

Weekly Highlights Report

August 9, 2024

City Manager

- Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Serving on a board or committee is a powerful way to contribute to the development and governance of your city while gaining invaluable experience and networking opportunities. Whether your interests lie in preserving historic landmarks, ensuring fair construction practices, or advising on utility standards, there's a role for you. Joining a board or committee not only enhances your understanding of local issues but also allows you to have a direct impact on the decisions that shape your community. Below, we highlight the various boards and committees currently seeking dedicated members. Discover where your skills and interests can best serve, and learn how you can become a vital part of your city's decision – making process.



Building Board

- **Openings:** One consumer advocate, one contractor, and one alternate.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Tues., at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.
- **Term:** Three years, with a maximum of three terms OR a partial term plus two more terms.
- **Responsibilities:** Reviews enforcement of all codes related to construction standards, acts as a condemnation board for violations of minimum standards, and hears alleged complaints against contractors.

Code Enforcement Board

- **Openings:** One alternate.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Wed., at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.
- **Term:** Three years, with a maximum of three terms OR a partial term plus two more terms.
- **Responsibilities:** Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances. Financial disclosure is required.

Donation Review Committee

- **Openings:** One historic non – profit representative.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Thurs., of Jan., April, July, and Oct., or as needed, immediately following the Historic Preservation Advisory Board meeting.

- **Responsibilities:** Reviews all non – monetary gift donation proposals/letters of intent received by the City according to the Non – Monetary Donation Policy. Makes recommendations to the City Council for acceptance or rejection of these donations.

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

- **Openings:** One alternate.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Thurs., at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.
- **Term:** Three years, with a maximum of three terms OR a partial term plus two more terms.
- **Responsibilities:** Identifies historically significant structures and sites for designation as "Local Historic Landmark" or for listing on the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places. Makes policy recommendations for protecting historically significant sites and promotes public awareness of historical preservation.

Planning Commission

- **Openings:** One regular member.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Mon., at 2 p.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.
- **Requirements:** Must be a City resident.
- **Term:** Three years, with a maximum of three terms.
- **Responsibilities:** Makes recommendations to the City Council on amending, extending, or adding to the comprehensive plan for the city's physical development, platting or subdividing land, and adopting or amending zoning ordinances.

Utility Advisory Board

- **Openings:** Two regular members.
- **Meetings:** Fourth Mon., at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.
- **Term:** Three years, with a maximum of three terms.
- **Responsibilities:** Makes recommendations to the City Council on revisions to utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies, and reviews utility drawings and specifications.

Being a member of a board or committee is more than just a role; it's a commitment to the betterment of your community. Each board and committee plays a crucial part in the smooth functioning and development of our city. By volunteering your time and expertise, you not only help ensure that our community's needs are met with diligence and care but also become a key player in its future. We encourage you to consider these opportunities, bring your unique perspective to the table, and join us in making a meaningful impact. Your involvement could be the catalyst for positive change and progress in our shared community.

- **Charlotte County News Release** – Charlotte County has an online Self – Reporting Storm Damage system to collect storm damage assessments. To report home or business damage, visit tinyurl.com/selfreportdamage, then enter the address, select the type of damage and add a photo. Reporting damage in this system gets the information to county departments quickly and eliminates the need to call it in. The information will help the county compile an extensive list of the damage caused by Tropical Storm Debby. Be aware that property owners must still take whatever steps are necessary to report any damage to their insurance company.



- **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 [Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://www.punta-gorda.fl.us) 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.
 - **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.
 - **Sanitation Worker 1 – Public Works** – An entry level laborer position responsible for solid waste collection services to residents and businesses of Punta Gorda.
 - **Operator A, B, or 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 Plan.
- **The Preferred TIPS Program** – The City was reimbursed \$5,000 from the Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust for our annual TIPS submission. The Preferred TIPS program is a reimbursement program with matching training and safety incentives that can be applied for by any current member of Preferred. Each entity is eligible to apply for a matching incentive of up to \$5,000.00 per year. Examples of the city's qualifying purchases this year include sidewalk repairs, police armor, fire structure boots, Hi – Vis vests, first – aid kits, oxygen testing sensors for the water treatment plant, and safety rescue equipment for the fire department.
- **Rules of the Road for Riding Safely**
 - Ride in a straight line, single file.
 - Go with the traffic flow. Ride on the right in the same direction as cars.
 - Obey all traffic signs and signals.
 - Ride with both hands on the handlebars except when signaling a turn or stop.
 - Stop and look left – right – left for traffic before entering a street.



