

Weekly Highlights Report September 20, 2024

City Manager

- The City of Punta Gorda Fire Department (PGFD) proudly stands as a community-oriented, professional career fire and rescue service that is dedicated to delivering a wide array of essential public services to the residents of Punta Gorda and surrounding areas. The department is constantly striving to rise to the challenges posed by the evolving needs and demands of the community, ensuring that it remains a progressive and high-quality organization committed to fire safety and emergency response.

The primary function of the department is to safeguard lives and protect property through various critical services, including fire prevention, medical life support, effective fire suppression, hazardous materials response and identification, water rescue operations, and management of other emergency incidents that may arise during both natural disasters and human-made emergencies. On a somber note, the City mourns the passing of two distinguished former fire chiefs during the month of September, whose legacies will not be forgotten.



Chief Robert C. "Bob" Naylor Jr. peacefully passed away on September 3. A proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Chief Naylor began his illustrious career with the Punta Gorda Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter. He was subsequently hired as a full-time firefighter in October 1979, where he took the initiative to establish the Fire Prevention Division. His dedication and leadership led to his promotion to Fire Chief in September of 1999. After an impressive 25 years of devoted service to the Punta Gorda community, Chief Naylor retired on October 1. In addition to his remarkable career, he was also an active and committed member of the Punta Gorda Kiwanis Club, serving in significant roles including Treasurer and President during his years of involvement.

Chief Edward L. "Ed" Keeler, passed away on September 7, following a brief illness. Chief Keeler relocated from New York to Punta Gorda when he was just seven years old and took on the role of a volunteer firefighter at the tender age of 14 with the South Charlotte Volunteer Fire Department. After completing high school, he served his country honorably by joining the Navy. Upon returning to his hometown from military service in April of 1973, Chief Keeler began his professional career as a firefighter for the City of Punta Gorda. His dedication and hard work led to his promotion to Assistant Fire Chief and eventually to Fire Chief in December of 1989. After nearly 23 years of unwavering service to his community, Chief Keeler made the decision to resign from the PGFD in April of 1996. His contributions to the department and the community will always be appreciated, and we thank him for his service.

In closing, the City of Punta Gorda honors the remarkable legacies of Chief Robert C. "Bob" Naylor Jr. and Chief Edward L. "Ed" Keeler, whose unwavering commitment to service and dedication to the community have left an indelible mark on the lives they touched. As we reflect on their contributions, we are reminded of the vital role that first responders play in our society, standing ready to protect and serve. The department will continue to uphold their values and dedication to excellence as we move forward, ensuring that their memory inspires future generations. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing these exceptional leaders. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or the main office phone line (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council Meeting** – At the September 19 City Council meeting the following items were discussed:
 - **Water Quality Monitoring in the Canals** – The Citizens Partnerships for Clean Canals is working to establish a water quality canal monitoring program for Punta Gorda, with goal of bringing canals into compliance with federal and state water quality criteria. City Council recommended including testing in Charlotte Park and Tidal Creek
 - **Approval to purchase pumps for the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants** – City Council approved approval to purchase pumps for the Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants and to continue purchasing these products and services under the Blanket Notice of Intended Decision to Single Source to Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc.
 - **Water Meter Update** – The City will be hiring a firm to review the existing AMI system, investigate alternatives, assist with evaluations, and make recommendations to address the issues.
- **City Council Budget Hearing** – City Council set the final millage rate at 3.9500 and adopted a final budget for fiscal year 2024/2025 which constitutes appropriations and revenue estimate in the amount of \$182,762,397(net of interfund eliminations, an amount of \$163,113,081).
- **Billing and Collections** - Procedures and processes to follow when a high bill is generated after being estimated or billed for zero use - Did your previous bill or bills reflect estimated readings? If so, the high bill is reflective of actual use that occurred during the time the readings were estimated. For example, if the estimated reading(s) billed a total of 20,000 gallons and the high bill shows 35,000 gallons, that would equate to usage of 55,000 occurring over all of the estimated periods plus the current reading period. If the high bill does not include the word ADJUSTMENT followed by a negative dollar amount in the NEW CHARGES section, please contact our office at pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com to see if the account is eligible for an adjustment. When the bill shows ADJUSTMENT with a negative dollar amount to the right, we have already provided you with the maximum credit allowed.
- **Does the bar graph on the bill show the account has been billed for zero consumption previous to the current bill?** - If so, this bill reflects water that has been used but not billed. If the high bill does not include the word ADJUSTMENT followed by a negative dollar amount in the NEW CHARGES section, please contact our office at pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com to see if the account is eligible for an adjustment. When the bill shows ADJUSTMENT with a negative dollar amount to the right, we have already provided you with the maximum credit allowed.

