

Communication from Lynne Matthews, Mayor
Punta Gorda City Council District 4

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FEMA Administrator visits Punta Gorda to assess damages.
Photo provided.

Here is your Weekly Highlights Report for October 11, 2024.
For the complete report from the City, click [HERE](#).

[THIS IS A SPECIAL ABBREVIATED HURRICANE EDITION:](#)

Special thanks to Senator Rick Scott and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell for coming to our City this week to assess hurricane damages. We are grateful for your concern, support and encouragement that you will be there to help us get through the cleanup and restoration process.

Hurricane Milton Updates:

* A curfew is in place from 12 a.m. until 6 a.m. to keep streets secure during initial period after the hurricane while power is out. <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/home/showpublisheddocument/15920>

* How high did the water get? The working estimate in the City limits is about a foot higher than Helene. Where we have a sensor at the Shell Creek dam indicated (measured at above zero ground elevation) 7.1 feet for Helene and 9.12 for Milton with reverse flow pushing in. It will take time before an official depth is available.

* For power restoration information visit [FPL.com](https://www.fpl.com). As of Sunday, October 13 at 4 p.m., there are still 9,660 customers without power out of 133,360 customers. They restored 123,700 customers already! They estimate they will have 95% power restored by Tuesday, October

15 at the end of the day. Thanks to the heroes from FPL and their partners from all over the country who put their lives on hold to come and restore power to all of SW Florida! Not all heroes wear capes!

* Trash pickup and recycling pick up are back on their regular schedule. Yard waste will not be picked up at this time.

* City Clerk's office and Finance Department have been relocated to the third floor of the City Hall Annex due to flooding in their offices at the Herald Court location.

* Building Department will be back at work Monday morning at 8 a.m. and have an expedited online permitting process in place on the website to help residents get permits in a timely manner.

* There are no boil water notices in effect. We do ask that people limit water use wherever possible.

* Following a hurricane, stagnant water can pose significant health risks by harboring harmful pathogens, which may lead to serious waterborne disease. This standing water can also conceal dangerous hazards, including storm debris and downed power lines, creating a serious risk of electrocution for those who venture too close. It's crucial to exercise caution and prioritize your safety. Always remember: "Turn Around, Don't Drown!" Stay vigilant and avoid flooded areas to protect yourself and your loved ones from potential dangers.

* City offices will be reopening on October 14. Due to flooding and standing water Hounds on Henry remains closed until further notice.

* Gilchrist Park restrooms are currently closed due to flooding. We are working on a solution to reopen the restrooms soon.

* Ponce De Leon Park is currently closed to all visitors due to hurricane damage until further notice.

* City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on October 16, location will be announced as soon as a suitable location with power is determined.

* Senator Rick Scott visited Punta Gorda Thursday to meet with members of the police and fire departments as part of his effort to assess the damage caused by Hurricane Milton. During his visit, he had the opportunity to see the Fat Truck in action - a high-water rescue vehicle generously provided by Supertrak, which played a critical role in the City's emergency response efforts.



* The Administrator of FEMA Deanne Criswell and her team met with Punta Gorda staff to view hurricane damage, discuss needs, grant opportunities and assistance with FEMA programs.



Hurricane Recovery Information:

* Residents affected by Hurricane Helene may be eligible for FEMA assistance. Fill out an application at <https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual>.

* Clean up help is available through Crisis Cleanup (844) 965-1386.

* 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 if assistance is needed locating 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.

* Currently, nearly all decorative streetlights in the downtown area and historic district, as well as lighting in Gilchrist Park and Laishley Park, are inoperable. Additionally, pathway lighting along the Harbor Walk and Linear Trail is also out of service. Officers will be heavily patrolling these areas during nighttime hours to enhance safety.

Charlotte County has opened three distribution centers today with water, tarps and MREs. The points of distribution are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. or while supplies last at the following locations:

- * Port Charlotte Town Center, 1441 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte in Macy's parking lot
- * Tringali Park Community Center, 3460 N Access Road, Englewood
- * Parking lot of the former Muscle Car City Museum, 10175 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda

Charlotte County launched Info Hubs to help residents get information about available resources after the storms. An Info Hub is available at South County Regional Park Recreation Center, 670 Cooper St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950.

