

Weekly Highlights Report October 18, 2024

City Manager

- It's been a busy week of coordination of hurricane recovery projects. With the assistance of Public Works, the Punta Gorda Fire Department, and contractors, the city has been able to make progress on cleaning the muck off of sidewalks and streets in the downtown core, the Herald Court Center area and parking garage, Cooper Street Recreational Center and adjacent sidewalks, and the City Hall Annex parking lots and sidewalks. A combination of assistance from Charlotte County, Florida Power & Light, and the Florida Department of Transportation has resulted in the majority of traffic signals in the city being operational. The remaining lights need substantial repairs that require parts to be delivered before they will be fully operational.



Our debris hauler started on Wednesday with an initial focus on the Historic District. They plan to continue adding trucks to cover all the zones affected as soon as possible. The haulers will pick up commercial debris. Garbage pickup and recycling are back on their regular schedule. Ponce Park and all of the boardwalks and fishing piers suffered substantial damage and will be closed for the foreseeable future. The Harborwalk, Gilchrist Park, including kiddie land and sports courts, and the area around Laishley Marina are closed due to safety concerns with missing railings, fences, and vessels on land.

The city will not host a Downtown Historic District Halloween Celebration this year. All of the demolition and construction happening in that area, coupled with the boats littering the park and lights being out, make conditions less than ideal for hosting visitors. Trick or treating will go on as usual in other neighborhoods in Punta Gorda.

Several resources may be of help to those needing help with flood cleanup. Cleanup help is available through Crisis Cleanup (844) 965-1386. Samaritan's Purse is assisting homeowners who were affected by Hurricane Milton. Volunteers may be available to help with the following: personal belongings and furniture carried to the curb, flood cleanup, sanitizing, roof tarping, and chainsaw work. This is a free service. Call 833-747-1234 to speak with a Samaritan's Purse representative.

The Charlotte County Volunteer Reception Center is open if you are interested in volunteering. Register at the VRC, located at the Family Services Center, 21500 Gibraltar Drive, Port Charlotte, to register and receive an assignment with a response agency in need of assistance. The VRC is open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday (closed Sunday). To save a trip, call 941.370.2734 to register.

If you need help connecting with your loved ones after Hurricane Milton, the American Red Cross can assist you. The Reunification Plan tools can help locate a missing

friend or relative because of a current disaster. Call 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) and provide as much detail as you can to assist us in potentially locating your missing loved one. A comprehensive list of post-hurricane support is available at COAD Florida.

We have a long road to recovery, but the spirit of Punta Gorda is still alive. We will once again become the one Florida municipality that offers the best of American, small-town attributes in what may be the states most picturesque, enjoyable, and accessible waterfront destination. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling the main office line at (941) 575-3302.*

- **Hurricane Milton Damage** — City Parks and Harborwalk Closures

The City of Punta Gorda has announced that, due to substantial damage caused by Hurricane Milton, the Harborwalk is now closed to the public. In addition to the Harborwalk, several key recreational areas will remain closed until further notice:

- Ponce Park
- Gilchrist Park
- Hounds on Henry
- All fishing piers are also closed

City officials are assessing the damage and are committed to ensuring the safety of all residents and visitors. We appreciate the community's understanding and patience during this time as recovery efforts are underway.

- **Hurricane Milton Updates** - For the latest updates on hurricane recovery efforts, safety information, and important resources, please visit [Hurricane Milton Information | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#)
- **City Council Meeting** — City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on November 6, location to be announced.