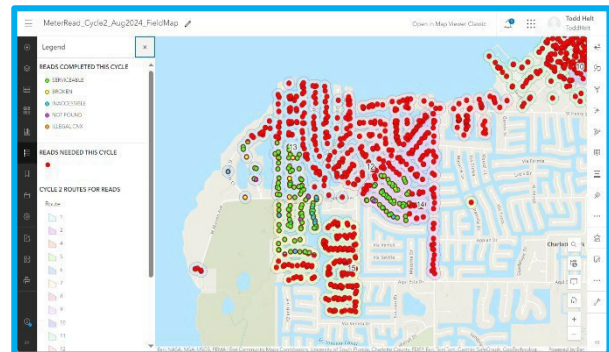
- Walk your bike across an intersection.
- Stay alert – use your eyes to look for things that could make you fall, like potholes, cracks, pebbles, or wet leaves.
- Stay alert – use your ears to listen for traffic. Don't wear earphones while riding.
- Watch for parked cars and cars pulling out or into parking spaces or driveways.
- Check your equipment. Make sure your bike tires are properly inflated and that the brakes work.
- Don't forget your bicycle helmet. Wear it flat on your head and buckled



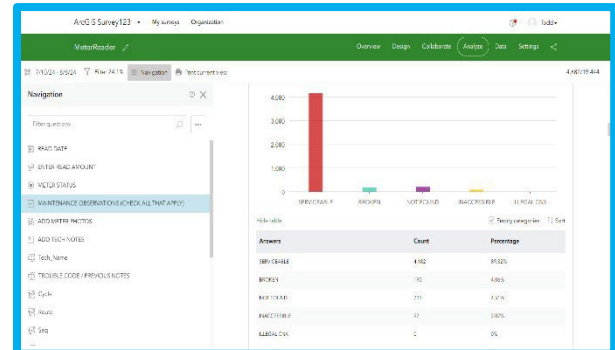
Information Technology (IT)

- **Utilities Billing and Collections Business Process Integrating GIS – based Meter Reader App and Cloud Services** – The City of Punta Gorda Utilities and Billing and Collections

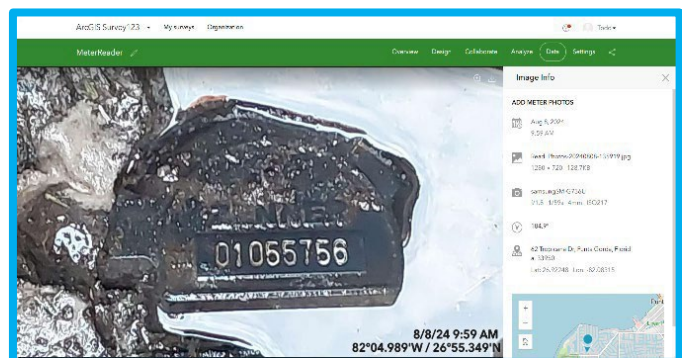
Departments needed a system to increase both the accuracy and frequency of water meter reads to bill the City's 14,000 residential and commercial utilities customers monthly. To meet this need, IT collaborated with Utilities and Finance to create the Meter Reader app which leverages the City's Esri – based Enterprise GIS, ArcGIS Online (AGOL), Field Maps and Survey123. The app allows City's meter readers to quickly and efficiently collect reads and GPS – tagged meter photos to document current read quantity and the status and condition of each meter. This info is shared in real – time via the City's Cloud – based ArcGIS Online portal so that Utilities and Finance staff all have immediate access to the data through the AGOL Web Map and Survey123 Dashboard. Approximately 5,000 meters per month are currently being read using the system, but it has been scaled to increase that number based on the City's needs.



As a result, Utilities and Billing and Collections staff report that the billing and collections process has improved vastly, with every bill now being backed up with a date – time – location stamped photo showing the actual meter amount. Customer Service staff can now immediately respond to customer calls about their bills by simply querying the read location in the browser – based Survey123 interface and web map. The project also provides Utilities with meter status (serviceable, broken, inaccessible, illegal connection, not found) and photo documentation with any maintenance needs observed by the meter reader, which is updated monthly via the Meter Reader app.



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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 <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- 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 – 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://pgica.org)
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](http://visualartcenter.org)



Lot Mowing Program

- Due to heavy rains, the City has completed mowing the following areas.
 - PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard, and Turtle Dove Boulevard).
 - PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive).
 - Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Drive, Tripoli Boulevard, Madrid Boulevard, and Macedonia Drive).
 - Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree).
- The City will begin a new mowing, trimming, and edging cycle as soon as the one they are working on is completed, weather permitting.

