

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT
DECEMBER 22, 2023**

City Manager

- The City of Punta Gorda recently issued precautionary boil water notices (PBWN) for two neighborhoods in the City. I will address some of the questions we receive in the City Manager's Office regarding the notices. A PBWN is a public health advisory issued by the City to inform residents that there is a potential risk of water contamination. This notice is typically implemented in response to specific events or conditions that may compromise the safety of the water supply.



When a PBWN is issued in the City of Punta Gorda for an area encompassing more than 100 homes, signs are placed at prominent locations in the neighborhood. If the area is less than 100 homes, door hangers are placed, notifying residents of the need to boil water. Media advisories are sent out, and the information is published on the City's website and emailed to those who have selected to receive utility updates. We have also have configured our Alert Punta Gorda system to send out alerts via text, landline calls, email, and texts for Utility-related messages. You can sign up for notices at <https://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/services/public-safety/alert-punta-gorda>. Also, note that if you are moving from an address in the City of Punta Gorda and you have registered for Alert Punta Gorda, please be sure to unsubscribe at <https://member.everbridge.net/371776664109086/login>.

There are several reasons why a PBWN might be issued. A break or leak in a water main can introduce contaminants into the water distribution system. In such cases, a boil water notice may be issued until the necessary repairs are made and the water quality is verified. A significant drop in water pressure within the distribution system can increase the risk of contaminants entering the pipes. When this occurs, a boil water notice may be issued to minimize the risk of waterborne illnesses. If there are indications or evidence that the quality of the water supply has been compromised, such as the presence of harmful bacteria, viruses, or other contaminants, the City may issue a PBWN to protect public health. Events such as floods and hurricanes can disrupt water treatment facilities, contaminate water sources, or damage distribution systems.

When a PBWN is in effect, residents should take the following precautions: boil water by bringing tap water to a rolling boil for at least one minute before using it for drinking, cooking, making ice, or brushing teeth. Alternatively, residents may choose to use bottled water as a safe alternative. Residents should avoid consuming raw tap water, including beverages made with it until the boil water notice is lifted. Crews need to flush and pull water samples over two days for testing. When the test results show the water is safe to drink, the PBWN is lifted, and residents are notified in the same manner as when the notice was issued. The banner at the top of the City's website displays any current boil water notices.

Our Utility crews work hard to make necessary repairs with minimal inconvenience to residents. The crews' work doesn't usually take place under pleasant conditions. We are grateful to have dedicated staff members working on behalf of our residents.

I'd also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of Holidays! The City of Punta Gorda is a great place to experience holiday festivities and create family memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you for choosing Florida's Harborside Hometown as your hometown. *Readers may reach City Manager Greg Murray at citymgr@cityofpuntagordafl.com or by calling the main office line at (941) 575-3302.*



- **Holiday Closure** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed Dec. 25, and Dec. 26 for the Christmas Holiday, and Jan. 1 for the New Year's 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 Dec. 25 for the Christmas Holiday and Jan. 1, for the New Year's Holiday.
- **Temporary Park Closure** – Beginning Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m., the pickleball courts located at Gilchrist Park will be temporarily closed until further notice. The closing is required for regular maintenance.
- **Florida Department of Transportation** – US 41/Tamiami Trail from Payne Street to Rio Villa Drive. There will be no lane closures from Dec. 25 through Dec. 31 for holiday break.
- **Government Finance Officers Association** – The City of Punta Gorda has been notified that our annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended Sept 30, has met the requirements to be awarded GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Our Finance team works diligently to earn this award.



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.fishermensvillage.com>
- 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. 25 to Dec. 30, Kiwanis Christmas Card Lane, Gilchrist Park.
- Dec. 24, Deep Creek Community Church Christmas Eve Services, Laishley Park. For additional information, visit <https://deepcreekcommunitychurch.com>
- Jan. 5-7, Snowbird Arts and Craft Festival, Gilchrist Park. For additional information, visit <https://mypromotions.showapplications.com/>
- Jan. 6, Smoke on the River BBQ Festival, Laishley Park. For additional information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/florida-outdoor-education-foundation-29239468505>

- Jan. 12 – 14, Punta Gorda Seafood and Music Festival, Laishley Park. For additional information, visit <https://www.paragonfestivals.com/>.
- Jan. 20 – 21, Sullivan Street Craft Fair, Sullivan Street. For additional information, visit <https://www.artfestival.com/festivals/Punta-gorda-sullivan-street-craft-festival>
- Jan. 25 – Team Punta Gorda Annual Community Meeting, 6 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. For additional information visit <https://teampuntagorda.org/annual-community-meeting/>.
- Jan. 27 – Chili and Beer Festival, Laishley Park. For additional information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/florida-outdoor-education-foundation-29239468505>

