

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

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Congratulations to the Sallie Jones Elementary School  
Honor Society inductees.  
Photo provided by me.

**Here is your Weekly Highlights Report for May 3, 2024.**  
For the complete report from the City, click [HERE](#).

**Sallie Jones Elementary School Honor Society** - This morning, I was honored to be the keynote speaker for the 2024 Honor Society induction ceremony at our local elementary school. These kids have worked so hard to earn honor society status, and it was beautiful to see their excitement, as well as their families who were all so proud of them. Congrats to the fourth and fifth grade honor society recipients, and to the entire team at Sallie Jones, headed up by Principal Jennie Hoke. Thanks for allowing me to participate in this wonderful event - it was a privilege to be part of this ceremony. Photo is this week's headline photo at the top of this newsletter.

**Ribbon cuttings abound!** This week, a ribbon cutting took place inside the Springhill Suites Hotel downtown, for the beautiful new mural of the Hotel Punta Gorda, which was a major piece of Punta Gorda history. The hotel burned down in August 1959. Millionaires from all around the globe came to visit here back in the day, and the hotel was quite the landmark. Thanks to the Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society for bringing the



mural back to life (the original was on the wall of the Charlevoi condos and was removed when the wall had to be resurfaced). And thanks to artist Keith Goodson!

**City Manager** - The City of Punta Gorda has been known as the Hibiscus City since 1926. In that year, Harry R. Goulding provided hibiscus plantings throughout the city. Harry Goulding made Punta Gorda his home and was known by many for his world-class, award-winning hybrid hibiscus plants, growing some 60,000 varieties of hibiscus over 60 years. He won many accolades and awards, including the prestigious American Hibiscus Society show's "Best in the World" category five times.



To continue efforts to highlight the City's designation as the Hibiscus City, the 20th Annual Hibiscus Festival will be held in Gilchrist Park from May 3 through May 5, and includes a Friday evening concert, unveiling the King and Queen of Hibiscus on Saturday, plant sales and continuous music on Saturday and Sunday, as well as food vendors and other activities.

The City Council of Punta Gorda has proclaimed May 4 as Hibiscus Day. They encourage all residents to plant hibiscus to beautify the city and continue the tradition that began many years ago. During the Hibiscus Festival, Gilchrist Park will be filled with plants that are being sold from some of the finest nurseries around. Vendors are happy to answer questions about how to make newly purchased hibiscus plants thrive.

The event will also feature a craft show filled with jewelry, yard art, pottery, produce, and much more. Unique food vendors will also be onsite, featuring a variety of menu options. The music featured at the Hibiscus Festival is a draw all on its own. There is music on all three days of the festival. A complete schedule is available by clicking [HERE](#).

Don't miss the Lil' Miss Hibiscus Pageant at 9 a.m. on Saturday on the Hibiscus Stage. Little girls and young ladies who have registered for the pageant come dressed in their favorite tropical attire. All who participate are provided a token of appreciation and a warm welcome from the crowd.

The proceeds from the Hibiscus Festival benefit the Punta Gorda Historical Society (PGHS). PGHS protects historic properties representing our diverse cultural experience by directly acting and inspiring broad public support. They are a privately funded nonprofit organization working to preserve Punta Gorda's historic homes and buildings. They are the cause that inspires others to preserve the places where history happened. The cause that connects us to our diverse pasts, weaving a multi-cultural area together. They are a leading voice for preservation, restoration, and education, they are the cause for people preserving historical homes and buildings.

The Hibiscus Festival holds a unique and cherished place in our community, serving as a vibrant celebration of local culture, tradition, and unity. The festive gathering showcases our city's distinctive flavors, music, and arts and fosters a sense of belonging and pride among residents. It is a great place to reconnect with neighbors, make new friends, and create

memories. It is festivals like this that preserve and enhance Punta Gorda's identity as a vibrant waterfront community, unique in character and history, and as a desirable place to live, work, and visit. Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at [citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:citymgr@cityofpuntafordafl.com) or by calling the main office line at 941-575-3302.

**Waste Water Treatment Plant Project (WwTP)** - Work continues on the WwTP efficiency project. Crews are working on the bioreactor. Eight of the 15 concrete slabs have been poured equating to 2800 yards of concrete, or 280 truckloads. Three new clarifiers are also under construction.



