



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

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

In the City of Punta Gorda, maintaining the charm, safety, and quality of life that residents and visitors value so deeply depends on a partnership between the community and city departments. One of the most visible and essential teams upholding those standards is the City's Code Compliance Division. Often misunderstood as simply "enforcement," the division's primary focus is education, assistance, and prevention—helping residents and property owners understand local codes so issues can be resolved before they become violations.

Code Compliance operates under the Zoning Department within the Urban Design Division. Staff work daily to ensure properties throughout the City comply with the regulations that keep neighborhoods clean, safe, and visually appealing. These codes address a variety of topics such as property maintenance, overgrown lots, debris, signage, and unpermitted uses. While each case is different, the common goal is the same—to preserve the community's appearance and protect property values for everyone.

Much of the work begins with outreach and education. When a potential violation is identified either through routine inspections, citizen reports, or referrals from other departments officers make every effort to communicate with property owners. They provide clear information about what is out of compliance and how it can be corrected. The majority of residents respond

quickly once they understand the requirement, and most cases are resolved voluntarily without the need for formal hearings or fines.

However, in situations where violations remain unaddressed, Code Compliance follows a structured process outlined by Florida Statute and local ordinance. Notices of violation are issued, providing property owners a specific timeframe to correct the issue. If compliance is not achieved, the case may proceed before the Code Enforcement Board. The body has the authority to impose fines or liens, though this is always considered a last resort. The City's priority is cooperation and education, not punishment.

It's important to note that Florida law governs how complaints can be accepted. Under Florida Statute 162.06(1)(b), code enforcement officers are prohibited from initiating an investigation based solely on an anonymous complaint. The complainant must provide their name and address before a case can be opened, unless the potential violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare, or there is visible evidence of a violation from a public right-of-way. This state requirement ensures transparency and fairness while maintaining accountability in the complaint process.

One of the most significant areas of focus in recent years has been post-hurricane recovery.

Following hurricanes such as Ian, Helene, and Milton, Code Compliance has played a key role in balancing compassion with community standards—helping residents navigate debris removal, permitting for repairs, and timelines for rebuilding. Staff coordinate closely with Building, Fire, and Public Works personnel to ensure safety while supporting residents through challenging circumstances.

The department also takes a proactive approach to beautification and community engagement. Programs like lot mowing for vacant properties and collaboration with homeowners' associations help prevent code issues from arising. Through regular public outreach, Code Compliance reminds residents that maintaining a property in good repair isn't just a requirement—it's a reflection of pride in the community.

To further enhance transparency, the City provides online tools for reporting potential violations and tracking cases. Residents can submit concerns, view updates, and even upload photos directly through the City's website at www.cityofpuntagordafl.com. This accessibility helps ensure that everyone has a voice in preserving the unique character of Punta Gorda's neighborhoods.

Ultimately, Code Compliance is about more than rules and regulations—it's about partnership, accountability, and community pride. Punta Gorda's beauty, safety, and small-town character depend on the shared responsibility of every property owner and resident. By working together to keep our city clean, safe, and well-maintained, we continue to honor the vision that makes Punta Gorda "Florida's Harborside Hometown."

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

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 #45 FOR WEEK November 2 - November 8, 2025 District One is twelve counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, and Sarasota Click on the link below for updates from FDOT road watch [fdot-district-one-roadwatch.pdf](#)



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

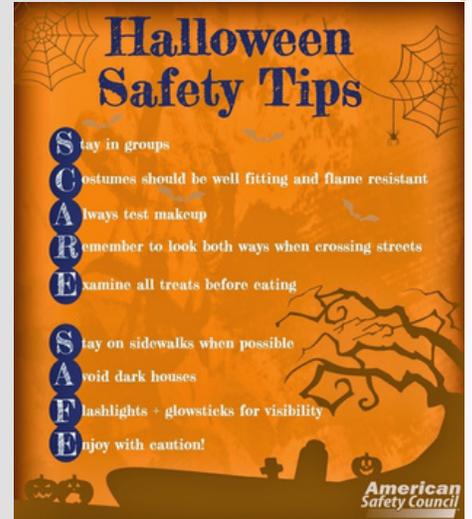
HAVE A SAFE NIGHT OF HAUNTING

SAFETY
FIRST

Whether you are taking your kids/grandkids out for trick-or-treating, going to a spooky Halloween party, or staying home to handout candy, please be safe. Our community has so much to offer and we want to see everyone enjoy themselves.

