

## Weekly Highlights Report September 13, 2024

### City Manager

- Repairs to lights damaged by Hurricane Ian continue in the City of Punta Gorda. City staff, along with assistance from contractors and coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation and Charlotte County, have already made numerous street light and traffic signal repairs throughout the city. The city recently acquired the assistance of a lighting contractor, and the pre-construction meeting took place Tuesday morning. The contractor is scheduled to begin repairs starting next week and has been instructed to begin repairs along the Linear Park and Gilchrist Park first. Hurricane Ian devastated not just Punta Gorda but numerous communities, destroying tens to hundreds of thousands of lights and causing supply shortages. In speaking with Charlotte County and the Florida Department of Transportation, the estimated time frame to complete their lighting repairs is the first quarter of 2025. That would also be the estimated timeframe for the city lighting repairs.



Work also continues on the water meter reporting issues. The Zenner Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system has 14,172 meters in the AMI system, with 9,143 non-reporting. Repairs of this system are made as parts become available. We are exploring all options for water meters. One option involves replacing the meter's register, encoder, and communications unit with an all-in-one unit. 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, eliminate points of failure, and achieve cost savings. It allows us to restore AMI capabilities to residents without interrupting their water service, as the current brass meters are reliable and serviceable. If this type of system is workable, then the bid process would be used to allow qualified vendors to supply the equipment needed.

A study is also being undertaken to review the existing AMI system, investigate alternatives, assist with the pilot evaluation, and make recommendations. The engineering study will run concurrently with the pilot, allowing real-time review by engineers and stakeholders. Finally, in addition to the meter readers from Olameter, city staff members are being trained and offered an opportunity to read meters in the evening and on Saturdays to ensure customers receive an actual read rather than estimated billing. The acting utilities director, Tom Spencer, will update the City Council at the September 18 meeting of the City Council beginning at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.

The City Council will also consider an event permit for Halloween street closures. The Historic District in Punta Gorda will again host trick or treating. The very popular Halloween event downtown is planned by neighbors in the Historic District. While it is not an official city-sanctioned event, the city and the downtown residents go all out for fabulous displays in their yards and provide a fun event for kids and their parents. Hundreds of people descend on the downtown residential streets in the Historic District to trick or treat, and some just come downtown to see the cool house decorations. The city invites the public to join us in Nightmare Before Christmas on Harvey Street for some Halloween treats and fun on the evening of October 31.



At 5:01 p.m. at the Military Heritage Museum on September 18, the second Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Hearing will occur. The proposed millage rate remains the same as the previous fiscal year at 3.9500 mills. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [City Manager Office | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](mailto:City Manager Office | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)) 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. Here are a few items of discussion:
  - Water Quality Monitoring in the Canals
  - Approval to purchase pumps for the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants.
  - Water Meter Update
- **Budget hearing** – The Budget hearing will take place on September 18 at 5:01 p.m. at Military Heritage Museum, 900 W Marion Avenue.
- **The Florida Department of Transportation** – (FDOT), District One, is providing roadway improvements to **US 41 (Tamiami Trail) from William Street to the Peace River Bridge** (441524-1). This project is entering Phase Two of construction as of September 12, the contractor will begin to pave portions of the proposed roundabout that will be constructed at the intersection of Tamiami Trail (US 41) and Carmalita Street. During the process of Phase Two construction, motorists should follow the posted detour:
- **Phase Two Construction Detour – US 41 (Tamiami Trail) from William Street to Peace River Bridge: Construction Project:** The contractor will pave portions of the proposed roundabout with base and structural asphalt. Signs are being placed for the Phase two Detour listed below. Motorists should expect daytime left lane closures northbound from William Street to Carmalita Street and southbound from Cross Street to William Street.
  - **Phase 2 Detour** – Cross Street will be closed for the duration of Phase Two construction. Motorists attempting to access Carmalita Street from Cross Street will have to use the posted detour. They will turn left on West Charlotte Avenue, then right on Taylor Street, and continue until they reach Carmalita Street. Motorists are asked to exercise caution and reduce their speed while driving through the work zone. The construction schedule may change due to weather or other unexpected conditions.