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 \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](#) 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 Manager — Urban Design.** A professional managerial position responsible for all City planning and zoning activities, including community development and land use.
- **Planning Director — Planning.** A professional position responsible for the administrative, supervision and technical work regarding the City of Punta Gorda's current and long- and short-range planning programs and development services divisions, specifically related to the development and implementation of land use and related municipal plans and policies.
- **Code Compliance Supervisor — Urban Design / Code Compliance.** A skilled technical and supervisory position responsible for supervision of the day to day Code Compliance operations, enforcing all of the City's Land development Regulations, as well as Chapter 9A, Nuisance Code, as they relate to property zoning, design, and maintenance standards or other City Code standards.
- **Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer** — If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion, especially if you've been sedentary through the winter months, and take extra precautions to prevent falls. Risky projects, like installing siding, gutters or roofs, are best left to professionals. Saving money isn't worth risking a debilitating or fatal fall. At home or at work, many of the same rules apply. When taking on a project:



- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job
- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface
- A straight or extension ladder should be 1 foot away from the surface it rests on for every 4 feet of height and extend at least 3 feet over the top edge
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use

We tend to think we're always safe on flat ground, but the thousands of injuries each year tell us otherwise.

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 26, 4 p.m - 6 p.m. - You are invited to our, Neighborhood Fall Festival, 650 Mary St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950-4929, United States, 26 October 2024 | AllEvents.in
- February 28 - March 1, "It's Sew Wonderful", [Peace River Quilt Festival 2025 Quilt Show \(charlotteharborecc.com\)](http://Peace River Quilt Festival 2025 Quilt Show (charlotteharborecc.com))



Lot Mowing Program

- The Lot Mowing Cycle for October 7, started on October 14, due to Hurricane Milton. The mowing cycle should be complete as soon as possible.

Planning Corner

- **In the wake of Hurricane Helene** — Urban Design has received an abundance of inquiries from property owners interested in demolishing their historic structure. Certificate of appropriateness (CA) applications for demolitions are reviewed by the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) on a case-by-case basis. Structures contained in the Local Register of Historic Places are considered historic and require a CA. The Local Register of Historic Places list can be found here: [Local Register of Historic Places | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Local Register of Historic Places | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)). As the name implies, the duty of the HPAB is to implement historic preservation regulations, which: protect and conserve the heritage of the city; safeguard the character and heritage of the districts and individual historic landmarks by preserving their character-defining elements; promote the conservation of the districts and landmarks for the education, pleasure, and enrichment of the city's residents; foster civic beauty and pride in local culture and heritage; and stabilize and enhance property values within historic and neighborhood conservation districts, thus contributing to the improvement of the general health and welfare of the city and its residents.



There are many options available to property owners to preserve historic structures, including the waiver of the FEMA 50% Rule. Owners of historic structures are encouraged to preserve, rehabilitate, restore, and reconstruct their properties. The Secretary of the Interior has published standards for flood adaptation for historic structures, which can be found here: [Guidelines On Flood Adaptation For Rehabilitating Historic Buildings \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/learn/management/management-guidelines-on-flood-adaptation-for-rehabilitating-historic-buildings) Recommended adaptation treatments for flood-prone historic structures are: planning and assessment for flood risk reduction, temporary protective measures, site and landscape adaptations, dry floodproofing, wet floodproofing, elevation of the building, abandoning the lower floor, and relocation of the building.

Demolition of historic structures should be avoided at all costs because you cannot preserve what no longer exists. All CAs for demolition of a historic structure must include a structural engineer's analysis of the structure. The duty of the HPAB is to preserve the history of our city, as recorded in its structures, forming the lens through which all applications are reviewed.

Building Division — Beware of Unlicensed Contractors

- ***DID YOU KNOW:***

- *Allowing an unlicensed person to perform work on your property puts you, as the owner, at risk?*
- Unlicensed contractors are unable to obtain workers compensation coverage or general liability insurance
- Unlicensed contractors are unable to obtain permits for the work they are doing. Should injuries occur at the site, the owner may be liable for the injuries.
- Any work performed without a permit, may not be covered by your insurance company in the event of future claims.
- *Any person who does work without the correct licensure during a state of emergency may be charged with a felony?*
- Per Florida Statute 489.127(2)(c): “Any unlicensed person who commits a violation of subsection (1) during the existence of a State of Emergency declared by executive order of the Governor commits a felony of the third degree.”

