

## Weekly Highlights Report July 26, 2024

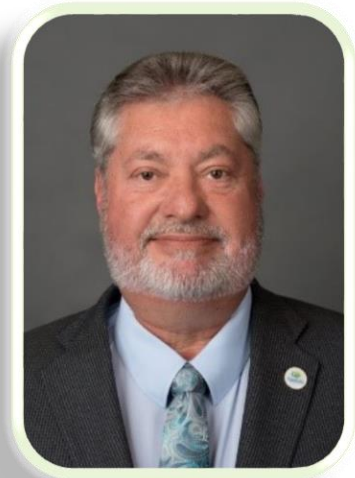
### City Manager

- Recent rainfalls serve as a timely reminder to residents of Punta Gorda that we are in the rainy season. While this is beneficial for replenishing our Shell Creek Reservoir, it also presents significant challenges for our community. Issues ranging from potential flooding and drainage complications to heightened mosquito activity underscore the increased demand for essential services.

Given the low property elevations and pervasive high water tables across much of our area, the likelihood of flooding during summer rain showers and thunderstorms remains a pressing concern. It is imperative that residents take proactive measures, such as securing outdoor furniture and items on docks, to mitigate potential damage. Meanwhile, our city crews are actively engaged in storm drain maintenance, conducting thorough cleanouts of catch basins and drainage lines at least once annually using specialized equipment. Additionally, they undertake critical infrastructure projects like swale reconstruction, outfall enhancements, and roadway culvert repairs to bolster our flood prevention efforts.

The Right of Way Maintenance Division diligently oversees the upkeep of 115 miles of improved streets and over 230 miles of stormwater drainage systems, ensuring they operate seamlessly. During rain events, every effort is made to promptly close affected streets and restrict access to flooded areas, prioritizing public safety. It is crucial for residents to exercise situational awareness and avoid driving through flooded roads—remembering the adage, "Turn around, don't drown."

Swales, which are shallow grassy areas alongside roads, play a pivotal role in managing stormwater runoff, diverting excess water to nearby bodies of water, and preventing residential and roadway flooding. Unlike conventional underground pipe systems, swales also function as natural filters, enhancing water quality in our canals and aquifers. A properly functioning swale typically retains residual water for up to 72 hours post-rainfall, though it's not uncommon for them to remain wet for extended periods during the rainy season. Residents can assist in keeping swales functioning correctly by keeping them free of all debris, branches, leaves, and palm fronds so excess water can filter into the ground.



Public Works oversees the maintenance of critical drainage infrastructure, including regular clearance of blockages and sediment from inlet basins and pipes to ensure unimpeded water flow. Annual inspections and the use of GPS-enabled cameras aid in identifying maintenance priorities for the upcoming year. Please get in touch with Public Works at (941) 575-5050 for inquiries regarding our drainage program.

Residents in various neighborhoods have voiced concerns regarding mosquito populations. Charlotte County manages these concerns through comprehensive ground spraying and aerial treatments. To find out when mosquito control operations are scheduled for your area, visit [Mosquito Treatment Map & Schedule | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/mosquito-treatment-map-schedule). Residents can also contribute to these efforts by regularly draining accumulated water from outdoor items and cleaning birdbaths and pet bowls weekly.

As we embrace the beauty of the rainy season, the collaboration between city staff and residents ensures a safe and enjoyable summer ahead. Our commitment remains steadfast in preserving Punta Gorda's unique small-town charm while advancing diversity, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability initiatives. *For further information or inquiries, please reach out to City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or call the general office line at (941) 575-3302.*



- **Summer Break** – City Council will be on summer hiatus until Aug., 21. During this period, responses to emails and phone calls will be limited.
- **Non-Profit Spotlight** – Did you know volunteers invested over 2,600 hours landscaping and maintaining Nature Park? The Punta Gorda Isles Green Thumbs is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all-volunteer organization whose present mission is to establish, maintain, and enhance the Punta Gorda Nature Park, stop in for a visit, 1555 Aquí Esta Drive, PG. You can also visit their website [Punta Gorda Isles Green Thumbs - Nature Park and Gardens \(pugreenthumbs.org\)](http://pugreenthumbs.org)
- **Excessive Heat Conditions** – Due to the excessive afternoon heat, the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Division is temporarily adjusting the garbage and yard waste collection. Beginning on July 30 residents are asked to set their trash and yard waste containers curbside by 5 a.m. or the evening before the scheduled collection day. This allows staff to begin collecting the trash and yard waste one hour earlier than normal to avoid the afternoon heat.



