

Weekly Highlights Report

July 12, 2024

City Manager

- As the City of Punta Gorda persists in recovering from the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian, the looming possibility of another potential hurricane remains a stark reality. Despite hoping for the best, our emergency management personnel and leadership team are diligently preparing for the worst, monitoring storm forecasts and hurricane prediction models on a daily basis. While the current hurricane season has been relatively calm thus far, we remain acutely aware that conditions can swiftly change.

As we progress through July, the critical factors necessary for hurricane formation begin to align. Warm ocean waters exceeding 80 degrees Fahrenheit serve as the primary energy source, fostering increased evaporation and the formation of humid air and clouds. Converging winds then drive this humid air upward, where it condenses into the swirling clouds characteristic of a hurricane. Meanwhile, lighter winds at higher altitudes steer and sustain the storm, facilitating its growth and intensity.

Given our geographical proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and the City's elevation profile, we are particularly vulnerable to storm surges—a significant threat responsible for a staggering 90% of hurricane-related fatalities. It is imperative that residents and city personnel alike have a well-defined evacuation plan, especially since nearly the entire City falls within the high-risk evacuation zone, known as the red zone. Residents should prepare accordingly because moving inland might be more viable than heading north.

Preparation is critical in mitigating the impact of hurricanes. Residents are urged to undertake readiness measures well in advance of any storm. This includes exchanging contact information with neighbors and friends to ensure post-storm communication, securing homes with storm shutters, and compiling essential documents such as insurance policies, contact numbers, and financial records in a waterproof container. Additionally, stocking up on essential supplies like sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid kits, and emergency tools is crucial. Purchasing bleach, cleaning supplies, garbage bags, and non-perishable food items ensures readiness for prolonged periods without services.

For those reliant on electricity, ensuring generators are in working order, and propane tanks are filled enables continued cooking capability during power outages. Moreover, residents should be prepared for the possibility of mandatory evacuation orders. Establishing evacuation routes and arrangements with family or friends outside the area well in advance is strongly advised, as local shelters can quickly reach capacity during emergencies.



Residents can access further resources and guidance on storm preparedness through the City of Punta Gorda's website [Emergency Preparedness | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/emergency-preparedness) which offers a range of downloadable publications aimed at enhancing resident readiness. The City remains committed to fostering community resilience and appreciates the proactive efforts of residents in safeguarding their homes and families.

In conclusion, while we continue to rebuild and fortify our City against future challenges, collaboration and preparedness remain our best defense against the unpredictable forces of nature. By working together and staying vigilant, we can better protect our community and ensure a safer, more resilient future for all. *For any inquiries regarding storm preparedness, residents are encouraged to contact the Punta Gorda Fire Department at (941) 575-5529. City Manager Greg Murray can also be reached via email at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling the general office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council** – City Council met on July 10, at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum. The following are some of the items discussed:
 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, adopting a proposed millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025
 - Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Punta Gorda and the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.
- **Summer Break** – City Council will be on summer hiatus until Aug. 21. During this period, responses to emails and phone calls will be limited.



Human Resources

Open Positions – The City of Punta Gorda offers a very generous benefit package to include medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and a defined contribution retirement plan with matching contributions. Currently hiring for the following professional position:

- **Utility Engineer – Utilities.** A professional position responsible for Utilities Engineering and providing technical engineering services for City utilities construction and improvement projects.
- **Senior Accountant – Finance** – A professional position responsible for applying the principles of accounting to analyze financial information and prepare financial reports by compiling information, preparing profit and loss statements, and utilizing appropriate accounting control procedures.
- **Maintenance Worker II – Canal Maintenance** – Public Works – A skilled laborer position responsible for the maintenance and repair or replacement of seawalls and related structures within the P.G.I. and B.S.I. canal maintenance districts.
- **Purchasing Agent I – Procurement** - A skilled paraprofessional position responsible for purchasing various commodities and services for the City in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local purchasing requirements.
- **Network Analyst – I.T.** – A highly skilled technical position that is responsible for designing and implementing information systems to support the enterprise infrastructure of an organization by ensuring that all systems are working at optimal levels and supporting the use of new technologies. This infrastructure includes core network, email, storage, wireless networks, communications, servers, public cloud, and virtual environments; and security for these systems.



