

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT NOVEMBER 11, 2023

City Manager

- The City Council of Punta Gorda has a longstanding tradition of honoring the sacrifices and service of our veterans. Every year, on Nov 11, the City officially observes Veterans Day, dedicated to celebrating the profound love of country and the unwavering commitment to serve that our veterans embody. The council urges all citizens to join this celebration and to extend their gratitude to veterans, not just on this day but always. This official proclamation carries a rich historical context, providing insight into the origins of Armistice Day, which later evolved into Veterans Day.



World War I, one of the most significant conflicts in history, commenced on July 28, 1914, and continued until the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, before the signing of the treaty, an armistice was declared on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, effectively ending hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany. It was a moment of great significance and led to the eventual cessation of the war. President Woodrow Wilson declared Nov 11, 1919, the first commemoration of Armistice Day in the United States. In his declaration, he emphasized the solemn pride felt by Americans in the heroism of those who had given their lives in service to their country and expressed gratitude for the victory.

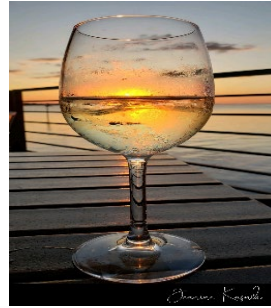
Over the years, the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces have made our state and nation immensely proud. They continue to serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come. The City of Punta Gorda recognizes these patriotic individuals' service, dedication, and valor who, by taking up arms and swearing an oath to defend our nation, have played a vital role in preserving the values and freedoms we hold dear.

Fortunately, we have numerous opportunities to express our gratitude and appreciation for our veterans. One such opportunity is the Healing Field of Honor® event, organized by the Punta Gorda Rotary Club, which will take place from Nov 10 to the 12 at Laisley Park. During this event, one thousand United States flags will be displayed in a solemn formation, creating a genuinely awe-inspiring panorama. Each flag represents an individual and tells a unique story. This moving display is open to all and free of charge, serving as a unifying tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country.

On Nov 11, the Charlotte County Veterans Day Parade is scheduled to commence at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at Port Charlotte Beach Park, proceed along Harbor Boulevard to Edgewater Drive, and conclude at the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park. This parade is a powerful display of solidarity and gratitude as the community comes together to pay tribute to our veterans.

Furthermore, the Military Heritage Museum will host a special tribute to veterans on Nov 11, with the ceremony commencing at 11 a.m. The ceremony will feature patriotic music, a color guard, and a veteran tribute video. The Peace River Quilters Guild will present Quilts of Valor to six deserving veterans, recognizing their service and sacrifice. The guest speaker for this event will be Major General Greg F. Martin, PhD, a retired U.S. Army officer.

- **Photo Contest** – Florida City Government Week was celebrated in the City of Punta Gorda from Oct 16-22. In celebration of the occasion, the City of Punta Gorda hosted a Photo Contest to engage residents in sharing the beauty of Punta Gorda. The photo contributions are being used to create a library of photos for city publications. 104 entries were received. Staff narrowed down
- The nominations down to ten finalists that were voted on by liking on Facebook. The top three winners Roxane Lyons, Jeanne Kasnik and Leo Modica were awarded a City of Punta Gorda Swag Bag. Thank you to all who entered and watch for details regarding a 2024 contest next fall.



In closing, the City of Punta Gorda extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who have served and continue to serve our country. Because of their dedication and sacrifice, we can enjoy the unique blend of American small-town charm, scenic beauty, and waterfront access that our City provides. If you have any further inquiries or wish to learn more about the City's initiatives and events, you may reach out to City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com or call the general office line at (941) 575-3302.

- **Holiday Closure** – City of Punta Gorda's offices will be closed for Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Honoring All Those Who Served in the Military. **PLEASE NOTE:** Sanitation schedule is not impacted by this closure.
- **Florida Department of Transportation** – US 41/Tamiami Trail from Payne Street to Rio Villa Drive. Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours while crews resurface the roadway, construct curb, gutter, and sidewalk, lanes widenings, and drainage, signage, Street Light, and signalization improvements. Motorists should expect intermittent southbound and northbound lane closures from Aqui Esta Drive to Payne Street during daytime hours from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during nighttime/overnight hours from 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Motorists should use caution as crews work on the roadway. The expected project completion is late fall 2023.
- **City Council Meeting** — City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on Nov 15 at the Military Heritage Museum. A few of the items of interest include:
 - AC Freeman House
 - City Hall Rehabilitation and Expansion
 - Cooper Street General Discussion

Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)
- Nov 10, Healing Field of Honor, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information please contact aburch@csbtfl.com
- Nov 11, Vintage Motor car show, 459 Gill St, for more information contact leekr42@embarqmail.com
- Nov 11, Punta Moose Lodge #1693 27590 Disston Ave., fundraiser event for Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches featuring Crossfire Creek Band starting at 12 p.m. [*Veterans Day* Sheriffs Youth Ranch Fundraiser](#)
- Nov 18, Lighting of the Village, Fishermen's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact kburnam@fishermensvillage.com
- Nov 18, Fall Festival, The Church of the Good Shepherd, 401 W Henry St, for more information contact Martha.goodshepherdpg@gmail.com
- Nov 18-19, Season Opener Art & Craft Show, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact jessie@surfboardtables.com
- Nov. 29, In Stitches @ PGICA will be installing their 10th annual Hector House Holiday Yarn Bomb on Nov. 29 and removing them January 3.
- Dec. 1, Light up the Night, community celebration featuring music, children's activities, food and beverages and the Christmas Tree Lighting visit. <https://www.lightupthenightpg.com/> for the complete schedule.
- Dec. 1 and Dec. 2, Punta Gorda Garden Club hosts the Holly Day Home Town Tour in the Historic District visit <https://pggc.writing.io/posts/2023-holly-days> to learn more.

Lot Mowing Program

- The City has begun a new trim and edging cycle.
- **Planning Corner** – Short-term/Vacation Rental Information – The rental of an entire residential dwelling unit for any period of time is permitted as there is no prohibition within the Punta Gorda Code. Florida Legislature adopted legislation in 2011 that prohibits a municipality from adopting new regulations for short-term rentals. The rental of a room or rooms is considered a rooming and boarding house and is not permitted per Chapter 26. In order to operate a Rooming and Boarding house, the property must be located within either the General Multi-family or City Center zoning district, and Special Exception approval is required. All renters must abide by any codes in effect at the time



of their rental. If an alleged violation (i.e. garbage cans left out, parking on the grass, boat parking, etc.) occurs during normal business hours, the complainant can contact the Code Compliance office, (941)575-3352, however, the complainant needs to be aware that anonymous complaints can no longer be submitted, (Florida Statute § 162, 162.06(1)(b) and 162.21(3)(b), adopted July 1, 2021). If the violation is after normal business hours, the non-emergency Police number can be used, (941)639-4111. A Business Tax Receipt (BTR) is required if the rental is for less than 30 days or one month at a time more than three times per year. The vacation rental must also be licensed with the State.

Public Works

Canal Maintenance

- **Channel Marker 3** –Channel Marker 3 has been replaced.
- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Canal Maintenance crews manufactured 40 seawall panels, repaired seawall caps at four locations, and filled depressions at 15 locations.
- **Dockside Dredging** – Property owners that are listed on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list will not be allowed to have dockside dredging performed adjacent to the seawall until the seawall has been repaired. Any dredging along the damaged seawall may cause damage.
- **Stabilizing Erosion** – Just a friendly reminder for property owners to regularly check the condition of their tarps or plastic that is protecting the eroded areas. Tarps and plastic tend to become brittle in the sun and may start falling apart. Our area is still experiencing rain events and plastic will help keep the soil in place preventing further erosion.
- **Canal Maintenance Seawall Failure Update** – Construction schedules have been updated and are posted on the Canal Maintenance website for the next six months look ahead. There are 21 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 20 projects completed, and ten projects under construction with four completed in Burnt Store Isles.
- **Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Placing the sod is the final phase of seawall replacement construction. As per the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for establishing the sod after it has been placed and the City will not reimburse the owners for their water usage.
- **Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with seawalls being damaged. City code states that the operation of vessels in the canals shall be Slow Speed Minimum Wake in the waterways within the City limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlet are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.
- **Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has created a program that connects boat owners who need a temporary relocation of their boats with owners that have available dock space. This information can be found at [Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance](http://PuntaGordaBoatersAlliance.com) (boat2puntagorda.org) click on the Dock Match button for information.

