



MELISSA REICHERT  
City Manager

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

Punta Gorda is ready to celebrate the season in true community style with two can't-miss events that bring together the spirit of fall, the joy of creativity, and the excitement of Halloween. The Neighborhood Fall Festival returns on Saturday, October 25, 2025, followed by the Historic District's traditional Trick-or-Treating Night on October 31. Both events promise fun for all ages while keeping safety, family, and community connection at the forefront.

The City of Punta Gorda and Punta Gorda Charlotte Library are proud to host the second annual Neighborhood Fall Festival. This free, family-friendly event will feature food, games, trick-or-treating, a costume contest, and more. Mark your calendars for a wicked good time celebrating community with our neighbors and friends.

The Neighborhood Fall Festival will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the back lawn of the Punta Gorda Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve Street. Hosted by the City and an incredible lineup of more than 30 nonprofit organizations, this annual celebration is one of the most anticipated family events of the year. Guests can enjoy cool treats provided by the Punta Gorda Masonic Lodge, food and beverages, creative crafts, and candy-filled fun throughout the afternoon. Library staff will keep creativity brewing with special craft activities, and families can explore booths hosted by community partners offering games, giveaways, and festive surprises.

The highlight of the day is sure to be the Costume Contest, taking place at 3:00 p.m. on the library's back lawn. Participants are encouraged to dress to impress and join one of four frightfully fun categories: Little Monsters (ages 0–11), Teen Terrors (ages 12–17), Boo Crew (Group/Family), and Scream Kings & Queens (Solo/Partner Adults). Spectators are encouraged to cheer on their neighbors, snap photos, and enjoy the playful competition as contestants strut their spooky shine. A special thank-you goes out to all the sponsors and volunteers that make this event possible.

Then, just a few days later, the fun continues downtown when Trick-or-Treating Night takes over on October 31. Families are invited to stroll the streets of Punta Gorda, where businesses and residents will be handing out candy to little ghosts and goblins. To ensure everyone's safety, several street closures will be in place during the evening.

Street closures include: W. Retta Esplanade eastbound; W. Marion Avenue from Cross Street to Shreve Street; and the following streets between W. Retta Esplanade and W. Marion Avenue: Harvey Street, Durrance Street, Gill Street, Gilchrist Street, McGregor Street, Chasteen Street, Dolly Street, Berry Street, and Sarah Street. Harvey Street will close at 9 a.m.

on October 31, while all other streets will close beginning at 5 p.m. and reopen by 10 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to plan alternate routes and watch for pedestrians throughout the evening. The City of Punta Gorda thanks the community for its cooperation and invites everyone to enjoy a safe, family-friendly Halloween experience.

Be sure to check out the City's Weekly Highlights Report to find flyers highlighting even more incredible events to celebrate the season

hosted by businesses, Chambers of Commerce and local Non-Profits. Each week the report is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/3myzjyu2>.

With free ice cream, creative crafts, costume contests, and candy galore, there's no better time to celebrate the season. From the library lawn to the lively streets of downtown, Punta Gorda's fall festivities are a true reflection of our community's warmth, creativity, and spirit.

*Dr. Missy*

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

### POSTAGE WITH A PURPOSE

Make every letter count. Choose Breast Cancer Research semi-postal stamps to help power life-saving research. <https://tinyurl.com/3pnjj8uz>



#### DISTRICT ONE DISTRICTWIDE ROADWATCH REPORT #44

**FOR WEEK October 26 - November 1, 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://fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf)



The City of Punta Gorda has implemented **Alert Punta Gorda**, an emergency public notification system. This system allows the City of Punta Gorda to contact the entire community or to target specific areas in case of an emergency or for urgent situations that require the public's immediate attention such as natural disasters (hurricane warnings or fires), man-made disasters (chemical spills or gas leaks), search and rescue situations (missing children or endangered adults), sexual offender alerts, etc. Users can choose how they want to receive time-sensitive alerts. You can choose to receive alerts on your home or business phone, mobile phone, email, text message, or more based on your settings. Need to sign up for a new Alert Punta Gorda account and choose your alert settings? **Sign Up for Alert Punta Gorda**. Already have an account and need to make changes or update your information? Log In to Alert Punta Gorda <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/public-safety/alert-punta-gorda>



## FALL SEASONAL SAFETY TIPS



It is that time of the year when we start to see lower temperatures outside, less daylight hours for work and play, increases in cold and flu, and the changing of clocks and our sleep patterns. Please take extra precautions to stay safe.