- ALWAYS KEEP AN EYE ON TRAFFIC WHEN CROSSING INTERSECTIONS
- IF YOU ARE DRIVING, PLEASE BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND NEVER DRINK & DRIVE
- KEEP YOUR WALKWAYS CLEAR OF EXTENSION CORDS, DECORATIONS, OR OTHER TRIPPING HAZARDS
- WATCH YOUR LITTLE GHOULS AND GOBLINS
- CHECK YOUR CANDY/TREATS BEFORE ANYONE EATS THEM

SAFETY
FIRST



🌕🍂 Fall Back Time Change Alert! 🍂🌕

On Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 2:00 a.m., the U.S. officially “falls back” one hour, ushering in brighter mornings, darker evenings, and a few days of collective confusion about what time it really is.

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/>

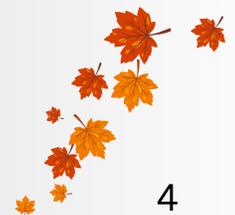
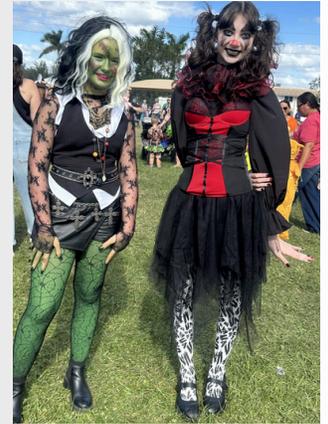
The Visual Arts Center for events visit [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)

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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING CITY STAFF

Thanks to our amazing City Staff Volunteers and community support, this year's festival welcomed close to 500 attendees, up from about 200 last year! Your hard work and enthusiasm helped our celebration grow bigger and better than ever.



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

November

November 1
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

November 1
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 Pub on Nesbit Street. Parking will still be available across Nesbit street starting at 7:30am and on.

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 D RISH COFFEE - IRISH COFFEE.

CELTCIRAY.MKT



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
Laisley Community Room

November 17
10 am
City Council
Workshop - Utilities
Impact Fees
Laisley
Community Room

November 19
9 am
Council Meeting
Laisley Community Room

November 27
Thanksgiving
(observed) City
Government Offices
Closed

November 28
Day After Thanksgiving City
Government Offices
Closed

November 29
10 am - 5 pm
Sullivan St Arts and Craft
Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 chair, BYOB, and a treat. Diana's Cutting Edge is collecting donated candy to bring it to the event. See you there!

OCTOBER 31 5-8 PM
Bal Harbor & Aquin Esta Blvd parking lot

Salty Crackers Band

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

Located in Punta Gorda across from The Celtic Ray Public House corner of Harbor Ave & Harbor St.

HAUNTED HOUSE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT 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

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 KNEE or SCOTT at these interactive culinary evenings benefiting the Ponce River Wildlife Center and the Charlotte CARE Center (formerly known as the Homeless 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.

Beer & Bites: A Taste of Ireland at the Celtic Ray
Wines from Around the World at Coastal Isles Wine Bar

DATE: Thursday, October 21, 2025
TIME: 6-8 PM
LOCATION: 145 East Main Street, Punta Gorda, FL

DATE: Saturday, November 1, 2025
TIME: 6-8 PM
LOCATION: 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., Suite 1100, Punta Gorda, FL

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, a \$0/\$50 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

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

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

EXPERIENCE THE THRILL

UNITED STATES NAVY Blue Angels

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

Veteran Family Fun Day

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

Moose Lodge #2121
3462 Loveland Blvd., Port Charlotte

SPONSORS

**** Presenting Sponsor - \$5,000
*** Sponsor - \$1,500
** Sponsor - \$500
* Sponsor - \$100
Drive of Honor - \$200
In Kind \$

Sponsorship Deadline: Oct. 31

Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Helping Veterans & Families
with their Family Fun Day
at the Moose Lodge #2121
in Port Charlotte, FL

Key: Dignity & Union
GULF PINES
LEMON BAY

Phone: (813) 481-4300
Phone: (813) 481-4300
Phone: (813) 481-4300

Dignity
"Every effort remembered"

veteran's Car Show at the WALL

in Punta Gorda

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

Presented By Florida West Coast Car Club

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

Contact Bruce Olmsted - 941/445-3555

PGIC provides Veteran assistance in coordination of Veteran activities, buses to take Veterans to VA facilities, Ponce Fund provide money assistance to needy Veterans, promotion County Veterans 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 Donations per person

Complimentary Appetizers, House Wine, and Beer

101 East Rents Expwy., Punta Gorda, FL 33990
(813) 481-4300

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



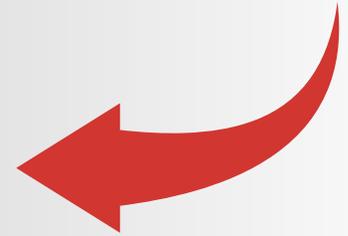
Please Donate Today

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/

Call: 941-646-8820

Facebook: 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.