Important public service announcement regarding construction on U.S. 41 from the Florida Department of Transportation - (FDOT), District One, is providing roadway improvements to U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail) from William Street to the Peace River Bridge (441524-1). This project is entering Phase Two of construction as of September 12, the contractor will begin to pave portions of the proposed roundabout that will be constructed at the intersection of Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) and Carmalita Street. During the process of Phase Two construction, motorists should follow the posted detour:

Phase Two construction detour - US 41 (Tamiami Trail) from William Street to Peace River Bridge: Construction Project: The contractor will pave portions of the proposed roundabout with base and structural asphalt. Signs are being placed for the phase two detour listed below. Motorists should expect daytime left lane closures northbound from William Street to Carmalita Street and southbound from Cross Street to William Street.

Phase 2 detour - Cross Street will be closed for the duration of phase two construction. Motorists attempting to access Carmalita Street from Cross Street will have to use the posted detour. They will turn left on West Charlotte Avenue, then right on Taylor Street, and continue until they reach Carmalita Street. Motorists are asked to exercise caution and reduce their speed while driving through the work zone. The construction schedule may change due to weather or other unexpected conditions.

Residents can reach out to FDOT's Communications Team for additional information or

inquiries. Contact Bryn Parsons at 239-985-7864 or via email at bryn.parsons@dot.state.fl.us. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as these improvements are made to enhance our roadways.

Hurricane tips - Each year, I publish a list of hurricane tips I have compiled from living here over 27 years. I am happy to share this document with all of you, and thanks to the City for posting it on the City's website! We've already had a couple of named storms, so stay safe this season. Hurricane season is here, so please be prepared! Click [HERE](#) for this year's tips!

Re-election news - Thanks to everyone who turned out for our recent events! I am humbled and grateful for the outpouring of support I have received so far, for my re-election campaign. It truly means a lot to me. If you haven't already been in touch, I will be reaching out to those who have supported me in previous years to ask for your support once again. If you would like to receive invitations for upcoming campaign events, please click [HERE](#) and I will add you to my invitation list. Please provide your name, address, email and a phone number. Details will be sent to you upon receipt regarding date, time and location. Also, if you would like a yard sign, please click [HERE](#) and we'll get you one right away. Thank you all for your continued support. We have some great things happening in our beautiful City and I would be honored to continue working for all of you.



Your vote is your voice! Please do your homework and research the candidates in the upcoming election. This will be a pivotal election for our City. Your current City Council members have dedicated their time and service to the residents in our City and deserve to be re-elected. There are a lot of projects currently being proposed throughout the City, due to the positive changes implemented by City Council with our new award winning Comprehensive Plan and updated Land Development Regulations (LDRs). These LDRs clearly outline the new building code standards that are business friendly, and which help developers clearly understand what is and is not permitted in our City. We are starting to see a lot of interest in filling in the open parcels downtown, which is very encouraging. Please remember that the current ratio of residential vs. commercial tax base is 89% residential vs. 11% commercial. We must work to move the needle and bring in more commercial business if you want to see some relief in your taxes. Experience matters! **Vote to re-elect your incumbent Council members: District 1 - Donna Peterman, District 2 - Bill Dryburgh, and District 4 - Lynne Matthews.** If you would like to learn more about the three of us, our websites are as follows: www.lynnematthews.org www.donnapeterman.com www.billdryburgh.com

City Council meeting - City Council will meet at 9 a.m. on October 16 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
- Council discussion for Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton damages and repairs

Citizens Academy registration - Beginning October 1, the registration for Citizen's Academy opened 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 citywide departments. The program runs biweekly from January 21 through April 29.