1. If you are driving, make extra efforts to see others, especially pedestrians and cyclist
2. If you are outside early mornings or late afternoons, wear bright or reflective clothing so you are visible to drivers
3. If you work outdoors, make sure you are planning for the weather and temperature changes throughout the days and season
4. Take care of your health and the health of others by washing your hands frequently. And if you are taking medication for cold or flu, make sure it is not affecting your ability to be safe when driving or at work
5. Get plenty of rest and good nutrition to help stay healthy and alert

# 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 25**  
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 25**  
8 am - 12 pm  
Every Saturday

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

The Market will be set on across the street from the Punta Gorda street parking lot will be available from 8am-12pm starting at 9:00 am and up.

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 DIRISH COFFEE - IRISH COFFEE.

CELTCRAY.NET



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

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

**November**

**November 8**  
11 am - 5 pm  
**Veteran Family**  
**Fun Day**  
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

**November 17**  
9 am  
**City County Pre-**  
**Agenda and Shade**  
**Meeting**  
**Laishley**  
**Community Room**

**November 19**  
9 am  
**Council Meeting**  
**Laishley**  
**Community Room**

**November 27**  
**Thanksgiving**  
(observed) City  
Government  
Offices Closed

**November 28**  
**Day after**  
**Thanksgiving**  
City Government  
Offices Closed



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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 Piccola Road, Clearwater, FL 34626  
[www.halloweenatcedarpoint.com](http://www.halloweenatcedarpoint.com)

<https://tinyurl.com/yejyabfx>

**13 Years of Terror!**  
 5000sf Legendary Haunted House  
**At The Celtic Ray**  
**HAUNTING ON THE HARBOR**  
**Haunted House**  
**At The Celtic Ray**  
**OCT 24-25-26-31-NOV 01**  
 Hours- 7pm to 11pm all nights  
 except Oct 26- 7pm to 10pm  
 General Admission - \$15.00  
 Limited Fast Passes each night- \$25.00  
 The Haunting on the Harbor Haunted House is a Fundraiser for the Florida Outdoor Education Foundation and helps fund non-profit, charitable, and youth sports in Charlotte County  
**HAUNTED HOUSE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT**  
**[www.PuntaGordaHaunting.com](http://www.PuntaGordaHaunting.com)**  
 Advance Tickets available at Outdoor Republic, Rio Villa Rd, Punta Gorda

**DIANA'S CUTTING EDGE SALON & BOUTIQUE**  
**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
 1133 BAL HARBOR BLVD  
**OCTOBER 31ST, 2025 FROM 5PM TO 8PM**  
**TRUNK OR TREAT IN THE PARKING LOT**  
**FOOD MUSIC & FUN - MUSIC BY THE SALTY CRACKERS**

**HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT**  
 Mariners and Car Club members anticipate an evening of spirited music by the Salty Crackers, classic cars & a parade of ghosts and goblins. Wear something ghouly yourselves (optional). Bring a car, BYOB, and a treat. Diana's Cutting Edge is collecting donations and raffle or bring it to the event. See you there!  
**OCTOBER 31**  
**5-8 PM**  
 Bal Harbor & Agui Esta Blvd parking lot  
 Salty Crackers Band

## November 1 & 2, 2025 2025 Florida International Airshow at the Punta Gorda Airport



[Airshow Event](#) | [Florida International Airshow](#) | [Florida](#)

**Sip & Savor**  
 Beyond Ourselves, a community service organization of the PGICA, is excited to announce new Fall fundraising events you will NOT want to miss!  
 Join us for ONE or BOTH of these interactive culinary evenings benefiting the Peace River Wildlife Center and the Charlotte CARE Center (formerly known as the Humane Coalition).  
 Tickets: \$90.00 each or \$175.00 for both events  
 Attendance is limited to 50 people per event. Doors open at 5:45 PM.

<b>Beer &amp; Bites: A Taste of Ireland at the Celtic Ray</b> DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 TIME: 6-8 PM LOCATION: 141 East Main Street, Punta Gorda, FL	<b>Wines from Around the World at Coastal Isles Wine Bar</b> DATE: Saturday, November 8, 2025 TIME: 6-8 PM LOCATION: 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Suite 1133, Punta Gorda, FL
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The Sip & Savor events will feature:  
 • Four (4) tasting pours per person paired with thoughtfully selected small bites  
 • A tasting presentation by knowledgeable beverage experts  
 • Raffle baskets + \$100 cash raffle and silent auction items  
 • LIVE entertainment by the Jim-Erics, a local acoustic guitar duo  
 • Opportunity to purchase additional food and drinks (at your own expense) after the presentation

**Get Your Tickets Today!**

Scan the QR code with your phone | Visit our website at [PGICA.org/Beyond\\_Ourselves](http://PGICA.org/Beyond_Ourselves)

NOTE: The event at the Celtic Ray will be held in the upstairs bar space and is only accessible by stairs.