If your account falls into either category above, Billing and Collections team members may provide assistance in the following ways:

Provide you with an interest free payment plan that would allow you to make monthly payments on the balance of the high bill, while simultaneously paying the current monthly charges.

Provide you with an unknown use form that would allow reduction of the bill down to the previous 12 months average use, as long as the criteria listed on the form are all met.

Review of the account in 12 months to determine if additional credit can be granted based on average use after the increased bill. This option does require that the bill is paid in full or a payment plan is implemented.

Provide you with a picture showing the accuracy of the reading that was used to create the bill. If you have additional concerns about the bill, the following options are available to you:

- Submit a written request to pgcollections@cityofpuntagordafl.com to have the meter tested. If the test shows the meter to be accurate, the account will be charged \$45.00 on the next bill. If the meter fails the test by 3% or more, there will be no charge and the bill will be adjusted.
- Perform a few simple tasks to check for unintentional water use.

The most common sources are:

- An irrigation timer that has reset after a power surge.
- A leaking toilet, especially if the flapper doesn't close completely.
- Leaks anywhere in the irrigation, including broken or stuck heads, a hole or crack in the lines.
- A pool hose being left running after the pool was topped off.
- A malfunctioning water softener that continuously cycles.
- A leak in the line that runs from the meter to or under the house.
- A leak at the dock or seawall that is running directly into the canal.
- Leaks in Hot tubs or decorative fountains.
- Ice maker or water heater leaks.
- Ten Quirky but true, pets that enjoy flushing toilets to watch the water spin.

If the suggestions above do not uncover the source of unintentional use, you may want to consider hiring a plumber or leak detection company. Please be assured that City staff are here to assist by all allowable means and will work with you to determine the reason behind the high bill.

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.
- **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.
 - **Crew Chief – Water Distribution** – An entry level supervisory position responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of water distribution facilities and systems.
 - **Maintenance Worker I – Right of Way, Public Works** - An entry level laborer position responsible for laboring tasks and a wide variety of road construction maintenance operations work.
- **Gradual Cooling** – As we transition from the summer Florida heat to a gentle fall, we find ourselves surrounded by subtle changes. While we don't get to admire the changing of the leaves and significant shifts in temperature like our neighboring states, we still welcome the season and celebrate the simple differences. As we transition deeper into autumn, it's important to consider some of the hazards that can arise, as well as some of the safety tips that can prevent fall-related injuries during this time of year.
 - **Fallen Leaves** – As mentioned above, in Florida we don't experience the leaves changing colors, but they do still fall. Gathered piles can pose serious risks on a brisk morning walk, or evening stroll in the neighborhood. Mid to late October is when you can expect to see the leaves begin to fall, so it's important that you take proactive steps to ensure your safety.
 - **Rain** – While Florida tends to get less rain in autumn, we do still experience a few seasonal showers. This can lead to slick pavement, or even wet foot prints that get tracked inside causing hazardous conditions both outdoors and indoors. It's important to be mindful of wet surfaces as they can increase the risk of you slipping and falling.
 - **Decorating** – That's right, decorating. One thing many people like to do when the temperature starts to drop is decorate for fall. There may be a reason you find yourself up on a ladder, or carefully arranging pumpkins around your yard or home when one foot slips out from under you and boom! You're facing a personal injury.



