

City of Union News Letter

City of Union
342 South Main Street * P.O. Box 529
Union, OR 97883
541-562-5197 * Fax 541-562-5196
eMail: cityhall@CityOfUnion.com
Website: CityOfUnion.com

"Promote rural values, protect local assets and foster community pride"

CITY HALL HOURS: Monday thru Thursday
10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Open during lunch

Union Carnegie Public Library
Mon 10:30am - 6:00pm Thurs 1:00pm - 6:00pm
Tue 10:00am - 5:30pm Fri 9:00am - 3:30pm
Wed 4:00pm - 8:00pm

February 2014

Meeting Notice "More Harm than Good"

Union City Council, on February 10, 2014 at 7pm or shortly after, will have its first reading of Ordinance 533. An Ordinance Prohibiting the Feeding of Deer, Raccoon, Wild Turkeys and Potentially Habituated Wildlife Within the City Limits of Union.

City of Union will join many other communities in Oregon that already have this type of regulation. A violation of the new ordinance could result in a fine up to \$100. In addition to other communities, residents requested something be done about the local deer population. In 2011 a petition was given to City Council with 48 citizens signatures requesting action be taken.

If you would like to comment on the "don't feed the deer" ordinance, public comment will be taken at the beginning and end of the Council meeting on the 10th.



New Look!!

Beginning this month you will notice a slight change to your Utility bill. Several years ago a \$6.00 charge was added to all water accounts to fund water projects. This fee was added to the regular monthly water rate. This fee will now be shown separately to reflect the utility rates more accurately. When reading your statement your actual monthly water rate will be lower, having had the \$6.00 fee taken out and listed on its own. All charges will still add up to the same base rate. For a residential user the base rate for utilities is \$67.77, plus the EMS fee of \$10.00, making the total billing as \$77.77.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your utility bill please feel free to contact Laura or Pam any time at City Hall

541~562~5197

Quote of the Month.....

Our greatest weakness
lies in giving up.
The most certain way to
succeed is always to try
just one more time.

~Thomas A. Edison~

Thank you!



Union Mayor and City Council would like to recognize and thank our Union Emergency Service Department and all who volunteer on the department. Our community is a comfortable and safe place to live knowing we have some of the best volunteers looking out for us.

Special thanks to Chief Montgomery for leading, encouraging and supporting our local volunteers.

Don't be Late!!

A \$25.00 monthly late fee will be applied to all utility bills that are 30 days past due with a balance of \$10.00 or more. Please note, customers over two month's past due are subject of having their utilities turned off.

We have a convenient drop box in the foyer of City Hall for payments made after hours.

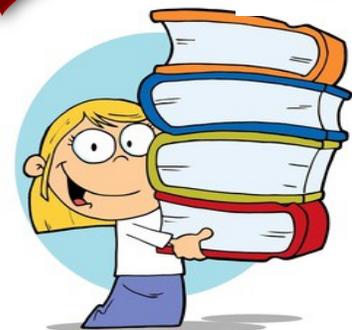
If you have any questions regarding your utility bill, please contact Pam or Laura at City Hall
541~562~5197



Union Carnegie Public Library

February is 'Fine Free' month!!

No late fees on overdue books!

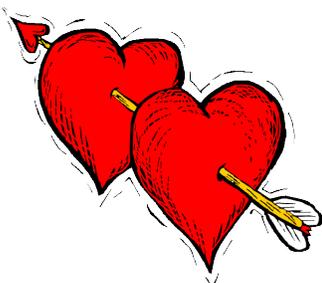


Love Your Library! Please return all past due books!

182 N. Main Street ~ Union

541~562~5811

Copies, faxes, wireless connection, and computers too



How City of Union Uses Tax Funds

Property taxes are one of several revenue streams for the general fund, a pot of money available for general purposes used to provide the majority of services in Union. Our general fund includes; administration costs (*paper, heat, etc.*), police services, animal control services, code enforcement, library, park, municipal court and planning department. During this current budget the city transferred money out of the general fund to other departments in need of funding, those being emergency services and street department.

Many of the services offered in the general fund continue to be cut or scaled down due to growing expenses which are far greater than the in coming revenues. Unfortunately we have little control over the rising costs of materials (*driven by market forces*) and personnel costs.

We experienced our first reduction back in 2006 when the police department was cut and the city contracted with County Sheriff's Office at a third of the cost. Second cut was the planning department which was cut 60%. Third was the administration department cut by \$16,000 and fourth the closing of the transfer station at a savings of \$8,000. The library was cut two years ago by 50%. Fortunately, tax payers came to the rescue two years ago and passed a levy to assist with library funding, *thank you*. Most recently the budget committee cut municipal court from every month to quarterly.

Total property taxes expected to be collected in the 2013-2014 year will be \$114,300. The total general fund expenditures for the same year are expected to be \$413,185. Other revenue sources for the general fund are, franchise fees approximately \$86,000, Oregon revenue sharing \$13,600, Oregon liquor license revenues \$24,500, cigarette tax revenues \$3,000, delinquent property tax \$5,000, library levy \$34,400 and gaming, land use and other fees \$6,800.

Our challenge is how to provide the above services with less revenue annually. Our budget committee works tirelessly each year to ensure every single penny of our taxes is stretched. The budget committee will soon be gathering to review the 2014-2015 draft budget. You are encouraged to attend the meetings and share your concerns and ideas on how you would like your tax dollars spent. Currently there is one open position on the board if you are interested, see city hall for more information.

Paying taxes isn't fun, but if we want to have the services they provide we need them.