- **Customer Service Representative – Billing & Collections** - An entry level customer service and clerical position that serves the public by responding to concerns expressed in person, via telephone, fax or written correspondence; and by accepting and processing utility payments. The City of Punta Gorda has a variety of employment opportunities available learn more at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/.../employment.com>
- Mosquitoes bite day and night – They spread germs through bites that can make you sick. Prevent illness by protecting yourself and your family from mosquito bites. Use [EPA-registered insect repellents](#) with one of the following active ingredients. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women. DEET - Deet, Picaridin (known as KBR 3023 and icaridin outside the United States), IR3535, Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)—A plant-derived ingredient, Para-menthane-diol (P.M.D.), or 2-undecanone—A plant-derived ingredient. With E.P.A.'s search tool you can specify protection time, active ingredient, and other product information. [E.P.A.'s Search Tool](#)



Tips for babies and children:

- Dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs.
- Cover strollers and baby carriers with mosquito netting.

Insect repellent on your child:

- Always follow label instructions.
- Do not use products containing OLE or P.M.D. on children under 3 years old.
- Do not apply repellent to a child's hands, eyes, mouth, cuts, or irritated skin.
- Adults: Apply repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.

Tips for everyone:

- Always follow the product label instructions.
- Reapply repellent as directed.
- Do not apply repellent on the skin under clothing.
- If you are using sunscreen, apply sunscreen first and insect repellent second.
- Wear protective clothing to prevent mosquito bites:
- Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Wear clothing and gear treated with permethrin.
- Permethrin is an insecticide that kills or repels mosquitoes.
- Permethrin-treated clothing provides protection after multiple washings.
- Do not use permethrin products directly on skin.

Control mosquitoes indoors and outdoors:

- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outdoors.
- Use air conditioning, if available.
- Stop mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near water.
- Check for water-holding containers both indoors and outdoors.
- Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, or trash containers.

Fact sheets: [Mosquito Bite Prevention for the United States](#) & [Protect Yourself from Mosquito Bites Outside](#)

Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit charlotteharborecc.com/events
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at [EVENTS | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda \(fishermensvillage.com\)](http://EVENTS | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda (fishermensvillage.com))
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at Community Events – Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at Event Calendar | Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at Upcoming Events – Upcoming Events - Military Heritage Museum
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit [Home - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. \(pgica.org\)](http://Home - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. (pgica.org)).
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](http://Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL (visualartcenter.org))
- July 13, Queens of Today, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit Street, for more information contact queensoftoday01@gmail.com



Lot Mowing Program

- The City has completed the trim and edge cycle on July 7.
- The lot mowing cycle is currently under way and is scheduled to be completed July 16, weather permitting.

Planning Corner

- Concrete pads have been poured at Veterans Park for the placement of trash receptacles. They will be curing for a few weeks and we ask that park visitors be mindful while walking near them. This addition to Veterans Park is part of an ongoing partnership between the City and local community group the Vietnam Wall of Southwest Florida to honor our veterans and beautify our parks!



Public Works

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Crews Maintenance crews manufactured 72 sea wall panels. Filled depressions at 25 residences and condominiums.
- **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. Utilizing plastic during a rain event 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 18 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 100 projects completed, and five projects under construction with 26 completed in Burnt Store Isles. [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us))

- **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 \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://PuntaGordaBoatersAlliance.com) click on the Dock Match button for information.

