Station on Aqui Esta Dr work has started on Fire Station 1, located on Tamami Trail

#### **Tiger Dams**

- Public Works crews have completed installation of Earth anchors at the Herald Court parking garage, City Hall Annex, and City Hall and have now moved operations to the Fire Station III. Once the crew completes the fire station, they will be heading over to the Public Safety Building.
- Crews are drilling 30-inch anchors into the ground under bricks and into grassy areas for future use during tidal surge events.
- Additionally, they are installing concrete anchors in the Annex parking garage and other concrete surfaces around the buildings.

**Paving Program** - The City's paving contractor has resumed road repair and resurfacing work:

- Olympia Avenue and Taylor Street (from the Event Center to US-41 North) have been milled and resurfaced.
- Taylor Street to Cooper Street has been completed.
- Tripoli to Madrid operations have begun and will continue from Tripoli to Monaco.
- Madrid will be the next street that the contractor will mill and resurface.

#### **Facilities/Parks and Grounds**

- Converting street lights on 41 to LED and repairing broken wires in the ground.
- Finished the shower remodel at Laishley.
- Continued building the desk and helped with the moving process for Urban Design and Code Enforcement departments.
- Started to work on outlets on Marion for Christmas decorations.
- Worked with ROW to install anchors for the Tiger dams
- Mowing and edging throughout the City Parks
- Completed the mowing of the Marion Median
- Made repairs to exercise equipment on Liner Park

**Sanitation**

• **Yard Waste Notice** – Have you received a notice labeled Yard Waste Guidelines on your regular scheduled yard waste collection day? The yard waste might have been left for one or more of the following.

- The debris and cans must be curbside by 5:00 am on the collection day or the evening before
- If the debris is inside a container, it must not exceed 35 pounds and not contain mulch, dirt, rocks, or similar debris or be full of water (cans must have lids)
- The container should have a lid, a metal bar across the front, and wheels to make it compatible with our tippers on the refuse trucks, or the container must have handles and a lid
- The container might be unapproved for the yard waste debris (see below)
- Plastic bags must not be used for yard waste debris
- Small loose piles must be bundled and tied with rope or string and less than four feet in length
- Debris must not be placed on a vacant lot - vacant lots do not pay for service, therefore, we do not collect debris from vacant lots (no exceptions)
- Paper lawn/leaf bags must not be ripped, wet, or over the weight limit, and must not contain unacceptable debris
- Residents are allowed only three of the following items: yard waste can, paper lawn/leaf bags, or bundles less than four feet in length



- **Yard Waste Pile Special Collection Guidelines** – As a friendly reminder, vacant lots, undeveloped properties, tree removal, lot clearing, landscape redesign, and oversized piles that exceed five cubic yards (5'x5'x5') are NOT included in the regular yard waste service provided by the city. Residents must contract a private hauler or tree company to remove the debris.
- **Yard Waste Containers** – Small loose yard waste, leaves, and grass clippings may be placed inside a container or paper bag. Containers should not exceed 32 gallons in size or weigh more than 35pounds and MUST have handles. We would prefer the containers to have a lid, wheels, and a metal bar across the front to be compatible with the tippers on the refuse trucks. Storage containers, plant pots, wheel agriculture carts, and other flimsy plastic containers are not approved yard waste containers. The City will not be responsible for unapproved containers that may be broken in the collection process.
- **Loose Yard Waste Pile** - For the yard waste pile to be eligible for the clamshell truck, it must meet the following requirement: The yard waste must be at least one cubic yard (3'x3'x3') or approximately two 96-gallon trash cans. and the pile exceeds five Cubic yards (5'x5'x5'), the resident will be required to have the debris removed by a private hauler. Please do not place piles near or under power lines or trees, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants, etc. Residents can request the special pick-up by calling the Public Works Department (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.



## Police Department

**Charlotte High School Homecoming Parade** - Charlotte High School will hold its annual homecoming parade on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The parade will leave from the Charlotte Performing Arts Center (CPAC) and head west on Carmalita Street, then north on Taylor Road to the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center. Traffic delays are expected during the parade, so drivers should consider taking an alternative route if possible.

**Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon** – On Tuesday, the police department hosted a volunteer appreciation lunch for members of the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program. Our volunteers are incredible individuals who dedicate a significant amount of time and effort to the community and the department. We are currently seeking to expand the program, so anyone interested should contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (941) 575-5535.



### New Florida Laws Taking Effect this Week

– Twenty-eight new laws took effect on October 1, 2025. Here are a few of the highlights:

- **HB 113 Fleeing Police** - The change to this law increases the possible sentence upon conviction.
- **HB 253 Motor Crimes**
  1. Driver uses prohibited lights or tries to pull another car over – Now constitutes a third-degree felony
  2. Noncriminal traffic infraction where a driver purposefully alters or covers up a license plate or vehicle registration certificate - Now classified as a second-degree misdemeanor.
  3. Person buys or owns a device to obscure his/her license plate - Now prohibited, second-degree misdemeanor.
  4. Person makes or sells a device to obscure license plates - Now prohibited, first-degree misdemeanor.
  5. Person uses a device to obscure a license plate while committing a crime or avoiding law enforcement - Now prohibited, third-degree felony.
- **HB 479 Leaving the Scene of a Crash** - Allows a court to order drivers who fled the scene of a crash after striking property to make restitution to the property's owner.
- **HB 1455 Minimum Sentencing**- Establishes mandatory minimum sentences for sexual offenders and predators if they are convicted of yet another sex crime.
- **Chaining Animals** - Makes it a felony to abandon an animal while leaving it chained up during a natural disaster.



## DO THE RIGHT THING

The October 2025 Do the Right Thing ceremony was held on Thursday at Florida SouthWestern State College, recognizing the following young people: Anthony Analetto, My'Kayla Campbell, Joey Ezell, Kevin Loether, and Joe Wright. "Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County was founded in 1995 by the late Captain Don Cerbone of the Punta Gorda Police Department. Over the last 30 years, more than 1,100 students in Charlotte County have been recognized for their academic achievements, athletic accomplishments, acts of heroism, community service, and for doing the right thing. The program's goal remains the same as it was in 1995: to instill positive attitudes and self-esteem, and to publicly recognize students for their achievements.



## Fire Department

### A Bittersweet Farewell to a True Legend

Last week was a bittersweet moment for the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department as we said farewell to one of our very best. After an incredible 17 years of dedicated service, Mr. Skip Powell has officially retired.

Skip was the backbone of our department. A true wealth of knowledge, a trusted mentor, and above all, a loyal friend to anyone lucky enough to know him. His impact on this department will be felt for many years.

Skip, thank you for your commitment, your wisdom, and your friendship. We wish you all the best as you begin this next chapter, your well-deserved retirement. You will always be part of the PGFD family.



*We will miss you*



*Thank you for reading!*