**Veteran Family Fun Day**  
 November 8, 2025  
 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Moose Lodge #2121  
 3462 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte

**SPONSORS**

<b>Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000</b> Free vendor space inside or outside plus 20% off display location Unlimited sign and banner space Complimentary gift and raffle baskets Complimentary sponsor information in event program Recognition in the event	<b>Sponsor - \$1,000</b> One vendor space inside Unlimited sign and banner space Complimentary gift and raffle baskets Complimentary sponsor information in event program Recognition in the event
<b>Sponsor - \$3,000</b> Free vendor space inside or outside Unlimited sign and banner space Complimentary gift and raffle baskets Complimentary sponsor information in event program Recognition in the event	<b>Dive of Honor - \$200</b> Unlimited sign and banner space Complimentary gift and raffle baskets Complimentary sponsor information in event program Recognition in the event

**50-50 RAFFLE**  
**November 9th**  
 9am - 1pm \$10 Donation  
 Presented by Florida West Coast Car Club

**Judges Choice Trophies**  
**Music by Tommy Tanes**  
**Food Vendor**  
**Short Memorial Ceremony**  
 Contact: Bruce Olmstead - 941/445-2656

**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 Tanes**  
**Food Vendor**  
**Short Memorial Ceremony**  
 Contact: Bruce Olmstead - 941/445-2656

CCVC provides Veteran assistance in coordination of Veteran activities, buses to take Veterans to VA facilities, Ryan Fund provide money assistance to needy Veterans, promotion County Veteran Parks, and linked to Charlotte County Government (Commissioner Stephen R. Deutch).

**TOY DRIVE**  
 Monday, December 1, 2025  
 5pm - 7pm

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF PUNTA GORDA

Free Admission with Toy Donation per person

Complimentary Appetizers, House Wine, and Beer  
 101 East Riva Espalada Punta Gorda FL 33950  
 (813) 634-0799

# 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



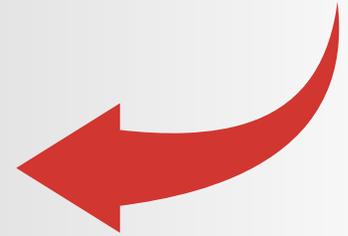
**Please Donate Today**

# Veterans Day Weekend 2025, Laishley Park



## SPONSOR TO HONOR

Honor 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.



## SPONSOR FORM

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAY BY CHECK TO:

Check#: \_\_\_\_\_

### Mail to:

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

**Email:** [www.puntagordarotary.org/hfoh/](http://www.puntagordarotary.org/hfoh/)

**Call:** 941-646-8820

**Facebook:** [www.Facebook/HFOHPG](http://www.Facebook/HFOHPG)

## 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

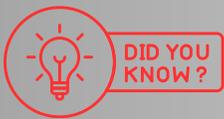
4 flags, logo on field, and recognition in event promotions, social media, and websites.

### 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



**Punta Gorda**  
Florida's Harborside Hometown

68° Partly Cloudy    Font    Translate

QUICK LINKS    SEARCH

Home    About    Government    Services    Residents    Visitors    I Want to...

▼ Billing & Collections

- Account Ownership
- Customer Water Use Portal
- Forms**
- Location of Utility Billing Payment Drop Box
- Paperless Billing & Payments
- Rate Calculator
- Water & Wastewater Rates

Government » Billing & Collections »

## FORMS

Font Size:    Share & Bookmark    Feedback    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](mailto: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:



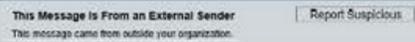
Criminals use publicly available information about you to make their phishing emails appear convincing. Review your privacy settings, and think about what you post.



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.



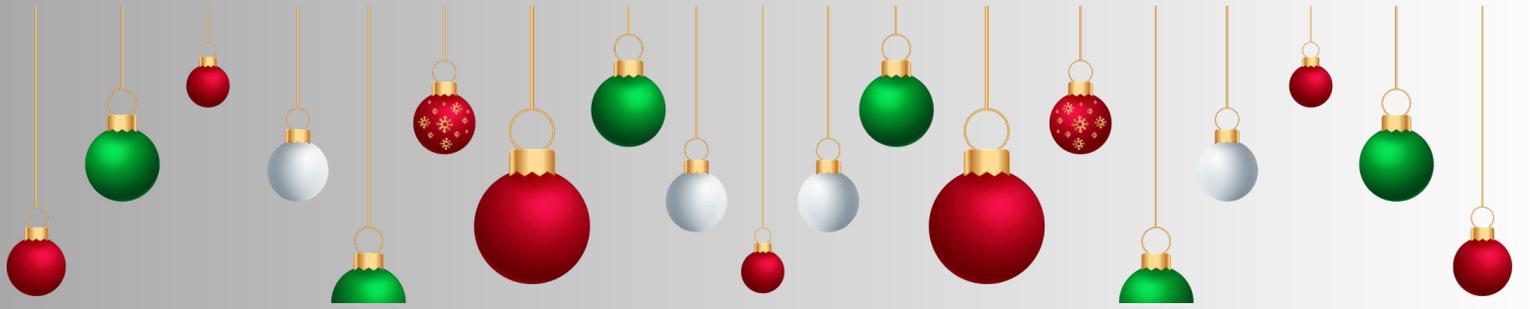
Is the email addressed to you by name, or does it refer to “Valued Customer” or “friend”? this can be a sign that the sender does not actually know you.



