

Weekly Highlights Report September 27, 2024

City Manager

- Access to information from and about the City of Punta Gorda is essential for residents to engage actively in our community. The city offers multiple avenues to learn about local services, events, and policies. Timely updates on important issues, such as public safety or infrastructure developments, enable residents to stay informed and prepared. When residents have accurate information they need, it strengthens community bonds and encourages a more vibrant, participatory civic life.

The city publishes several resources to provide information to residents. The city website is a comprehensive resource with information regarding every city department. Access this robust tool at www.cityofpuntagordfl.com. The search box at the top of the website allows for easy information accessibility. The city also publishes a local printed guide to the City of Punta Gorda services entitled Welcome to Punta Gorda Life. Residents can find the brochure at local businesses, the City Manager's Office, the Punta Gorda Airport, and by request by calling (941) 575-3394.



The City Manager's Office creates and publishes a Weekly Highlights Report each Friday as a consistent source of information about the city. This report conveys significant interest items or projects underway by the departments and items of interest throughout the preceding week. To receive the information, sign up for Enotifications at [eNotification | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://eNotification | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)). Through e-notifications, residents can sign up to receive a text containing information about the city. In addition, the Action Register lists ongoing tasks or projects, with target dates for completion and comments that provide a progress report. It is published on the city website every Thursday. Additionally, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram frequently share information and pictures that capture the beauty of Punta Gorda.

The City of Punta Gorda also can communicate with residents via text. The service is called Text My Gov, and it uses a mobile phone's regular text messaging service to quickly find links, documents, or text that answer their questions. No app download is needed. It allows our residents and visitors to report code violations or issues with city infrastructure twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A picture can also be submitted when reporting a problem or violation, and the service sends the information immediately to city staff to resolve the issue. Text "hi" to (941) 347-0747 to use the service. In addition, answers to common questions are available 24/7 through website searches and

preprogrammed responses. Text My Gov system has logged 4,919 messages since launching this service in early 2021.

Emergency notifications are crucial as we are still in hurricane season. If you haven't signed up for emergency notifications yet, I encourage you to take advantage of this free service, Alert Punta Gorda. The service provides emergency and weather information to those who have registered. To sign up, visit [City of Punta Gorda - Public - Sign Up \(everbridge.net\)](#). The system allows you to select specific types of notifications. Please note that you will receive frequent notifications if you sign up for lightning alerts.

Finally, Punta Gorda Developments is a quarterly newsletter update on commercial and multifamily developments. If you would like to receive these updates, call the City Manager's Office at (941) 575-3302 and provide your email to one of our staff members. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling (941) 575-3302.*

- **City Council Meeting** – City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on October 2 at Military Heritage Museum, 900 W Marion Avenue. Here are a few items of discussion:
 - Adoption of amendments to Chapter 20A, "Subdivisions".
 - Amending Punta Gorda Code Chapter 15, "Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions", Section 15-1,
- Due to Hurricane Helene, the government offices of the City Of Punta Gorda will be closed today, September 27.
- **Storm Related Topics** – The City of Punta Gorda suffered significant damage from the storm surge associated with Hurricane Helene. It is estimated that the majority of the north end of the City saw 6-8 feet of storm surge. 100's of individuals and their pets were rescued throughout the night on September 27. More information will be coming regarding sanitation services, and other storm related topics soon.
 - Beginning today September 27, Ponce De Leon Park located at 3400 Ponce De Leon Parkway, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, will be temporarily closed due to Hurricane Helene Damages until further notice. Closure is required to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors. 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.
 - Beginning today September 27, the restrooms at Gilchrist Park located at 1000 West Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, will be temporarily closed due to Hurricane Helene Damages until further notice. Once the restrooms are properly cleaned and restocked they will be reopened. The closure is required to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors. . 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.
 - Beginning today September 27, the Justice Center Walkway will be temporarily closed due to Hurricane Helene Damages until further notice. The closure is required to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors. 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.