The second photo shows the 36" clarifier effluent line being installed. This line runs through the existing plant and required some careful planning and execution by the contractors.

**Henry Street force main project** - Please be advised the contractor working on Henry St. force main project will have the road closed effective May 6 until further notice on W. Henry St. between W. Olympia Ave and W. Marion Ave. Residents and emergency vehicles will have limited access. Motorists are encouraged to drive with extreme caution while in this area. Detour signs will be posted. For additional information on this project, please contact Robert Ruth, Utilities project manager at 941-575-5088 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**City Council** - City Council will meet on May 15 at 9 a.m. at the Military Heritage Museum.

**Clean Air Month** - Is observed in May each year across the United States, sponsored by the American Lung Association since 1972. Initially a week long campaign the event was lengthened to a month long one in 1994. The month-long awareness campaign aims to educate people about the impact that clean air has on our lives and encourages people to take positive steps to improve the air quality - both locally and globally.



Clean Air Month is also an opportunity to celebrate the improvements that have been made over the last four decades since the campaign was launched and the Clean Air Act included into legislation in 1970.

This month you can find out more about how what we do and use effects the air quality and also join in with a range of activities, such as holding 'Bike to work day ' or 'car share day.' Many activities are led by the American Lung Association and educate as well as involve all members of the community, highlighting ways you can have a beneficial impact on the quality of the air we breathe. More information can be found using this link - click [HERE](#).

**American Cruise Lines add second ship** - Due to the popularity of the cruise line's itinerary that stopped in Punta Gorda this past season, American Cruise Lines has announced they will be adding a second ship for the next sailing season that will also stop here on the final night of each itinerary. This was a great addition to the community and the passengers really enjoyed our Punta Gorda hospitality. Many local attractions and restaurants benefitted from the additional visitors. The ships will anchor out in the harbor (due to the shallow waters of Charlotte Harbor) and tender in to shore twice weekly during their sailing season. For more information, click [HERE](#).

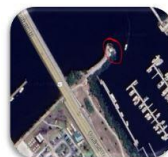
**Swale regrading** - The swale contractor has completed Don Quixote Dr., Brazilia Ct., Darin Dr., Padre Island Dr. and Casey Key Dr. (SW), which have been finalized and turned over to the homeowner. The contractor will be watering the sod for the next 30 days weather permitting at Ussepa Ct., Casey Key Dr. (SE) and Turtle Dove Cir. They have excavated approximately 60,000 SF this fiscal year. The contractor has begun excavating Sea Horse Ct. and will be excavating approximately 3,000 SF. Once the contractor gets the new grades established they will be installing new sod at the proper elevation. The next street to be excavated will be Sea Fan Dr.

**Laisley Park Splash Pad** - Construction continues at the Interactive Fountain area in Laisley Park. This work includes rehabilitation and upgrades to the splash pad/play area. Shade structure foundations were installed this week along with wall foundations. Most underground work has been completed, and preparation is taking place for the surface improvements. Please use extra caution while driving or walking through the park due to construction equipment. To the highest extent possible the restroom remain open to the public. The access for the restrooms marina side of the building. There will be periodic 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.



personnel and facilities will be from the temporary

**Right-of-way** - Vector stormwater cleaning work continues around the city. Parking restriction signs are posted at the entrance of Laisley Park. Crews have completed repairing brickwork in the area of Taylor and Olympia. Continuing to patch potholes throughout the city. Work continues on the renovation project at the pavilion located east of U.S. 41 continues. Crews continue to construct the rip rap wall to ensure the area is stable. The anticipation completion date is May 3. Please use caution in this area.



**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 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.



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. Please contact Hyper Fiber's Scott Jackson at 239-887-5379. 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

<p><b>Election Days</b>          Presidential Preference Primary Election: March 19, 2024          Primary Election: August 20, 2024          General Election: November 5, 2024</p>	<p><b>Early Voting Dates</b>          Presidential Preference Primary Election: March 4-17, 2024          Primary: August 5-18, 2024          General: October 21-November 3, 2024</p>
<p><b>New Registration/Party Affiliation Change Deadline!</b>          Punta Gorda City Election: October 10, 2023          Presidential Preference Primary Election: February 20, 2024          Primary Election: July 22, 2024          General Election: October 7, 2024</p>	<p><b>Vote by Mail Dates</b>          (P.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.</p>

level for the President of the United States, to local elections at both the City and County level. Here are some important 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!

**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 44 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 69 projects completed, and 19 projects under construction with 15 completed in Burnt Store Isles. Maps indicating the location and classification can be found on the Canal Maintenance website - click [HERE](#).

**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 Inlets are Idle Speed and No Wake. Wakes from watercraft can cause additional erosion and damage to seawalls already compromised. And please remember that you are responsible for your wake. If your vessel causes damage to a property or another vessel, you may be subject to fines or penalties.

**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. Our area is still experiencing rain events and that plastic will help keep the soil in place preventing further erosion.

**Establishing sod after seawall replacement** - Placing the sod is the final phase of seawall replacement construction. As per 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.

**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.



**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 kind of dredging along the damaged seawall may cause

further damage.

**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 some from this week:

*Why is the City singling out the Celtic Ray and threatening fines if they do not sod their vacant properties? It seems that the rules are not being enforced the same for other similar properties in the City.* This reply was provided by the City Planning Director: The comparison between the City Marketplace property and the Celtic Ray property is not an equitable comparison. The City Marketplace property was historically developed; however, subsequent to the damages by Hurricane Charley, the structures were demolished. This results in a non-conforming parking area. Said parking areas were previously used for parking benefiting neighboring commercial establishments and supporting community events. The City issued permits for many of the events taking place on the property, taking into consideration the use of the parking areas that remained following demolition. In the event the property owner no longer wishes to allow the site to be open to the public or to control access to the property, that is the right of the property owner. As it pertains to the enforcement of the ordinances, the City Marketplace parcel has received code violations in the past and will continue to be monitored, subject to all current code requirements.

The Celtic Ray property in question is a vacant parcel, with no historic approvals in place to reference. The vacant parcel is subject to the current code requirements which do not allow exposed soils. The Celtic Ray, and the aforementioned property, share only a similarity in that there are options on how best to proceed but it is ultimately the property owner's decision on how to control the property. The Celtic Ray could replace the property with sod and restrict the overflow parking to allow for proper growth; however, this option would be unproductive in light of their desire for future development. The second option available is to ensure there are no longer exposed soils by utilizing an appropriate material and method of containment, while the property owners demonstrate good faith effort towards development (in the form of submitting permits to the City).

The challenge is ensuring the resulting activity does not create results where the City awaits the property owner to develop accordingly or in a timely manner. Parking as a primary use is permitted with conditions within the Traditional Punta Gorda (TPG), Downtown Core regulating district. Should City Council wish to take a different action on all parcels that are utilized for parking areas without principal structures (including but not limited to Celtic Ray, City Marketplace, the old U-Save property, and others) then Code Compliance staff can begin conversations with the property owners to cease all parking operations, remove any concrete, asphalt, etc., and completely sod the property, or to seek development plan approval to legitimize the site as a parking lot.

*Why do some of the boats in the harbor not have registration numbers on the side? Are we*

*enforcing registrations and other required equipment on those boats?* A documented vessel is one that is registered by the federal government through the U.S. Coast Guard, rather than titled and numbered by a state. Pleasure vessels of five net tons and over (26 feet in length and up) may be documented, and commercial vessels five net tons and over must be documented. Vessels that are documented are not required to have registration numbers on the outside of the vessel's hull. Titles are not issued for documented boats. The federal government issues ownership documents. So this is why you may see some vessels without exterior registration numbers. It doesn't necessarily mean they do not have current registrations.