Christmas Cheer

2025

Once again, the City of Punta Gorda Fire Dept. & Police Dept. have united with several local business partners, Civic clubs, and City Residents to give back to the children of our community. We are providing for a group of pre-kindergarten students at Baker Center School and several local families in need.

If you would like to help spread Christmas Cheer, please feel free to provide a Wal-Mart gift card of any value or unwrapped new toy. Drop off will be at the Public Safety Building

1410 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Last year we provided all the students at Baker Center School with a Christmas toy, a cozy blanket, and a book.

Our group efforts also provided independent local families with toys and 2 Foster Homes were supported separate from the Baker Center kids with Christmas Cheer gifts last year.

We are always trying to go bigger and be able to sponsor even more children and their families in our community but we can only do this with your generous support.

For any questions please contact:

TJ Smith Tjsmith@cityofpuntagordafl.com

Justin Davoult Jdavoult@cityofpuntagordfl.com

Jadilyn Heldenbrand Jheldenbrand@pgorda.us

Angelina Ezzi Aezzi@cityofpuntagordafl.com

Or CALL 941-575-5529

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Thank you

Punta Gorda Fire & Police

Christmas Cheer 2025

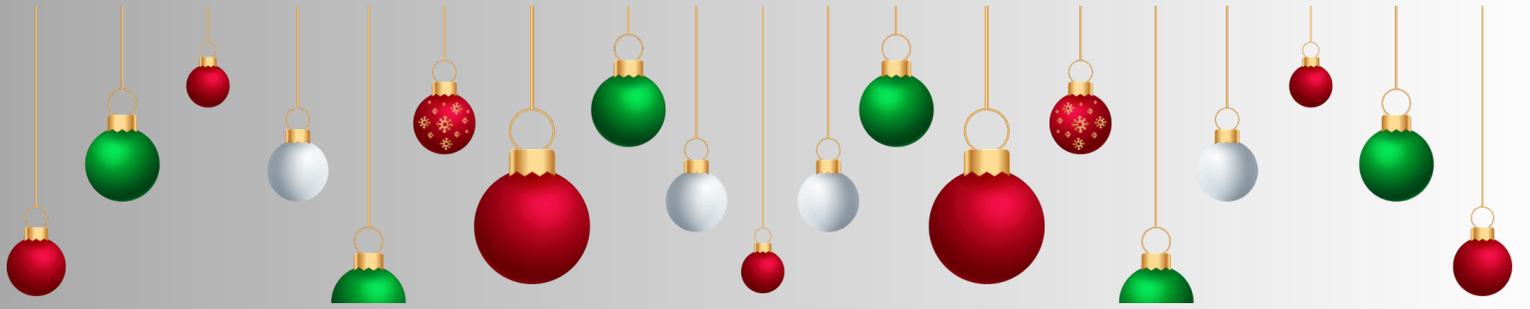
Many people have asked us in the past, "What can I do? What can I bring?" First, we would like to say thank you for donating and we appreciate all donations big and small.

The list below is a summary of the children's Christmas wish list toys as these particular toys duplicate each year with this age groups of children.

All toys should be new and in its original packaging with a price range of \$20 maximum. Please do not pre-gift wrap the toys. All toys should be age appropriate for 5 years old and under. We have babies 6-9 months old also so baby toys are appreciated. We please ask that no shooting toys, knife toys, and no face make up toys are included.

- Baby dolls for girls of all ethnic groups with clothes, Doll Houses, and assorted accessories
- Superman, Batman, Spiderman, GI Joe, Black Panther
- Minnie Mouse dolls and Mickey Mouse Dolls
- Dinosaurs, Farm Animals, Mega blocks for little kids
- Barbie's, Disney Princesses, Encanto, Moana, Frozen, Etc.
- Winnie the Pooh toys, Toy Story toys
- Basketballs, Footballs, Soccer balls
- Toy dump trucks, Fire trucks, Police cars, and Racecars
- Paw Patrol stuffed animals and toys

THANK YOU!



