



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: NEWS THAT MATTERS

Punta Gorda's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving community spaces continues to be evident as several key projects advance across the city. Each effort represents a thoughtful investment in the safety, beauty, and resilience of our community—ensuring that the City's infrastructure and public spaces remain functional, inviting, and well-prepared for the future. From waterfront improvements to building rehabilitation, every project reinforces Punta Gorda's dedication to delivering quality services and amenities for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

At the Laishley Park Splash Pad, drainage improvements are underway to address water flow concerns that have emerged during testing of operations. The changes are necessary to improve efficiency and prevent water accumulation, helping to minimize future closures and maintenance needs. The Splash Pad remains one of Punta Gorda's most popular family attractions, and the completion of this project will ensure it continues to provide safe and consistent enjoyment for children and families for years to come.

Work is also progressing at City Hall, where the roof replacement project is moving forward on schedule. The new roof will offer improved durability and protection against the elements, helping preserve this historic structure that serves as the heart of city operations.

Completion is anticipated by November, providing greater assurance that this vital facility will remain strong and secure for the many residents, staff, and community members who pass through its doors in the future.

In addition to facility maintenance, the City continues to enhance its storm readiness through critical infrastructure improvements. The installation of Tiger Dam anchors—a key component of Punta Gorda's flood protection system—is now complete. Once fully installed, these anchors will allow city crews to rapidly deploy temporary water barriers around essential facilities such as City Hall, the Public Safety Complex, and the Herald Court Center during major storm events. This proactive effort underscores Punta Gorda's continued focus on resiliency and preparedness in the face of severe weather.

Attention is also being given to recreation and quality-of-life amenities. Quotes are in for resurfacing and fencing improvements at the pickleball courts, which have become one of the most highly utilized recreational features in the city. The planned work will ensure safer, more durable playing surfaces and provide better enclosures for players and spectators, reflecting the City's commitment to maintaining top-quality recreational facilities.

Progress is visible along the waterfront as well. Core drilling has begun for the installation of temporary fencing to open an additional section of the Harborwalk in front of the former Punta Gorda Waterfront Hotel. This expansion will reconnect another segment of the popular pedestrian and biking pathway, offering residents and visitors even greater access to the city's scenic harbor views and walkable downtown waterfront.

At Gilchrist Park, the long-anticipated restroom rehabilitation project is underway. Permits have been issued, supplies are arriving, and crews have already replaced doors to better secure the buildings. The internal components for the electrical panels that power the restrooms have also been delivered, marking another significant

step toward completion. With steady progress underway, the City anticipates the restrooms will be fully completed before Christmas, just in time for families to enjoy the park's amenities during the holiday season.

Each of these efforts demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to progress through thoughtful investment, careful planning, and community collaboration. Punta Gorda continues to move forward with a clear focus on sustainability, accessibility, and quality of place—ensuring that today's improvements will serve generations to come.

For continued updates on these and other City projects, visit www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com or follow City of Punta Gorda Government on Facebook.

Curious about new and ongoing commercial development in Punta Gorda visit <https://conta.cc/3IZnQeK>



DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #43 FOR WEEK October 19 - October 25, 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)



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>



OCTOBER IS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH



Pedestrian safety and accident prevention is everyone's responsibility. Drivers and pedestrians both have to watch out for one another.

1. Never step out into a roadway without looking for vehicles
2. Always stay alert for pedestrians when you are driving
3. When walking or running and listening to music, ensure you can still hear traffic near you
4. Be aware of how your vision might be affected by the rising or setting sun
5. When in doubt, wait before you cross a road if you are not sure it is safe

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

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

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

October

October 18
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 ACROSS NESBIT FROM THE RAY



CELTIC RAY CAR SHOW
2ND THURSDAY EVERY MONTH-2-5PM ALL MAKES AND MODELS

October 18
8 am - 12 pm
Every Saturday

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

The Market will be set up across the street from the main bus stop street. Parking will still be available across the street from the bus stop.