Engineering

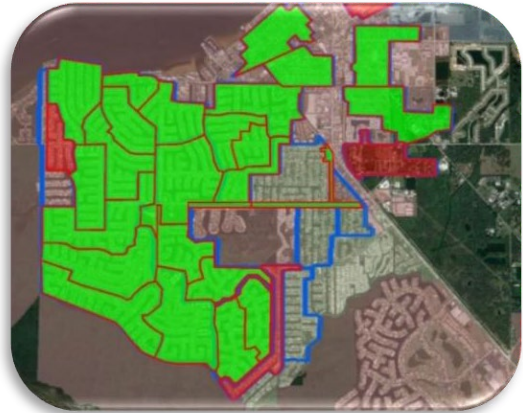
- **Swale Regrading** – The swale contractor has completed Don Quixote Dr., Brazilia Ct., Darin Dr., Padre Island Dr., Casey Key Dr. (S.W.), Ussepa Ct., Casey Key Dr. (S.E.) Turtle Dove Cir which have been finalized and turned over to the homeowner. The contractor will be watering the sod for the next 30 days weather permitting at Sea Horse Ct., Sea Fan Dr., and Grebe Dr. The contractor has begun to excavate Orange St., W. McKenzie St., Lemon St., and McGregor St. this week, and will be excavating approximately 12,000 SF. Once they have the grades established, new sod will be installed. The swale contractor has excavated approximately 73,000 SF this fiscal year.
- **City Hall Annex** – The contractor has completed the interior work on the third floor where the Urban Design, Code Enforcement, and Zoning offices were. The contractor has finished painting the walls, installed all the flooring, installed all of the baseboards, and installed all the ceiling tiles throughout Urban Design. The I.T. department will be moving into this area temporarily so their offices can be restored. The contractor has also finished painting the foyer and the North stairwell from the first floor to the third floor. Next week the contractor will be working on the City Manager's office and the I.T. Department.
- **City Hall Annex Roof** – The contractor has started installing the new roof on the Annex this week. They have removed and replaced approximately a third of the roof to date. Once the roof is completely dried in, the contractor will schedule an inspection through the building department.
- **Laishley Splash Pad** - Construction at the Interactive Fountain area. This work includes rehabilitation and upgrades to the splash pad/play area. Final grading and electrical work



in the areas containing new water features has been completed. This is in preparation for pouring the concrete pads.

Please use extra caution while driving or walking through the park due to construction personnel and equipment. To the highest extent possible the restroom facilities will remain open to the public. The access to the restrooms will be from the marina side of the building. There will be periodic temporary sidewalk closures immediately adjacent to the construction area as required for public safety. The construction area will be closed to the public at all times during this period. The enhanced fountain area is scheduled to reopen in late 2024. 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.

- **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. This 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 areas are 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 several weeks. The blue areas are where installation will take place as the project progresses. Construction is beginning in the northwestern portion of Burnt Store Isles.



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 Samantha at (941) 336-4957. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

Right of Way

- Crews continue to work on the alleyway at Herald Court by installing waterlines with Parks and Grounds Crew.
- The areas of Aquí Esta, Almar Dr, Madrid Blvd, Monte Carlo, Marion Ave, and Tripoli Blvd, have all been cleared by our Storm water system cleaning crew.
- Continue to work on the brickwork on M.L.K. due to Hurricane Ian Damage.
- Mowing continues in the Downtown area.

Sanitation

- **As a friendly reminder, please follow the guidelines below regarding yard waste –** If you have any questions or to schedule a special pick-up, please contact Public Works (941)575-5050 or [Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/Sanitation).
- **Bagged Yard Waste** – Please do not use plastic bags for yard waste debris. Plastic bags are strictly prohibited at the yard waste landfill. Recyclable paper bags or yard waste carts are the only accepted containers for yard waste materials.
- **Loose Yard Waste Pile** – Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4" in diameter or 4' in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds.
- **Single Family Residents** - Are allowed no more than three yard waste cans or bags per week. The City does not provide cans for yard waste and residents can purchase a cart from any local hardware store. Please be sure the cart has a lid, wheels, and metal bar across the front.
- **Tree Removal** – Tree removal and lot clearing is NOT a part of your regular service. If you have a whole tree removed you must first contact Urban Design to obtain a permit (941)575-3372 or [Tree Removal Permit Request | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/Tree-Removal-Permit-Request). The company that removes the tree is responsible for hauling away the remains. The City does not collect whole tree remains or lot clearing remains.
- **Unacceptable Material** – Lot clearing debris, tree removal, wood, dirt or rocks, cement edging, mulch, sod, fruit, straw, and hay will not be collected by yard waste crews.
- **Vacant Lots** – Vacant lots are not eligible for trash or yard waste services. Please do not place any trash or yard waste on vacant lots. The debris will not be collected.
- **Yard waste debris** – Shrubbery, grass clippings, and leaves must be placed at the curb in containers. Containers shall not exceed 32 gallons in size or 35 pounds in weight and must have handles. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yard waste collection are allowed.