Urban Design

Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit charlotteharborecc.com/events
- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at [EVENTS | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda \(fishermensvillage.com\)](http://EVENTS | Fishermen's Village | Punta Gorda (fishermensvillage.com))
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at Community Events – Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at Event Calendar | Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at Upcoming Events - Military Heritage Museum
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit [Home - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. \(pgica.org\)](http://Home - Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, Inc. (pgica.org))
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](http://Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL (visualartcenter.org))
- September 20, Recovery Candlelight Vigil, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: kpomerville@cbhcf.org

- October 19, Petober Fest, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: [Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County | Shelter \(awlshelter.org\)](http://AnimalWelfareLeagueofCharlotteCounty.org/Shelter)
- October 26, Skippy Dee Doo Dah, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: angela@skippydeedoodah.com
- October 26, Walk the rounds for nursing, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: anthonybethelstmark@gmail.com
- October 31, Halloween Food Truck, 507 W Marion Ave, for more information contact: becca@newlifeforall.church
- October 31, Downtown Halloween for more information contact jdavoult@cityofpuntafordafl.com

Lot Mowing Program

- The Lot Mowing cycle is complete. The City will begin a new mowing, trimming & edging cycle on September 23, weather permitting.

Planning Corner

- On September 11, Urban Design staff attended the Florida Resilience Conference in Bonita Springs. The conference featured in-depth discussions by elected officials, state and federal government agencies, and industry experts on the most up-to-date resilience initiatives. Panel discussions were held to share knowledge and lessons learned about the effects of climate change on Florida's communities and businesses.



Urban Design staff had the pleasure of presenting an educational session about Punta Gorda's adaptation strategies. Staff's presentation covered the City's history of resilience policies and planning from 1886 to the present. Urban Design discussed the 2009 Climate Adaptation Plan and the iterative planning cycle that emerged. Through planning, an assessment of vulnerabilities was conducted and resilience projects were prioritized. Once such projects were completed, best practices specific to the City were established, informing future planning. The speakers discussed how the City has implemented the adaptation strategies set forth in the Climate Adaptation Plan of accommodation, protection, and managed retreat.

The role of incremental decision-making and implementation was a common theme of the presentation as the discussion progressed to the City of Punta Gorda 2019 Climate Adaptation Plan Update. This Update added a Living Shoreline Element to the previous Plan and is informing current City policies and decisions. This part of the presentation addressed the importance of partnerships, shared values, and community engagement as mechanisms for project implementation.

In addition to communicating the City's resilience strategies to session attendees, Urban Design staff collected information to aid in the construction and expansion of the City's living shoreline pilot project and resilient energy systems.

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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://CitizensAcademyCityofPuntaGordaFL.punta-gorda.fl.us). Those interested will need to complete the registration form at [Citizens](http://CitizensAcademyCityofPuntaGordaFL.punta-gorda.fl.us)

[Academy | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Academy|CityofPuntaGorda,FL(punta-gorda.fl.us)). For additional questions, please call the Public Works Administration office at 941-575-5050.

Canal Maintenance

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Maintenance crews filled depressions at 28 residences and manufactured 78 new seawall panels. Crews removed one piling from the canal system.
- **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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://HurricaneIanRelatedSeawallFailures|CityofPuntaGorda,FL(punta-gorda.fl.us))
- **Establishing sod after seawall replacement** – Placing the sod is the final phase of seawall replacement construction. As per the City ordinance, property owners are responsible for establishing the sod after it has been placed and the City will not reimburse the owners for their water usage.
- **Vessel Speeds** – Canal Maintenance is asking people to be mindful of the current situation in the canals with seawalls being damaged. City code states that the operation of vessels in the canals shall be Slow Speed Minimum Wake in the waterways within the City limits. The speed and operation in the Ponce Inlet, Pompano Inlet, Bass, and Snook Inlet are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised.
- **Dock Match Program** – The Punta Gorda and Charlotte Harbor Boaters Alliance has created a program that connects boat owners who need a temporary relocation of their boats with owners that have available dock space. This information can be found at [Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://PuntaGordaBoatersAlliance(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. Departments are in the process of moving to their original locations and are conducting business.
- **Bayfront Demo** – The contractor and the City have conducted the pre-construction meeting. The permits have been submitted and are waiting to be issued.
- **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 thirty 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 on Cooper Street, Olympia Avenue, and East Marion Avenue.
- Crews are repairing the drainage pipe at Padre Island Drive.
- Work continues on decorator lights located at Gilchrist Park.