## 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 [Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.puntagorda.fl.us/employment-opportunities) 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.
  - **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.
  - **Zoning Official – Urban Design** - A supervisory professional responsible for administering the City's codes as they relate to property zoning, design, and maintenance standards.
  - **Permit Technician – Building** - An entry level clerical position responsible for accepting and processing applications for building permits, issuing permits, and collecting and accounting for payments and fees collected by the Building Division.
- **Summer heat and family pets** – Summer's heat can be dangerous for your family pets. Follow these steps to take to help ensure your pet stays safe this summer.
    - Don't leave your pet in a hot vehicle, even for a few minutes. The inside temperature of the car can quickly reach 120 degrees even with the windows cracked open.
    - Animals can suffer heat stroke, a common problem for pets in the warmer weather.
    - Dogs with short noses or snouts, like the boxer or bulldog, are especially prone to heat stroke, along with overweight pets, those with extremely thick fur coat or any pet with upper respiratory problems such as laryngeal paralysis or collapsing trachea.



- Some of the signs of heat stroke in your pet are heavy panting, being unable to calm down, even when lying down, brick red gum color, fast pulse rate and being unable to get up.
- If you suspect your pet has heat stroke, take their temperature rectally. If the temperature is above 105 degrees, cool the animal down. The easiest way to do this is by using the water hose. Stop cooling the animal when the temperature reaches 103 degrees.
- Bring your pet to the veterinarian as soon as possible as heat stroke can lead to severe organ dysfunction and damage.



Download the Red Cross [Pet First Aid Awareness — There's an App for That \(redcross.org\)](https://www.redcross.org) for instant access on how to treat heat stroke, other emergencies and general care for cats and dogs and take the [Cat and Dog First Aid Online | Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org) course.

## Urban Design

### Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit [charlotteharborecc.com/events](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 [Community Events – Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce](https://www.puntagordachamber.com/community-events)
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at [Event Calendar | Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.](https://www.charlottecounty.commerce.com/event-calendar)
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at [Upcoming Events - Military Heritage Museum](https://www.militaryheritagemuseum.com/upcoming-events)
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit [Home - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. \(pgica.org\)](https://www.pgica.org)
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](https://www.visualartcenter.org)



### Lot Mowing Program

- The lot mowing cycle is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed on July 30, weather permitting.

### Planning Corner

- **Dedication Plaque** - At Lashley Park Marina, a new plaque has been added to the right bridge's mural wall. It reads: "The bronze plaque above is the original dedication plaque from the 1931 Barron G. Collier Bridge. This plaque was discarded along the shoreline when the bridge was demolished after the current bridge opened in 1983. The plaque was discovered by Mrs. Helen Shirley and her young daughter. Mrs. Shirley took the plaque home for safekeeping until donating it to the City of Punta Gorda for display in 2019. The plaque was restored to its former glory by the Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society"



## Public Works

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Maintenance crews manufactured 90 sea wall panels, and filled depressions at 30 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 19 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 105 projects completed, and 4 projects under construction with 26 completed in Burnt Store Isles. [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 \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](#) 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. (SW), Ussepa Ct., Casey Key Dr. (SE) 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 IT Department offices are located. Contractors installed new flooring, vinyl base, and all new ceiling tiles. The walls have been painted throughout the space. The IT department will move back into its original space. The Procurement, Billing, and Building departments will be moving to the third floor starting the first week of August, so the contractor can begin the full restoration on the second floor.