## 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://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.
  - **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.
  - **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.
  - **Crew Chief – Water Distribution** – An entry level supervisory position responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of water distribution facilities and systems.
- **Wet Weather Driving Tips** – Spring and summer showers may mean flowers, but wet pavement contributes to nearly 1.2 million traffic crashes each year. Follow these tips to tackle rainy roads like an expert, and know when it's smart to avoid driving, turn around, or pull over to wait for the rain to pass.
  - **Don't drive if you don't have to** – During heavy rain conditions and flooding, it is often better to stay where you are. If possible, stay out of hazardous rain and wait until the worst has passed before you hit the road.
  - **Check your tires** – Your tires are your best friend in wet weather driving, providing traction and keeping you steady on the road. Check your tread and tire pressure to make sure you're ready to hit the road even when it's wet.
  - **Check lights and windshield wipers, too** – Your windshield wipers can clear water quickly and help you see better, while lights give you and other driver's better visibility in the rain and dark. Make sure everything is in working order.
  - **Turn your lights on** – If your windshield wipers are on, your lights should be, too. Headlights can help increase your visibility during the rain and make it easier for other vehicles to see you, avoiding a collision when it's tough to see through the rain.
  - **Turn on your defroster** – Avoid windshield fogging that can interfere with your visibility by turning on your front and rear defrosters to clear it up.
  - **Slow down** – Rain means you need to budget for a longer travel time as traffic will be moving slower, and you'll need to slow down. Hydroplaning most often occurs when



vehicles are driving too fast, so slowing down is a smart move. Take extra care to slow down when the rain starts, as fresh rain will bring out the oils on the roadway and make conditions slicker.

- **Never use cruise control in wet conditions** – Using cruise control during wet weather can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Drivers may need to reduce speed by easing off the accelerator to prevent traction loss, but this is not possible when using cruise control. Additionally, the driver must remain fully engaged during wet weather driving, so cruise control should be avoided.
- **Give extra room to other vehicles** – You should always maintain a safe following distance, but be especially careful to give vehicles in front of you plenty of room. That way, you'll have more time to react to what's up ahead. Be sure to watch carefully for brake lights ahead of you.
- **Avoid hard braking** – Use your brakes as little as possible, taking special care to avoid hard braking if you can. Slow down, give others room, and take your foot off the accelerator fast enough so that you won't have to slam on the brakes.
- **Avoid sudden movements** – Gentle steering, braking, and accelerating are best on wet roads.
- **Stay away from areas prone to flooding** – Know which roads in your area are likely to flood and take a different route if you're experiencing heavy rains.
- **Turn around, don't drown** – Driving into flooded areas can be dangerous and even deadly. Drive into a road that's flooded too deeply, and your car could begin to float and take on water. It can even be washed away with you in it. Don't risk it. Check for depth gauges and know the roads you're driving on. If you're not sure how deep the water is, turn around and find another way.
- **Never drive off-road during rain** – You may become stuck in puddles that you can't judge the depth of. Don't drive through moving water if you can't see the bottom.
- **Know how to handle a skid** – If your car begins to skid, don't panic. Continue to steer in the direction you want to go and avoid slamming on your brakes, as it makes it harder to control your vehicle.
- **Be calm if you're hydroplaning** – If your car starts to hydroplane, gently ease your foot off the gas and avoid steering. Just slow down and hold on until your vehicle regains contact with the road.
- **Drive in another vehicle's tracks** – Make it easy for your tires to handle the water and see what's up ahead by following in the tracks of a vehicle ahead of you — give them plenty of space.
- **Avoid large trucks and buses** – The spray created by large tires can reduce your visibility, so stay away from them if possible.
- **Be ready for gusty winds** – With rain often comes wind, which can push your car and other vehicles around on the road or cause you to lose control. Keep a firm grip on your steering wheel, give a wide berth to high profile vehicles that may be more susceptible to wind, and be aware that you may be hit with strong gusts.
- **Drive in the middle lanes** – Water tends to pool more in outside lanes, so stick to the middle if possible.
- **Pull over if it's really bad** – If you can't see cars in front of you or are having difficulty controlling your vehicle, simply pull over and wait for the rain to slow down.