***Your Tax Dollars
at Work***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING THE CITY OF UNION PLANNING COMMISSION

The Union City Planning Commission will hold two public hearings Wednesday, February 19, 2014, on the following applications:

- Steve Johnston for a minor partition approval for the following property located in the City of Union, to wit: Tax lot 100, Map 04S 40E 18BC, otherwise known as 1598 N College, Union, Oregon 97883.
- Johnny and Deborah Kennon for a variance approval for a second home on a single lot located in the City of Union, to wit: Tax lot 800, Map 04S 40E 18BC, otherwise known as 1045 N 5th Street, Union, Oregon 97883.

The hearings will be held in the Leonard Almquest Council Chambers, Union City Hall, S. Main Street, Union, at or shortly after 7:00 p.m. Applicable criteria for the Planning Commission's decision can be found in Zoning Ordinance 337 and 481.

A copy of the applications and all documents and evidence submitted to the City are available for inspection at no cost at the Union City Hall during normal business hours (10 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday thru Thursday.). Copies will be provided upon request, at reasonable cost, and mailed if requested. A copy of the staff report will be available for inspection at no cost no less than seven (7) days prior to the public hearing during regular business hours or copies will be provided upon request at reasonable cost.

Testimony may be presented orally at the hearing or by written statement presented at or before the hearing. Testimony and evidence must be directed toward the applicable criteria or to other criteria in the Zoning Ordinance or Land Use Plan that are believed to apply. Failure to raise any issue with sufficient specificity to afford the City Council and other parties an opportunity to respond to the issue will preclude appeal based on that issue.

If you have questions or need additional information, Sandra Patterson at City Hall 541-562-5197. If you have a disability requiring any special materials, services, or assistance, please contact City Hall at least 48 hours before the hearing. The Council Chambers are handicapped accessible.

Is your dog running at large?

It is unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog to cause, permit or allow any dog to roam, run, stray or be away from the premises of such owner or custodian and to be on any public place, and public property or the private property of another within the City of Union. Any dog found roaming, running, straying or being away from said premises and not on a leash or under control as herein provided, is hereby declared to be at large, and such dog may be seized and impounded. In lieu of, or in addition too, impounding a dog, the owner or custodian may be cited by a Deputy or the Sheriff for violation of city ordinance.



Snow Sheep

Union was the wintering ground for thousands of sheep that summer ranged in the Wallowa mountains.

Fall of 1899, snow caught the last band of sheep returning home. The flock of 5,000 head was being driven by four men, Tom Johnson, Quince Mitchell, F.M. Badger and Joe Welch.

The men drove the flock from the sheep camp on the Big Minam and the first day out it rained. The ground turned to mud. Coming up Old Baldy the bad turned worse, snow began to fall. At night the me huddled around the fire to stay warm. No one slept.

By morning a foot of snow had accumulated. The sheep were packed tightly in a group. They blended in until it was difficult to tell where sheep left off and snow began.

The four men tried to drive the animals but without success. The sheep would not move. Tom Johnson came up with a solution. He tied a small pine behind the wagon and drug it to make a trail.

When the snow became twenty inches deep the team refused to pull the wagon. A saddle horse was substituted and the rope tied off to the horn.

At one point they discussed abandoning the flock and making it on their own. They feared for their lives, knowing the 5,000 head would starve if they didn't freeze first.

In the end the men voted to continue and after four days they made Union~cold to the bone and wet to the waist.

What really mattered, though, were the sheep. Out of the terrible ordeal only two lambs were lost.



Think before you flush

When we go to the loo, all we want to do is flush and forget. But it's not always quite that simple.

We live in a disposable age, with convenient products, which can be used and thrown away. We've got; wet wipes for faces, hands and bottoms; cotton wool; tissues; nappies; cotton buds and dental floss to name just a few.

Unfortunately, these products are often thrown down the loo, instead of the bin, causing havoc in the sewers.

The bad news is, when they're flushed these items don't just disappear down the u-bend, but clump together to block sewers. When blocked, sewers can flood homes and gardens, causing misery for families. Some of these items even end up in our rivers.

Once these items reach the waste water treatment plant they must be removed. Last year 3 tons of dry products were removed from our plant here in Union.

Reminder...think before you flush!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

If you would like to advertise your monthly event or activity email cityhall@cityofunion.com or call 541-562-5197.

ORGANIZATION	MEETING DATE	LOCATION	TIME	PHONE
Booster Club Meeting		Old Music Room	6:00 pm	
City of Union Chamber	2 nd Thurs of the month	See Nick @ Union Drug	Noon	www.visitunionor.org
City Council	2 nd Mon of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
CUP Medical Association	2 nd Tues of the month	Health Clinic	6:00 pm	
Order of Eastern Star	2 nd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:30 pm	541-805-0779
EMS Department	1 st Mon of the month	Rural Fire Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5660
Food Bank	Saturday after 3 rd Monday	Methodist Church	9-11 am	541-562-5675
Food Alliance	Every Monday	Methodist Church	12:30-1 pm	
Friends of the Library	2 nd Tuesday of the month	Union Library	7:00 pm	541-562-5807
Int'l Rainbow for Girls	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	Masonic Hall	7:00 pm	541-975-9495
Library Board	1 st Tues of the month	Library	9:00 am	541-562-5811
Lions Club	1st Wed of the month	Union Library	5:30 pm	541-562-5685
Municipal Court	1 st Wed/every quarter	City Hall	5:30 pm	541-562-5197
Planning Commission	3 rd Wed of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
Senior Lunch	Every Tuesday	Methodist Church	12:00 pm	541-562-5675
South County Health Dist	2 nd Tues of the month	Health Clinic	6:00 pm	
Stockshow Board	2 nd Tues of the month	EOLS Club House	7:30 pm	
TOPS	Every Wednesday	Union Health Cntr	8:30 am	541-562-9009
VFW Bingo	Every Wednesday night	VFW Hall	5 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1 st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	7 pm	541-562-6035