- **Laishley Splash Pad** - Construction continues at the Interactive Fountain area in Laishley Park. This work includes rehabilitation and upgrades to the splash pad/play area. The concrete pad for the new interactive fountain areas has been poured.

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 for 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**

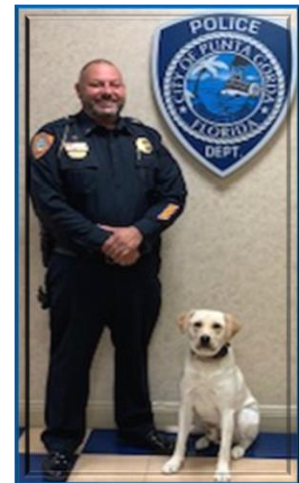
- Crews repaired the catch basins at Harborside and Taylor St.
- Crew completed the sidearm mowing along the ditch line near the water tower.
- Sidewalk repairs are now completed from Virginia to Olympia on MLK.
- Tree trimming at Helen and Mary Street at the stop signs. Trees along Fitzhugh Ave and Booth St have also been trimmed. As well as, Monaco and Tripoli Blvd near the stop signs.

### **Sanitation**

- Due to the excessive afternoon heat, the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Division is temporarily adjusting the garbage and yard waste collection. Beginning on July 30 residents are asked to set their trash and yard waste containers curbside by 5 a.m. or the evening before the scheduled collection day. This allows staff to begin collecting the trash and yard waste one hour earlier than normal to avoid the afternoon heat. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Police**

- **Chamber of Commerce Luncheon** – Chief Pamela Smith and Lt. Justin Davoult spoke at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wed. They discussed the police department Volunteers in Policing Program (VIP), common scams, and ways to avoid them, and they introduced the new police department therapy dog, Officer Spongebob.
- **Quarterly Employee Recognition** - Chief Smith recognized excellent service at this week's July Leadership Meeting. Volunteers were recognized for their assistance with



biannual vehicle speedometer calibrations. Anthony Demarco, Ilene Hochman, Mary Haubold, Thomas MacKinnon, Philip Arciero, and Robert Peterson received the

Volunteer of the Quarter Award. Officer Jedadiah Nowak was named Officer of the Second Quarter. Crime Analyst Adrian Beltran was given the Civilian Employee of the Second Quarter award. Corporal Cody Smith received his Ten Year Service Award. Congratulations, and thank you all for your service.

- **Swearing In and New Employee Recognition** — On Wed., evening, Chief Smith swore in four new police officers and welcomed a new dispatcher to the Punta Gorda Police Department. Officers Jeff Grady, Islenys Harrington, Eric Lee, and Zachary Smith took the Oath of Office, and Dispatcher Eliana Anuchin was recognized for completing her communications training.

### 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 August. Applications must be received by Aug., 16. The written exam will be completed online between Aug., 23 and Aug., 30, and virtual oral board exams will be conducted via Zoom on Sept., 12. 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 23. Applications must be received by Aug., 9.
- **Internship Program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester of 2025. 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://punta-gorda.fl.us) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).**





## Fire

- **Fire Department Training** - The Commission on Professional Credentialing® has just awarded Punta Gorda Fire Department Training Chief Kevin D. Martin the professional designation of Chief Fire Officer and Chief Training Officer effective July 9. Following an extensive peer review process, this designation recognizes demonstrated excellence in seven measured components: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence. In receiving this designation, Kevin D. Martin became an accredited CTO and CFO recognized worldwide. Meeting these stringent requirements will allow Training Chief Kevin D. Martin to bring a higher level of professionalism and service to the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department.