Lot Mowing Program

- The City will begin a new mowing cycle on Jan. 2.
- **Planning Corner** – Last week Urban Design staff attended Grant Writing Training presented by Grant Writing USA officials, which served as an excellent opportunity for staff to learn and connect with surrounding municipalities with similar goals. The purpose of this training is to help educate local professionals on grant writing best practices and help organizations improve their chances of receiving funding for future and ongoing projects. Throughout this two-day training, the agenda included items such as the intricacies of grant writing key terms with their contexts in the process, how to find and sort through relevant grant opportunities, the different components of the grant proposal, and how to best approach each successfully, how to comprehend and dissect new Requests for Proposals, along with many other topics. The City has many ongoing and future projects that would benefit from grant funding to complete. The training attended will improve the City's chances to attain funding and deliver quality projects to the residents of Punta Gorda. The Department of Urban Design is currently making progress on multiple projects that are utilizing grant funding. For example, the A.C. Freeman House Rehabilitation, Climate Adaptation Plan Update, and the upcoming Living Shoreline project have all been awarded grant funds. The free boat pumping services being offered to those in the harbor is another excellent example of a grant-funded project that utilizes two grants to remain operational at no cost to those in the harbor. We are excited to continue working on all of our important projects to help make the City the wonderful place it is to live and look forward to utilizing increased grant funding to carry the burden of the cost.
- **Building Corner** – **The Florida Building Code (FBC) 8th Edition (2023) and the National Electric Code (NEC) 2020 will become effective Dec. 31; The following submittal deadlines apply:** Complete paper permit applications and related documents submitted by close of business at 4 p.m. on Dec. 29, will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements of the 7th Edition (2020) FBC. All permit applications received on or after Dec. 31, will be reviewed for compliance with the minimum requirements of the FBC 8th Edition (2023) and NEC (2020).
- **The Planning, Zoning, and Code Compliance Divisions** – Have temporarily relocated to Towles Plaza, 2705 Tamiami Trail, Suite 113 on Oct. 16. The office is open to members of the public applying for a garage/estate/yard-sale permit, general parking permit, recreational vehicle parking permit, watercraft parking permit, moving vehicle (Portable On-Demand Storage) permit, dumpster permit, right-of-way parking permit, business event permit, grand-opening event permit, or temporary promotional event permit. Park rental and event applications and fees may be dropped off at this location. The public may also come to this office to submit code compliance complaints and sign up for lot mowing services. Agendas for the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, Donation Review Committee, Planning Commission, Code Enforcement Board, Development Review Committee, and Board of Zoning Appeals will also be available for pick up at the new location. All building permits are available from the Building Department at 126 Harvey St or online at [Building Forms | City of Punta Gorda, FL \(punta-gorda.fl.us\)](https://www.punta-gorda.fl.us). The office is open Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but will be closed for the holidays on Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1.



Public Works

Canal Maintenance

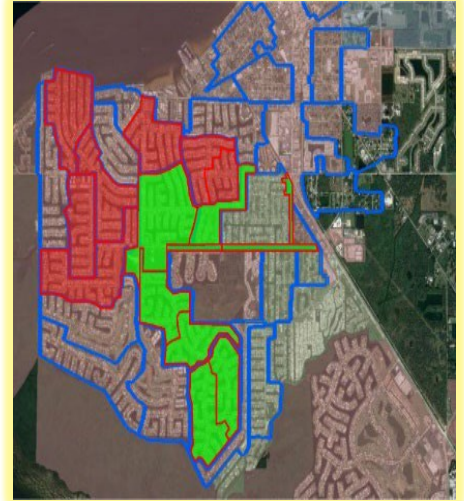
- **Canal Maintenance Production** – Canal Maintenance crews manufactured 40 seawall panels, filled depressions at 18 locations.
- **Dockside Dredging** – Property owners that are listed on the Hurricane Ian Seawall Damage list will not be allowed to have dockside dredging performed adjacent to the seawall 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. Our area is still experiencing rain events and plastic 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 26 projects in Punta Gorda Isles under construction with 28 projects completed, and five projects under construction with ten completed in Burnt Store Isles.
- **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 \(boat2puntagorda.org\)](http://PuntaGordaBoatersAlliance.com) click on the Dock Match button for information.