- Due to the heavy rain and storm surge, our sewer system is currently overwhelmed. To prevent backups and further strain on the system, we are asking all residents to conserve water and limit activities that contribute to sewer usage, except in cases of absolute necessity.
 - Please avoid the following:
 - ✓ Doing laundry
 - ✓ Taking long showers or baths
 - ✓ Flushing toilets unless essential
 - ✓ Running dishwashers or excessive water use
- Additionally, for your safety, please avoid walking, wading, or swimming in any standing water. Floodwaters may be contaminated and pose serious health risks. Pets should also be kept away from standing water and should not be allowed to drink it. Your cooperation is critical in helping prevent sewer overflows and maintaining essential services. Thank you for your understanding and immediate action. For updates, visit the [City of Punta Gorda, FL | Home \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://www.cityofpuntaorda.fl.us) or follow the City of Punta Gorda page on Facebook
- **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@cityofpuntaordafl.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@cityofpuntaordafl.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@cityofpuntaordafl.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://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.
- **Utilities Maintenance Worker II – Wastewater Collection, Utilities** – A skilled laborer position responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of wastewater collection facilities and systems.
- **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.



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))
- October 19, Petoer Fest, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: [Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County | Shelter \(awlshelter.org\)](http://Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County | Shelter (awlshelter.org))
- October 26, Neighborhood Fall Festival, Cooper St Rec Center, 650 Mary St, for more information contact pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com
- 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@cityofpuntagordafl.com

Lot Mowing Program

- The Trimming and Edging cycle is complete. The Lot Mowing is currently under way and is scheduled to be completed by September 30.

Planning Corner

- *Why does the City pay to send professional employees, including planners, to conferences?*
- The purpose of most professional conferences is to bring about innovation in a profession, communicate best practices, and educate fellow professionals about cutting-edge strategies and research. An example of this type of conference is the Florida Planning Conference that planning staff attended in Tampa earlier this month. While the City was honored to be recognized with an award for its recently adopted comprehensive plan, planning staff attended the conference to earn continuing education credits, engage with professional peers, and learn more about recent changes to Florida Statutes that were made in the preceding legislative session. The knowledge gained at this conference is critical to planners who are responsible for writing regulatory policy that is legally binding.



The American Planning Association (APA) recognizes the value of continuing education. Therefore, continuing education credit requirements are mandatory for planners to maintain their professional certification. Planners must attend conferences and other

educational opportunities regularly in order to earn the requisite continuing education credits or risk losing their American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification. Organizations that employ professionals pay for employees' continuing education so they can maintain their professional certifications. This practice promotes professional development and increases employee retention. It also benefits the organization in the form of a skilled workforce that is capable of providing the high level of service expected by our community. Furthermore, it is necessary to remain competitive as an employer when all other similar organizations have these policies in place. For more information on the planning profession, please visit: [American Planning Association](#)

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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#). Those interested will need to complete the registration form at [Citizens Academy | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#). For additional questions, please call the Public Works Administration office at 941-575-5050.

Canal Maintenance

- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Canal Maintenance crews manufactured 90 sea wall panels. Patched sea wall seams and caps at seven residences, removed a piling from our canals, and filled several depressions.
- **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 16 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 113 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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)
- **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 ([Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://boat2puntagorda.org)) click on the Dock Match button for information.

Engineering

- **Bayfront Center Demolition** – The permit has been approved and the abatement will begin September 30, weather permitting. The contractor will begin the actual building demolition on October 7. Please be advised to take extra caution in the area during the demolition and follow all detours for bicycle/walking paths.
- **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 internet provider HyperFiber has been issued permits for a portion of the construction project to install a citywide fiber optic internet network within the city right of ways. This project will be under construction during the next several months as they install the network citywide. They are currently permitted to work in the areas highlighted in red below. The green areas are where the work is completed and their permit has been inspected for final by the engineering department. Additional areas are scheduled to be final in the next several weeks. The blue areas are where installation will be taking place as the project progresses. Construction is beginning in Burnt Store Isles and Burnt Store Meadows



Initially you will see utility markings within the city right of way, followed by the directional drilling of the fiber optic conduit. Fiber optic boxes will be installed in the right of way or easement at the edge of your property. Once the installation of the underground and service points has been completed for the entire sector, crews will then return to individual locations for the restoration of sod. This will take place at the end of construction in each sector. Please be patient and allow time for the restoration. The city engineering department will be performing spot inspections during construction as well as a final inspection 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 worked on storm preparations and road closures with signage.
- Crews assisted residents with providing sand and sandbags at the Cooper Street Campus.
- Work continues on decorator lights located at Gilchrist Park.