Information regarding Citizen's Academy may be found by clicking [HERE](#), where you will also find the registration form. For additional questions, please call the Public Works Administration office at 941-575-5050

Lashley Park Splash Pad - Construction continues at the Interactive Fountain area in Lashley Park. This work includes rehabilitation and upgrades to the splash pad/play area. Play equipment installation is nearly complete. 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 for 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.



Fiber optic internet network - The fiber optic internet provider Hyper Fiber has been issued permits for a portion of the construction project to install a citywide fiber optic internet network within the City right-of-way. This project will be under construction during the next several months as they install the network citywide. They are currently working in the areas highlighted in red. 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 take 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 the restoration is complete to ensure the contractor's restoration meets the City's requirements. Hyper Fiber has provided a telephone number to call if citizens have questions or concerns about the project and installation. HyperFiber has provided a telephone number to call if citizens have questions or concerns about the project and installation - call Hyper Fiber's Lori Haight at 501-844-6340. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

Voting information - This is going to be a big year for voting, from everything at the federal level for the President of the United States, to local elections at both the City and County level. Here are some important

Election Days	Early Voting Dates
Presidential Preference Primary Election: March 19, 2024 Primary Election: August 20, 2024 General Election: November 5, 2024	Presidential Preference Primary Election: March 4-17, 2024 Primary: August 5-19, 2024 General: October 21-November 3, 2024
New Registration/Party Affiliation Change Deadline!	Vote by Mail Dates
Punta Gorda City Election: October 10, 2023 Presidential Preference Primary Election: February 20, 2024 Primary Election: July 22, 2024 General Election: October 7, 2024	(F-S: 101-62) The initial batch of Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed out between the 40th and 33rd days prior to an election to those voters who have already requested them. Subsequent mailings will be mailed out daily as new requests are received.

dates to put on your calendar in advance of the upcoming primary and general elections. Make sure you update your Vote By Mail status, as you have to do it after every general election now by Florida statute. For information, click [HERE](#).

Licensed/unlicensed contractors - As a reminder, all contractors who will be performing structural work on your home (roofs, pool cages, soffits, etc.) must be a contractor licensed in the State of Florida - click [HERE](#) to check on a specific company, AND they must also be registered with the City of Punta Gorda in order to be able to pull a building permit, which is required by law. You can check on the status of a contractor's registration with the City by clicking [HERE](#) and typing in the name of the company you wish to check on. Failure for a contractor to have the appropriate licensing and registration could result in a felony for the contractor. Additionally, they may not have the required insurance and liability insurances that the state requires. Please do your homework before you sign anything!

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 113 projects completed, and all 30 seawall projects in Burnt Store Isles have been completed. Phase two has started in the SW Zone.

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 Boaters Alliance (PGBA) has once again set up a program called *Dock Match*, which is to help facilitate relocation of boats that will need to be temporarily relocated from properties that had seawall failures. If you have a dock that is vacant and would like to make it available to another PGI or BSI boat owner, please click [HERE](#) to register your dock. Boat owners will have a list available to assist them in connecting with you to try and match their needs to your dock availability. I worked with the PGBA after Hurricane Irma to set this up in 2017 and it was used quite a lot by many residents. This program has been approved by the PGBA and the City of Punta Gorda.



Answers to some of your questions - I receive many questions each week from residents, asking all kinds of things about Punta Gorda activities. Here are a couple from this week:

EDITORIAL NOTE: I would like to thank all the residents that paid attention to the evacuation orders issued by Emergency Management, Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda. It definitely saved lives during this storm. A news reporter asked me this week what was different this time from other storms. My answer was "I have lived here for 28 years, and for Hurricane Charley, we were not ready." That was a major difference from then and now. And there was a major difference also between Helene and Milton. After Helene, first responders had to rescue 121 people and several dozen pets. After Milton and people paid attention, just three. So thank you everyone for helping to keep yourselves safe. We have learned a lot in recent years about hurricane preparedness, and it certainly makes a difference. I hope that most of you had minimal or no damage to your homes. I realize that there is still a lot of cleanup to be done, but we are a resilient community and will come back better and stronger.