And yes, the Fish & Wildlife Commission, in cooperation with the local law enforcement agency marine boats routinely patrol the harbor and check to ensure they have required anchoring and navigation lights, that they are not discharging anything illegal into the harbor waters. Our City's free pumpout boat patrols the harbor waters two days a week and provides free pumpouts to boats that are out in the harbor and to boaters who bring their boats to them. The pumpout boat is funded by grant funds and is not permitted to enter the canals, so local boaters can motor to the pumpout boat should they wish to use the service.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** Just to clarify some of the false information on social media this week, I have never been a Commodore for the Isles Yacht Club. In fact, I have never even been a member of that club. And I did not request that the dinghy docks at Gilchrist Park be removed. The request was made by another Council member and discussion ensued, with consensus to look into any actions to be taken and any legal technicalities that might occur should they be removed. The docks may or may not end up being removed. I asked the Council members at this week's meeting to place this item on the next agenda for further discussion. For the last six + years, I have been the City liaison to the Punta Gorda Boaters Alliance, and worked closely with them to develop the Waterfront Master Plan for the City. The dinghy docks were clearly a part of that plan, and I would like to have further discussion about this before any action is taken. I did receive several emails and phone calls about the initial action, and I don't disagree with any of the residents who registered concerns. We are a boating community and these docks are one of the few things the City can offer to encourage visiting boaters to come ashore and take advantage of our shops, restaurants and attractions. So yes, I do want further discussion. And I feel strongly that better enforcement of the docks might help to curb any unfortunate incidents going forward. If anyone wants to ask me any other questions about this, please reach out to me.

**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:**

May 3-5 - Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival, Gilchrist Park. For information, click [HERE](#).

May 5 - PG Half Marathon, Laishley Park. For information, contact [drew@eliteevents.org](mailto:drew@eliteevents.org)

May 18, Mental Health Walk, Laishley Park, for more information contact

[kpomerville@cbhcf.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcf.org)

May 18 - Home and Hurricane Expo, Event Center. For information, click [HERE](#).

May 18 - Day of Celtic Music, Fishermen's Village. For information, click [HERE](#).

May 25-26 - Indoor Arts and Crafts Show, Event Center. For information, click [HERE](#).

May 25 - Downtown Bash. For information, click [HERE](#). contact [jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com](mailto:jrwright@puntagorda-chamber.com)

May 27 - Memorial Day 5K, Laishley Park. For information, contact

[acappuccilli@ymcaswfl.org](mailto:acappuccilli@ymcaswfl.org)

June 1 - Island Vibe Music Festival, Laishley Park. For information, click [HERE](#).

June 1-2 - Punta Gorda Gun Show, Event Center. For information, click [HERE](#).

June 8-9 - Spirit Fest, Event Center. For information, click [HERE](#).

June 15 - Blues Fest, Fishermen's Village. For information, click [HERE](#).

July 4 - Fourth of July festivities, Fishermen's Village. 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:**

**National Police Week proclamation** - City Council issued a proclamation recognizing the week of May 12 to 18 as National Police Week. National Police Week is a time to honor and remember those law enforcement officers who made the ultimate



sacrifice in the line of duty.

**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](mailto: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 June. Applications must be received by May 24. The written exam will be completed online between May 31 and June 7, and virtual oral board exams will be conducted via Zoom on June 18. The department is accepting applications from certified and non-certified candidates.

**Public Safety Dispatcher testing** - The police department conducts new hire testing continually in order to be prepared for future openings. We are currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. The exam will be held virtually between June 14 and June 21. Applications must be received by June 7.

**Internship program** - The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the fall of 2024 and spring of 2025 semesters. 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](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 Department:** T-1 was first on scene of a mutual aid storage facility fire this past Sunday across from the Marlympia Way Circle K gas station. T-1 and BC-1 arrived on scene to find smoke showing from several units. It was found that two units were on fire and with the wind conditions it appeared several units might have been involved. Crews were able to get a good knockdown and mitigate further exposures with the assistance of CCFEMS.



**National Day of Prayer** - The fire department and the police department attended a couple events on May 2 for the National Day of Prayer. The first event was held at Shore Point Punta Gorda where the Fire Department's Honor Guard team performed a flag raising ceremony and the Fire Chief led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



The second event was held at the City Hall Annex and several local church priests and pastors shared prayers for the City and community as a whole.

**Bird rescue** - The fire department received a call about a baby bird that was stuck in a tree. Yes, almost sounds ridiculous but the caller stated the bird was hanging upside down by its foot that was stuck. The administrative team went out and found a baby bird that fell out of its nest most likely, got its foot wrapped up in a piece of palm frond. The fire department was able to utilize a tall A-frame ladder and a long pole to break off the piece of palm frond. The bird was caught and placed in a cardboard box for transport to the Peace River Wildlife Center.