Sanitation

- **Dumpsters** – Within the City limits of Punta Gorda, the customers own their dumpsters and are responsible for maintaining and replacing them. The enclosure or dumpster area shall be clean of any trash or debris on the ground, staff is NOT responsible for picking up trash from the ground or pulling trash out of holes in the dumpster. Dumpsters shall be free of defects liable to hamper or injure a person and must promptly be replaced upon notice. The dumpster must be free of holes, rusted bottoms/sides, and inoperable wheels. The City refuse trucks service rear-load dumpsters only and the dumpster must fit properly inside the enclosure. The dumpster lids and enclosure doors should remain closed at all times. Please contact Sanitation prior to ordering a new dumpster [\(Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)\)](http://Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)) or (941)575-5009
- **Commercial Properties Dumpster Guidelines** – Please follow the guidelines listed below to ensure proper service.
 - Do not block the dumpster or dumpster enclosure with vehicles or trash.
 - Maintain a five-foot clearance around the dumpster free of trash and debris at all times.
 - All trash must be placed properly inside of trash bags and the trash bags must be placed inside the dumpster.
 - Do not place loose trash or trash bags on the dumpster enclosure floor. The property owner is responsible for keeping the area clean. City staff is responsible for emptying the dumpster only.
 - Construction debris and hazardous waste are strictly prohibited from being placed inside the dumpster.

- **Commercial Trash Dumpster Safety** – For your safety and the safety of the sanitation staff, please do not approach the refuse truck while the dumpster is being emptied. Wait until the dumpster is placed properly on the ground and the area surrounding the dumpster is safe to approach staff. Please do not toss garbage into the dumpster or refuse truck while the dumpster is being emptied. The debris may become airborne and cause injury to the sanitation staff.

Police

- **Simple Tips for Avoiding Scams** – Unfortunately, the Punta Gorda Police Department still regularly receives reports of residents being scammed. Scams are ever-evolving, but they have enough similarities that following a few simple rules can keep you from making a huge financial mistake.
- **Verify you are talking to a legitimate organization** – Don't rely solely on Caller ID. Phone numbers, email addresses, and websites can be spoofed. Contact the organization using numbers or email addresses from a reliable source such as an official website.
- **Don't let anyone pressure you into acting immediately** – Legitimate businesses and organizations will always give you the time to make a sound decision. Scammers will try to create a sense of urgency, so you will act without checking first.
- **Beware of unusual payment methods** – Legitimate businesses, organizations, and government entities will never ask you to pay using gift cards, gold, or cryptocurrencies. If anyone calls, emails, or otherwise solicits you, requesting you pay by purchasing gift cards and providing the numbers or by buying and sending cryptocurrency, please hang up the phone immediately to avoid any potential financial loss!
- **Discuss with a trusted person** – If someone asks you to purchase gift cards, gold, or cryptocurrency to pay a past due bill, provide money for a loved one in trouble, pay back taxes, or for any other reason, please call 941-639-4111 and ask to speak with an officer before making any purchases. It's crucial to talk about these situations with someone you trust.



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.

Fire

- **Retired Fire Chief Bob Naylor's Passing** – Chief Robert C. "Bob" Naylor Jr. passed away peacefully on September 3. Chief Naylor served his country as a veteran with the United States Marines. He began his career with the Punta Gorda Fire Department as volunteer firefighter and was hired full time in October 1979 where he started the Fire Prevention Division. He was later promoted to Fire Chief in September of 1999. After 25 years of dedicated service to his community, Chief Naylor retired on October 1. Chief Naylor was also an active member with the Punta Gorda Kiwanis Club where he served as both the Treasurer and President throughout his years of involvement.



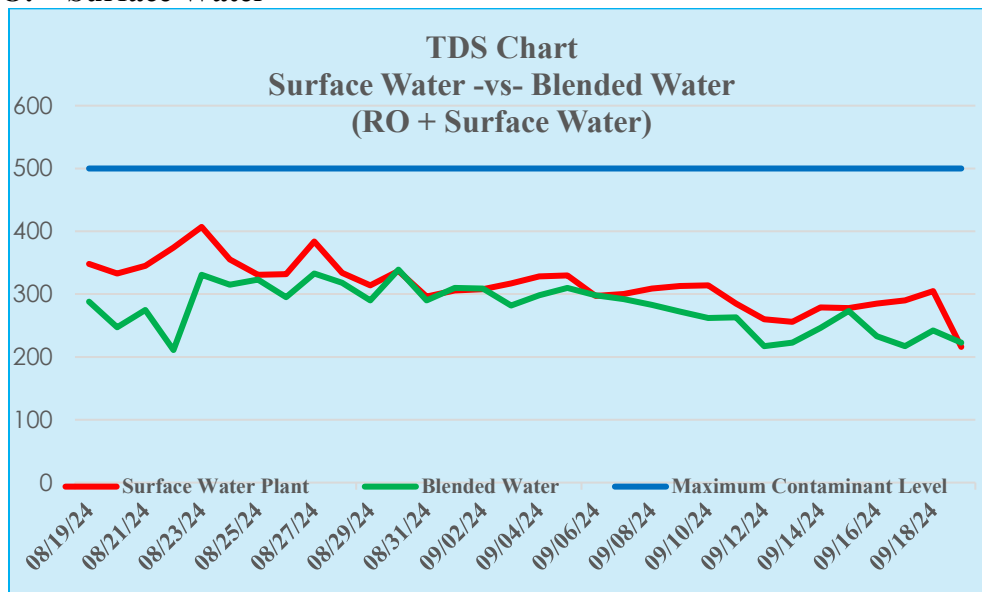
Chief Naylor's funeral service was held last Saturday at Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Homes, where many gathered to show their respect, support and gratitude to a man that spent his life serving others.

The fire department performed a flag ceremony, radio last call and a "last ride" for Chief Naylor as T-1 drove his ashes from Station 1 to the cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

- **ACLS/BLS Recertification** – This week crews participated in our recertification process for EMT/Paramedic through the State of Florida. All personnel must recertify and renew their licenses every two years in December. Crews were put through a written American Heart Association exam, hands-on skills, advanced airway adjuncts, medication administration, electrical therapy, and scenario-based practical applications with their crews. It was a successful week of training and interacting with crews in a controlled setting.

Utilities

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



Administration

- **Leaks** – If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575-5070 or the Water Treatment Plant at (941) 639-2057.

- **Water Treatment Plant Operations** – 49.7 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 7.1 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 – 2.81"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 5 –Total hardness 88 ppm
- T.D.S. September 19 – Current 223 ppm. Low – 178 ppm, High 412 ppm, 14-year average 287 ppm.
- Reservoir September 19 – Current 5.92, Record Low 5.08, Record High, 6.79' 58 Year Average 5.61'

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.

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. [Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections > Home \(soecharlottecountyfl.gov\)](#)
 - 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@cityofpuntagordafl.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.

- **Police Officers’ Pension Board** (one resident representative) – Meets quarterly and as called. Board of five members; two City residents at-large, two pension plan members, and one board-appointed member. Term period is four years with no term limit. Financial disclosure required.
- **Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee** (one regular) - Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. Board of seven members who reside in Punta Gorda Isles Canal Maintenance Assessment District. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. Financial disclosure required. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for canal construction special permits.
- **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:
 - Blue Zoo, LLC, 1531 Aqui Esta Drive
 - S. Thomas Property Maintenance, 7321 South Blue Sage
 - Charles M Jerry CPA, 6210 Scott Street, Unit 111