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.



 **Countdowns and Cozy Vibes**

 **Prep the Joy and Sparkle**

 **Holiday Magic Is Just Around the Corner**

### Santa's 2025 Holiday Schedule at Fishermen's Village

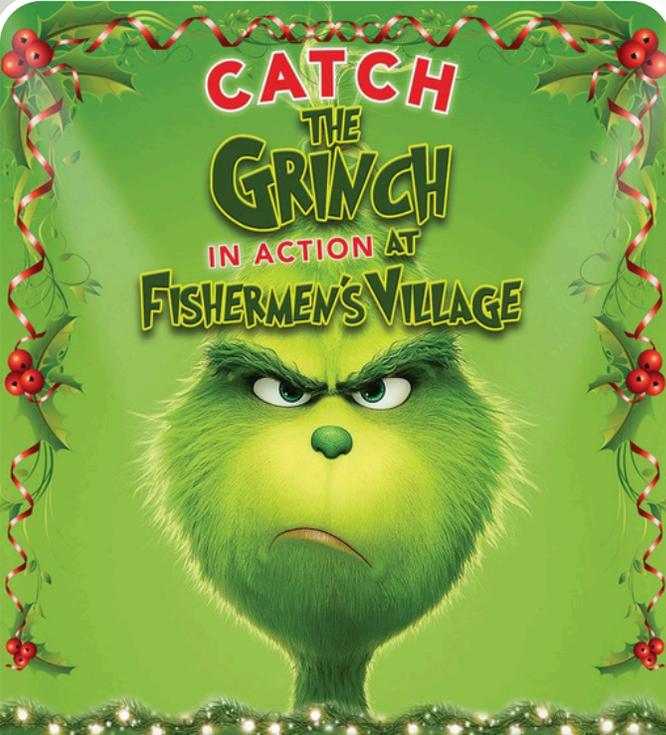
*Saturday, November 15:  
Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus until 9 pm following "Lighting of the Village"*

Sunday, November 16:	12-4 pm
Friday, November 21:	4-8 pm
Saturday, November 22:	12-4 pm
Sunday, November 23:	12-4 pm
Friday, November 28:	12-4 pm
Saturday, November 29:	12-4 pm
Sunday, November 30:	12-4 pm
Friday, December 5:	11-3 pm
Saturday, December 6:	3-7 pm
Sunday, December 7:	12-4 pm
Friday, December 12:	3-7 pm
Saturday, December 13:	12-4 pm
Sunday, December 14:	12-4 pm
Friday, December 19:	4-8 pm
Saturday, December 20:	12-4 pm
Sunday, December 21:	12-4 pm
Monday, December 22:	5-8 pm
Tuesday, December 23:	2-6 pm
Wednesday, December 24:	12-4 pm



**BRING YOUR CAMERA TO CAPTURE THE MOMENT**

### CATCH THE GRINCH IN ACTION AT FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE



**BRING YOUR CAMERA AND TAKE A PHOTO WITH  
THE GRINCH DURING THE FOLLOWING DATES/TIMES!**

 **Sat, Nov. 15** 

*Visit the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who until 9 pm following "Lighting of the Village"*

Friday, November 21:	4-8 pm	Friday, December 12:	4-8 pm
Saturday, November 22:	5-8 pm	Saturday, December 13:	5-8 pm
Friday, November 28:	4-8 pm	Friday, December 19:	4-8 pm
Saturday, November 29:	5-8 pm	Saturday, December 20:	5-8 pm
Sunday, November 30:	4-6 pm	Sunday, December 21:	4-6 pm
Friday, December 5:	4-8 pm	Tuesday, December 23:	4-8 pm
Saturday, December 6:	5-8 pm	Wednesday, December 24:	12-4 pm



## OCTOBERS PROCLAMATIONS AND SERVICE AWARDS

As the month of October unfolds, the City of Punta Gorda proudly pauses to give thanks to recognize the dedication, integrity, and service that define our community and its employees. October reminds us to reflect on all we've accomplished together and to celebrate the people who make it possible. From public safety and public works to administration and community services, every department plays a vital role in keeping Punta Gorda a vibrant, welcoming, and beautiful place to live, work, and visit.