🎄 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

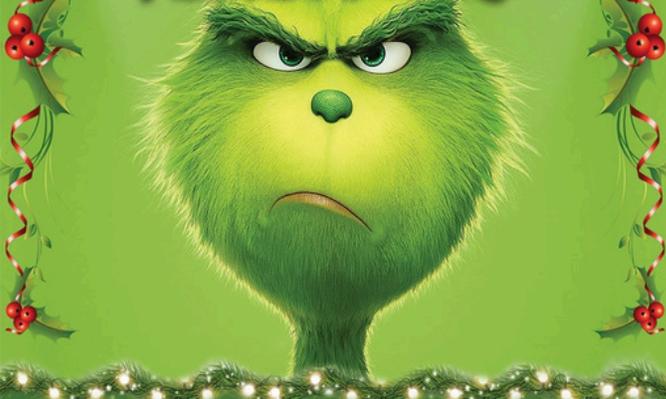
*Saturday, November 15:
Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus until 9 pm following "Lighting of the Village"*

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



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.

Over-the-counter Vote-by-mail Ballots – VBM ballots are available over the counter from the Supervisor of Elections Office during their normal hours of operation this coming Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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 30, election turnout to date is 1,970 of 15,400 voters. That represents just 12.79% 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!

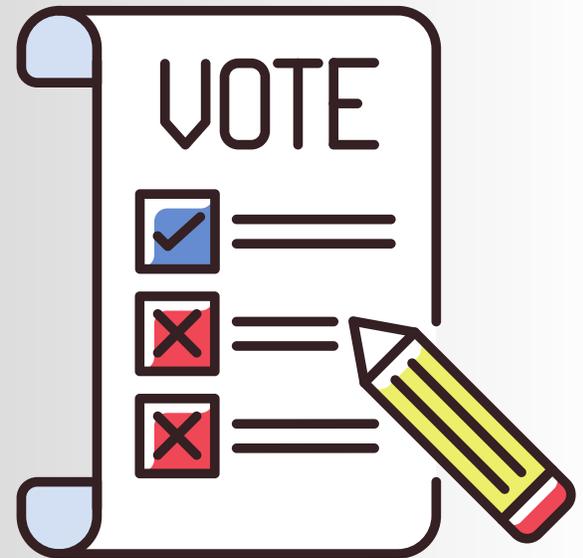
2025 Election Day

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, marks Election Day in the City of Punta Gorda. The race on the ballot is for the District 5 City Councilmember. All registered voters of the City of Punta Gorda are eligible to vote in this election no matter what City district you live in. Not sure what polling place you are assigned to? Check where to report on Election Day on the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections website.

Current Board and Committee Vacancies – If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application. Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet in in Council Chambers, which is currently located at the 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:

- **Burg'r Bar**, 317 Tamiami Trail, has transferred ownership.



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.



Water Plant Snapshot

Our Water Treatment Plant has been busy this week! Over the past seven days, we delivered 52.9 million gallons of clean water to homes and businesses throughout the city. That's an average of about 7.5 million gallons each day keeping taps flowing, lawns green, and coffee pots full.

The Shell Creek Reservoir is currently sitting at 5.11 feet, which is close to the long-term average of 5.23 feet for this time of year. For comparison, the record low for October 30 was 4.98 feet and the record high was 5.77 feet.

Rainfall has been light this month, with only 0.40 inches so far in October 2025, compared to 10.38 inches last October. This lower rainfall means every drop we conserve helps stretch our water supply a little further.

When it comes to water quality, the total hardness currently measures 108 parts per million, or about 6 grains per gallon. That puts our water in the "hard" category, which means you might notice a few mineral spots on your faucets or glassware. If you use a water softener that number helps you set your system correctly.



We also keep a close eye on total dissolved solids (TDS)—a measure of the minerals in the water. As of October 30, the TDS level was 271 parts per million, with readings this month ranging between 241 and 470. For context, the fifteen-year average for this date is around 344 ppm, so we're running a little below normal right now. Overall, our water remains clear, safe, and great-tasting.

The Peace River Authority Interconnect continues to move water smoothly through the system, with about 1,390 gallons per minute flowing both from the new interconnect and into the tank on Highway 17.

Wastewater Treatment

Behind the scenes, our Wastewater Treatment team has been hard at work making sure everything that goes down the drain is safely and responsibly treated. This week, the plant processed 17.1 million gallons of wastewater, averaging 2.44 million gallons per day.