- ***This applies to all types of construction?***

- Not just that which is associated with repairs due to a tropical storm or hurricane, and is in addition to the regular penalties incurred by unlicensed individuals acting in the capacity of a contractor.

- ***It is easy to find out how to work in the City?***

- Anyone coming into the area wanting to work as a contractor should first contact the City of Punta Gorda Building Department for more information at (941) 575-3324.
- Note: This applies to all licensed contractors – all contractors working in the county must register with the City prior to contracting for work.

For more information about whether a person is licensed and registered as a contractor in the City of Punta Gorda, or to notify us of possible unlicensed activity, please contact the City Building Department at or visit myfloridalicense.com or [Business Tax Receipt/Contractor Competency Registration \(aspgov.com\)](https://www.aspgov.com/) - [Google Search](#)

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



Canal Maintenance

- Canal Maintenance staff received calls and emails about navigational signs and pilings being washed up on land. We investigated and have seen five pilings so far. The staff has surveyed from land and noticed more missing from the channel inlets for Ponce, Pompano, and side channel marker areas. Crews surveyed from the water starting October 15. Crews continue to work throughout the city cleaning up storm debris along the canals.



Engineering

- The contractor hired to remove debris after Hurricane Milton will be starting in the Historic District beginning October 16. The trucks are very large and will need as much space as possible. Please do not park your vehicles on the sides of the street where the haulers cannot get through in these areas. For your safety, please use extreme caution while in the area as the trucks are cleaning up the debris.
- Draining of pool water discharge shall be discharged onto the farthest point of the lawn from the roadside swale that drains to the roadside swale to allow for filtration of the water. Water shall not be drained to any canal. Below is additional guidance to aid property owners from violating the City's Code Ordinances and to help minimize environmental impacts.
- Guidance
 - To help protect Florida's environment, the following best management practices should be followed when draining swimming pools or discharging filter backwash into the environment.
 - Only drain your pool when necessary. Avoid draining/backwashing your pool during periods of drought and during significant rainfall events. Do not drain your pool when watering restrictions are in place.
 - Before draining your pool, allow the water to stand for at least 48 hours after the last addition of chlorine or until the free chlorine residual is $\leq 0.01\text{mg/L}$. (If you need to drain your pool quickly, you can purchase chlorine-neutralizing chemicals such as sodium thiosulfate at your local pool supply company.)



- Test the free chlorine residual before discharging. A free chlorine residual should not be detected. The chlorine residual can be tested using a standard pool test it. (Refer to 64E-9.004(11), F.A.C. for additional information).
- The water should be clear and free of solids.
- The pH must be between 6.5 and 8.5 before it is discharged.
- Algaecides containing copper or silver can interrupt algal and plant growth in surface water bodies and should be used with caution. Follow the manufacturer's instructions before discharging water that has had an algaecide added recently.
- Control the rate of discharge across your property to avoid erosion and nuisance conditions for neighboring properties. Nuisance conditions such as the creation of odors, mosquito breeding conditions or flooding can occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.
- Direct the discharge over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur.
- Do not discharge on areas recently treated with herbicides or pesticides.

Parks and Grounds/Facilities

- Staff has worked on surveying park and facility damages throughout the city by assessing each location.
- Crews have been working on cleaning up trees and limbs within the community and collecting debris within our community parks.
- Memorial bricks at Gilchrist Park Ponce de Leon fountain that were uplifted by flood waters have been secured and will be reset at a later time.
- The city electrician is working on surveying the lighting issues related to stormwater flooding.