## Urban Design

### Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)
- September 20, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: [kpomerville@cbhcfl.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcfl.org)
- October 19, Petober Fest, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: [Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County | Shelter \(awlshelter.org\)](#)
- October 26, Skippy Dee Doo Dah, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: [angela@skippydeedoodah.com](mailto:angela@skippydeedoodah.com)
- October 26, Walk the rounds for nursing, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: [anthonybethelstmark@gmail.com](mailto:anthonybethelstmark@gmail.com)
- October 31, Halloween Food Truck, 507 W Marion Ave, for more information contact: [becca@newlifeforall.church](mailto:becca@newlifeforall.church)
- October 31, Downtown Halloween, for more information contact [jdavoult@cityofpuntagordafl.com](mailto:jdavoult@cityofpuntagordafl.com)

### Lot Mowing Program

- The Lot Mowing Cycle is currently underway and is scheduled to be completed on September 17, weather permitting.

### Planning Corner

- The American Planning Association Florida Executive Committee has awarded the *City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2045* with the Daniel Burnham Award of Merit for a Comprehensive Plan. This award program recognizes outstanding planning projects in the state of Florida and establishes the City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan as a best practice for other planning professionals to emulate. This award program provides American Planning Association Florida Chapter members with the chance to see and learn about development, conservation, government, or environmental projects, where planning has had a positive impact on the outcome.

The process of updating the *City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan 2045* paved the way for community members to actively engage in planning activities. Through extensive public education and outreach, the Evaluation and Appraisal Report process, which began in 2019, changed community attitudes and priorities regarding compact development, diverse and affordable housing types, multi-modal transportation systems, community resilience, and the importance of planning for sea level rise and natural disasters. After collecting feedback from over 900 individuals, conducting over 30 interviews and technical meetings,





and holding 45 public meetings, the City was able to integrate community goals into the updated comprehensive plan.

*Comprehensive Plan 2045* is notable for the length of time it took to develop and the scale of community involvement that went into its completion. Years of community engagement and the comprehensive integration of community values, best planning practices, and solutions to citywide challenges define the *Plan*. This comprehensive plan update constituted almost an entire re-write of the Future Land Use, Coastal Management, Transportation, Housing, and Historic Preservation Elements to align with the community's goals as expressed in the *Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan*, the City's updated community vision plan. These goals include resilience, preservation of the natural environment, downtown revitalization, maintaining the small-town urban form, historic preservation, increased walking and biking opportunities, economic growth, and sustainability.

*Comprehensive Plan 2045* is the culmination of five years of planning studies conducted by the City of Punta Gorda including the *Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Master Plan*, the *2019 Climate Adaptation Plan Update*, the *2019 Budgetary and Fiscal Analysis*, and the *2019 Transportation Buildout Study*. The recommendations from these documents have been consolidated into the *Comprehensive Plan 2045* to guide future decisions. The primary objective of the update was to resolve the budgetary, development, resilience, and affordability issues that the city faces. Addressing these issues within the context of a long-range planning document meant providing for the implementation of a form-based code along with other Smart Growth policies. Punta Gorda's *Comprehensive Plan 2045* is a truly comprehensive plan in terms of the scope of the document and the community-driven processes that forged its creation.

Urban Design staff accepted the award on behalf of the City on September 4, at the Florida Planning Conference in Tampa.

## **Public Works**

### **Administration**

- Beginning October 1, the registration for Citizen's Academy opens for all Punta Gorda Citizens to register. The program provides insight into city government. These informational sessions provide information regarding the roles and responsibilities of our city-wide departments. The program runs biweekly from January 21 through April 29. Information regarding Citizen's Academy may be found at [Citizens Academy | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/citizens-academy). Those interested will need to complete the registration form at [Citizens Academy | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us/citizens-academy). For additional questions, please call the Public Works Administration office at 941-575-5050

### **Canal Maintenance**

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Maintenance crews filled depressions at 37 residences, and patched five 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 | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.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

- **City Hall Annex** – The contractor has completed the interior work on the third and second floors of the City Hall Annex. The Procurement department will be moving back to the second floor starting September 12.
- **City Hall Annex Roof** – The contractor has finished installing the new roof and has passed the final inspection.
- **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 8:00 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 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 continues from Airport Road on US 41 north to the bridge.
- Crews are repairing the drainage pipe at Padre Island Drive.
- Work continues on decorator lights along the Linear Park, in addition to repairs from 41 South to Fisherman's Village.
- Crews are working on clearing swale drainage pipes throughout the city.

### **Sanitation**

- **Loose Yard Waste Collection Delays** – Due to the enormous number of requests and limited staff, loose yard waste collection with the clamshell truck might be delayed. If you have a landscaper that maintains the property, please ask them to haul away the debris. Most reputable companies haul away the debris themselves. Thank you for your continued cooperation.
- **Clamshell Collection of Loose Yard Waste** – Single-family residential properties must meet the following requirements: The yard waste must be at least one cubic yard (3'x3'x3') or approximately two 96-gallon trash cans) and must not exceed five cubic yards (5'x5'x5') for bulk pickup of vegetative yard waste. The pile must be placed on the right-of-way at the edge of the pavement, not the driveway or roadway. Please do not place piles near or under power lines or trees, utility boxes, mailboxes, fire hydrants, etc. This would impede access to the yard waste pile and it will not be collected. Lot clearing, Tree removal, and piles that exceed five Cubic yards (5'x5'x5') are **NOT** provided by the City. Residents must contract a private hauler or tree company to remove the debris. Residents can request the special pick-up by calling the Public Works Department (941) 575-5050 or completing the online web request [Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Sanitation|CityofPuntaGorda,FL(punta-gorda.fl.us)). Staff will review the request and the qualifying request will be done in the order of which they are received.

### **Police**

- **Door Hanger and Flyer Distribution** – The Punta Gorda Police Department would like to remind all residents and businesses of the regulations regarding the distribution of business flyers and handbills. According to Punta Gorda City Code Chapter 15, Section 15-45, the door-to-door distribution of such materials is prohibited within residential areas. This regulation is in place to ensure the community's safety, maintain public order, and prevent the accumulation of unsolicited materials that could contribute to littering. The City of Punta Gorda is committed to keeping our neighborhoods clean and free from the clutter and potential hazards resulting from unregulated flyer distribution.

#### **Key Points to Remember**

- No Door-to-Door Distribution – Business flyers, door hangers, or handbills may not be distributed directly to residential properties. This includes throwing weighted bags containing flyers into residential driveways.
- Possible Littering Charges – Besides violating the city code, unauthorized distribution may result in littering charges.



➤ Compliance – Businesses and individuals are encouraged to seek alternative, approved methods of promoting their services or events.

- **9/11 Remembrance** – Members of the Punta Gorda Police Department were honored to attend a moving 9/11 ceremony sponsored by ShorePoint Health Hospital on Wednesday. We gathered to remember and pay tribute to the lives lost and the heroes who emerged from that fateful day. The ceremony reminded us of the strength, unity, and resilience that define our community. Thank you to ShorePoint Health for organizing such a meaningful event, Prompt Towing Services for supplying "The Patriot," and everyone who attended and participated.



- **Operation of Golf Carts** – A reminder that unregistered golf carts are not authorized to be operated on streets or public sidewalks in Punta Gorda with the exception of W. Retta Esplanade from the Tidal Basin to the intersection of Shreve Street. A valid driver's license is also required when operating a golf cart on the street.

