

HIGHLIGHTS



Punta Gorda

Florida's Harborside Hometown



MELISSA REICHERT
City Manager

📄 ✨ **THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: NEWS THAT MATTERS** ✨ 📄

Our Utilities Director, Tom Spencer, continues to provide timely updates about projects that will impact City of Punta Gorda residents. Mr. Spencer along with his team developed a story map that highlights the projects available at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3sc5t4>.

Beginning the second week in November, the City of Punta Gorda's Utility Department will conduct a scheduled program of fire hydrant testing, inspection, and maintenance throughout the city. This project is highlighted in number six (6) of the story map. Over 1,200 public fire hydrants will be inspected, tested, and maintained as part of this effort. This important work represents our continued commitment to public safety and reliable water service for all residents and businesses.

Fire hydrant testing and maintenance are essential to ensuring that every hydrant operates properly and can provide adequate water pressure in the event of a fire or other emergency. During testing, hydrants will be opened to measure flow rates and water pressure. In some cases, hydrants will also receive fresh coats of standardized paint to protect against corrosion and improve visibility for firefighters. These colors also indicate flow capacity, allowing first responders to quickly determine water volume in an emergency.

Residents may notice temporary changes while this work is underway. Water discoloration or a slight sediment appearance at the tap may occur as the system is flushed. This is normal and does not pose a health risk. If discoloration is observed, running the cold-water faucet for several minutes or until the water clears will usually resolve the issue. It is also recommended that residents minimize water usage during the immediate testing period in their area.

In some neighborhoods, residents may briefly experience reduced water pressure as hydrants are tested. This is a normal part of the process and will quickly return to normal once testing in the area is completed. Crews will also require clear access to hydrants, which are typically located along streets, sidewalks, and near yards. Residents are kindly asked to keep hydrants free from parked vehicles, landscaping, or other obstructions so that crews and firefighters can work safely and efficiently.

Work will be completed in phases across the city, Monday through Friday between 7 am and 5 pm. Crews will be wearing bright neon work vests and driving clearly marked Hydromax vehicles. Every effort will be made to minimize disruption, and all hydrants will be returned to service promptly once testing and maintenance are completed. Residents can stay informed about the schedule and locations by visiting www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com or following the City's official social media accounts.

Hydrants are tested to confirm sufficient water flow and pressure for firefighting and to identify and fix issues before they cause problems. The painting of hydrants serves a dual purpose—protecting the equipment and ensuring visibility during emergencies. While minor discoloration or brief drops in pressure may occur, the water remains safe to drink. Any discoloration simply comes from stirred-up mineral deposits within the water system.

Each hydrant is generally out of service only for a short time while crews complete their work, and the Fire Department is fully aware of the testing

schedule to ensure continued access to working hydrants. Residents can help by keeping hydrants accessible and reporting any concerns.

For questions, updates, or to report an issue related to hydrant testing, please visit www.CityofPuntaGordaFL.com or call (941) 575-3339 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City of Punta Gorda appreciates the community’s cooperation and understanding as this important work is carried out to ensure dependable, safe, and efficient water service for years to come.

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 #46 FOR WEEK November 9 - November 15, 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>

Congratulations to Mayor Debi Lux and Council Member Melissa Lockhart on their election wins! Your dedication, leadership and commitment to our community shine brightly and we are excited to support your work ahead. Wishing you both every success as you serve and uplift our city together.



Thankful for Safety

This November, Be Thankful for Safety. We all have someone to get home to, or someone that cares if we get home at the end of the day. In the last 50 years, employee injuries and fatalities have decreased by 78% and 60% respectively. Those lives saved and injuries prevented are because of people who cared to make a difference. So take this month to Be Thankful for Safety, and take the time to be safe for the people who care about you.



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.charlottecountycommerce.org/events/calendar>

Military Heritage Museum for events visit [**Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum**](#)

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for events visit <https://pgica.org/>.

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

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

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

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



November

November 8
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 8
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 will still be available. Please support our parking fee by cash and app.

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 CHILIS & SAUSAGE GRAVY-
-MIMOSAS - BLOODY MARYS - ICE DIRISH COFFEE - IRISH COFFEE.

CELTRAY.NET

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



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 20
8:30 am
Shade Meeting
City Hall Annex
3rd FL
Not Open to the Public

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

December 5 & 6
10 am - 4 pm
Punta Gorda Garden
Club 2025 Holly Days
Home Tour
Donation \$25

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



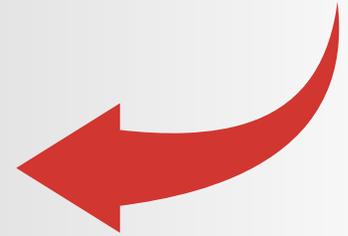
Please Donate Today

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**

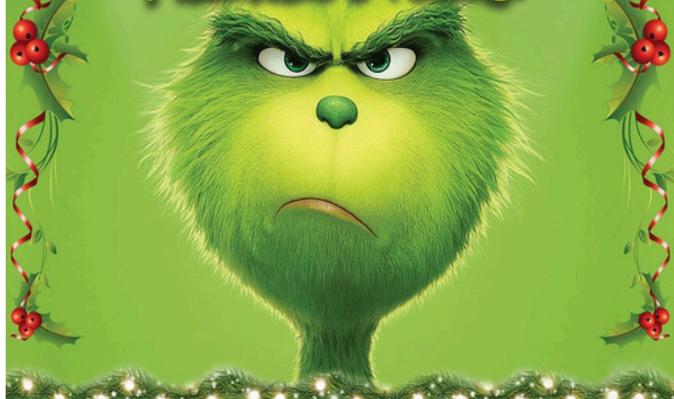
*Saturday, November 15:
Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus until 9 pm following "Lighting of the Village"*

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

Police Department



- **Police Chief's Advisory Council Meeting** – Tuesday afternoon marked the latest gathering of the Chief's Advisory Council. This council is made up of business owners and community members representing various parts of the city. It's a valuable opportunity for citizens and business owners to connect with the police department. We share information with those we serve, and community members can voice problems and challenges their neighborhoods and businesses may be facing.



- **Do the Right Thing** – The November Do the Right Thing ceremony took place Thursday at Florida South Western State College, honoring these young people: Christopher Boehm, Taylor Lehmkuhl, Hendrix Ross, Emma Scaringella, and Daisy Stevens. "Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County was founded in 1995 by the late Captain Don Cerbone of the Punta Gorda Police Department. In the last 30 years, over 1,100 students in Charlotte County have been recognized for their academic achievements, athletics, acts of heroism, community service, and for doing the right thing. The program's goal remains the same as in 1995: to foster positive attitudes, boost self-esteem, and publicly recognize students for their accomplishments.



Fire Department



The City of Punta Gorda Fire Department wants to remind our residents of the importance of safe driving. Our City streets have lots of construction happening, detours, increase in population, and an increase in vehicle traffic. Here are some driver safety tips to not only protect you but to protect other drivers and pedestrians.

- DO NOT text and drive.
- ALWAYS wear your seatbelts.
- Pay Attention: Give driving your full attention and avoid multitasking.
- Slow Down: Speeding gives you less time to react.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Be aware of road conditions: Construction, weather, street signs, and detours.



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.

- **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

- **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.

Upcoming Employment Testing

- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Assistant Buyer, Procurement**

A clerical position responsible for limited purchasing duties, screening and referring telephone calls, greeting the public and vendors, typing, filing, and operation of various office machines. an individual must be able to carry out each essential duty or responsibility satisfactorily.

- **Treatment Operator C, Water Treatment Plant**

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

- **Wastewater Operator A, Wastewater Treatment Plant**

A skilled and licensed technical position responsible for the proper plant operation and monitoring of the treatment process of a Waste Water Treatment Plant. Able to read, interpret and calibrate gauges and other recording devices related to waste water treatment plant operations.

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 Treatment Plant Snapshot

Our water treatment team delivered 55.2 million gallons of clean water to the community this week — that’s about 7.9 million gallons every day.

The Shell Creek Reservoir level is 5.09 feet, which is right around normal for early November. For comparison, the record low for this date is 5.02 feet and the record high is 5.86 feet. With dry weather so far this month and no rainfall yet recorded, our reservoir remains in good shape.