Right of Way

- Crews have been working post-storm damages by replacing down signs and providing Maintenance of Traffic across the city due to traffic signal outages.
- Crews rebuilt the road on the north end of Colony Point.
- Washing streets and collecting debris along the roadways.
- Prompt Towing volunteered to assist the ROW with the cleanup of debris throughout the city near the walking trails and pocket park at Taylor and Olympia.
- PCCI/Hyper Fiber volunteered to assist in the cleanup of debris and offered relief supplies to residents.

Sanitation

- Yard waste collection, except for the Historic District, resumed, on October 15. The Sanitation crews will collect Yard waste piles the size of a wheelbarrow, bagged or single limbs only (Paper yard waste bags or designated yard waste barrels only – No plastic bags allowed). The larger piles will be collected by the contractor hired by the city to remove them after Hurricane Milton.
- Storm Debris, Construction material, Yard waste larger than a wheelbarrow, and White Goods (Appliances) will be collected by the Debris hauler starting October 16. Please remove the doors from refrigerators or freezers placed out for collection.
- Replacements of trash and recycling carts. Unsecured cart requests currently have a limited size availability. We currently have in stock a 32-gallon cart or a 96-gallon trash cart. Recycling cart sizes available are either the 48-gallon or the 96-gallon cart. Please contact us at [Schedule a Special Pick Up | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us) and indicate the type and size of cart needed. Or by calling Public Works at 941-575-5050.

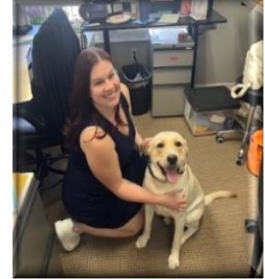
Police

- **Volunteers in Policing Program** - The Volunteers In Policing (VIP) program contributed 572 hours of volunteer time to the City of Punta Gorda during September 2024. Our volunteers are vital to this police department, and we appreciate them greatly! Community members interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us.
- **Officer SpongeBob Lifts Spirits** - On Monday, Lieutenant Davoult and his four-legged partner, Officer SpongeBob, visited some of the city's facilities to spread much-needed joy after Hurricane Milton. SpongeBob's appearance brought a smile to everyone's face.



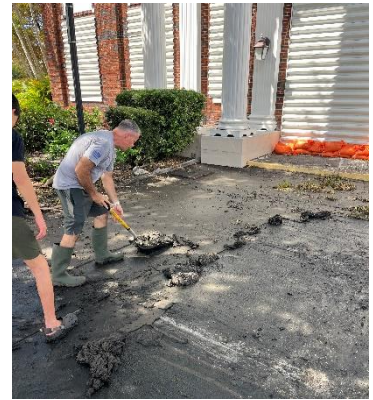
OPEN POSITIONS

- **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 November. Applications must be received by October 25. The written exam will be completed online between November 1 and November 8, and virtual oral board exams will be conducted via Zoom on November 21. 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 November 8 and 15. Applications must be received by November 1.
- **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 www.pgpdjobs.com or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at employeedevelopment@pgorda.us.**