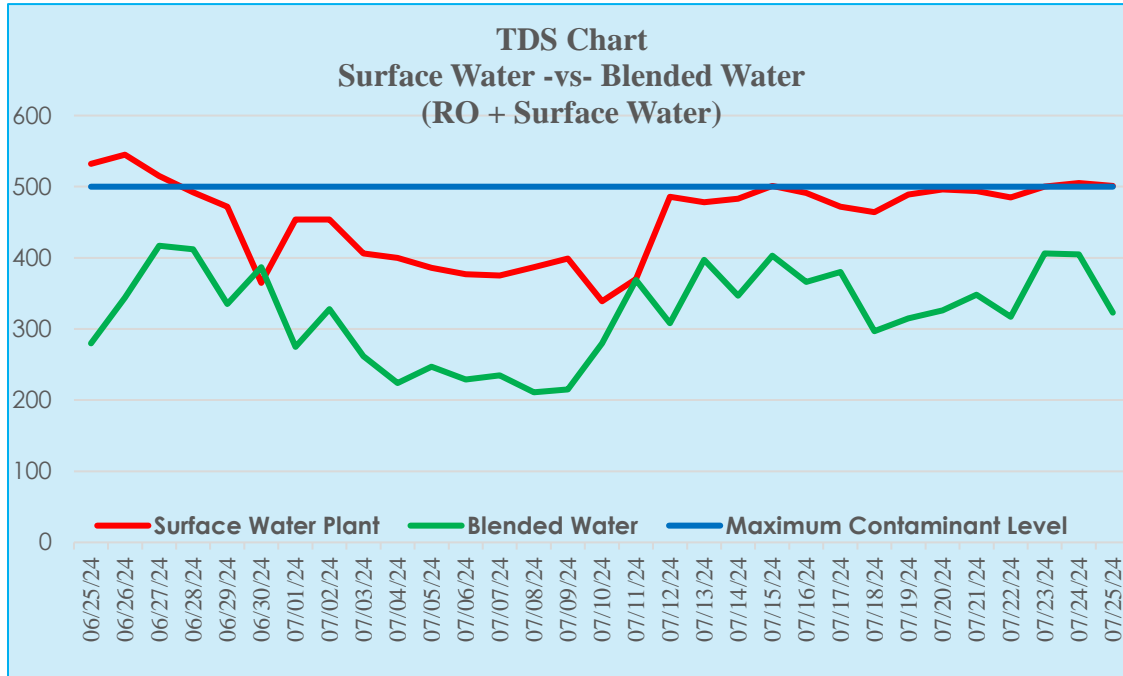


- **Critical Incident Stress Management** - This week the Training Division delivered an important module about first responders and dealing with stress and post-traumatic stress disorder. Firefighters were able to see all the resources the City, the fire department, and outside agencies offer to deal with the effects of critical stress in the emergency setting. Crews were able to see all that was offered to them and a chance to talk among co-workers. It was great to see all of the feedback we received and will put into action moving forward. We also introduced our four fire department peer support team Lieutenant Daniel Felico, Lieutenant Jerod Jones, Firefighter CW McLeod, and Firefighter Tammy Sherkus. It is wonderful to see peers care for peers and look out for their well-being.



## 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 Plant at (941) 639-2057.
- **Water Treatment Plant Operations** - 49.3 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 7.12 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 – 4.21"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 9–Total hardness 124 ppm
- T.D.S. July 25 – Current 323 ppm. Low – 220 ppm, High 512 ppm, 14-year average 357 ppm.
- Reservoir July 25 – Current 5.37', Record Low 4.99, Record High, 6.63 58 Year Average 5.48'

### 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

**Irrigation Basics**

Save water and money by making sure your irrigation controller is set to water wisely. Check local watering restrictions for irrigation start times and watering days.

- ▶ **Irrigation Start Time:** Only one start time is needed to initiate watering for all irrigation zones. Set a start time before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- ▶ **Irrigation Run Time:** This is how long each zone in your irrigation system will run. Check with your local UF/IFAS Extension office for run time recommendations.
- ▶ **Irrigation Schedule:** Your system should be scheduled to only water on your designated watering days and only if needed.
- ▶ For more info visit: <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/residents/code-compliance/water-restrictions>

**Water 101**  
Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

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 [City of Punta Gorda, FL: Board Application \(granicus.com\)](#)

- **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 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.
- **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:
  - Jelly Bird Café, 1133 Bal Harbor Boulevard, Unit 113
  - Pretty as a Pearl, 150 Laishley Court, Unit 111