The water hardness is 112 parts per million, or roughly 6 grains per gallon, which means our water is considered “hard.” If you use a water softener, this number helps you set your system correctly. Hard water isn’t harmful, but it can leave behind small mineral spots on glasses, faucets, or shower doors.

We also measure total dissolved solids (TDS) — that’s the natural minerals in the water. Right now, our TDS is 275 parts per million, a little lower than the 15-year average of 363. That means the water this week has slightly fewer minerals than usual, which helps keep it tasting crisp.

Water Distribution

Across the city, our field crews kept busy maintaining the water system that connects everything together. They exercised 10 valves to make sure they move freely, flushed seven hydrants to keep water fresh, and completed 12 service requests ranging from leak repairs to pressure adjustments.

Our cross-connection control program also continues citywide. This program helps prevent contaminated water from flowing backward into the public system. It’s a key part of keeping Punta Gorda’s drinking water safe, and we’re currently updating Chapter 17 of the City Code to include these important protections.

That’s the week in Utilities! Whether its inspecting hydrants, maintaining pumps, or monitoring reservoir levels, our crews work every day to keep Punta Gorda’s water clean, reliable, and safe. Thank you for doing your part by following watering schedules and reporting issues when you see them.

Wastewater Treatment

While the water plant keeps clean water flowing out, our wastewater team makes sure what flows back in gets treated safely. This week, they processed 17.07 million gallons of wastewater, averaging 2.44 million gallons a day.

Crews repaired several scum pumps, reprogrammed a sand filter controller, and continued mowing and trimming around the plant. These behind-the-scenes efforts keep everything running smoothly and protect the environment by making sure the water released meets strict state standards.

Urban Design

Parking Requirements: Balancing Access, Design, and Community Needs

Parking standards may seem like small details, but they have a big impact on how a city looks and functions. Zoning regulations help ensure there's enough parking to serve residents, visitors, and businesses—without overwhelming neighborhoods with large paved areas or disrupting walkability. Thoughtful parking design supports safe streets, attractive landscaping, and efficient use of land. In some cases, requirements can be adapted to fit the character of the area, such as in walkable districts or mixed-use developments where shared or on-street parking meets demand. By balancing convenience and community character, parking standards help Punta Gorda remain both accessible and inviting.



Sign Compliance Keeping It Clear & Classy

Signs play an important role in helping businesses get noticed, but they still need to follow a few important rules. In Punta Gorda, sign regulations are in place to keep our streets safe, uncluttered, and visually appealing. These rules help ensure that signs fit within the character of our city, whether they're for a small shop downtown or a community event. That means paying close attention to details like size limits, placement on the property, lighting, and how long temporary or event signs can be displayed. Following these guidelines not only keeps things orderly, but also helps preserve clear sightlines for drivers and pedestrians, avoids visual clutter, and protects the small-town charm that makes Punta Gorda special. Whether permanent or temporary, keeping signs compliant benefits both businesses and the entire community.



Lot Mowing Program — The lot mowing cycle was completed on October 28.



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.

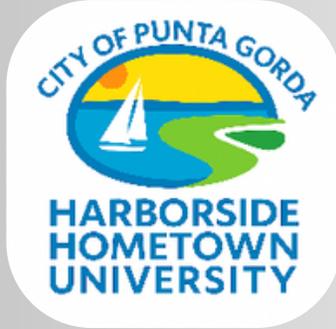
Your feedback will play an important role in shaping how we partner with local businesses and design programs that reflect the interests of both residents and visitors. Together, we can create safe, fun, and accessible opportunities to get out on the water and experience the best of Punta Gorda's natural 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 has closed for the Harborside Hometown University (Citizens Academy)! Our 2026 sessions are FULL. Registration for the 2027 sessions will open on October 1, 2026.