Sanitation

- Due to Hurricane Helene, the government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on September 27.
- There will be no collection for commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda on September 26. The Charlotte County Landfill will be closed.
- Residents are reminded to secure their trash and recycling carts. The City will not provide free trash carts if your cart is lost or damaged due to Hurricane Helene. The trash carts are

the responsibility of each resident to secure, very costly to replace, and only a very limited supply in stock.

- At this time, there is no change for residential or commercial trash, recycling, or yard waste collections on September 27. Please check the City website for changes periodically.
- The City of Punta Gorda Sanitation Department would like to remind residents of the storm debris preparation and collection guidelines.
- Trimming around your home should be well before any storm warnings or watches are issued. To place yard waste out at this time could block storm drains and cause flooding or allow the materials to become dangerous projectiles.
- Do not cut down trees or vegetation or do any major yard work. Mass cutting places a tremendous burden on the normal Yard Waste collection process, and collecting this debris a few days before the storm's landfall is not guaranteed.
- During a Watch or Warning, do not place materials at the curb. Public Works may suspend services, and facilities may close early to prepare for the storm.

Police

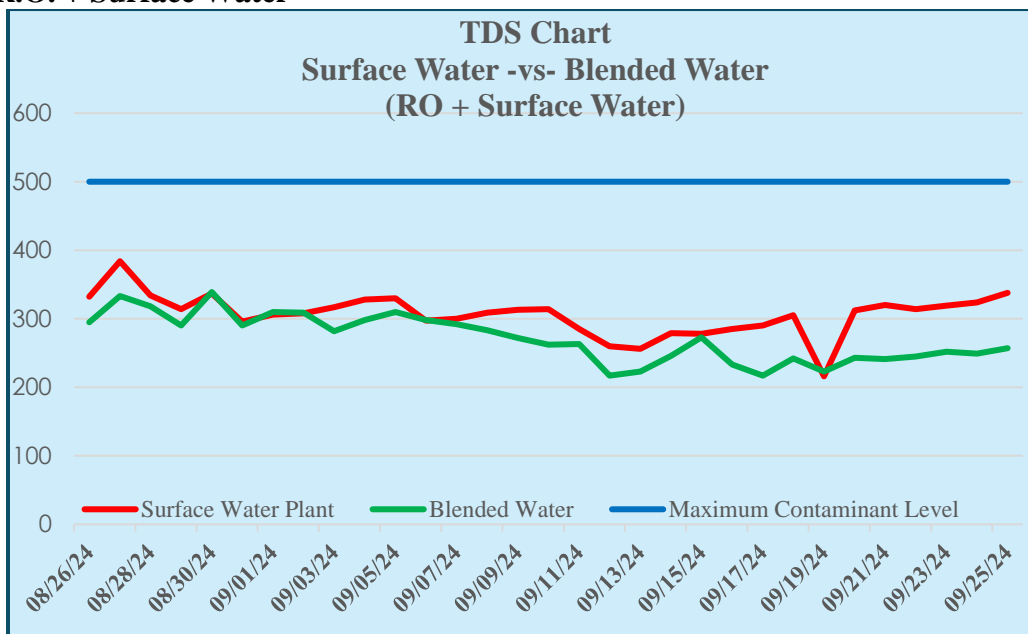
OPEN POSITIONS

- **Police Officer Testing** – The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. 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.puntagorda.fl.us/employment) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.

Fire

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** – 46.8 G delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 6.7 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 – 3.79"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 6 –Total hardness 96 ppm
- T.D.S. September 25 – Current 257 ppm. Low – 198 ppm, High 397 ppm, 14-year average 286 ppm.
- Reservoir September 25 – Current 5.60, Record Low 5.02, Record High, 6.98' 58 Year Average 5.61'

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. [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: