



## Weekly Highlights Report September 6, 2024

### City Manager

- As the peak of hurricane season approaches, it's crucial for all Punta Gorda residents to be prepared. The safety of your family and the protection of your property depend on early and thorough preparation. Here are some suggestions to help new and seasoned residents prepare for storms.

The first step in hurricane preparedness is to create a family emergency plan. Ensure every member of your household understands the plan, including how to evacuate, where to meet if separated, and how to contact each other if communication is disrupted. Designate a safe meeting place outside your home, and identify emergency contacts both locally and out of state. Practice your plan regularly to ensure everyone is comfortable with the procedures.

Assemble an emergency kit. Your emergency kit should be stocked with essential supplies to last at least 72 hours. Key items to prepare include at least one gallon per person per day. Non-perishable food that provides for ready-to-eat items that don't require cooking. A battery-powered or hand-crank radio to stay informed about weather updates. Flashlights and extra batteries. Put together a first aid kit, including prescription medications and personal hygiene items. Store copies of identification, insurance policies, and medical records in a waterproof container. Have cash on hand in case ATMs or credit card systems are down. Don't forget to include pet supplies, such as food, water, and medications.

Ensure your homeowners or renter's insurance includes hurricane and flood coverage. Review your policy to understand what is covered and any deductibles. Install storm shutters or use plywood to protect windows. Reinforce doors and garage doors to prevent them from blowing in. Remove any potential projectiles from your yard, such as lawn furniture, garden tools, and trash cans. Secure or bring inside anything that the wind could turn into a hazard. Ensure your roof is in good repair and gutters are clear to prevent water damage.

Know your evacuation routes and shelter locations. If you live in a flood-prone area, it's crucial to plan for possible evacuation as early as possible. Keep your car's gas tank full, and have an emergency travel kit in your vehicle. If you have special needs or medical conditions, make arrangements in advance for transportation and support.

Monitor local weather reports and heed any warnings or advisories from the National Weather Service and local authorities. Download weather apps and follow social media



channels for real-time updates. Sign up for local alert systems to receive notifications about evacuation orders and other critical information.

Once the hurricane has passed, stay tuned to official channels for instructions before returning to your home. Be cautious of potential hazards such as downed power lines, flooded roads, and structural damage. Follow local guidelines for re-entering affected areas and avoid drinking tap water until it has been declared safe.

Hurricane preparedness is not just about safeguarding your property but also about ensuring the safety and well-being of your family. By taking these steps now, you can significantly reduce the risks and challenges posed by severe weather. For more information and updates, visit the City of Punta Gorda's website. Stay safe, stay prepared, and let's work together to protect our community. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com) or the main office phone line (941) 575-3302.

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on September 18, at Military Heritage Museum, 900 W Marion Avenue. The Budget hearing will take place on September 18 at 5:01 p.m. at the same location.
- **Water Meter Update** – Staff is working towards piloting a trial of an AMI solution utilizing Amazon Sidewalk Network. This pilot seeks to address issues with meter functionality, simplify installation and maintenance processes, and achieve cost savings. A study is being undertaken to review the existing AMI system, investigate alternatives, assist with the pilot evaluation, and make recommendations. Finally, in addition to the meter readers from Olameter. Staff members are being trained and offered an opportunity read meters in the evening and on Saturdays to ensure customers receive an actual read rather than estimated billing.

## 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://Employment Opportunities | City of Punta Gorda, FL (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.
  - **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 Plant.
  - **Utilities Maintenance Worker II – Wastewater Collection, Utilities** – A skilled laborer position responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of wastewater collection facilities and systems.



- **Maintenance Worker I – Parks & Grounds, Public Works** – An entry level laborer position responsible for daily maintenance of parks, medians, municipal properties, cul-de-sacs, and streetscape.
- **Prevent Blindness** - New Data from Prevent Blindness Shows More Than 32,600 Sports Eye Injuries Were Treated in 2023, with Pool and Water Sports as the Type of Sport with the Most Eye Injuries.
- **Protect Your Eyes While Playing Sports** - Types of sports-related eye injuries include blunt trauma, including retina tears or detachment, penetrating injuries, corneal scratches and abrasions. Some eye infections are contracted through
  - [Prevent Blindness](#) recommends the following sports eye safety guidelines:
  - Monocular athletes (a person with only one eye that sees well), should ask their eye doctor what sports they can play safely. Monocular athletes should always wear sports eye guards.
  - When purchasing eye guards with lenses, make sure the lenses either stay in place or pop outward in the event of an accident. Lenses that pop in against the eyes can be very dangerous.
  - Polycarbonate eye guards are the most impact resistant. Polycarbonate lenses are also thinner and lighter than plastic, shatterproof, and provide UV protection. For sports use, polycarbonate lenses must be used with protectors that meet or exceed the requirements of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International, a global standards development organization.
  - Each sport has a specific ASTM standard, so check the package and/or protector to make sure the appropriate ASTM standard designation for the sport is on the product, before buying it. Do not buy the product if there is no ASTM code provided.
  - Look for eye guards that are certified by an authorized certification organization such as the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) or independently tested by an accredited laboratory that provides independent verified evidence of protection and performance. Do not buy products labeled as ‘ASTM Certified’ as ASTM does not certify products.

## Urban Design

### Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit [charlotteharborecc.com/events](http://charlotteharborecc.com/events);
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at [PLAY | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda, Florida \(fishermensvillage.com\)](http://PLAY | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda, Florida (fishermensvillage.com))
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at [Community Events – Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce](http://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.](http://Event Calendar | Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.)
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at [Upcoming Events - Military Heritage Museum](http://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 [Visual Arts Center \(visualartcenter.org\)](http://Visual Arts Center (visualartcenter.org))
- September 20, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: [kpomerville@cbhcfll.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcfll.org) or visit [Annual Recovery Candlelight Vigil returns to Laishley Park - Charlotte County Florida Weekly](http://Annual Recovery Candlelight Vigil returns to Laishley Park - Charlotte County Florida Weekly)

### Lot Mowing Program

- The lot mowing cycle is complete. The city will begin a new mowing cycle on September 9, weather permitting.

## Planning Corner



- **City's Sign Code** - With election season in full swing, Code Enforcement Officers will be enforcing the City's sign code. Signs are a distraction to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians and pose a threat to their safety by stealing their attention. The City would like to remind our residents and businesses that the sign code is content-neutral and is enforced by the following:
  - Number of signs per parcel
  - Sign size
  - Sign location
- **Residential Properties** - Signs may not be placed within ten feet of the edge of the roadway pavement. Signs shall not exceed four square feet in area per sign. Signs shall not exceed three feet in height. Signs shall be limited to four per parcel, this includes flags; except as otherwise permitted, one flag may be a maximum of 60 square feet in area.
- **Commercial Properties** - Signs may not be placed within ten feet of the edge of the roadway pavement. Signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in area per sign. Signs shall not exceed six feet in height. Signs shall be limited to four signs per acre.

No signs shall obstruct the vision or path of motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians so as to create a safety hazard. Any sign found to create a safety hazard may be removed by the City, and if possible, relocated to a safe location.

In addition, Code Compliance will NOT enter private property to remove any signs; if the property is non-compliant, Code staff will notify the property owner in writing with a Courtesy Notice. Code staff has not and will not place 'stickers' on any signs. The 'stickers' that have been found on some of the signs in the area are not being produced or installed by the City of Punta Gorda Code staff.

## Public Works

### Canal Maintenance

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Maintenance crews filled depressions at 37 residences, and patched seawall caps. Crews removed one piling and boat lift bunker board from the canal system in Punta Gorda Isles.
- **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 15 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 112 projects completed. All 30 seawall projects in Burnt Store Isles have been completed. There are two staging sites pending rehab approval from the Code Enforcement Department. Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures | [Hurricane Ian Related Seawall Failures](https://www.cityofpuntaorda.com/Hurricane-Ian-Related-Seawall-Failures) | [City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.cityofpuntaorda.com)
- **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://boat2puntagorda.org)) click on the Dock Match button for information.

## Engineering

- **Swale Regrading** – The Engineering Department has completed the yearly swale inspection Citywide. The employees install GoPros on their trucks and drive every street within City limits after 72 hours with no rain to record videos of all the swales. The Engineering department will review the videos to create the 2024-2025 swale re-grading list.
- **City Hall Annex** – The contractor is in the final stages of completing the interior repairs and remodel. Billing/Collections and the Building department have moved back to the second floor. The Human Resources department is temporarily located in the Procurement office while the contractor completes the full restoration. Human Resources and Procurement are scheduled to return to their normal locations the week of September 9.
- **City Hall Annex Roof** – The City Hall Annex roof is substantially complete and it is expected that the final building inspection will be performed in the next week.
- **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 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 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 the 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. A temporary entrance to the dog park has been constructed and will be opened soon. The existing entrance will only serve as a construction access to the Peace River Wildlife Center development area once the temporary entrance is opened. Please use the new temporary entrance once it has been opened to traffic for access to 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 continue to mow around the city. Mowing continued in these areas Monaco Drive, Bal Harbor Boulevard, Columbian Drive, and near Carmalita by the railroad tracks.
- Crews continue to repair the drainage pipe on Taylor Road and Carmalita Street.
- Crews completed patching the damaged roadway at the following locations; Andros Street, Breakers Court, Baynard Drive, Vasco Street, and Aqui Esta Drive.