I had a request to reprint the links to the information for the six Florida constitutional

amendments that will be on the ballot, so here is the information again since Vote by Mail ballots should be arriving soon:

I understand there are several ballot referendums on the general election ballot this year. Can you please explain what these are and what they all mean? This is always a complex answer, and without providing a personal opinion about each of them, I am offering a couple of documents every registered voter should read before voting this year. This one is a very clear description of each ballot and what a yes or no vote will mean - click [HERE](#). And here is a second source for information - click [HERE](#). I urge you to read through these thoroughly! A law passed in the Florida legislature a couple of years ago was intended for amendment verbiage to be spelled out in plain English, but my opinion is that there is still some text that may distort the intended meaning of the amendment. So please read carefully before you vote!

If you ever have questions, please email me at lmattthews@cityofpuntafordafl.com. I respond to all emails that are personally directed to me, or I will ask a staff member to respond to you. Occasionally, staff needs to respond if it is a complex answer, and sometimes it takes a few days to research various subjects. Please be patient, as we will get back with you.

Military Heritage Museum - Stop in to see the fascinating interactive exhibits, and check out the schedule of wonderful entertainment in the Gulf Theater. Our mission is to promote an understanding and respect for the rich military heritage of the United States and the sacrifices made by all who serve, living and deceased, emphasizing that freedom isn't free. For more information, click [HERE](#). To check out the schedule for this season's fabulous shows in the Gulf Theater - click [HERE](#).



Would you like to be on the mailing list for the Military Heritage Museum, and receive advance notice of upcoming events? If so, please click [HERE](#). You MUST include your name and email address in your request in order to add you to the database.

There are a lot of great events coming up in town, so don't miss out on these:

October 15 - SW Florida Honor Flight returns home, PGD Airport. For information, click [HERE](#).

October 19 - Petober Fest, Gilchrist Park. For information, click [HERE](#).

October 20 - The Florida Philharmonic *Changing Seasons*, BS Pres. Church. For information, click [HERE](#).

October 26 - Skippy Dee Doo Dah, Gilchrist Park. For information, contact angela@skippydeedoodah.com.

October 26 - Walk the rounds for nursing, Laishley Park. For information, contact anthonybethelstmark@gmail.com.

October 26 - Neighborhood Fall Festival, Cooper St. Rec Center. For information, contact

pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com

October 31 - Nightmare on Harvey St. and trick or treating in the Historic District, 5-9 p.m.

For information, click [HERE](#).

October 31 - Halloween Food Truck Festival, 507 W. Marion Ave. For information, click

[HERE](#).

November 9 - Veterans Day parade downtown. For information, click [HERE](#).

November 16 - Lighting of the Village, Fishermen's Village. For information, click [HERE](#).

November 17 - The Florida Philharmonic *All Brassed Up*, BS Pres. Church. For

information, click [HERE](#).

December 6 - Christmas tree lighting downtown. For information, click [HERE](#).

December 14 - Christmas parade downtown, noon. For information, click [HERE](#).

December 21 - Christmas Lighted Boat Parade, PGI canals. For information, click [HERE](#).

For upcoming events and festivals from the City's website, click [HERE](#).

Punta Gorda Chamber's events page - click [HERE](#).

Charlotte County Visitors Bureau events page - click [HERE](#).

Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum - click [HERE](#).

Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association - click [HERE](#).

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, click [HERE](#).

Visual Arts Center events, click [HERE](#).

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce events, click [HERE](#).

Fishermen's Village events, click [HERE](#). For all Fishermen's Village event information, you must go to the calendar under Events and click on the specific listing for details.

Police Department:

Volunteers In Policing (VIP) - Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering may contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at 941-575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us.

Police Officer testing - The Punta Gorda Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. A virtual testing process will take place in August. Applications must be received by October 25. The written exam will be completed online between November 1 and 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 spring of 2025 semester. Our internship 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 for 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 Department:

Building Division - 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, general liability insurance, or the proper permits for the work they are doing. Should injuries occur at the site, the owner may be liable. Any work performed without the proper permits may not be covered by the home or business owner's insurance company in the event of future claims.