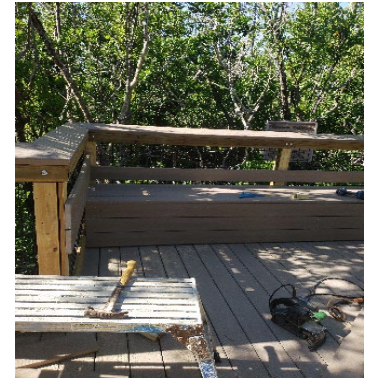
Engineering

- **Swale Regrading** – The swale contractor has completed the swales on North Plum Tree, Scarlet Sage, Panarea Dr., Madrid Blvd, Tripoli, South Crete Ct., Narranja, W. Ann/Lemon St., W. McKenzie/Lemon St., E. Virginia, Rum Cay Ct, La Mancha Ct., Bayshore Ct., Casey Key / Bal Harbor and La Costa Island, Antigua Dr., and Towhee Ct. They will be watering the sod on Casey Key / Bal Harbor, La Costa Island, Antigua Dr., and Towhee Ct., for the next 30 days. The next street to be excavated will be Raven Ct.

- **Ponce de Leon** – The contractor has finished re-surfacing the piles under the fishing pier and is

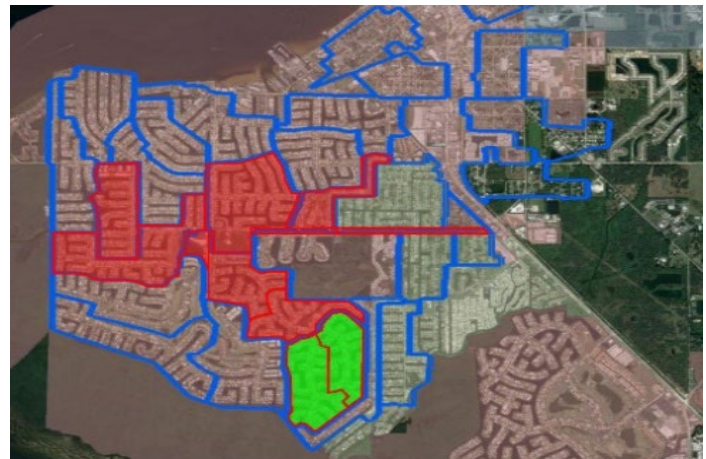


waiting for the ADA handrails to be installed. They have been building the benches for the two platforms to meet ADA requirements. Please take extra caution while driving through the park due to construction personnel and equipment. Please remember that this boardwalk is closed to the public while it is under construction.



- **Fiber Optic Internet Network** – The fiber optic internet provider HyperFiber has been issued permits for a portion of the construction project to install a citywide fiber optic internet network

within the city right of ways. Their construction is finishing up in the “bird section” of the City. This citywide project will be under construction during the next several months as they install the network citywide. They are currently working in the areas highlighted in red below. The green area is where the work is completed and their permit has been inspected for final by the engineering department. Additional areas are scheduled to be final in the next two weeks. The blue areas are where the installation will be taking place as the project progresses.



Initially, you will see utility markings within the city right of way, followed by the directional drilling of the fiber optic conduit. Fiber optic boxes will be installed in the right of way or easement at the edge of your property. Once the installation of the underground and service points has been completed for the entire sector, crews will then return to individual locations for the restoration of sod. This will take place at the end of construction in each sector. Please be patient and allow time for the restoration. The city engineering department will be performing spot inspections during construction as well as a final inspection when restoration is complete to ensure the contractor’s restoration meets the City’s requirements. HyperFiber has provided a telephone number to call if citizens have questions or concerns about the project and installation. Please contact HyperFiber’s Scott Jackson at (239) 887-5379. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

- **Parks and Grounds** – Continues to put up the Christmas tree and decorations for the light poles. Facilities Maintenance is addressing all lighting and electrical issues so that the tree lighting ceremony goes off without a hitch. Staff is also working on repairs to the fountain at Gilchrist Park.
- **Right of Way** – Crews are focusing on mowing. We have dedicated this week to catching up on filling pot holes across the City. Crews are also installing new inlet grates at Tuscany and E. Charlotte.

- **Sanitation**

The offices are closed Nov 10 to observe the Veteran’s Day Holiday. During this time 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.

Police

- **Family Fun Day** – Punta Gorda Police Department and the Punta Gorda Fire Department will be holding the third annual Family Fun Day on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex, located at 1410 Tamiami Trail (across from the Golden Corral). There will be a bounce houses, dunk tank, crafts, food, k9 demos, bike helmet fittings, music, a visit from Santa and more! The entire community is invited to come out and enjoy this completely free event!