## Sanitation

- **Improper Disposal Dangers** – As a friendly reminder, please do not place chemicals inside the regular trash. Sanitation was forced to dump a load of trash in a grassy area after collecting trash from a resident who started to smoke inside the hopper area. Hazardous products must be disposed of properly to reduce environmental impact and safety hazards. Toxic products tossed in the trash, may injure sanitation workers, damage collection vehicles, or leak into the environment. Dumping or illicitly household hazardous waste down the drain, on the ground, or in stormwater drains will cause water pollution, and damage plumbing, and septic systems.
- **Hazardous Products** –A product is considered hazardous if it is corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Watch out for signal words on labels such as poison, danger, warning, and caution. These include everyday items such as paint, insecticides, cleaners, automotive products, and unused medications. Please do not place it inside the trash, recycling, or dumpster containers. These items must be disposed of properly.
- **Improper Disposal of Batteries:** Batteries, like the ones found in many rechargeable electronic devices, computers, and cell phones are prohibited from being placed inside the trash, recycling, or dumpster containers. These batteries easily rupture, catch fire, and cause the trash to smolder when compacted in the refuse truck hopper. The toxic fumes, smoke, and fire impose a huge safety risk for the sanitation workers.
- **How to Properly Dispose of Hazardous Products** – See the complete list and instructions [Household Hazardous Waste | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/household-hazardous-waste)



Residents can bring their household hazardous waste to the [Mini-Transfer & Recycling Facilities | Charlotte County, FL \(charlottecountyfl.gov\)](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/mini-transfer-recycling) residents are allowed 12 free trips per fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Recycling and household hazardous waste do not count towards the 12 trips. Proof of county residency is required. Residents need to bring a valid form of identification to include name, photo, and local address. Photo identification from other areas must be accompanied by a current utility bill or document showing proof of residency at a Charlotte County residential address. P.O. Box addresses are not accepted as proof of residency.

## Police

- **Volunteers in Policing** — The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program contributed 453 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during August. 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@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:VIP@cityofpuntagordafl.com).



- **Do the Right Thing** — The first Do the Right Thing ceremony of the school year was held this Thursday at the police department. Do the Right Thing of Charlotte County recognizes students throughout Charlotte County for exceptional acts of community service, kindness, and heroism. This program is funded entirely through business sponsors and community donations. If you want to become a sponsor, donate, or nominate a deserving student, please visit our website's Do the Right Thing page at [Do the Right Thing | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/do-the-right-thing)



#### 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 September 27. The written exam will be completed online between October 4 and October 11, and virtual oral board exams will be conducted via Zoom on October 24. The 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 October 11 and 18. Applications must be received by October 4.
- **Internship Program** — The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring Semester of 2025. Our program is open to college students and high school seniors interested in gaining educational experience in law enforcement, criminal justice, and small government administration. Spots fill up quickly, and the selection process can be competitive, 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-opportunities) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).