Engineering

- **Swale Regrading** – The swale contractor has completed excavating Raven Ct., and Albatross they will be watering the sod for the next 30 days. They have excavated approximately 16,000 SF this fiscal year. The next street to be graded will be Rio Villa where the contractor will be excavating 15,900 SF. Engineering is in the process of reviewing the videos for the 2024 swale program.
- **Ponce de Leon** – The new boardwalk and East fishing pier has opened to the public. The West fishing pier has been closed for the contractor to rehab the piles under the fishing pier and to add bump outs for ADA with new railings. Please take extra caution while driving through the park due to construction personnel and equipment.



- Fiber Optic Internet Network** – The fiber optic internet provider HyperFiber has been issued permits for a portion of the construction project to install a citywide fiber optic internet network within the city right of 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 area is 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 two 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 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 Scott Jackson at (239) 887-5379. Please use extra caution while driving through the project area due to construction personnel and equipment.

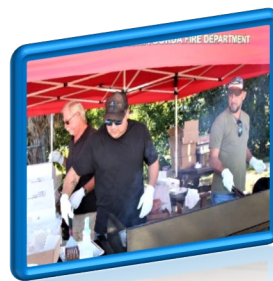


Sanitation

- Christmas and New Year's Holiday** – The government offices of the City of Punta Gorda will be closed Dec. 25, and Dec. 26 for the Christmas Holiday, and Jan. 1 for the New Year's 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 Dec. 25 for the Christmas holiday and Jan. 1, for the New Year's Holiday. 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.

Police

- Family Fun Day** – The Punta Gorda Police Department and the Punta Gorda Fire Department have rescheduled the third annual Family Fun Day to Jan. 6, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Punta Gorda Public Safety Complex, located at 1410 Tamiami Trail (across from the Golden Corral). There will be a bounce houses, dunk tank, crafts, food, k9 demos, bike helmet fittings, music, a visit from Santa and more! The entire community is invited to come out and enjoy this completely free event!
- VIP Program** - The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program is looking for citizens interested in helping with the car patrol segment of the program. Our volunteers are an absolutely vital part of this police department and we appreciate them greatly! Members of the community interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the Volunteer Staff Coordinator at (941) 575-5536 or by emailing vip@pgorda.us.
- Police Officer Testing** – We are currently accepting applications for the position of Police Officer.



We will be holding a virtual testing process in Feb. Applications must be received by Jan. 26. The written exam will be completed online anytime between Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 with virtual oral board exams conducted via Zoom on Feb. 22. We are 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. We will be holding a testing process in Mar. Applications must be received by Mar. 1. The exam will be held on the morning of Mar. 14 beginning at 9 a.m.
- **Internship Program** – The police department is currently accepting internship applications for the Summer Semester of 2024. 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.

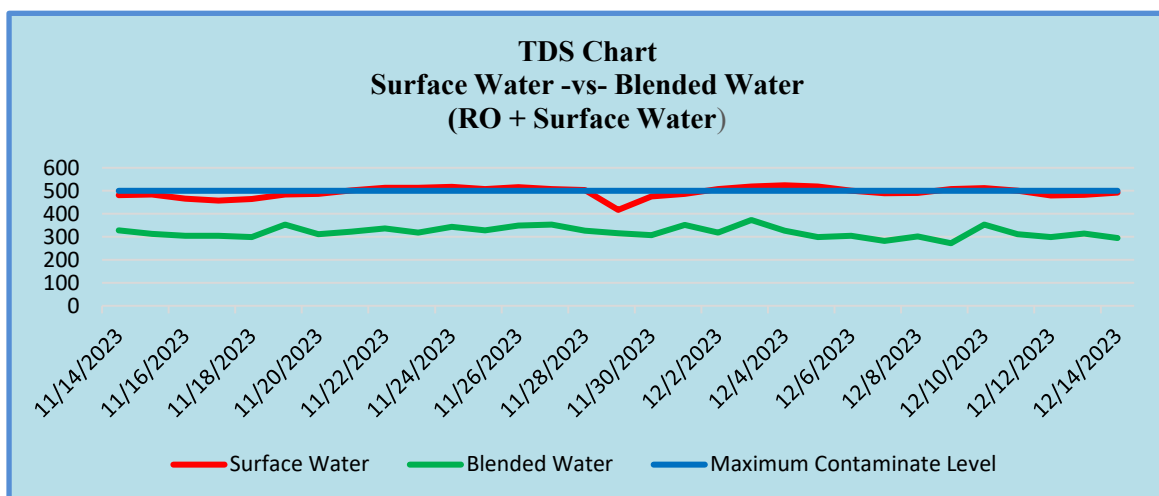
Fire

- **New Tools for Department** – This week Field Training Officer Daniel Felico was able to introduce the department to some new tools that were added to Truck 1 inventory. The department purchased two tools to add to our arsenal. One is called the New York Roof Hook and the other is the Lockwood Hook. Both are used to assist firefighters in salvage and overhaul operations, forcible entry, roof operations, and searching for hiding fires behind walls and ceilings. These multi-purpose tools are essential for fire ground operations and can be lifesaving to the firefighters if needed.
- **Service Award** – The department also recognized Lieutenant Doug Pyszka for his 15 year Service Award. This award was a little past due. Thank you Lt. Pyszka for your dedicated 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