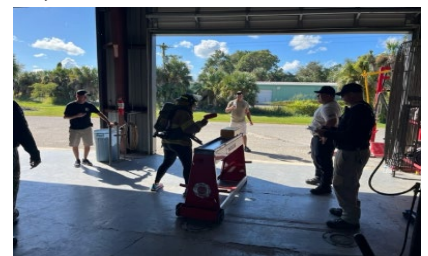
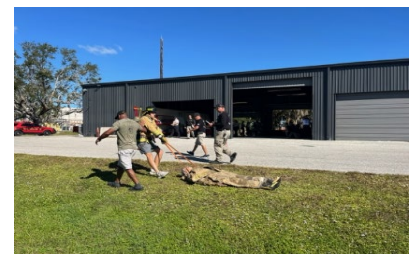


OPEN POSITIONS

- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. We will be holding a testing process in December. Applications must be received by Dec. 1, 2023. The exam will be held on the morning of Dec. 7, 2023 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester of 2024. Our internship 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, so we encourage potential interns to apply today! **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.**

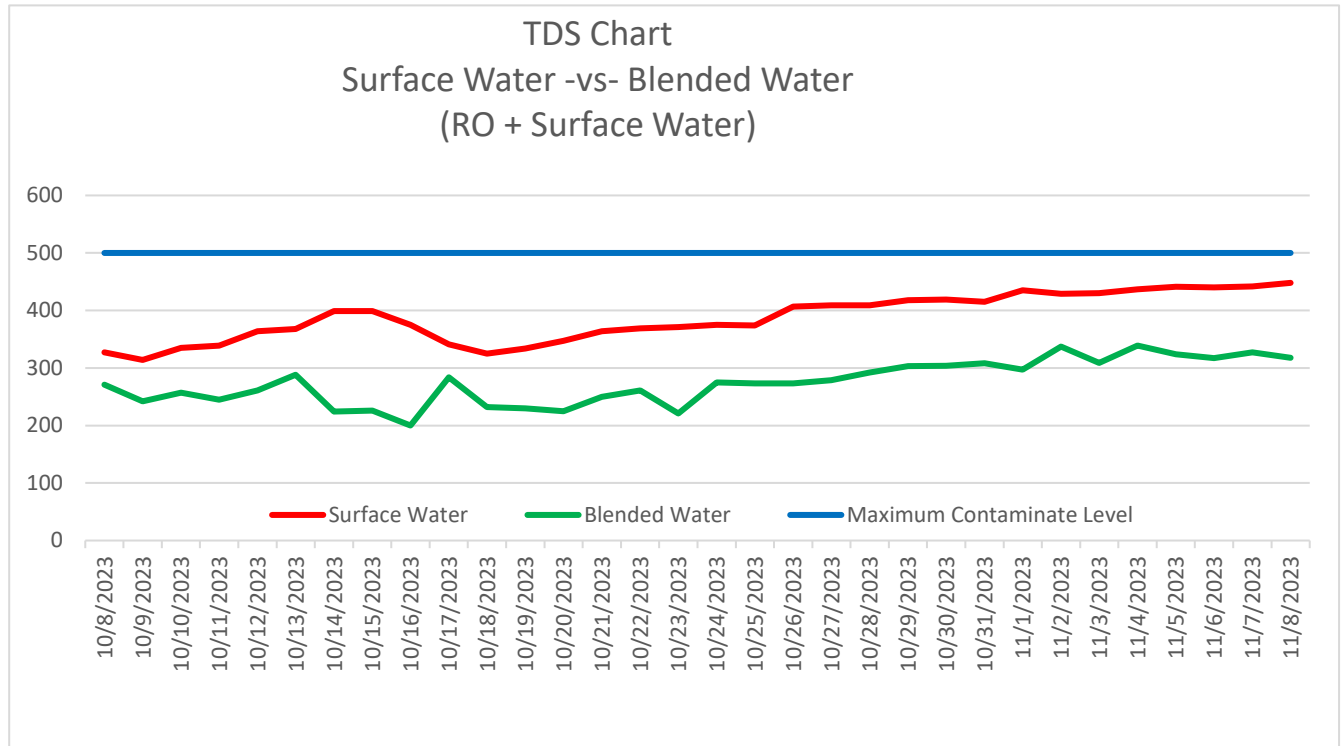
Fire

- **New hire testing process** – The Fire Department started the first part of a two-part new hire testing process. 15 individuals applied for the position of Firefighter/EMT and were all invited to participate in the swim portion and physical agility test. The swim and agility testing were held at South County Pool and our training facility. After day one nine individuals had successfully passed both portions of the testing process and were invited to participate in the second part which will consist of an oral interview panel and an interview with the Fire Chief. It was an exciting day for the City of Punta Gorda, to see these new candidates put forth the hard work to complete such a rigorous two-day process and their desire to be a part of our fire department. Finally, it was amazing to see the enthusiasm and dedication of our current firefighters who showed up on their off time to take part in the testing process, whether it was evaluating and timing an evolution, resetting a workstation, positively motivating the candidates or being a part of the oral interview panel.