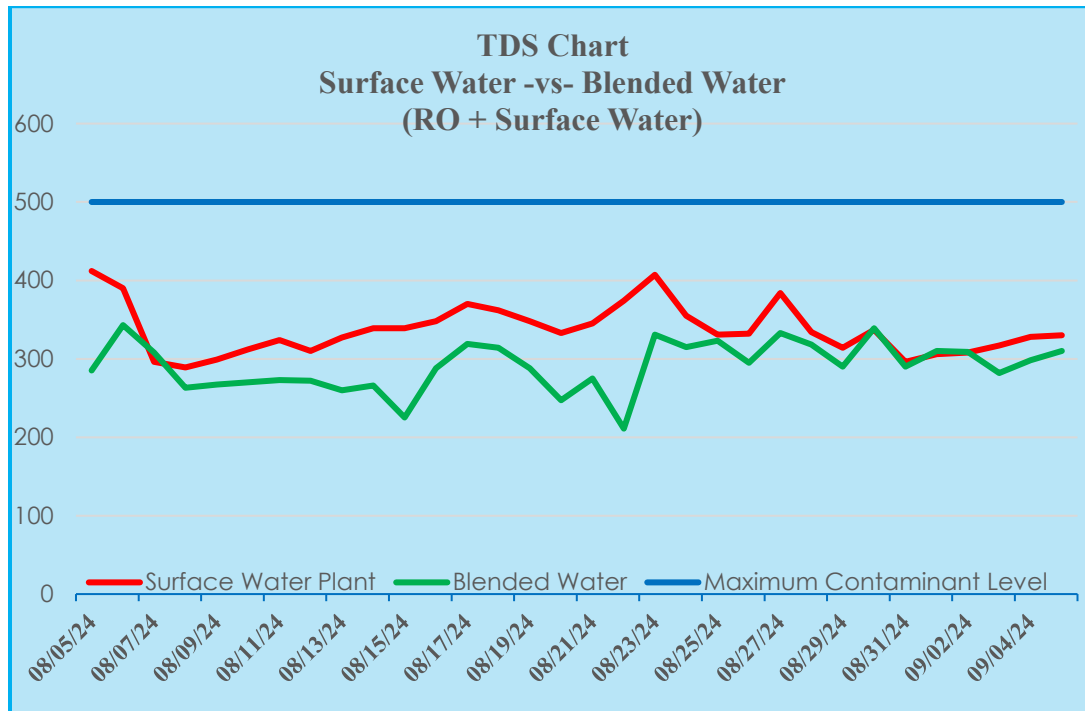
## Fire

- **Driver Training** — This week the fire department was all about driver training. We are excited to announce our three new hires have passed their six-month mark and are now considered staffing and can operate our fire department apparatus. This has been six months of working through their new-hire proficiency books. They now enter into their final six months of training focusing on emergency medical training and honing their skills on everything that they have learned throughout the probationary period. We are so proud of these three young men for their work ethic, positive attitudes, and dedicated service to our department.



## 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** – 41.4 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 – 9.23" September 2023 – 1.96" September 2024 – 1.09"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 7 –Total hardness 124 ppm
- T.D.S. September 5 – Current 310 ppm. Low – 193 ppm, High 368 ppm, 14-year average 292 ppm.
- Reservoir September 5 – Current 5.95, Record Low 5.17, Record High, 6.65' 58 Year Average 5.64'

### 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. For more irrigation and water saving tips, please visit the District's website at [WaterMatters.org/Water101](#). [Water Restrictions | City of Punta Gorda, FL](#)



Addresses ending in 0 and 1	Monday & Thursday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday & Friday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday & Saturday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 6 and 7	Thursday & Sunday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 8 and 9	Friday & Tuesday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in letter or Location without a discernable address	Friday & Tuesday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

## City Clerk

### 2024 Election Cycle

- **Elections** – The seats for Districts 1, 2, and 4 are scheduled for election this year. A general election will take place on November 5, as two candidates qualified for each district. Qualified candidates are listed on the [City's website](#).
  - Subscribe to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections' monthly newsletter to stay up to date on elections news.
  - 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 September 30, or else a late fee will be assessed. Today, the third renewal notices are being emailed to the address on file with the City Clerk's Office. If you have not received an emailed renewal reminder, please call the City Clerk's Office at (941)575-3369 or email [businessstax@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:businessstax@cityofpuntafordafl.com) to update your email address.
  - Beginning October 1, a 10% late fee will be assessed for businesses which have not renewed their tax receipt, with a 5% late fee added each month beyond October.
  - Failure to renew a business tax receipt may result in code enforcement action including a citation or an appearance before the Code Enforcement Board, which could result in additional fines.
- **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 \(granicus.com\)](#). Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet in in Council Chambers, which is currently located in the Military Heritage Museum at 900 West Marion Avenue.
  - **Building Board** (one consumer advocate and one alternate) – Meets the fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members with two alternates; four members must be involved with building industry and three members must never have been involved in the building industry. City residency not required. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Financial disclosure required. 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.
  - **Donation Review Committee** (one historic non-profit representative) – Meets the fourth Thursday of January, April, July and October, or as needed, at 10 a.m. or immediately following the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB). Board of five members; chair of the HPAB, two HPAB members, one local historic non-profit representative, and one local arts organization representative. Term period for Council appointees is three years with a limit of three terms. 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 Thursday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members with two alternates; members must be residents, property owners, or business owners of the City, except one member may be a resident, property owner, or business owner of Charlotte County. Term period is three years with a limit of three 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.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – (two regular) Meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. Board of seven members. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council regarding 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 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:
  - New Horizons ABA Care Inc, 1675 West Marion Avenue
  - Tarpon Coast Fishing Charters, 1200 West Retta Esplanade, Dock