Crews have also been keeping the grounds in top shape with regular mowing and trimming. The team replaced a 6-inch water main backflow preventer that was causing venting issues, ensuring smoother operation moving forward. Staff also attended training on the new clarifier tanks and drives, which will help improve efficiency and reliability.

Rainfall at the plant site was minimal this week, totaling just 0.2 inches.

Water Distribution

Our Water Distribution team stayed busy out in the community, keeping our water system strong and reliable.

As part of the Cross Connection Control Program, staff continue to inspect and verify backflow prevention devices on both commercial and residential connections. This ongoing effort protects our drinking water from potential contamination and keeps us in line with Florida Department of Environmental Protection standards.

Crews gave some extra attention to our city's 1,422 fire hydrants, completing maintenance and repairs on 17 hydrants this week. They also handled four valve exercises, two hydrant flushes, and two fire flow tests to ensure everything is ready in case of emergency.

With new construction popping up around the city, our team installed two new meter sets this week and handled 15 service requests, including leak repairs, meter adjustments, and pressure checks.

We're still in the process of upgrading from our old AMI meter system. For now, all meters are being read manually by our contractor, Olameter, while our in-house techs work on a new maintenance app to track meter service and performance.

That's the latest from your Utilities Department—working hard every day to keep clean water flowing in and safely treated water flowing out. Thanks for doing your part by reporting issues, following watering schedules, and using water wisely!

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

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.

Upcoming Employment Testing

Internship Program -The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring 2026 semester. Our program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Spots fill up quickly, and the selection process can be competitive; therefore, we encourage potential interns to apply as soon as possible.

To apply for employment or for more information, please visit www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.

Urban Design

Walkable Neighborhoods & Mixed-Use Development: Designing for Connection and Convenience

Walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods bring homes, shops, restaurants, parks, and workplaces closer together—making it easier for people to get around without always relying on a car. Zoning plays an essential role in creating these connected spaces by allowing a blend of residential, commercial, and recreational uses within the same area. This type of development not only supports local businesses and reduces traffic, but also encourages social interaction, healthier lifestyles, and a stronger sense of community. By thoughtfully planning where and how different uses coexist, zoning helps shape neighborhoods that are lively, convenient, and designed for people—not just vehicles.



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.

Code Compliance Trash Container Storage

In the Special Residential Overlay District, Punta Gorda's Code requires that all garbage and trash containers be stored out of public view when not at the curb for collection. Containers should be kept inside the garage or behind a buffer screen, such as a solid masonry wall that matches the home's design, an opaque fence panel, or a fully opaque landscape screen.

These containers must not be visible from the street or neighboring properties at ground level. The landscape or screen must fully conceal the containers and be maintained in good condition at all times. This helps ensure the community remains visually appealing while adhering to district-specific standards.



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle started on October 27.



Kayak and Water Recreation Service Survey



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 be heard!
<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
- Phone: 941-575-5050

All report contacts are responded to the same day.

Canal Maintenance – Canal Maintenance Crews filled 51 depressions at residences, patched 21 seawall caps, and removed two navigational hazards.

Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects – Currently, there are a total of 18 open construction worksites with a total of 247 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 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.

Gilchrist Park Bathrooms: The contractor has completed installation of the Hardie Boards on both restrooms. The plumber has installed new sink faucets at both locations, and the electrician has cleaned the circuit panels and reinstalled the circuit breakers. The exterior of both restrooms will be pressure-washed this week, and the painter is scheduled to begin painting next week.

Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Working on restoring power to Gilchrist Park.
- Replaced light fixtures outside of the City Clerk's office at Herald Court Parking Garage.
- Installed caps at the Linear walkway.
- Repaired broken fence at Cooper St. Rec. Center.
- Pressure washing sidewalks and walls, Laishley gazebo.
- Working with Right of Way to set up streets and sidewalks for Halloween.

Right of Way

- Crews have completed the street preparation for the annual Halloween Festivities in the historic district.
- Vector work continues around the city.
- Crews rebuilt a catch basin on Goldstein Street and West Virginia Avenue.
- Trimming of plants downtown around the City