We honor our Service Award recipients, whose dedication and years of service exemplify excellence in public service. Your contributions help shape Punta Gorda's success and strengthen the community spirit that makes our city truly special.

As we give thanks this month, let us celebrate the teamwork, compassion, and resilience that continue to move our city forward. Together, we build not only a strong workforce, but a lasting legacy of service, honor, and civic pride.

We also extend our deepest appreciation to our military veterans, whose courage, sacrifice, and devotion to our nation continue to inspire us. Their spirit of service reminds us of the strength that comes from selflessness and commitment to others values we proudly uphold in our city's mission every day.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to all who serve in our departments, in our community, and in our armed forces. Your dedication makes Punta Gorda shine brighter every day.

Mayor Lux presented the proclamation to Ms. Solemi Hernandez. The proclamation declares October 6 through October 12, 2025, to be Florida Climate Week.



Councilmember Lockhart presented the proclamation to Nanette Leonard. The proclamation declares October 8, 2025, to be Adeline Leonard Seakwood Day.



**15 Year Service Award** - Matthew Keeney, Lab Technician, Water Treatment Plant, Utilities.  
Thank you Matt!



Councilmember Polk presented the proclamation to Ava Lasseter, Mangrove Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society Board President. The proclamation declares October 2025 to be Florida Native Plant Month.



### Southwest Florida Honor Flight Month

The Council proudly proclaimed November 2025 as Southwest Florida Honor Flight Month.



### Children's Grief Awareness Month

In a moving proclamation, the Council recognized November 2025 as Children's Grief Awareness Month

### Punta Gorda Woman's Club Centennial

A special proclamation was presented to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Punta Gorda Woman's Club.



**Proclamation**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Fishermen's Village**  
The Lighting of the Village for Festival of Life

**Proclamation**  
November 9 - November 11<sup>th</sup>  
The Healing Field of Honor weekend



**Proclamation**  
Declaring November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day



**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.

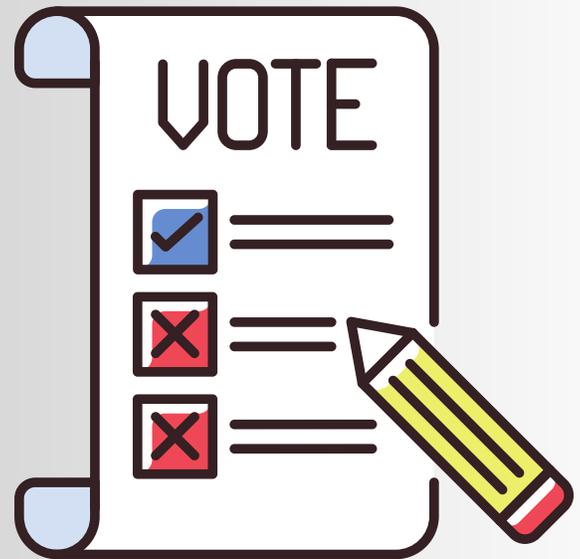
**Vote-by-mail and Over-the-counter Ballots** – Vote-by-mail (VBM) are being mailed! VBM ballots are also available over the counter from the Supervisor of Elections Office during their normal hours of operation, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In order to receive a VBM ballot, you 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](mailto:businesstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or call us at (941)575-3369.



# 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.



The Shell Creek Reservoir ss currently sitting at 5.14 feet, which is just below our long-term average for this time of year (about 5.27 feet). For comparison, the lowest level on this date record is 5.02 feet, and the highest was 5.93 feet.

Rainfall has been light so far this month, still at only 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.

## 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 54.1 million gallons of clean water to our community, about 7.7 million gallons a day.

Our Shell Creek Reservoir has moved into Block 1 of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's minimum flow and level limits. This means our surface water withdrawals are now limited to 3.4 million gallons per day. When combined with the 4.0 million gallons per day we can produce from our Reverse Osmosis Plant, the city currently has a total water production capacity of 7.4 million gallons per day. Even with this limit, our system remains capable of meeting daily demand while protecting the health of the creek and surrounding environment.

According to the latest update from drought.gov, about 65.36 percent of Charlotte County, including the entire City of Punta Gorda, is currently experiencing abnormally dry conditions. While this is not yet classified as a full drought, it does mean that rainfall has been below normal and the area is starting to feel the early signs of dryness. Residents may notice lawns drying faster and soils holding less moisture. These conditions highlight the importance of following local watering schedules and using water efficiently to help conserve our community's resources as we move further into the dry season.