- 48.2 MG delivered to the distribution system with a 6.9 MG daily average.
- **Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect** – Receiving 700 gallons per minute from the new Interconnect (Phase 1 Pipeline). Sending 700 gallons per minute from the tank on 17 (Phase 1A Pipeline).
- **Rainfall** – Dec. 2022 1.37" Dec. 2023 2.13"
- **Hardness** – Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Currently "hard" – Grains of Hardness 8 –Total hardness. 144 ppm
- **TDS** – Dec. 21 Current 265 ppm. Low 238 ppm, High 593 ppm. 13 year average 417 ppm.
- **Reservoir** – Dec. 21 Current 5.14", Record Low .497", Record High, 6.49" 58 Year Average 5.18"
- **Water Shortage** – Southwest Florida Water Management District has declared a Modified Phase I Water Shortage Order. The Modified Phase I Water Shortage Order does not change allowable watering schedules for most counties, however it does prohibit "wasteful and unnecessary" water use and twice-per-week lawn watering schedules remain in effect except where stricter measures have been imposed by local governments. Residents are asked to check their irrigation systems to ensure they are working properly. This means testing and repairing broken pipes and leaks, and fixing damaged or tilted sprinkler heads. Residents should also check their irrigation timer to ensure the settings are correct and the rain sensor is working properly. If you are out and about and find an irrigation system operating outside of the regulated times/dates, please attempt to contact the property owner/manager and advise them of the regulations. That will be a first verbal warning. If the same address is found to be operating outside of the regulated times/dates again, citations can be issued per: Chapter 9A, Section § 9A-10 and 9A-13 (a) (15) 15. Any condition in violation of uses of water during water emergency within and without the City limits. First Offense \$25.00, Second Offense \$50.00, Third Offense \$250.00. Twice-per-week watering allows customers additional flexibility for determining when to water. Residents are encouraged to water only if their lawn and landscape needs it and to turn off irrigation systems when rain is forecasted. Some of the signs that a lawn needs water include a blue-gray appearance, blades folded in half lengthwise and footprints remaining on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it. The District encourages water conservation year-round, and offers many tips to reduce water use and additional information on our website at WaterMatters.org/Water101 or [Water Restrictions | City of Punta Gorda, FL](http://WaterRestrictions|CityofPuntaGorda,FL)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and any time. • Lawn watering is limited to no more than twice per week. • Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. • Lawn watering days and times for City residents are as follows: 		
Addresses ending in 0 and 1	Monday and Thursday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 2 and 3	Tuesday and Friday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 4 and 5	Wednesday and Saturday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 6 and 7	Thursday and Sunday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in 8 and 9	Friday and Tuesday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
Addresses ending in a letter or location without a discernable address	Friday and Tuesday	Before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.

New Lawns and Plants New lawns and plants have a "30-30" establishment period. On the day of installation, watering is allowed on any day at any time. During the second 30 days, watering is allowed three days per week: even-numbered addresses may water on Tuesday, Thursday and

Sunday; odd-numbered addresses may water Monday, Wednesday and Saturday; and locations without a discernable address may water on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

City Clerk

Current Board and Committee Vacancies - If you are interested in serving on a board or committee, please visit our online portal to complete an online application at <https://puntagorda.granicus.com/boards/forms/650/apply/>.

- **Code Enforcement Board** (one regular) – Meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms - maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Financial disclosure required. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- **General Employees' Pension Board** (one resident representative) – Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at-large, two pension plan members and one member appointed by the Board. Four-year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the General Employees' Pension Fund.
- **Historic Preservation Advisory Board** (one regular and two alternate) – Meets the fourth Thursday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms - maximum of three terms OR partial term plus two more terms. Identifies for the City 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 Commission** (one regular and one alternate) – Meets the fourth Monday at 2 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board with two alternate members. Three-year terms – maximum of three terms. 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.

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 (LBT) 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:
 - Sugar Chic Boutique, 117 West Marion Avenue, Unit A