Police

- **V.I.P. Program** - The Volunteers in Policing (V.I.P.) program contributed 601 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during June 2024. Our volunteers are vital to this police department, and we appreciate them greatly! Community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us.



- **15-Year Service Award** – At the July 10, City Council Meeting, Captain Norman Nahra was recognized for his 15 years of service to the Punta Gorda Police Department. Before coming to work in Punta Gorda, Captain Nahra had 11 years of service with the Cleveland Police Department, for a total of 26 years of police service.



OPEN POSITIONS

- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. A virtual testing process will take place in April. Applications must be received by July 12. The written exam will be completed online between July 19, and July 26, and virtual oral board exams will be conducted via Zoom on Aug., 6. The department is accepting applications from certified and non-certified candidates.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** — The police department continually conducts new hire testing to prepare for future openings. Currently, the department is accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. The exam will be held virtually between Aug., 16 and Aug., 23. Applications must be received by Aug., 9.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer 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 more information, please visit [Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/employment) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.**

Fire

- **STATPortals** - This week we introduced a new fire department tracking and management computer program to assist in the department's daily operations. The new platform is called StatPortals and it will ensure that all employees will be able to enter and account for vital information about daily apparatus checks, compartment inventory, medical supplies, staffing, maintenance issues, facilities issues, training platforms, public education, narcotics accountability, and dissemination of information department-wide. With this fire department management platform, firefighters can operate the system from a hand-held tablet assigned to each apparatus, along with operating it from a desktop unit. This type of technology is changing how we