THE OUTSIDE BAR AT PUB WILL BE OPEN AT 10AM FOR:

- BACON, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE, EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- EGG & CHEESE PASTY-
- SAUSAGE GRAVY PASTY-
- BREAKFAST CHIPS & SAUSAGE GRAVY-
- MIMOSAS- BLOODY MARYS- ICE CUBES COFFEE- IRISH COFFEE-

CELTCIRAY.MKT



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

October 20
9 am
City County Pre-Agenda and Shade Meeting
Laishley Community Room

October 21
5 pm
Joint City Council UAB Meeting at Laishley Community Room

October 22
9 am
Council Meeting
Laishley Community Room

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

November

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

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

November 11

VETERANS DAY
Honoring All Who Served
Nov. 11



City Government Offices Closed

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

Veterans Day Weekend 2025, Laishley Park



SPONSOR TO HONOR

Honour your American or Canadian veterans and first responders by sponsoring this annual commemorative event. You can also purchase a flag, tagged with your veteran's or first responder's name, to be displayed on the field for \$40 – and yours to keep after the event.



Email: www.puntagordarotary.org/hfoh/

Call: 941-646-8820

Facebook: www.Facebook/HFOHPG



SPONSOR FORM

Company Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Sponsor Level: _____

Level: _____ **Amount:** _____

PAYBYCHECK TO:

Check#: _____

Mail to:

The Punta Gorda Rotary Charity & Education Foundation
PO Box 511132
Punta Gorda, FL 33951-1132

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Old Glory Sponsor – \$5,000

Row of 10 flags, 10 VIP seats at the ceremony, logo on field, full-page program ad, and recognition in all event promotions, social media, and websites.

Stars & Stripes Sponsor – \$2,500

8 flags, 6 VIP seats, logo on field, half-page ad, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Freedom Sponsor – \$1,000

6 flags, 4 VIP seats, logo on field, quarter-page ad, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Independence Sponsor – \$500

4 flags, logo on field, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

Liberty Sponsor – \$250

3 flags and recognition on the field and in promotional materials.

Patriot Sponsor – \$150

2 flags and recognition on the field. Let me know if you'd like a matching visual layout for a flyer or sponsorship form.



BILLING & COLLECTIONS



Want to receive your billing statement by email every month?

Want to sign-up for auto-pay?

Need to update your mailing address or phone number?

THERE'S A FORM FOR THAT!

Sold your property?

Had a leak and want to see if it qualifies for an adjustment?

Bought a new home?

Visit Our Webpage

<https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/billing-collections>

SCAN QR CODE



The screenshot shows the Punta Gorda website's "Billing & Collections" forms page. The header includes the city logo, weather (68° Partly Cloudy), and navigation links. The main content area is titled "FORMS" and lists various forms for residential and commercial use. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with options like "Account Ownership", "Customer Water Use Portal", and "Forms".

Government - Billing & Collections -

FORMS

Font Size: [+] [-] [x] Share & Bookmark Feedback [x] Print

Residential

- Change of Ownership:** Use this form to change the owner on a residential property.
- Change of Address:** Use this form to change the billing address on the account.
- Owner Adjustment Request:** This form is to request an adjustment for any leaks that may be eligible for adjustment.
- E-Billing:** Use this form to sign up to receive your monthly bills through email.
- Bank Draft Authorization:** Use this form to sign up for automatic payments to be deducted from your bank account.
- Change Current Bank Draft:** This form is for changing your current auto draft information that is already on file.

Commercial/Large Development

- Change of Tenant Commercial/ Residential Units:** Use this form to change the tenant on a commercial or residential property.
- Water & Sewer Availability:** Use this online form to inquire about water and sewer availability. A customized response may take several days due to high volume of requests.
- Temporary Hydrant Meter Installation Agreement:** Request a temporary Fire Hydrant Meter to be installed at your site.

Please e-mail your form to pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com or you may mail the form back to us at
**126 Harvey St.
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950**

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month



WHAT IS PHISHING?

Phishing is when criminals attempt to trick people into doing "the wrong thing", such as clicking a link to a dodgy website.

Phishing can be conducted via a text message, social media, or by phone, but the term "phishing" is mainly used to describe attacks that arrive by email.