Per *Florida Statutes* § 489.127(2)(c) (2022); "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". The city remains in a state of emergency as a result of Hurricane Helene. Therefore, any person who does work without the correct licensure during a state of emergency may be charged with a felony. This applies to all types of construction and not just that which is associated with repairs as a result of a tropical storm or hurricane.

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 941-575-3324 or click [HERE](#).

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 a 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. to 4:30 p.m.

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. 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. The City of Punta Gorda has a variety of employment opportunities available - learn more by clicking [HERE](#).



Currently hiring for the following professional positions:

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.



Sanitation: Regular trash pickup and recycling are planning to be back on their normal schedule this week. Yard debris will be part of the hurricane debris pickup process, so more information will be released this week about that. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT HURRICANE DEBRIS MUST BE SEPARATED OR IT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. AND PLEASE DO NOT PLACE ANY DEBRIS ON VACANT LOTS!

Groundwater RO plant update - Maximum total dissolved solids (TDS) is 500 without a waiver. Our numbers are consistently way below the maximum allowable level with the R.O. Plant water in service.

Voters update signature - 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 to update yours during regular business hours.

Vote By Mail - In order to vote by mail, you must have a valid request on file with the Supervisor of Elections Office. Vote By Mail requests must be renewed before every general election and if your VBM request was made prior to 12/31/2022, it has expired and must be renewed this year. Requests for vote-by-mail ballots can be made in person, by calling 941-833-5400 or by visiting the Supervisor of Elections website - click [HERE](#).

Subscribe to the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections monthly newsletter to stay up-to-date on elections news. Click [HERE](#) for the link.

Board and committee vacancies: Volunteers needed - Vacancies currently exist on the Building Board, Code Enforcement Board, Donation Review Committee, Historic Preservation Advisory Board, Police Officers Pension Board, PGI Canal Advisory Committee and Utility Advisory Board. If you are interested in applying for any position, please contact the City Clerk's office at 941-575-3369 or pgclerk@cityofpuntagordafl.com. You must complete an [Appointment Information Form](#) along with a resume and submit to the City Clerk's Office either in person to City Hall at 326 W. Marion Ave., or to email address above.

If you ever have a question you would like answered, please email me at lmattews@cityofpuntagordafl.com. I respond to all emails that are personally directed to me, as long as the questions are not related to an upcoming public hearing. Elected officials are not permitted to discuss issues or offer opinions on items that will come before us for a vote. If I don't have the answers to your questions, I will get it for you.

Thanks for staying in touch with what's happening in Punta Gorda. I hope that you find this newsletter informative. If you would like to share it with others, please feel free to do so. If

you know anyone else who may want to receive this, please have them email me their name, email address and zip code, and I'll be happy to add them to the distribution list. Also, if you change your email address, please let me know it is changed so you can continue to receive the newsletter - go to the bottom of the newsletter and "Update your preferences" to keep it current.

A note to readers of this newsletter - If you or your email server report my newsletter as having spammy content, it sends a message to Mail Chimp that you have not accepted receipt of the newsletter and it will automatically remove you from my subscriber list. Most of the time, this is unintentional. However if you somehow find you stop receiving it each week, this is the reason. Once you are removed from the database, you stop receiving it permanently. If I see that this happens, I will attempt one time to send you an email and let you know you need to accept a resubscribe request in order to get back into the database. Also, a few of my readers have experienced periodic problems with not receiving this newsletter. It seems that some of the virus prevention programs send the newsletter to spam from time to time, especially if the newsletter is lengthy. Please ensure you have the sending email address in your address book, which is upstateone@comcast.net. And if you suddenly stop receiving this, please be sure to check your spam folder. I never delete anyone from the subscriber list unless I am asked to do so. Apologies for any inconvenience.

If at any time, you would like to get in touch to ask a question, feel free to contact me.

Lynne R. Matthews

Mayor, City of Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda City Council District 4

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<https://www.facebook.com/lynnematthewspgcitycouncil>