Planning Corner

- The Citywide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) internal way – finding signage project has been completed. The last three remaining buildings, Cooper Street Recreation Center, Firehouse II, and Firehouse III have new ADA – compliant signage. This has been a three – phase, multiple – year project. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the ADA, a comprehensive civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability. Title II of the Act requires that municipalities develop and adopt transition plans that document physical barriers to accessibility, propose modifications to remove said barriers, and contain a schedule to complete modifications.



Public Works

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Maintenance crews manufactured 80 sea wall panels, patched seawall caps at two, and filled depressions at 23 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 114 projects completed, and five projects under construction with 25 completed in Burnt Store Isles. Phase two has started in the SW Zone. Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | [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 Urban Design, Code Enforcement, Zoning, IT, and City Manager offices are. The Procurement, Billing, and Building departments have moved to the third floor this week and there are signs for residents and contractors to use the elevator to conduct business there. The contractor has begun the full restoration on the second floor starting in the Procurement Office and will be starting the Billing/Building department next week.

- **City Hall Annex Roof** – The contractor has started to work on the roof and repair the Hurricane Ian damage.
- **What is a swale?** – Much of our community utilizes roadside swales to convey excess stormwater to the nearest body of water. Swales are shallow grass areas along the road which collect and convey runoff so that our homes and roads are not flooded. Swales function much differently than underground pipe systems that many residents are more familiar with. Besides conveying water, swales also act to filter and absorb water, resulting in cleaner canals and aquifers. A swale is expected to retain small amounts of water after a rainfall event. Unless the swale retains water for more than 72 hours since the last rainfall, it is considered to be functioning properly.
- **72 – Hour Level of Services** – The City of Punta Gorda utilizes a 72 – hour Level of Service for determining if a drainage swale is functioning properly. For a swale to not be functioning properly, there must be standing water in the swale 72 hours after the **last rainfall event**. Each time an additional rainfall event occurs within 72 hours of the previous event the time clock restarts for the 72 – hour determination. It is not uncommon for successive rainfall events that are not more than 72 hours apart to lead to wet swales for weeks at a time during the rainy season. Additionally, there are areas within the City that have deeper swales that may remain wet during the rainy season due to the groundwater table. These swales are looked at from the perspective that they are draining properly rather than being without water 72 hours after a rainfall event.



- **Homeowners Responsibility** – When your home was built, engineering inspectors worked with the builder to ensure that your swale was properly constructed. Without proper maintenance, the elevation of your swale can change, causing drainage issues for you or your neighbor. It is important that you maintain your swale because the improperly maintained swale at your home may be causing problems for your neighbors several lots away even if your own drainage seems to be working fine. There are many things a homeowner can do to help maintain their swale including the following:
 - Avoid over – watering and fertilization of the swale area. As the swale is the lowest part of your yard, it will naturally get moisture and nutrients that flow from the higher area.
 - Keep pipes and culverts open by removing sod which may be blocking the flow of water.
 - Dethatch Floratam lawns annually in the spring to remove dead vegetation below the surface.
 - Avoid driving in your swale, and certainly not during wet times. Ruts cause blockages in the swale.
 - Do not pile vegetation or other debris in the swale. Do not dispose of chemicals or other pollutants in the swale.

- If there is a **substantial** amount of water in your swale after the 72 – hour time period or if water is threatening your home, we recommend that you contact Public Works at (941) 575 – 5050 to submit a drainage complaint, or complete a report a problem request by utilizing this link [Report a Problem | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta – gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/Report-a-Problem).

- **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. Play equipment installation is nearing completion.

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 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 permitted to work 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 be taking place as the project progresses. Construction is beginning in Burnt Store Isles and Burnt Store Meadows.

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 on 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 Lori Haight at (501) 844 – 6340. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

- **Peace River Wildlife Center** – Construction has begun for the Peace River Wildlife Center located next to the Hounds on Henry Dog Park! This work includes the development of the wildlife center and the expansion and reconstruction of the parking lot for the Hounds on Henry Dog Park.

Please use extra caution while driving or walking through this area due to construction personnel and equipment. Please obey the newly installed stop signs as dump trucks are delivering fill dirt at the rate of approximately (30) loads per day. These trucks require a wide turn area, and vehicles should give them plenty of room to maneuver. The fenced construction area will be closed to the public at all times during this period. 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.



