

## Weekly Highlights Report November 22, 2024

### Acting City Manager

- The City of Punta Gorda was recently notified of our results for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) audit. The NFIP is a federal program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that provides flood insurance to property owners in participating communities. Its primary goal is to reduce the impact of flooding by providing financial protection and promoting responsible floodplain management. The Community Rating System is a voluntary program within the NFIP that rewards communities for going above and beyond the minimum requirements for floodplain management. It incentivizes communities to implement flood protection measures that exceed the NFIP's baseline standards.



The CRS classification provides significant financial benefits to policyholders. Communities with higher CRS ratings receive more substantial insurance premium discounts. The CRS classification encourages communities to implement flood mitigation measures such as improved drainage systems, floodplain mapping, public outreach, and education programs. By participating in the CRS, communities commit to ongoing efforts to reduce flood risks, protect lives and property, and enhance their overall resilience. The CRS promotes community engagement and education by requiring participating communities to conduct outreach programs that improve public awareness of flood risks. Educating our residents and businesses about flood hazards and preparedness measures can strengthen our resilience and response capabilities during flood events. Many floodplain management activities encouraged by the CRS have positive environmental impacts. These may include preserving and restoring natural floodplains, wetlands, and other natural systems that provide flood storage capacity, improve water quality, and support wildlife habitats.

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has determined that the City of Punta Gorda will retain its current rating as a class five in the NFIP CRS. The floodplain management activities implemented by our community qualify the City of Punta Gorda residents for a 25 percent discount on flood insurance premiums for most NFIP policies issued or renewed on or after April 1. These savings are a tangible result of our community's flood mitigation activities to protect lives and reduce property damage.

Thank you to our CRS Coordinator, the Punta Gorda City Council, the Building Department, the Public Works Department, the Planning Department, the Utilities Department, and the Finance Department staff for their efforts to lead our community to be more disaster-resistant. It takes an entire city team effort to achieve this rating. This commitment enhances public safety, property protection, protects the natural functions of floodplains, and reduces flood insurance premiums.

By participating in the CRS, the city benefits from insurance premium reductions and measures that improve our resiliency. It requires the implementation of tools to protect lives and property and helps to promote environmental stewardship. From drainage system maintenance to flood data and stormwater management, the city continues prioritizing actions that help our residents. The CRS classification is a valuable tool for encouraging proactive floodplain management and fostering a culture of preparedness in flood-prone areas like the City of Punta Gorda. *Readers may reach Acting City Manager Melissa Reichert at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or by calling (941) 575-3302.*



- **Thanksgiving Holiday** — The City of Punta Gorda will be closed on both November 28, and November 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **FDOT** — District One Districtwide Roadwatch Report #47 for Week November 23 – November 30.
- **US 41 (Tamiami Trail) from William Street to Peace River Bridge: Construction Project:** The contractor continues work on the proposed roundabout location while traffic is shifted.
  - Motorists should expect daytime and nighttime-overnight lane closures on US 41 northbound from William Street to Carmalita Street.
  - Motorists should expect a daytime and nighttime-overnight lane closure on US 41 southbound from West Virginia Avenue to William Street.
  - Motorists should expect a lane closure from Carmelita Street onto US 41 northbound.
- Beginning last night, November 21, the project will be moving into **Phase 3A**, which will include a new Traffic Shift.
- **Phase 3A** — Traffic is shifted near the proposed roundabout. On US 41 northbound from William Street nearing the roundabout, motorists will be reduced to ONE lane. It will open back up to two lanes as motorists continue northbound on US 41. This traffic shift is expected to last one month.
  - Motorists should continue to expect:
  - Daytime and nighttime-overnight lane closures on US 41 northbound from William Street to Carmalita Street.
  - Daytime and nighttime-overnight lane closure on US 41 southbound from West Virginia Avenue to William Street.
  - Carmelita Street will be closed at the intersection.
- **Phase 3 Detour** — Cross Street will be closed for the duration of Phase Three construction. Motorists attempting to access Carmalita Street from Cross Street will have to use the posted detour. They will turn left on West Charlotte Avenue, then right on Taylor Street, and continue until they reach Carmalita Street.
- **Phase 3 Detour** — Cross Street will be closed for the duration of Phase Three construction. Motorists attempting to access Carmalita Street from Cross Street will have to use the posted detour. They will turn left on West Charlotte Avenue, then right on Taylor Street, and continue until they reach Carmalita Street.