When it comes to water quality, the current hardness is 96 parts per million, or about 7 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.

We also track total dissolved solids (TDS), which tells us how many minerals are in the water overall. Right now, we're at 240 parts per million, a bit lower than our 15-year average of 325 ppm. We continue to monitor this to keep your water tasting its best. Overall, our water quality looks great.

### **Wastewater Treatment**

Behind the scenes, our Wastewater Treatment team treated 17.11 million gallons of water this week, an average of 2.444 million gallons a day. The plant didn't record any rainfall this week. Crews stayed busy mowing, trimming, and performing regular maintenance around the plant and remote stations.

### **Water Distribution**

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

Our Cross Connection Control Program helps keep Punta Gorda's drinking water safe. This program, required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, makes sure water cannot flow backward into the public system. That backward flow, known as backflow or back siphonage, could allow contaminants to enter the water supply if not properly controlled.

To prevent this, our team regularly surveys and inspects homes and businesses to confirm that the correct backflow prevention devices are installed and certified. We are also updating Chapter 17 of the City Ordinance to include the Cross Connection program, which will strengthen local protections and ensure every connection stays safe and compliant.

There are 1,422 fire hydrants in the city's water service area and each one is inspected and tested annually. We also do extensive vegetation control around all hydrants. This would have consisted of greasing, weed control, exercising, flushing and painting. We completed maintenance and repairs on seven hydrants. Now that the contract is in place for a company to come in to do maintenance and map out the hydrants I have assigned an employee to keep these in compliance.

Crews also exercised eight valves, flushed and fire flow tested three hydrants, installed five new meter sets, and handled 12 service requests, including leak repairs and meter box replacements. They even tackled a line break caused by an aging section of pipe. 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](http://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.

### **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 Oct. 2025. Applications must be received by Oct. 17, 2025. The written exam will be completed online between Oct. 24 and Oct. 31, 2025, and oral board exams will be conducted on Nov. 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 Oct 8 to Nov. 7, 2025. Applications must be submitted by Oct. 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

### **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

### **Maintenance Worker I, Right of Way**

Entry level position responsible for a wide variety of construction, maintenance, and operations work using equipment and tools. Work includes roadway repair, laying pavers, installation of sidewalks and driveway, mowing and edging, and installation of traffic signs.

### **Operator A, Wastewater Treatment plant**

Skilled and licensed technical position responsible for the proper plant operation and monitoring of the treatment process of a Waste Water Treatment Plant.

### **Engineer, Utilities**

Professional position responsible for Utilities Engineering and providing technical engineering services for City utilities construction and improvement projects.

### **Project Engineer, Public Works**

Highly technical engineering position responsible for the planning, designing, permitting and managing of public works projects as well as providing a high level of technical expertise for the various facets of public works projects to see the projects through from inception to completion.

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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 <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/i-want-to/apply-for/city-police-department-employment> or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us)

# Urban Design

## Zoning & Environmental Protection: Preserving Natural Spaces

A city's character is shaped not only by its streets and buildings, but also by its natural environment. Thoughtful zoning helps protect trees, waterways, and open spaces, ensuring that communities remain beautiful, functional, and resilient.

### Preserving Trees and Green Space

Zoning standards often include requirements for tree preservation and landscaping. These rules maintain urban canopies, reduce heat, manage stormwater, and improve air quality — all while enhancing the visual appeal of neighborhoods.

### Protecting Waterways and Wetlands

Development near rivers, lakes, and wetlands is guided by zoning regulations that maintain natural buffers and minimize environmental impact. By controlling setbacks and impervious surfaces, these standards help protect water quality and local ecosystems.

### Balancing Growth and Sustainability

Zoning provides a framework for responsible growth. Tools such as open space requirements, conservation zoning, and environmental overlays encourage development that works with, rather than against, the natural landscape.

Through thoughtful land use planning, cities can grow while preserving the natural spaces that contribute to a healthy, vibrant, and livable community.



## Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda-Special Residential Overlay (SRO)

Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM—no permit needed during those hours!

Need to park overnight? You'll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can't be combined to extend your stay.



**Lot Mowing Program** — The lot mowing cycle was completed on October 21.

## Boat & Trailer Parking in Punta Gorda

Love getting out on the water? Just a quick reminder about boat and trailer parking rules in the City of Punta Gorda:



Residents can park one watercraft in their driveway or in the public right-of-way (off the pavement) between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM—no permit needed during those hours!

Need to park overnight? You'll need a no-cost Watercraft Parking Permit, which allows overnight parking for up to two consecutive nights. Permits can be requested up to four times per year, and can't be combined to extend your stay.