Utilities

- **R.O. Plant**



Administration

- **Leaks** – If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plan at (941) 639-2057.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 64.7 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 9.2 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving 700 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1388 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall Oct. 2023 2.09” Nov. 2023 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 9 –Total hardness. 155 ppm
- TDS Nov 2 – Current 318 ppm. Low 240 ppm, High 536 ppm. 13 year average 371 ppm.
- Reservoir Nov 2 – Current 5.15”, Record Low .97', Record High, 5.90' 58 Year Average 5.21”

Current Water Restrictions for Punta Gorda Utilities Customers

- **Lawn Watering Schedule/Times**
 - Lawn watering is limited to twice per week (if needed) by property address.
 - Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
 - Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and at any time using a shut-off nozzle on their hose, so water isn't wasted.

Lawn Watering Schedule Table

Addresses	Current Watering Day	May Also Water
Ending in 0 and 1	Monday	Thursday
Ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday	Friday
Ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday	Saturday
Ending in 6 and 7	Thursday	Sunday
Ending in 8 and 9	Friday	Tuesday
Addresses that end with a letter instead of a number will water on:	Friday	Tuesday

For more information about Punta Gorda's water restrictions, go to [Water Restrictions & Conservation](#)
Check Your Irrigation Timer When You 'Fall Back' to Standard Time

- The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is reminding residents to check the timers on their irrigation system controllers this weekend, which is the end of daylight saving time.
- Saturday night is when we will turn our clocks back one hour. The time change is also a good time to make sure irrigation system timers are set correctly to ensure that the systems operate consistently with **year-round water conservation measures.**
- All 16 counties throughout the District's boundaries are on year-round water conservation measures, with lawn watering limited to twice-per-week unless your City or county has a different schedule or stricter hours. Local governments maintaining once-per-week watering by local ordinance include Citrus, Hernando, Pasco and Sarasota counties and the cities of Dunedin and Venice.
- Know and follow your local watering restrictions, but don't water just because it's your day. Irrigate your lawn when it shows signs of stress from lack of water. Pay attention to signs of stressed grass:
 - Grass blades are folded in half lengthwise on at least one-third of your yard.
 - Grass blades appear blue-gray.
 - Grass blades do not spring back, leaving footprints on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it.

For more irrigation and water saving tips, please visit the Districts website at [Welcome to the Southwest Florida Water Management District Home Page \(state.fl.us\)](#)

City Clerk

- **City of Punta Gorda 2023 General Election** – The Canvassing Board for the City’s Nov 7, General Election certified the results of the election on Nov 8. Deborah Lux was declared the winner for the District 3 Council seat. The Canvassing Board also pulled 64.1 as the precinct to be audited at the final Canvassing Board meeting at 9 a.m. on Nov 14, at the Supervisor of Elections’ Office at 226 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. The Canvassing Board’s meeting will be open to the public. Nov 15 will serve as the annual reorganization meeting of the Punta Gorda City Council. Election results will be announced, the oath of office will be performed, and City Council will elect a member to serve as Mayor.
- **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 at <https://puntagorda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>.

 - **Code Enforcement Board (one regular)** – Meets the fourth Wed at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms - maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
 - **General Employees’ Pension Board** (one resident representative) – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two pension plan members and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees’ Pension Fund.
 - **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** (one regular and two alternate) – Meets the fourth Thur. at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms - maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Identifies for the City Council historically significant structures and sites that should be considered for designation as a “Local Historic Landmark” or be nominated for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes recommendations of the policies for the protection of historically significant structures and sites. Makes recommendations to staff with regard to certificates of appropriateness for any demolition, variance, sign or relocation of structures. Promotes public awareness of historic archaeological preservation and its community benefits.
 - **Planning Commission** (one alternate) – Meets the fourth Mon at 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to amending, extending or adding to the comprehensive plan for the physical development of the City, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending a zoning ordinance.

New Businesses

- All persons, firms or corporations engaging in business or occupation within the City of Punta Gorda are required to obtain a Local Business Tax (LBT) Receipt in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Punta Gorda City Code. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred business within our community this week:
 - Colorful Cottage LLC Vacation Rental, 111 Chasteen Street
 - Crews Bank, 2331 Tamiami Trail
 - Highest Honor Home Care LLC, 252 West Olympia Avenue, Unit 7
 - Quality Treasures, 130 East Ann Street
 - Village Outfitters, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, Units 19-20