- **US 41 from Midway Boulevard to Paulson Drive:** Maintenance project: Motorists should expect intermittent outside northbound closures during nighttime/overnight hours from 8:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. weekdays, while crews perform geotechnical work.
- **US 41 and Harbor View Road:** Traffic operations: From 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., crews will be replacing traffic signal heads. Motorists should expect temporary lane shifts and possible slow-moving traffic. A police officer will be present to ensure both motorist and crew safety.
- **US 41 from Harbor View Road to Hancock Avenue:** Permit Project:
  - Motorists should expect nighttime/overnight lane closures northbound on US 41 beginning November 5, and continue through December 20. Work will occur between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Crews will be working on underground utilities.
  - Motorists should use caution as crews work near the roadway.
- **US 41 and SR 776 at Various Intersections:** Hurricane Ian signal repair project: Crews will be installing illuminated signs along US 41 in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte at several intersections. Motorists should expect minor traffic delays and slow-moving traffic. Please use caution as crews install signs.
- **US 41 from Main Street to Peace River Bridge:** Motorists should expect intermittent lane closures during daytime and nighttime/overnight hours while crews resurface the roadway, construct curb, gutter, sidewalk, lane widenings, drainage, signage, street light, and signalization improvements.
- **US 17 from Piper Road to West of Golf Course Road:** Construction project:
  - Crews will be constructing new turn lanes as well as milling and resurfacing existing roadway on US 17. Motorists should expect intermittent eastbound lane closures during daytime and nighttime hours. Motorists should expect slow-moving traffic and possible delays.
- **SR 35 (US 17) from Tamiami Trail (US 41) to Bermont Road:** Construction project: The contractor continues milling and paving operations between Nesbit Street and I-75.
  - Motorists should expect daytime shoulder closures on eastbound and westbound SR 35 (US 17).
  - Motorists should expect nighttime-overnight lane closures on eastbound and westbound SR 35 (US 17) between the hours of 7 p.m. to 9 a.m.
- **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 December 4, at Military Heritage Museum, 900 W Marion Avenue.

## 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.
  - **Crew Chief — Water Distribution.** An entry level supervisory position responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of water distribution facilities and systems.
  - **Principal Planner — Urban Design** — A highly complex professional that participates in advanced, highly— complex professional planning activities.
  - **Senior Project Manager — Public Works** — A professional technical position responsible for overseeing projects from inception to completion and ensuring that contractors perform work that meets City specifications and expectations.



- **AMI Technician I — Water Distribution, Utilities** — A skilled technical position responsible for monitoring, maintenance, and repair of automatic meter infrastructure systems.
- **Assistant Buyer, Procurement, Finance** — A clerical position responsible for limited purchasing duties, screening and referring telephone calls, greeting the public and vendors, typing, filing, and operation of various office machines.
- **Construction Engineering Inspector — Engineering / Public Works** — A paraprofessional position that will provide construction inspection for development projects from inception to completion to ensure the project meets the City of Punta Gorda's specifications and expectations. Work is performed under the general supervision of the City Engineering Manager.
- **Safety Coordinator — Human Resources** — A professional position that coordinates with the HR Manager to create, plan, maintain and oversee the overall safety program for The City. Schedules and coordinates safety trainings and briefings. Will perform accident investigations, onsite inspections, and appraise worker safety issues such as hazards or exposures. Ensures that all work is performed in accordance with established OSHA rules and regulations applicable to local government operations. Position works closely and in tandem with the Risk Coordinator.
- **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 including asphalt patching and laying pavers; installation of concrete sidewalks and driveways; and storm water system maintenance and swale work.

### Safety Tips

- **Thanksgiving Fire Statistics** — Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires with more than three times the daily average for such incidents. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked second and third, with both having nearly twice the daily average.
  - Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
  - Cooking causes half (52%) of all reported home fires and nearly two of every five (36%) home fire injuries, and it is a leading cause of home fire deaths (17%).
  - On Thanksgiving day alone, an estimated 1,610 home cooking fires were reported to U.S fire departments in 2022, reflecting a 399 percent increase over the daily average.