**Be a part of our Kayaking and Watersports Survey** — a quick and easy way to help shape the future of fun on our beautiful waterways. Tell us what you enjoy most, what could be improved, and what would make Punta Gorda’s blue spaces even better. This short survey will help us understand community interest, preferred locations, and potential demand for additional amenities like jet ski rentals and other watersport options.

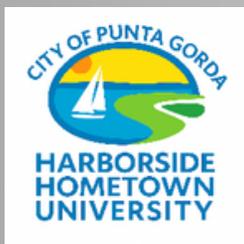
Your feedback will play an important role in shaping how we partner with local businesses and design programs that reflect the interests of both residents and visitors. Together, we can create safe, fun, and accessible opportunities to get out on the water and experience the best of Punta Gorda’s natural beauty.

Click the link below or head over to urban designs section of the city website to take part in our survey and have your voice beheard!  
<https://forms.gle/UW16od4fiVGzKF6d8>



# 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 Crews filled 41 depressions at residences and patched 11 seawall caps, and manufactured 20 seawall panels.

**Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects** – Currently, there are a total of 19 open construction worksites with a total of 246 completed. Remaining PGI Isles work zones in SW, NW1, NW2, and NE2 with a crane and barge designated for seawall repairs. [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.

**City Seawall Program** – A total of 2 worksites completed, and work is pending to start on Osprey.

·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](http://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. 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. The plumbing has begun to be worked on at the Harbor Walk restroom. The electricians have begun to clean out the circuit panel and reinstall the breakers. The contractor plans to start installing the Hardie Boards on the walls at the end of the week.

### Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Rebuilding one of the electrical panels at Gilchrist Park
- Continuing to work on Hurricane repairs
- Completing miscellaneous work orders around the City
- Started the pressure washing of the gazebo area at Veterans' Park
- Working on repairs of Christmas wreaths for the downtown area

- Trimming of plants downtown around the City Clock
- Planted new grass in Linear Park
- Finished painting new wall caps at Gilchrist Park

### Right of Way

- Crews will be setting up for the Harvest Festival on Shreve Street
- Vactor work and drain catch basin inspections completed
- Crews replaced a driveway apron on Trabue Avenue and Berry Street
- Crews have removed a large palm tree on the 700 block of Marion Avenue



## 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 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. 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.

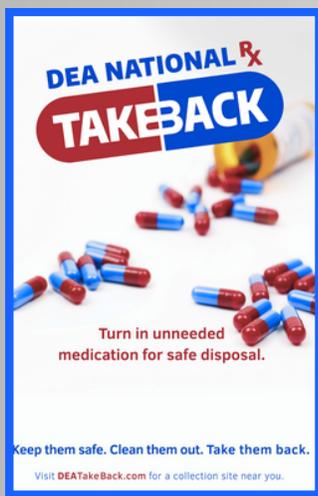
**Mid-County Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facility** – Residents are allowed 12 free visits per fiscal year (October 1 - September 30). Recycling and household hazardous waste do not count towards the 12 visits. Proof of county residency is required. Residents need to bring a valid form of identification 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



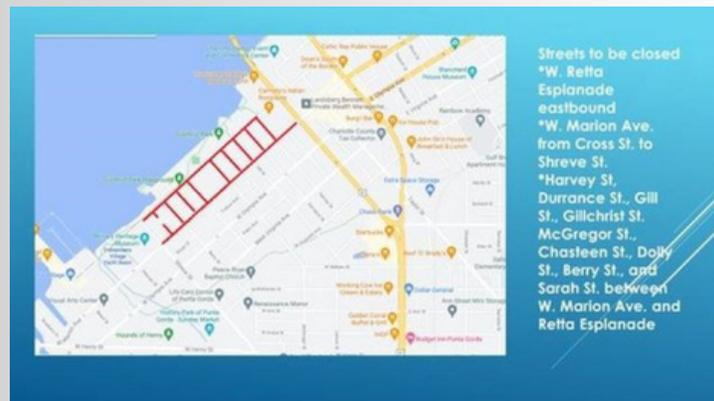
**National Drug Takeback Day** – This Saturday, October 25, 2025, is National Drug Takeback Day. This is a great time to get rid of any unneeded or expired medications in your medicine cabinet. The Punta Gorda Police Department will again partner with our friends at Drug Free Punta Gorda to collect prescription medication in the lobby of the Punta Gorda Public Safety Building at 1410 Tamiami Trail from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



**Traffic Alert** ⚠️ - This Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 11 am to 12 pm, we expect a large number of motorcycles participating in a bike run through Punta Gorda. Please watch for motorcycles and be prepared for possible traffic delays during that time, as traffic is expected to be heavier than usual.