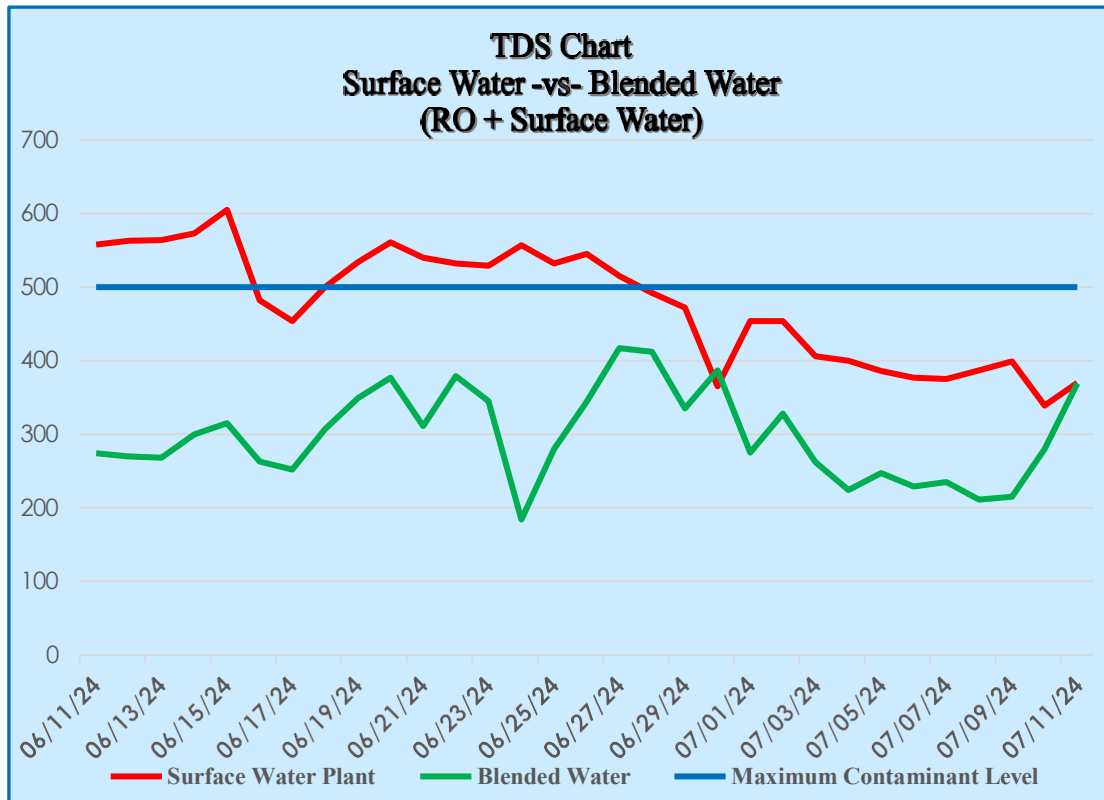


operate and eliminating several antiquated platforms that were previously used. Crews have been working diligently with the Training Division for about a week and we anticipate going live next week.

We must look towards analytics and technological advancements to keep our firefighters safe and have an advantage in the emergency field.

Utilities

R.O. + Surface Water



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** - 47.3 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 6.8 MG daily average.
- **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect** – Receiving 1000 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1000 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall July 2023 – 4.29" July 2024 – 1.21"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 9 –Total hardness 152 ppm
- T.D.S. July 11 – Current 369 ppm. Low – 233 ppm, High 568 ppm, 14-year average 382 ppm.
- Reservoir July 11 – Current 5.47', Record Low 5.12, Record High, 6.84' 58 Year Average 5.51'

Lawn Watering

- Phase I Water Shortage** – The Southwest Florida Water Management District's (District) Governing Board declared a [Phase I Water Shortage](#) for the District's central and southern regions, which include Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota counties. The primary purpose for a Phase I water shortage is to alert the public that watering restrictions could be forthcoming. The order also requires local utilities to review and implement procedures for enforcing year-round water conservation measures and water shortage restrictions, including reporting enforcement activity to the District. A Phase I water shortage order does not change allowable watering schedules, however it does prohibit "wasteful and unnecessary" water use. [Water Restrictions | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)
 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

City Clerk

- 2024 Election Cycle** - The seats for Districts 1, 2, and 4 are scheduled for election this year. A general election will take place on Nov., 5, as two candidates qualified for each district. Qualified candidates are listed on the [City's website](#).
 - Did you know your signature can change over the years? Ensure the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections has an up-to-date record of your signature on file for the upcoming election. Stop by their office at 226 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida, 33982, to update yours during regular business hours.
 - In order to vote by mail, you must have a valid request on file with the Supervisor of Elections Office. Requests for vote-by-mail ballots can be made in person, by calling (941)833-5400, or by visiting the [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 at <https://puntagorda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>.

- **Building Board** - (one consumer advocate, one contractor, and one alternate) – Meets the fourth Tues., at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Reviews enforcement of all codes related to construction standards and acts as condemnation board in matters of violation of minimum standards. Hears alleged complaints against contractors.
- **Code Enforcement Board** (one alternate) – Meets the fourth Wed., at 9 a.m. in 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.
- **Donation Review Committee** (one historic non-profit representative) – Meets at 10 a.m. in City Council Chambers on the fourth Thurs., of Jan., April, July and Oct., or as needed, immediately following the meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Charged with review of all non-monetary gift donation proposals/letters of intent received by the City, in accordance with the review process and established criteria identified in the Non-Monetary Donation Policy. Makes recommendations to the City Council for the acceptance or rejection of non-monetary gift donations.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** (one alternate) – Meets the fourth Thurs., 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 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 regular) – 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.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – (two regular) Meets the fourth Mon. at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member board. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies, and review of utility drawings and specifications.