**National Technical Honor Society** - The fire department would like to recognize and congratulate Firefighter/EMT Caleb Briggs on being recognized by the National Technical Honor Society. Caleb is currently enrolled in the paramedic program at the Charlotte Technical College. Caleb is nearing completion of the program and will soon be the newest paramedic serving the residents of Punta Gorda. Congratulations Caleb for a job well done!



**Planning Corner:** On April 24, City staff attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the "Harbor Bridges" mural at Laishley Marina's boat ramp. The Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society commissioned and installed the murals depicting all four of Punta Gorda's historic harbor bridges. Next to the murals is a historic plaque from the dedication of the 1931 bridge. After being discarded on the ground and rescued and stored by a local resident, the plaque was restored and mounted next to the murals by the Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society. The new mural is a replacement of the previous one, which stood in its place but was severely weather-worn. The replacement mural was designed and painted by artist Keith Goodson. It was dedicated on April 24. Kelly Gaylord from the Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society spoke about the history of Punta Gorda's bridges. The information she provided can be found on the Mural Society's webpage - click [HERE](#).



**Sanitation: Did you know?** You may schedule a collection of a yard waste pile, appliance, electronics, motor oil, or batteries using the Schedule a Special Pick Up form. The form is located on the Sanitation home page of the City website - click [HERE](#) or by calling 941-575-5050 weekdays from 8 to 4:30.

**Recycling - Reduce contamination** - Homeowners should only place the following materials in their recycling carts – Newspapers, magazines, office paper (no shredded paper), brown paper bags, paperboard cartons, dairy and juice containers, junk mail, phone books, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic containers number 1-7, glass bottles/jars and tin or steel cans.

**Plastic bags** - Do not place the following into recycling carts: liquids foods, waste, fabric, wood, hoses, corda and Styrofoam.

**Reduce contamination info:** Click [HERE](#).

**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. Currently hiring for a professional position in Utilities Maintenance Worker II - Water Treatment Plant - A skilled laborer position responsible for the maintenance and repair of water treatment plant equipment and systems. Maintain plant grounds and buildings. Performs plumbing repairs and construction on treatment facilities and grounds. The City of Punta Gorda has a variety of employment opportunities available learn more by clicking [HERE](#).

JOIN OUR TEAM

**Lot mowing** - The City has completed mowing the following areas on April 30: PGI (Bal Harbor Boulevard, Deborah Drive, Ryan Boulevard, Suzi Street and Casey Key Drive); PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross Drive, Whippoorwill Boulevard and Turtle Dove Boulevard); Colony Point (Colony Point Drive, W. Marion Avenue, Socorro Drive and Coronado Drive); PGI (Magdalena Drive, Via Veneto, W. Henry Street, Appian Drive and Columbian Drive); Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Drive, Tripoli Boulevard, Madrid Boulevard and Macedonia Drive); Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Trail, N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana and Gold Tree); Downtown and Historic District (W. Marion Avenue, W. Olympia Avenue, Shreve Street and Harvey Street); The Historic District east of 41 and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Avenue, E. Olympia Avenue, Narranja Street, E. Henry Street and Cooper Street).

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



**Welcome to new or transferred businesses in the City this**

**week** - PGI Tiki, 1640 Atares Drive.

**City Clerk: 2024 Election cycle** - The seats for Districts 1, 2, and 4 are scheduled for election this year. A general election will take place on November 5, if there are two candidates for one district. A primary election will take place on August 20, if we have three or more candidates for one district. The two candidates receiving the most votes would proceed on to the general election.

\* Candidate packets are now available for the 2024 election cycle. The packet can be viewed on the City Clerk page of the City website. Bound copies are available to interested parties who make an appointment with the City Clerk's Office to review the materials contained in the packet and to complete an acknowledgement of their receipt.

\* Filed candidates will be listed on the website upon submission of Form DS-DE 9.

**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. 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](#).

**Board and committee vacancies: Volunteers needed** - Vacancies currently exist on the Building Board, Code Enforcement Board, Historic Preservation Advisory Board, Donation Review 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@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.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 [lmattthews@cityofpuntafordafl.com](mailto:lmattthews@cityofpuntafordafl.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](mailto: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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