**2025 Historic District Halloween Event** - On Friday, October 31, 2025, the Historic District will host its fun-filled Halloween celebration. The area between Cross Street and Shreve Street, stretching from West Retta Esplanade to West Olympia Avenue, will be lively with festivities. To ensure everyone's safety, Marion Avenue will be closed to vehicle traffic from Cross Street to Shreve Street. Several nearby side streets—Harvey Street, Durrance Street, Gill Street, Gilchrist Street, McGregor Street, Chasteen Street, Dolly Street, Berry Street, and Sarah Street—will also be temporarily closed from West Retta Esplanade to West Olympia Avenue. Additionally, the eastbound lane of West Retta Esplanade will be closed, but the westbound lane will stay open to keep traffic flowing into Punta Gorda Isles. Public Works will kindly close these roads at 5:00 pm and reopen them around 9:00 pm, depending on the number of visitors attending the celebration. If you are a resident, you'll be able to drive through the closed streets with an officer's help—just be ready to show a valid ID with your address. We look forward to a safe and festive night for everyone!





## Fire Department

### What an Honor and Humbling Opportunity

City Fire, in partnership with Southwest Florida Honor Flight, had the privilege of escorting some of our local veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit our Nation's memorials.

Thank you to Firemedic Alex Davenport, Firemedic Jerod Jones, Firemedic Tammy Sherkus, Dr. O'Leary, Firemedic Xavier Finnerty, Training Chief Justin Bala, and Fire Inspector Angelina Coleman, who were honored to accompany our heroes and provide medical support throughout the journey.

Being part of such a meaningful experience was truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who helped make this trip so memorable.



## Driving in Fog

Across Southwest Florida, we are seeing an increase in vehicle accidents related to fog conditions. Driving in heavy fog is like driving with a blind fold on. Statistically, it is the most dangerous driving hazard in existence.

### 2014 FLORIDA DRIVER'S HANDBOOK

#### 5.31 - Reduced Visibility

You must turn on your low beam (dim) headlights when driving between sunset and sunrise, including the twilight hours between sunset and sunrise or between full night and sunrise. **You must also use these lights during any rain, smoke or fog. Parking lights do not meet requirements of this law.**

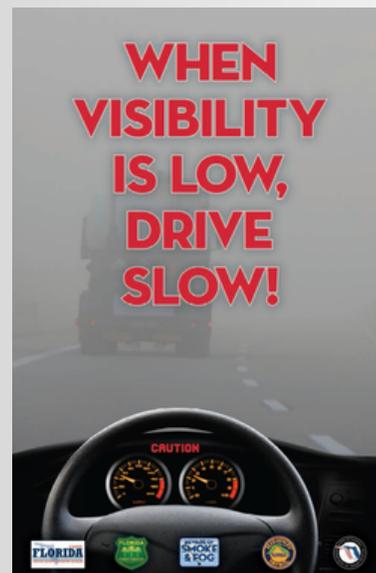
#### 5.31.1 - Fog or Smoke

Wildfires, smoke, fog and heavy rain can lower visibility on the roads. It is important for drivers to drive as safely as possible in these conditions.

Safety tips on driving in low visibility:

- Drive with lights on low beam. High beams will only be reflected back off the fog and actually impair visibility even more. Your lights help other drivers see your vehicle, so be sure they all work. Keep your windshield and headlights clean, to reduce the glare and increase visibility.
- Slow down - and watch your speedometer - before you enter a patch of fog. Be sure that you can stop within the distance that you can see. Fog creates a visual illusion of slow motion when you may actually be speeding. Speed is a major factor in fog-related crashes.

- Watch out for slow-moving and parked vehicles. Listen for traffic you cannot see. Open your window a little, to hear better.
- Reduce the distractions in your vehicle. Turn off the radio and cell phone. Your full attention is required.
- Use wipers and defrosters liberally for maximum visibility. Sometimes it is difficult to determine if poor visibility is due to fog or moisture on the windshield.
- Use the right edge of the road or painted road markings as a guide.
- Be patient. Avoid passing and/or changing lanes.
- Signal turns well in advance and brake early as you approach a stop.
- Do not stop on a freeway or heavily traveled road. You could become the first link in a chain-reaction collision. If you must pull off the road, signal (people tend to follow tail lights when driving in fog), then carefully pull off as far as possible. After pulling off the road, turn on your hazard flashers (hazard lights should only be used when you pull over to show that you are parked on the side of the road). Move away from the vehicle.
- Check traffic conditions before traveling, by dialing 511 or visiting [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com).



*Thank you for reading!*