### Source: NFPA Research

- **Top Safety Tips**
  - Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
  - Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently.
  - Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
  - Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
  - Keep knives out of the reach of children.
  - Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
  - Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
  - Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
  - Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
  - Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

### Urban Design

#### Upcoming Events

- Charlotte Harbor Event Center, 75 Taylor St. For additional information, visit <https://www.charlotteharborecc.com/events>

- Fishermen's Village events can be accessed at <https://www.fishville.com/events/>
- Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://puntagordachamber.com/calendar-events/>
- Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events can be accessed at <https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/calendar>
- Military Heritage Museum events can be accessed at [Upcoming Events – Military Heritage Museum](#)
- Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve Street; for all community events and class information, visit <https://pgica.org/>.
- The Visual Arts Center events can be accessed at [Welcome to the Visual Arts Center of Punta Gorda, FL \(visualartcenter.org\)](#)
- Nov 30 – Dec 7, Holiday Movies, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, for more information contact: [jerrycleffi001@gmail.com](mailto:jerrycleffi001@gmail.com)
- December 6 — The Punta Gorda tree lighting is December 6, Downtown Punta Gorda. The tree lights at 7 p.m. sharp.
- December 14 — Christmas Parade, for more information contact [bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org](mailto:bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org)
- December 21-22 — Holly Jolly Market, Gilchrist Park, 400 W Retta Esplanade, for more information contact: [blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com](mailto:blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com)
- December 24, Christmas Eve Service, Laishley Park, 96 Nesbit St, For more information contact: [office@dc3.tv](mailto:office@dc3.tv)



### Lot Mowing Program

- The mowing cycle is currently under way and should be completed by the end of this week, weather permitting.

### Planning Corner

- **Live Local vs. Local Planning** — In 2023 the Florida Legislature addressed affordable housing needs with the Live Local Act. This act, known as the Live Local Act, is a comprehensive, statewide attainable housing strategy, designed to increase the availability of affordable housing opportunities for Florida’s residents, who desire to live within the communities they serve. This framework provides historic recurring funding for housing very-low to moderate income households. In addition to a multitude of new programs, incentives, and opportunities, this legislation works to focus Florida’s housing strategy in ways that make housing more attainable. Florida Housing will implement programs that support the development of multifamily residential housing, homeownership, and creating innovative approaches for all housing markets. The act was followed by a “glitch bill” in 2024. City staff invites those interested parties to learn more about the bills’ impacts on local governments, the effects on future development and what more might be done to alleviate the shortage of affordable housing to register for the 1,000 Friends of Florida webinar on December 11, from 12 – 1:30 p.m. at the following link: [Upcoming Webinars - 1000 Friends of Florida](#)
- **Community Gardens** — The Community Garden at the History Park has several planting bed openings for any interested persons. The garden is ready for your vegetables, decorative plants and herbs. Come join fellow gardeners. Please contact Sandy Dressler at [Sdressler@rocketmail.com](mailto:Sdressler@rocketmail.com) for more information.



### Public Works

- **Canal Maintenance Production** — Canal Maintenance crews patched seawall seams at six residences, patched seawall caps at 15 residences, and manufactured nine seawall panels. Crews removed debris from canals at 11 sites.
- **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 20 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 117 projects completed. All seawall projects in Burnt Store Isles have been completed. 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](#) click on the Dock Match button for information.

## Engineering

- **Bayfront Center Demolition** — The contractor has completed the demolition of the Bayfront Center. The contractor has installed the sod around the existing concrete pad. The contractor has removed all the tile from the concrete slab that was in the kitchen area and now will grind the concrete pad to give the pad a texture. Please be advised to take extra caution in the area, and follow all detours for bicycle/walking paths.



- **Hurricane Cleanup** — The haulers are on day 35 of cleaning up the construction debris from Hurricane Milton. As of today, the contractor has hauled 286 loads to the landfill, resulting in 15,887 cubic yards of material. The City of Punta Gorda employees have been working seven days a week picking up the vegetation debris from Hurricane Milton. As of today, the city has hauled 221 loads to the landfill, resulting in 500 tons of material.

- **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. The pump, treatment, and filtration equipment installation are 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 between 8 a.m. and 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. 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 clean up storm debris at Gilchrist Park from the boat club to the 41 South Bridge.
- Crews continue to repair and restore street signs throughout the city.
- Crews are working on maintaining pothole repairs across the city.