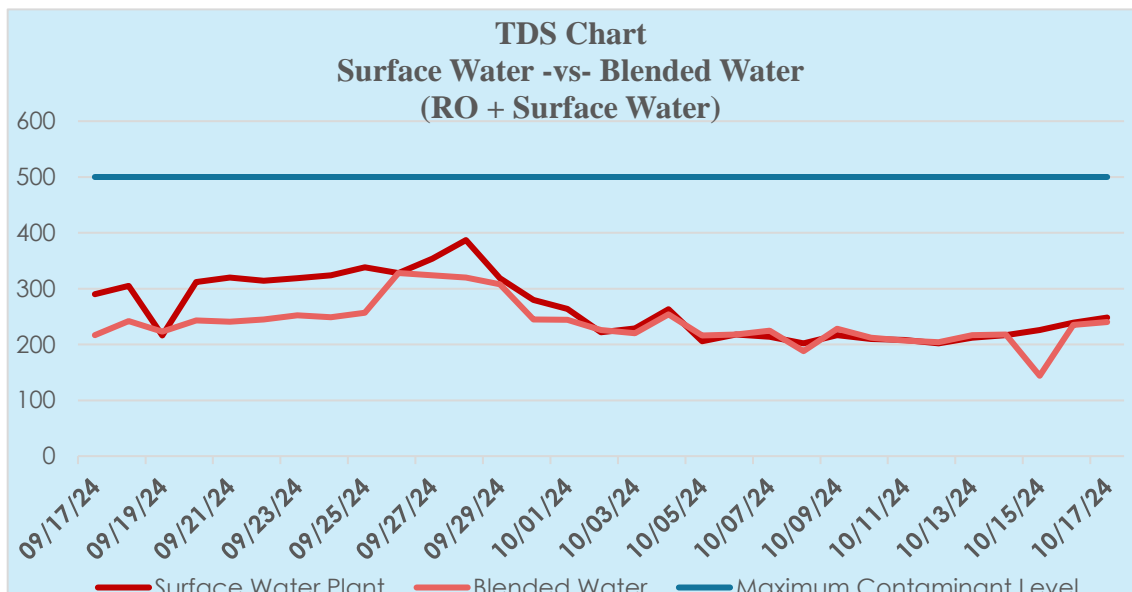
Fire

- This week the fire department tried to get back to normalcy after being hit with back-to-back hurricanes in two weeks. Crews ensured all equipment was thoroughly cleaned and stations returned in working order. Crews also assisted public works with cleaning downtown streets and restoring the city to its historic beauty. Unfortunately, the fire department is still responding to storm-related emergencies, including multiple structure fires, ongoing saltwater intrusion in homes, and electrical issues. We are so proud of the way crews have remained vigilant in their response to the citizens, along with dealing with their storm-related damages. Please make sure you are keeping an eye on your mental health during these times of crisis. We must take care of our most important resource our human resource!



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** – 47.8 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 6.9 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 October 2023 – 2.09" October 2024 – 10.42"
- T.D.S. – Current 240 ppm. Low – 228 ppm, High 440 ppm, 14-year average 313 ppm.
- Reservoir October 17 – Current 5.97, Record Low 5.04, Record High, 6.34' 58 Year Average 5.37'
- **Billing and Collections** — If you have had your pool drained and refilled after flooding from Hurricanes Helene or Milton, you may be eligible for a special refill adjustment that will **not** count towards the standard once per year adjustment limit.
After the pool has been refilled, please complete the Owner Adjustment Request form found on the City's website under government – billing & collections – forms
- You must include the following on your form:
 - Specifically note that this pool refill is due to Hurricane Helene or Milton.
 - Provide the dates when the pool was drained and the dates when the pool was refilled.
 - The date of the completed repairs and a copy of any invoices and receipts attributed to the repair (whether contracted or completed by the property owner.)
 - How many gallons the pool holds

Please note: If the billed consumption is being estimated, the adjustment will be held until an actual read of the meter is obtained.

Please send your completed form and copies of applicable receipts/invoices no later than January 31, either by email to [Billing and Collections | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](mailto:Billing and Collections | City of Punta Gorda, FL (punta-gorda.fl.us)), by mail to Billing & Collections 126 Harvey Street Punta Gorda, FL 33950, or you may drop it off at the front desk on the second floor of the City Hall Annex.

City Clerk

- **Fall Festival** – The Neighborhood Fall Festival is still scheduled for October 26, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cooper Street Recreation Center. Stop by to enjoy free food, fun, and games with your family!
- **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** – The renewal period for the City’s business tax receipts for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 has been extended to October 21, due to Hurricane Helene.
 - Business tax receipts not renewed prior to the end of the extended deadline will be assessed a late fee.
 - Beginning October 22, 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://puntagorda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>. Unless otherwise noted, all boards meet 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** (four regular and 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.
- **Utility Advisory Board** – (one 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:
 - No new businesses to report this week.