Criminals send phishing emails to millions of people, asking for sensitive information (like bank details), or containing links to bad websites. Some phishing emails may contain viruses disguised as harmless attachments, which are activated when opened.



MAKE YOURSELF A HARDER TARGET

Information from your website or social media accounts leaves a "digital footprint" that can be exploited by criminals. You can make yourself less likely to be phished by doing the following:



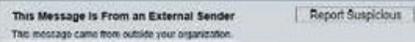
Criminals use publicly available information about you to make their phishing emails appear convincing. Review your privacy settings, and think about what you post.



Be aware what your friends, family and colleagues say about you online, as this can also reveal information that can be used to target you.



If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the IT department and report it as a suspicious email.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE ALREADY CLICKED?

The most important thing to do is not to panic. There are a number of practical steps you can take:



Contact your I.T. department immediately.



If you've been tricked into providing your password, you should change your passwords on all of your accounts

TELL TALE SIGNS OF PHISHING

Spotting a phishing email is becoming increasingly difficult, and even the most careful user can be tricked. Here are some tell tale signs that could indicate a phishing attempt.



Is the email addressed to you by name, or does it refer to "Valued Customer" or "friend"? this can be a sign that the sender does not actually know you.



Does the email contain a veiled threat that asks you to act urgently? Be suspicious of words like "Send these details within 24 hours" or "You've been a victim of a crime, click here immediately".



If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It's most unlikely that someone will offer you designer trainers for \$10.00, or codes to access movies for free.

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 ~ 9 DAYS TO GO!

 **Spooky good eats courtesy of our Buzzworthy Bites co-sponsors!** 



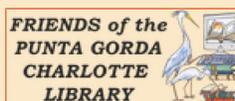
**LESKOVICH
LAW GROUP, P.A.**



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



 **Charged with gratitude for our Punta Gorda Powerhouse & Custom sponsors!** 



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



NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL



SAT, OCT 25, 2025

PUNTA GORDA CHARLOTTE LIBRARY

1:00 - 4:00 PM

COUNTDOWN TO FALL FEST ~ 9 DAYS TO GO!

WELCOME OUR NEWEST TRICK OR TREAT PARTNERS!



**American
Red Cross**

AMERICAN RED CROSS

**SOUTH FLORIDA
REGION**

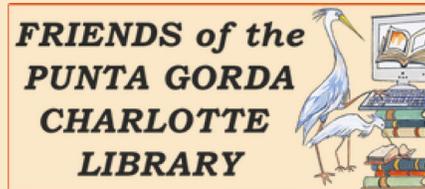


**The Bread
of Life Mission**
SERVING HOPE, ONE LIFE AT A TIME

**BREAD OF LIFE
MISSION**



**C.A.R.E. CENTER FOR
ABUSE AND RAPE
EMERGENCIES**



**FRIENDS OF THE
PUNTA GORDA
LIBRARY**



**NEW LIFE IN CHRIST
CHURCH**

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



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





Florida's Harborside Hometown

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

City Clerk



Florida's Harborside Hometown

Signature Update – Did you know your signature can change significantly over the years? If you are concerned yours needs to be updated, stop by the Supervisor of Elections' Office (226 Taylor Street, Unit 120, Punta Gorda, FL 33950) before you turn in your ballot.

Vote-by-mail and Over-the-counter 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.

Your Vote is More Powerful Than You Think.

In our standalone City elections, turnout is often low. This creates a unique opportunity for engaged residents like you. When fewer people vote, your single ballot carries much more weight and has a greater influence on the final outcome. As of Thursday, October 16, election turnout to date is 989 of 15,400 voters. That represents just 6.42% of all eligible voters.

A small group of committed voters can truly steer the future of our city. Let's make sure that direction reflects our entire community. Don't miss your chance to have a major impact; be a voter!

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@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:

- **Mia Sutter Esthetician**, 6210 Scott Street, Unit 216
- **LTZ Holdings Vacation Rental**, 316 Coldeway Drive, Building 29

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.



When it comes to water quality, the current hardness is 188 parts per million, or about 11 grains per gallon. That means our water is considered "hard," which simply means it contains natural minerals like calcium and magnesium. These minerals don't affect safety, they can leave some harmless spots on glassware.

Utilities Weekly Highlights

This week, our Utilities team stayed busy keeping Punta Gorda's water and wastewater systems running strong. Thank you to our hardworking crews in Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Wastewater Collections, and Wastewater for their dedication, and thanks to our residents for your continued support and patience while we perform these essential tasks that keep our city flowing smoothly!



Water Plant Snapshot

The Water Treatment Plant delivered 48 million gallons of clean water to our community, about 6.9 million gallons a day.

Rainfall has been light so far this month, just 0.20 inches compared to 10.38 inches last October, so we're keeping a close eye on weather patterns as the dry season approaches. The dry spell means we're keeping a close eye on reservoir levels and water quality.

Speaking of the Shell Creek Reservoir, it's currently sitting at 5.21 feet, which is very close to our long-term average for this time of year (about 5.38 feet). For comparison, the lowest level on this date record is 5.04 feet, and the highest was 6.34 feet.

We also track total dissolved solids (TDS), which tells us how many minerals are in the water overall. Right now, we're at 453 parts per million, a bit higher than our 15-year average of 308 ppm. This is still well within normal and safe levels, but it's something we monitor closely to keep your water tasting its best. Overall, our water quality looks healthy and steady.

Wastewater Treatment

Behind the scenes, our Wastewater Treatment team treated 17.08 million gallons of water this week, an average of 2.44 million gallons a day. The plant also saw about 0.4 inches of rain. Crews stayed busy mowing, trimming, and performing regular maintenance around the plant and remote stations.

The team completed repairs to the North tank at the Booster Pumping Facility, which is now back in service. They also replaced a 6-inch watermain backflow preventer that had a faulty valve; a new unit is on the way under warranty.

Water Distribution

Our Water Distribution crews continue to protect the City's water system through inspections, maintenance, and customer service.

The Cross-Connection Control Program added 170 new sites to the database this week, helping ensure backflow prevention devices are properly installed and certified.

The city maintains 1,422 fire hydrants, each inspected and serviced annually. We've launched our new hydrant maintenance program, and two hydrants received repairs this week.

Crews also exercised 17 valves, flushed seven hydrants, installed four new meter sets, and handled 17 service requests, including leak repairs and meter box replacements. They even tackled a line break caused by an aging section of pipe.

As for meters, the city continues to read all meters manually while our engineers finalize bid details for the new system that will replace our previous AMI technology. In the meantime, Olameter is performing reads, and our techs are cleaning and maintaining boxes and performing service turn-offs and turn-ons as needed.

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)

Benefits Coordinator, HR

- A professional position responsible for performing highly technical, professional, and analytical work of considerable difficulty including coordinating and administering the City's benefit portfolio including medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance; ADA initiatives and requirements; and paid and unpaid time-off programs.. Assists in risk management, wellness programs, safety programs, and ADA initiatives and requirements.

Evidence Crime scene Technician

- Members of the Punta Gorda Police Department are appointed to the position of Evidence / Crime Scene / Investigative Support Technician. Positions share on call status and are designed to provide backup and support to each other. Duties include processing, transport, and maintain control, custody, and security over the inventory of evidence that comes under the purview of the Punta Gorda Police Department. Handles all paperwork processes in regards to said inventory of evidence.

Utilities Maintenance Worker III, Waste Water Treatment Plant

- A skilled laborer position responsible for the maintenance and repair of waste water treatment plant equipment and systems. Duties include plumbing repairs, maintaining grounds and buildings, maintenance on pumps, compressors, and other mechanical equipment

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.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** -The police department regularly conducts testing for new hires to prepare for upcoming openings. Applications are currently being accepted for the Public Safety Dispatcher position. The exam will be held virtually from October 8 to November 7, 2025. Applications must be submitted by Friday, October 31, 2025.
- **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



Community Character & Livability

How Zoning Shapes Our City

Zoning isn't just about rules and regulations—it's a tool that helps shape the look, feel, and function of our neighborhoods. From preserving Punta Gorda's natural beauty to creating vibrant, connected streets and managing practical needs like parking, zoning plays a key role in maintaining the character and livability of our community.

Over the next few weeks, this series will explore how zoning impacts:

- **Environmental Protection:** How thoughtful land use preserves trees, waterfronts, and open spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- **Walkable Neighborhoods and Mixed-Use Development:** How zoning encourages neighborhoods that are lively, accessible, and well-connected.
- **Parking Requirements:** Why parking standards matter, how they influence design, and when they can be adapted to better fit the community.

Whether you're a resident, business owner, or just curious about the rules behind the city's design, this series will provide insights into how zoning helps Punta Gorda remain a beautiful, functional, and enjoyable place to live.

Sponge Cities

As Punta Gorda expands its traditional infrastructure, it also increases its amount of asphalt and concrete, commonly known as impervious areas. These impervious areas reduce the space for water to percolate or drain away, and also contribute to higher urban temperatures known as the "heat island effect."

In an effort to reduce the heat island effect and flooding, certain development strategies were created and first introduced in China to counter the negative impacts after severe flooding in Beijing in 2012. The actions taken by the City of Beijing would later be identified as "sponge city" redevelopment.

Sponge cities are urban spaces that have an abundance of natural areas with trees, lakes, parks, or any other landscaped designs intended to absorb rain and prevent flooding. As climate change brings increasingly heavy storms and floods, cities are looking for new ways to be more like giant sponges that allow water to be collected and drained away safely. The use of more natural ways of absorbing stormwater, such as landscaping and retention areas, are about 50% more affordable than man-made solutions, like underground vaults, and are 28% more effective.

A sponge city is not a single technology that can be applied to solve flooding issues, instead it is more like a toolbox. The use of different water storage technologies, most being low-tech, can be utilized depending on the circumstances to create a sponge city approach. The sponge city toolbox includes absorbent surfaces such as green roofs, green facades, parks, rain gardens, impervious pavement, and swales. Swales are areas of



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle is currently under way and is scheduled to be completed this week.

greenery with permeable soil layers underneath, and they act as shallow drains to capture rain and stormwater runoff. By using a mixture of these tools, a city can develop a customized approach to becoming more of a sponge city.

Projects that add more park area, trees, and other greenery that contribute to natural drainage can boost a city's ability to absorb stormwater and make it more flood- and drought-resilient. The added green space provides increased areas to collect stormwater during rainfall safely. Technically, sponge city technologies are just water storage, much like a cistern or a reservoir. Absorbent green areas can clean polluted stormwater from the streets and surrounding landscapes to make sure it does not infiltrate the drinking water sources, or any other bodies of water.

Sponge city technologies are similar to many approaches worldwide: United Kingdom-Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), Australia-Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), Denmark-Landscape Stormwater Management, and Singapore-Active, Beautiful and Clean (ABC). Just like sponge cities, these approaches are not designed to be a short-term solution, but are intended to be a long-term contribution that can result in many positive benefits for the city.



Tree City USA – Growing a Legacy of Urban Canopy

Did you know that the City of Punta Gorda has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for 25 years? This achievement is due in large part to the commitment and dedication to urban forestry shown by former Planning Director Joan LeBeau. The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors cities and towns across the nation that demonstrate a strong commitment to managing and expanding their public trees.

To earn this designation, a community must meet four (4) standards: Establish a tree board or department, adopt a community tree ordinance, invest at least \$2 per capita in urban forestry, and celebrate Arbor Day each year.

Punta Gorda was last officially recognized as a Tree City USA community in 2017. Since then, the City has not pursued re-certification due to the significant amount of staff time required and the series of major storms that have impacted our community, beginning with Hurricane Irma in 2017 and continuing through several subsequent disasters. As a result, Punta Gorda has remained in a near-constant state of recovery, with staff efforts focused on rebuilding and restoring damaged infrastructure and landscapes.

Despite these challenges, the principles of the Tree City USA program remain deeply aligned with Punta Gorda's values and long-term planning goals. The designation promotes healthy urban forests, enhances property values, improves air and water quality, provides shade and beauty, and fosters civic pride. For a community like ours, known for its waterfront parks and walkable neighborhoods, maintaining a vibrant tree canopy is both an environmental and aesthetic investment in our quality of life.

With help from nonprofit partners such as TEAM Punta Gorda, the Historic Punta Gorda Civic Association, Punta Gorda in Bloom, Punta Gorda Garden Club, and Punta Gorda Isles Green Thumbs, the City continues to recover and plan for future resilience. Urban Design staff are exploring opportunities to re-engage with the Tree City USA program, as renewing this designation would reaffirm Punta Gorda's commitment to sustainability and preserving the natural character that makes our community such a special place to live.

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
- Phone: 941-575-5050

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

- **Canal Maintenance** – Canal Maintenance Crews filled 23 depressions at residences and poured 4 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 4 zones overall. Active open construction sites total 17, and overall, completed a total of 243 worksites. [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)
- Status report as of August 2025 for percentage complete in PGI is at 73%
- Canal Maintenance Staff has taken over the duties for Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement construction engineering inspections as of 8/1/2025.
- Staff is working hard on work order requests related to depressions, seawall caps, and seawall seams for repairs. Work orders are mostly generated from homeowners calling in and by staff doing seasonal inspections of the seawalls.
- **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.
- **Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has launched a program that helps connect boat owners in need of temporary docking with others who have available dock space. To learn more or participate, visit the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance website at boat2puntagorda.org and click on the Dock Match button.
- **Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Laying sod marks the final phase of seawall replacement construction. According to the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for maintaining and establishing the sod once it has been installed. The City will not reimburse water costs incurred during this process.
- **Seawall Canal Assessment** - The City Seawall Program has awarded a construction extension contract for Marine Construction Group. Work will begin in May.

- **Stabilizing Erosion** — This is a friendly reminder for property owners to routinely inspect the condition of any tarps or plastic covering eroded areas. Over time, exposure to sunlight can cause these materials to become brittle and break down. Using plastic during rain events can help protect the soil and minimize further erosion.
- **Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with damaged seawalls. The city code states that vessels in the canals shall be slow at speed with minimum wake in the waterways within the city limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlets are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.

Engineering

City Hall Roof - Roof replacement work at City Hall and the Council Chambers is progressing steadily. Crews are currently installing the torch-down cap sheet, followed by flashing installation on the parapet walls. Tear-off has begun on the final roof section, which will be dried in for inspection. Please use caution near the site, as some areas may be temporarily closed due to construction and equipment movement.

Tiger Dams - Public Works has completed the installation of Earth anchors at several key locations: Herald Court parking garage, City Hall Annex, City Hall, Fire Station III, and the Public Safety Building. Crews will soon be placing large stones around the anchors to protect the tie-down hooks.

Gilchrist Park Bathrooms - The contractor has obtained all necessary permits and begun work. Two new doors have been installed to improve access to both bathroom facilities.

Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Repaired broken underground wires for the street light on East Olympia Avenue
- Started the repair of broken underground wires for street light on 41 South between Marion Avenue and Olympia Avenue.
- Continued to complete work orders on multiple city buildings.
- Continued building the desk and helped with the moving process for Urban Design and Code Compliance.
- Repaired irrigation on US 41.
- Repairs have been made to the entry gate at Ponce Park.
- Crews continue to install anchors at Public Safety for Tiger Dams.
- Crews started the core drilling project for walkway fencing at Gilchrist Park.

Right of Way

- Crews have begun the alleyway project at Berry Street.
- Asphalt repairs around the city are ongoing.
- Crews have installed sonic tube lighting at Gilchrist Park.
- Sign crews continue to repair and replace signs as received from the County.
- Mowing crews are completing mowing throughout the city.
- The vector crew is working weekly on clearing the storm drain pipe.

Sanitation

Oversized Loose Yard Waste Piles – As a friendly reminder, vacant lots, undeveloped properties, tree removal, lot clearing, landscape redesign, and oversized piles that exceed 5 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. Submitting a request for a special pick-up does not guarantee the debris will be collected if it exceeds the size limitations.