### Sanitation

- The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed on both November 28, and November 29 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Residents of the City of Punta Gorda will notice No Change in their trash, recycling, or yard waste collections during this holiday.

There will be **No Collection** for commercial customers of the City of Punta Gorda on November 28. The collection of commercial customers will resume on November 29.

- **Regular Yard Waste** — Regular yard waste resumed on November 19. As a friendly reminder, please see the guidelines listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Public Works (941)575-5050 or [Sanitation | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](http://Sanitation|CityofPuntaGorda,FL(punta-gorda.fl.us)).
  - **Loose Yard Waste Pile** — Palm fronds, limbs, etc. shall not exceed 4" in diameter or 4' in length. These items must be tied and bundled for collection; bundles shall weigh no more than 35 pounds.



- **Single Family Residents** — Are allowed no more than three yard waste cans or bags per week. The city does not provide cans for yard waste and residents can purchase a cart from any local hardware store. Please be sure the cart has a lid, wheels, and metal bar across the front.



- **Tree Removal** — Tree removal and lot clearing is NOT a part of your regular service. If you have a whole tree removed you must first contact Urban Design to obtain a permit (941)575-3372 or [Tree Removal Permit Request | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us). The company that removes the tree is responsible for hauling away the remains. The City does not collect whole tree remains or lot clearing remains.
- **Loose Yard Waste Piles Clamshell Truck** — The clamshell truck is working seven days a week collecting loose yard waste piles. Residents do not need to call for a special pick-up. The clamshell truck is doing sweeps of the city and we are not accepting any scheduled clamshell collections at this time.
- **City Refuse Trucks** — For safety reasons, please do not approach the rear of the refuse truck for any reason. Staff is trained on operating the hoppers and at no time should a resident attempt to place debris inside of the hopper. We thank you for your continued cooperation.
- **Construction Debris** — Do not place construction debris inside of the trash or recycling cart. Regular trash and recycling do not collect construction debris. The haulers are collecting the construction debris at this time. If a container is found with construction debris inside it will not be emptied.
- **Regular Household Trash** — Regular household trash is being collected at this time. Please place the regular household trash inside the city-issued trash cart. Please clearly mark any extra non-city-issued cans or bags as trash. Due to the amount of storm debris, crews are not able to identify extra regular trash unless it's clearly marked. If residents lost their city-issued carts in the storm and need a replacement, please call the Public Works Department at (941) 575-5050 during the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Police

- **Reminder to Contact Police Directly** — This is just a friendly reminder that if you see a non-emergency issue or problem or something suspicious that needs to be addressed by the police, please call our non-emergency line at 941-639-4111 immediately so we can address the issue as it is happening. We often hear of problems that occurred in the past through third parties or other city employees. It is difficult or impossible to address these issues unless we can respond as they are happening. Often, when these reports come through a third party, it is too late, or we need additional information to respond appropriately. Of course, if there is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.
- **Ten-Year Recognition** — At the City Council meeting on Wednesday, Corporal Josh Girard was recognized for his ten years of service to the City of Punta Gorda. Congratulations, and thank you for your service Corporal Girard!



## **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 January 2025. Applications must be received by January 3. The written exam will be completed online between January 10 and January 17, and oral board exams will be conducted on January 30. 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 January 17 and 24. Applications must be received by, January 10.
- **Internship Program** — The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Spring and Summer semesters 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](http://www.pgpdjobs.com) or contact our Employee Development Coordinator at (941) 575-5571 or by email at [employeedevelopment@pgorda.us](mailto:employeedevelopment@pgorda.us).

## Fire

- **NFPA 1932 Standards** — This past week the Fire Department put every ladder through a vigorous strength and performance test. NFPA 1932 requires every Fire Department around the nation to annually test all ladders for safety, performance, and strength. Because of the hard work of the City of Punta Gorda Fire Department personnel puts in maintaining these ladders, all fire apparatus ladders passed and meets all NFPA 1932 standards.