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 28 depressions at residences, patched 6 seawall caps, and patched 6 seawall seams.
- **Hurricane Ian Seawall Replacement Projects** – Currently, there are a total of 19 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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us)
- Status report as of October 2025 for percentage complete in PGI is at 78%
- 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 continues to progress on schedule. Crews are currently installing flashing along the parapet walls and have installed three new collection boxes and downspouts to enhance roof drainage. Please continue to use caution around the site, as some areas may be temporarily closed due to ongoing construction and equipment movement.
- **Gilchrist Park Bathrooms:** The contractor has completed installation of Hardie Boards on both restroom buildings, and the exteriors have been pressure washed and painted. Repairs to the damaged gutter and roof ridge vent are scheduled for completion this week.
- **Downtown Flood Study:** Engineering is working with the consultant on developing the design parameters for the stormwater modeling. The consultant is working on reviewing preliminary data collected thus far to determine what additional field data may need to be collected for eth modeling.

Facilities/Parks and Grounds

- Replaced more electrical panels in Gilchrist Park
- Worked on repairing Decorator lights in Gilchrist Park
- Continued to complete work orders for Citizens and City Employees
- Working with FPL to replace meters for City lighting
- Removed dead tree and stump from Linear Park
- Made repairs to irrigation lines in Linear Park
- Trimmed walk ways in Nature Park
- Made repairs to irrigation lines down town by City Clock
- Working on landscaping around the Freeman House.

Right of Way

- Crews have completed the clean-up for the annual Halloween Festivities in the historic district.
- Working on re-installing the deco lights on Marion Ave, Taylor St, and US 41 North. Crews are also working on straightening and re-installing the deco lights in Gilchrist Park.
- Vactor work continues around the City.
- Crews are working on installing a driveway for access of the City's property on Candia for our Canal Maintenance crews.
- Signage crews have been working on re-installing damaged signs throughout the City.

Sanitation

- **Yard Waste Notice** – Have you received a notice labeled Yard Waste Guidelines on your regular scheduled yard waste collection day? The yard waste might have been left for one or more of the following.
 - The debris and cans must be curbside by 5 a.m. on the collection day or the evening before
 - If the debris is inside a container it must not exceed 35 pound and not contain mulch, dirt, rocks or similar debris or be full of water (cans must have lids)
 - The container should have a lid, metal bar across the front and wheels to make it compatible with our tippers on the refuse trucks; or the container must have handles and a lid
 - The container might be unapproved for the yard waste debris
 - Plastic bags are not allowed for yard waste debris
 - Small loose piles must be bundled and tied with rope or string and less than 4 foot in length (no more than 3 bundles)
 - If the loose pile is larger than a wheel barrel full, please place the debris in a single pile (not spread out) and request a pick-up with the clamshell truck
 - Debris must not be placed on a vacant lot - vacant lots do not pay for service therefore we do not collect debris from vacant lots (no exceptions)
 - Paper lawn/leaf bags they must not be ripped, wet or over the weight limit of 35 pounds and must not contain unacceptable debris
 - Residents are allowed only three (3) of the following items: yard waste can, paper lawn/leaf bags or bundles less than 4 foot in length

- Whole tree removals must be removed by the property owner or the contractor performing the work
- **Vacant Lots** – Vacant lots are not eligible for trash, recycling or yard waste services. Please do not place any vegetation on vacant lots. Vacant lots are private property and entering onto a vacant lot is trespassing. Any vegetation placed on a vacant lot by residents or landscaping companies will not be collected. The vegetation generated from a single family residence or multifamily residence must be placed on the property in which it was generated.

Sanitation

- The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, for the Veterans' Day holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in their trash, yard waste, or recycling collections during this holiday. Commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda will notice NO CHANGE in the collection service during this holiday. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

City Clerk

2025 City Election Results

The unofficial results of the November 4, 2025, City Election are as follows:

District 3

Deborah Lux – unopposed

District 5

Melissa Lockhart – 2,360 votes

William Page – 2,055 votes

Current Board and Committee Vacancies –

If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application. Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet in Council Chambers, which is currently located at the Laishley Community Room, 120 Laishley Court.

New Businesses – Are you thinking of opening a business in the City? You can learn more about filing for a City business tax receipt on our website. Still have questions? Contact the City Clerk's Office via email businesstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com or call us at (941)575-3369. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred businesses within our community this week:

- **Bayside Balsamic and Olive Oil** (1200 West Retta Esplanade), formerly known as Bella Balsamic, has transferred ownership.

Thank you for Reading