Tree Removal – Tree removal and lot clearing are NOT a part of your regular service. If you have a whole tree removed, you must first contact Urban Design to obtain a permit (941)575-3372 or Tree Removal Permit Request | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us). The company that removes the tree or the property owner is responsible for hauling away the remains. The City does not collect whole tree remains, lot clearing remains or landscape remodels.

Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility

– 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. Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL (charlottecountyfl.gov)





Police Department

VIP Program – The police department is pleased to welcome three new members to our Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program. The Volunteer Bike Team's two new members are Jane Bodine and Rhonda Phillips. The Volunteer Marine Unit has added Joseph Stern to their rolls. The VIP program contributed a total of 561 hours of volunteer work to the City of Punta Gorda in September 2025. Our volunteers are an essential part of this police department, and we truly appreciate them! We are still looking for new members for our VIP Car Patrol program, so community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5535 or via email at vip@pgorda.us.

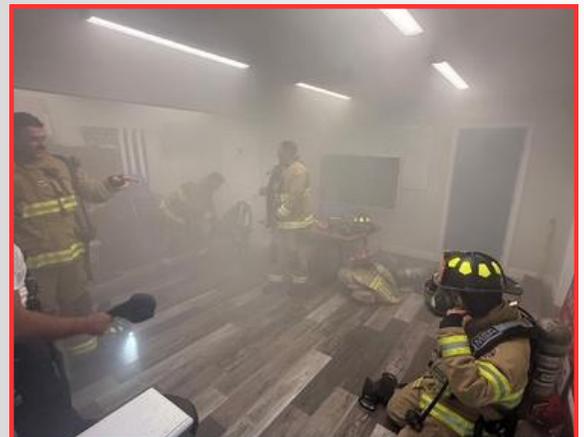




Fire Department

B-Shift conducted a search and rescue training utilizing a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) to search for victims within our fully charged, smoke-filled training facility.

TICs are essential tools during search and rescue emergencies, allowing firefighters to quickly locate victims or identify heat sources such as fire, in environments with little to no visibility. This training is important for both firefighter safety and victim survivability during real emergencies.



Fire Department

Monthly Activity

Report

Fiscal Year 2025

September 2025

Classification	This month SEPTEMBER 2025	This month SEPTEMBER 2024	FY 2025 YTD	FY 2024 TOTAL	% PRIOR FY
FIRE					
Structure	1	0	20	19	105.3
Vehicle	0	3	10	13	76.9
Brush	0	1	17	25	68.0
Other	1	5	25	26	96.2
Mutual aid responses	1	6	82	109	75.2
False alarm - Fire	19	21	224	142	157.7
Hazardous conditions	6	2	98	86	114.0
Good intent	22	24	213	252	84.5
Severe weather/disaster	0	22	3	1	300.0

EMS/RESCUE					
EMS	245	201	2877	2776	103.6
False alarm - Medical	3	3	52	44	118.2
Trauma alerts	0	3	11	13	84.6

PUBLIC SERVICE					
Smoke detector-residences	30	15	341	325	104.9
Agency assist	3	9	36	54	66.7
Lift assist	49	29	485	549	88.3
Service call (other)	2	7	78	69	113.0
Marine Responses	0	0	6	23	26.1
Medicine take-back (lbs)	125	90	1663	1874	88.7

FIRE PREVENTION					
Fire permits issued	21	24	158	185	85.4
Fire permit inspections	23	32	336	353	95.2
Annual inspections	1	2	49	19	257.9
In-Service inspections	35	38	885	686	129.0
Business Tax inspections	0	0	17	16	106.3

Fire Department

Classification	This month SEPTEMBER 2025	This month SEPTEMBER 2024	FY 2025 YTD	FY 2024 TOTAL	% PRIOR FY
PUBLIC EDUCATION					
Adults	0	0	38	121	31.4
Children	0	0	86	63	136.5
VOLUNTEER HOURS	157.5	149.5	2904	2460.5	118.0

Thank you for reading!