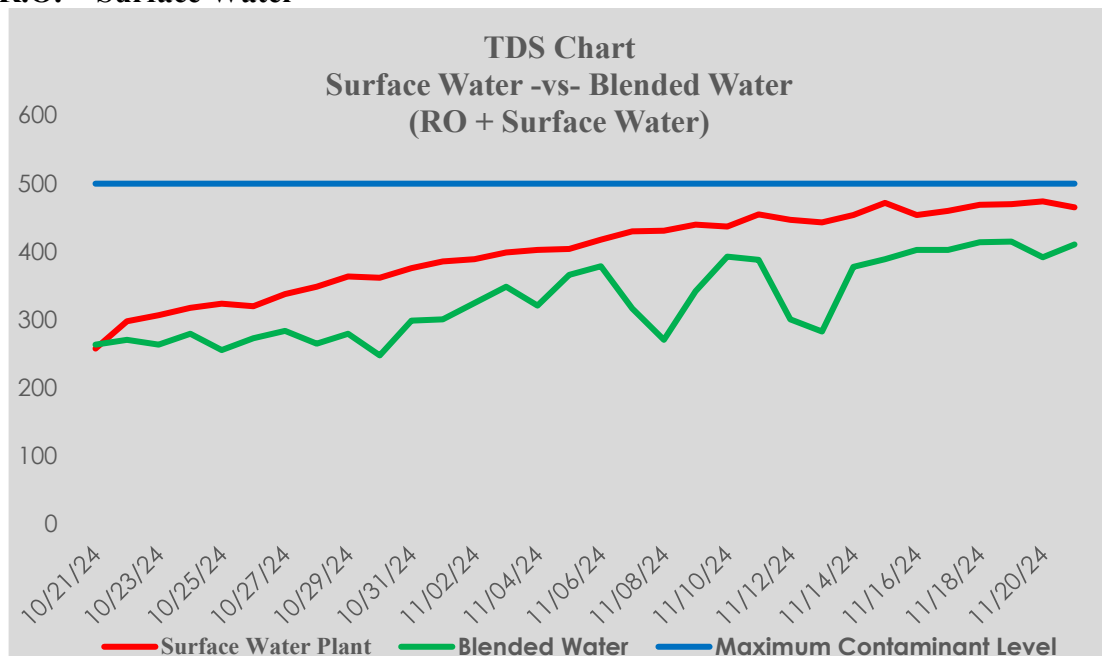
SWFL Honor Flight Mission XXI was a huge success.

Four dedicated members of the Punta Gorda Fire Department served as medical staff. Along with Jadilyn Heldenbrand, Kyle Raymond, Justin Bala, and Vice President Alex Davenport were Vinny Maugeri Jr, Nathan McCarthy, Lee McManus, Jeremy Walker, and Daryn Favara from Charlotte County Fire & EMS. Together, these people assisted veterans around Washington D.C to thank them for their service.



## Utilities

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



### **Administration**

- **Leaks** — If you notice a water or sewer leak outside of normal business hours please call the after-hours number (941) 575- 5070 or the Water Treatment Plan at (941) 639-2057.
- **Water Treatment Plant Operations** — 59.6 MG delivered to the distribution system during the last seven days with 8.5 MG daily average.
- **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect** — Receiving 1350 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase one Pipeline). Sending 1730 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- Rainfall November 2023 - 1.17" November 2024 - .55"
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" - Grains of Hardness 12 - Total hardness 208 ppm
- T.D.S. - Current 411 ppm. Low - 188 ppm, High 533 ppm, 14 - year average 395 ppm.
- Reservoir November 21 - Current 5.18, Record Low 4.94, Record High, 6.60 58 Year Average 5.20'.
- **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), by mail to Billing and 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

- **Business Tax Receipt Renewals** — Business tax receipts not yet renewed are now subject to a 15% late fee, with a 5% increase each month beyond November. 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](#). 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** (two 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.

- **Planning and Zoning Board** (one regular) — Meets the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. Board of seven members with two alternates. Term period is three years with a limit of three terms. City residency required. Financial disclosure required.

Makes recommendations to City Council with regard to amending, extending or adding to the Comprehensive Plan for the physical development of the City, platting or subdividing land within the City and adopting and amending a zoning ordinance; hears petitions for Special Exceptions.

- **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:

- Chapman Insurance Group LLC, 517 Tamiami Trail
- Let's Talk Medicare, 318 Tamiami Trail, Unit 219
- Mac Investment Partners LLC, 201 West Marion Avenue, Unit 1314
- Taqueria Eben-Ezer, 10001 Tamiami Trail
- 175 Colony Point LLC Vacation Rental, 175 Colony Point LLC