Right of Way

- Crews prepared for tropical storm Debbie's arrival and completed the cleanup from the aftermath.
- The drainage pipe on Colony Point Dr is being repaired.
- The sidewalk crew repaired sidewalks on Aqui Esta between Purple Martin Dr to Magdalena Dr.
- Crews are preparing to repair the pothole on the third bridge between DiVinic Dr and Colony Point Dr.
- Mowing has commenced along 41 Southbound.
- Crews cleaning up on Retta after Storm



Sanitation

- **Loose Yard Waste Clamshell Truck Collection Delays** – Loose yard waste piles collection with the clamshell truck is experiencing longer than normal wait times. We ask residents for their continued patience as staff is working diligently to complete the tickets in the order in which they are received. Staff is working overtime on their days off to . Yard waste debris may also be dropped off at Mid – County Mini – Transfer and Recycling Facility, 19765 Kenilworth Blvd., Port Charlotte. Proof of county residency is required [Mini – Transfer and Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](http://charlottecountyfl.gov). 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..
- **Storm Preparation Reminders** – During the preparation of any impending storm, the City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Department would like to remind residents of the storm debris preparation and collection guidelines. Trimming around your home should be well before any storm warnings or watches are issued. To place yard waste out at this time could block storm drains and cause flooding or allow the materials to become dangerous projectiles. DO NOT cut down trees or vegetation or do any major yard work. Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal Yardwaste collection process, and collecting this debris

a few days before the storm's landfall is NOT guaranteed. During a Watch or Warning, do not place materials at the curb. Public Works may suspend services, and facilities may close early to prepare for the storm.

- **Trash and Recycling Containers** – Be sure to secure your trash, recycling and any personal yard waste containers inside a secure location. During an event the containers could become projectiles and cause significant damage. The trash and recycling containers end up in the water way disturbing natural habitats and causing unnecessary pollution. The containers are very costly and the property owner is ultimately responsible for the costs involved in replacing the container. Prices vary according to the container size. A limited amount of containers are kept on sight for replacement.
- **Monitor the Website for Updates** – Monitor the website closely prior to any weather incidents that could cause trash, yard waste or recycling collection to be cancelled or delayed. If you lose power and phone service, our offices most likely are without the same services and staff may not be available to answer any questions. [City of Punta Gorda, FL | Home \(punta – gorda.fl.us\)](http://www.cityofpunta.com).
- **Why does my residential trash, yard waste, and recycling need to be curbside by 5 a.m. on the day of collection?** – Our sanitation workers strive to maintain a routine in which residents would be serviced roughly around the same time each collection day. However, sanitation encounters problems from time to time such as trucks being down for service, staffing issues, or weather conditions. To maintain the best level of service, we kindly ask residents to have trash, yard waste, and recycling curbside either the night before or before 6 am on the day of service. Staff is not always available to return the same day to collect a late put – out during these instances. Thank you for your continued cooperation. For more information regarding solid waste [Chapter 10 SOLID WASTE, YARD WASTE, PUBLIC NUISANCES* \(punta – gorda.fl.us\)](http://www.cityofpunta.com)
- **Chapter 10, Section 10 – 9 (excerpt)** – Garbage and trash collection. All cans and containers shall be emptied and disposition made of the contents thereof twice weekly for single – family and multi – family residences and at such times and frequency as shall be designated by the Director of Public Works for non – residential uses, depending on the number and size of containers and the amount and type of garbage and trash generated. Residential uses utilizing garbage cans that require side – door pick – up for medical reasons shall provide documentation from a physician to the Director of Public Works. All other garbage cans and bags shall be placed at the street curb for collection no earlier than 24 hours before the scheduled collection. To ensure collection, garbage cans should be placed at the curb before 6 a.m. on the day of the scheduled collection.
- **Regular Yard Waste Containers** – Residents are responsible for purchasing their yard waste containers or bags. Biodegradable paper bags designated for yard waste collection are allowed. Plastic bags will not be collected. The regular yard waste crews are unable to pick up large loose piles, so a clamshell truck will be required. Please do not place mulch and fertilizer bags, rocks or bricks, plastic pots, dirt or sod, and plastic barriers and fencing inside the container or bags, these items are strictly prohibited.
- **Regular Yard Waste Guidelines** – 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. 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 bags are permitted, staff is not responsible for clean – up if the bags get wet or torn.
- **Yard Waste Pile Special Collection Guidelines** – As a friendly reminder, vacant lots, undeveloped properties, tree removal, lot clearing, and oversized piles are **NOT** included in the regular yard waste service provided by the city. If you have a large quantity of loose

yard waste, branches, etc. that is a wheelbarrow full or larger, you will need to schedule a special collection by calling (941) 575 – 5050 or [Schedule a Special Pick Up | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta – gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us).