Sanitation

- **Appliances & White Goods** - White goods are washing machines, refrigerators, stoves, dryers, water heaters, and similar appliances. The appliances cannot be taken to the County Landfill along with other household trash. These items are collected by the clamshell truck and transferred to a recycling facility. The City handles the collection of these items each week on Fridays. Residents must request a special pick-up at least 24 hours prior to the collection date by calling the Public Works Department (941) 575-5050 or completing the online web request <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/sanitation>.
- **Electronic Device Recycling Services** - Residents will be allowed to place discarded electronics curbside for collection and proper disposal. These include, but are not limited to: microwaves, computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCRs, and DVD players. They will be collected on Fridays by Waste Management. Residents must request a special pick-up at least 24 hours prior to the collection date by calling the Public Works Department (941) 575-5050 or completing the online web request <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/sanitation>.
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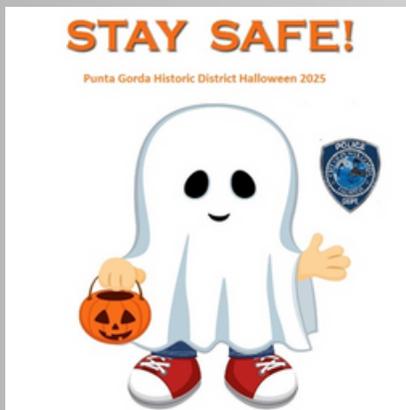
Moving Boxes - The cardboard boxes must be emptied of all debris (plastic and Styrofoam are not allowed). The boxes must be broken down, flattened, and stacked roughly four feet from the recycling container. Boxes are collected on your recycling day by a special collection truck. Residents must request a special pick-up at least 24 hours prior to the collection date by calling the Public Works Department (941) 575-5050 or completing the online web request <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/public-works/sanitation>. **New Residents** – Welcome new residents! Please visit our website to view collection days, schedule special pick-up, and review the Residential Solid Waste Collection Guide, which contains a summary of the guidelines Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us). Trash, recycling, and yard waste must be curbside for collection by 5:00 am on the day of service or the evening before. New construction properties can contact Public Works to schedule delivery of trash and recycling containers (941)575-5050.

Police Department



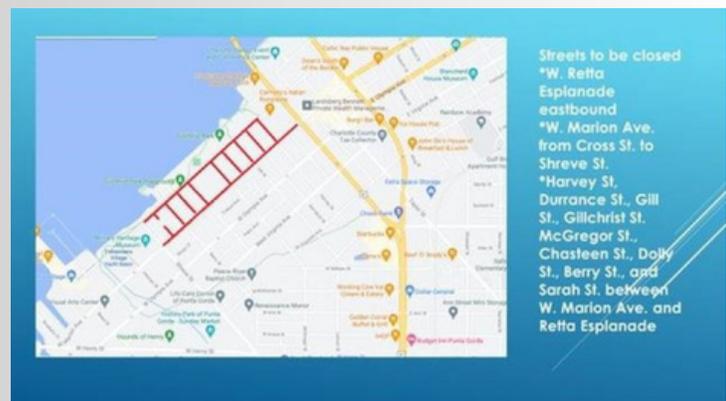
National Drug Takeback Day – Last Saturday, October 25, 2025, was National Drug Takeback Day. We are pleased to report that, with the help of our citizens, 104 lbs. of prescription drugs were turned in, preventing them from falling into the wrong hands and ensuring proper disposal, which helps protect the water supply from contamination. Another National Drug Takeback is scheduled for April 2026; however, in the meantime, a disposal box is available year-round in the lobby of the Punta Gorda Public Safety Building at 1410 Tamiami Trail for safe disposal of prescription drugs.

o 2 p.m.



2025 Historic District Halloween Event - 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, including 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 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!



Welcome, Officer John Dunham

On Tuesday, our newest police officer graduated from the 178th class of the Southwest Florida Public Safety Academy. Chief Smith, Captain Nahra, and Captain Renz attended the graduation ceremony. We are excited to have John join our Punta Gorda Police Department family.



Employee Recognition

On Wednesday, during the monthly police department leadership meeting, Chief Smith had the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a few outstanding department members. Mark Williams was named Volunteer of the Third Quarter for his contributions to our excellent volunteer program. The Employee of the Third Quarter Award was given to Lead Dispatcher Emma Pase, whose dedication in the Communications Section helps keep the department running smoothly. Congratulations to both, and thank you for your superb service to the city.





Fire Department

Huge shoutout!

This week, local residents Travis and Cathi Fleming stopped by Punta Gorda Fire Station One to donate five CPR manikins!

Travis and Cathi are 20-year military veterans who continue to serve their community by finding ways to support local first responders. Their generous donation will allow our team to train more often and help us teach even more residents lifesaving CPR skills during our hands only CPR classes.

We can't thank you enough, Travis and Cathi, for your generosity and continued support. From your City Fire family and all the residents of Punta Gorda, thank you!



Thank you for Reading ⁰¹