#### 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 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 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) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).



## Fire

- **Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC)** – This week fire department personnel participated in the annual. Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) led by FTO CW McLeod at South County Park. Crews drove the department's ladder truck and fire apparatus through various course designs, including a serpentine, turnaround, changing lanes, diminishing clearance, reverse serpentine, and a backing drill. Completing EVOC each year ensures department personnel is confident and comfortable with operating the apparatus in less than ideal conditions while ensuring they are up to date on safety and traffic protocols.

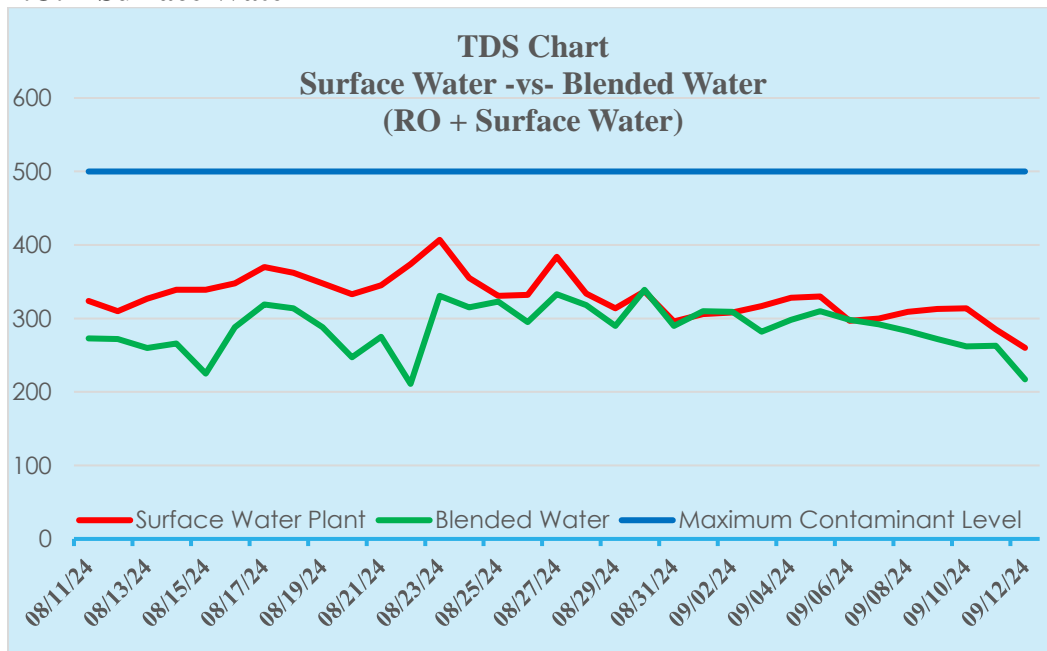


Finally, we ensure that personnel know the proper procedures for parking apparatus while on emergency scenes to protect firefighters and citizens from on-looker accidents. Remember to always look out for police and fire apparatus when they are operating in roadways and move over one lane to ensure everyone's safety.



## Utilities

- **R.O. + Surface Water**



## **Administration**

- **Leaks** – If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plan at (941) 639-2057.
- **Water Treatment Plant Operations** – 44.9 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 6.4 MG daily average.

- **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect** – Receiving 800 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 1400 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall September 2023 – 1.96" September 2024 – 1.53"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 4 –Total hardness 76 ppm
- T.D.S. September 12 – Current 217 ppm. Low – 141 ppm, High 349 ppm, 14-year average 259 ppm.
- Reservoir September 12 – Current 6.43, Record Low 5.12, Record High, 8.41' 58 Year Average 5.69'

### 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.

- **Dropcountr** — As of August 30 the City of Punta Gorda is no longer partnered with Dropcountr. No new accounts can be created with Dropcountr, and Dropcountr will no longer report information on existing accounts.



## 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. The third renewal notices have been 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 [businesstax@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:businesstax@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 <https://puntaforda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>. 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.