Police

- **Lieutenant Dylan Renz Promoted** – Chief Pamela Smith announced the promotion of Lieutenant Dylan Renz to Captain. Captain Renz has been with the Punta Gorda Police Department since 2010. Captain Renz will oversee the Support Services Division, which includes the Administrative Services, Communications, and Professional Standards Sections. Congratulations, Captain Renz!



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 Oct., 11 and 18, 2024. Applications must be received by Oct., 4.
- **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!

Fire

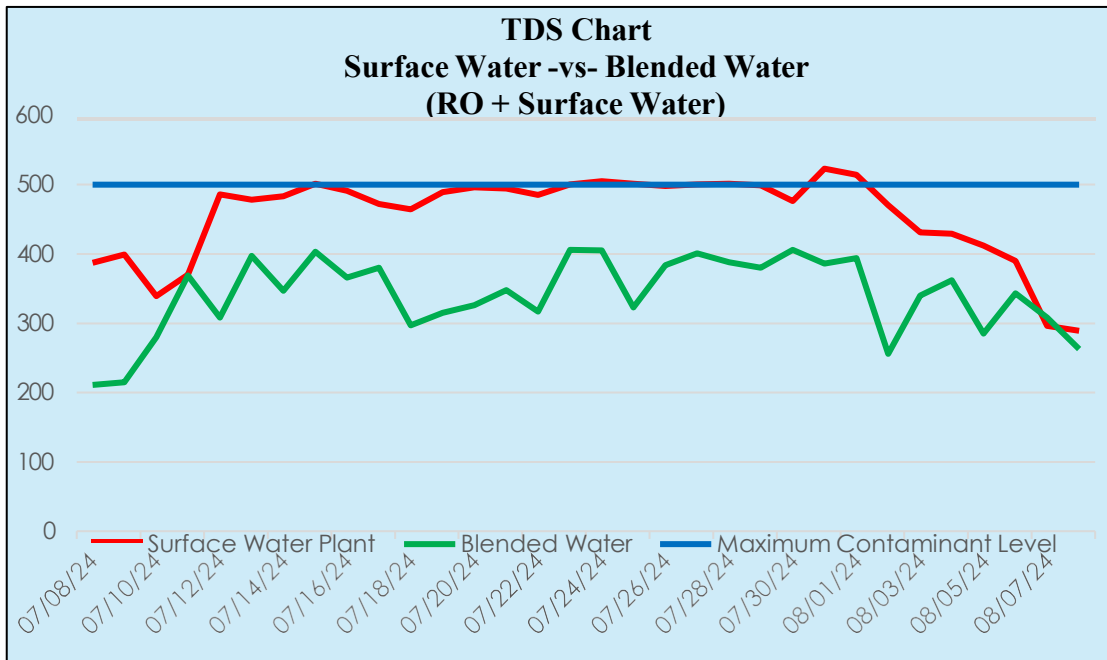
- **Hurricane Debby 2024** – The event produced 2 – 4 feet of storm surge and 4 – 6 inches of rainfall causing localized flooding to the Punta Gorda Downtown Historic District. Several roadways including; East and West Marion Ave, East and West Olympia Ave, part of Taylor St. and multiple side street had to be shutdown. The tidal flooding and storm surge had receded within 24 hours and Public Works had the streets cleaned of debris within 48 hours.





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** – 41.5 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 5.9 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 August 2023 – 9.01" August 2024 – 3.61"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 6–Total hardness 108 ppm
- T.D.S. Aug., 1 – Current 263 ppm. Low – 263 ppm, High 459 ppm, 14 – year average 349 ppm.
- Reservoir Aug., 1 – Current 6.26, Record Low 4.93, Record High, 6.26' 58 Year Average 5.55'



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 their hose, so water isn't wasted. For more irrigation and water saving tips, please visit the District's website at [WaterMatters.org/Water101](#). [Water Restrictions | City of Punta Gorda,FL](#)

on

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](#).
- **Business Tax Receipt Renewals** – City business tax receipts must be renewed for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 prior to Sept., 30, or else a late fee will be assessed. The first renewal notices were emailed to the address on file with the City Clerk's Office on July 8. The second renewal notices will be emailed on Aug., 5. If you have not received an emailed renewal reminder, please call the City Clerk's Office at (941)575 – 3369 or email businesstax@cityofpuntagordafl.com to update your email address.

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. at the Military Heritage Museum. 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. at the Military Heritage Museum. 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. at the Military Heritage Museum 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. at the Military Heritage Museum. 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. at the Military Heritage Museum. 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 at the Military Heritage Museum. 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.