

# City of Union News Letter

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

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

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

October 2014



## From The Fire Chief

### **Burn Restriction**

**As of October 1<sup>st</sup> burning season resumes. Burning is allowed only with a burn permit issued by City Hall.**

**Items permitted to burn are:  
Clean paper, dry leaves and twigs, and  
clean wood. NOTHING ELSE!!  
If you burn anything that is not permitted  
you are subject to a \$500.00 fine plus the  
costs of fire suppression.**

## The City of Union Wants You!!

The City of Union's Planning Commission has two seats open, and YOU could fill one of them! This Commission meets once a month, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, at 7:00pm.

The Planning Commission conducts public hearings on planning/subdivision applications for specific parcels of land. The Commission is the approval authority for most special use permits, and is responsible for the Comprehensive Use Plan for the continued growth and development of the City.

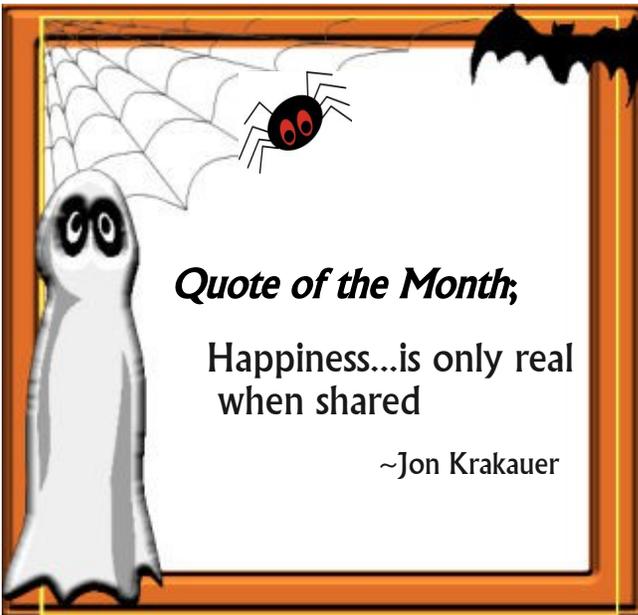
Applications can be found on the city website or City Hall. If you would like more information on the duties of the Planning Commission please feel free to call City Hall at 541~562~5197

## *Library Gets New Hardware!*

*A generous donation by Union United Inc. funded the purchase of two new computers for Union Carnegie Public Library. Thanks to the efforts of Cody Fouts who set up and programed the computers, both are ready for patron use. These new computers replaced two 10+ year old computers. The computers are connected to the internet and have word processing capabilities. If you would like to use one of them call and make an appointment with Louise at 541~562~5811*

*Special thanks to Union United and Cody Fouts for making this possible*





**Welcome!**  
We want to welcome Bryan Russell, our newly appointed City Council member.

**Timely Payments!**  
We would like to encourage all of our customers to make their payments in a timely manner. If a customer is 30 days past due there is a \$25.00 late charge applied to the account. If the account is 60 days past due customers will receive a delinquent notice and their water/sewer services will be turned off if the past due amount is not paid.

**You Can Make A Difference!!**

The people who volunteer to serve the City of Union's Committee's and Board's help set the course of Union's future. A few hours of your time can really make a big difference in the direction our community takes.

Please consider giving back to your community. If you have a special area of interest and would like to volunteer, stop by or call city hall, 541~562~5197



The following Ordinances are being considered for adoption on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the City Council meeting held in the Almquist Chambers at 7:00pm. If you would like to review any of the following Ordinances a full copy can be emailed to you or can be picked up at city hall at a reasonable cost.

- Ordinance 543** an ordinance amending the restating City of Union code chapter 92 regulating fire protection and regulation
- Ordinance 544** an ordinance amending 50.013 of the City of Union code relating to exemptions for system development charges.
- Ordinance 545** an ordinance amending City of Union code section 50.068 (F) (5) relating to minimum fees during periods of disconnection and providing for new provisions relating to water and sewer rates.
- Ordinance 546** an ordinance repealing and replacing sections 92.60, 92.61, 92.62, and 92.63 of the City of Union code relating to emergency services fee

## Street Maintenance.....

This summer the City of Union continued to be proactive in maintaining and repairing the city's streets. Roads represent one of the largest investments in a community, if not maintained the cost to repair them can be up to five times the cost of regular maintenance.

\* Doing proactive maintenance at the right time in the life of a street can extend the expected life from 20-30 years before a full reconstruction is needed.

\* Well maintained streets last longer, cost less over the life of the street, are safer to drive on, and are quieter for those living along them.

Twenty-four city blocks got a facelift this summer, patchwork and pot hole filling will continue.

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### **A new and fresh school year has begun in Union.**

Students and teachers have eagerly begun to attack a new opportunity to learn and grow in the unique and special environment that is the Union School District. Parents, students, administrators, members of the school board, and the citizens of Union all share in the responsibility to support and improve the fundamental, creative and thorough education of all our children.

This new column will be a way to share news of the triumphs and challenges this year will bring. I hope that future columns will be written by our principals, teachers, coaches, other board members, students, athletes and club members, all of whom together, are the face and spirit of our schools.

Please remember as this forum develops that anything I and any other contributor say outside of Board and School policy is our own opinion and does not reflect the opinions of other Board members or the Board as a whole. Your questions and comments are important to me and all Board members. Please understand if we have to refer you to someone else in the administration or get back to you after some research. In the case of concerns related to individual situations we have to ask you to start with your child's teacher and then the appropriate principal. Your final contact should be me or another Board member. There are a number of reasons for this policy, including that, to the degree possible, the Board should not be involved in the managing the day-to-day business of the schools. Another important reason is that if a Board member has been involved in a situation that ultimately comes to the Board on appeal, he or she might have to excuse himself or herself from the process. Please also understand that although you might be frustrated we all care very much about your child and have the best interest of our students in mind.

This school year will bring us many opportunities and challenges. The unintended consequences of Measure 5 property tax limitation have forced most Oregon school districts to consider additional ways to help fund the increasing costs of building maintenance, salaries, supplies and technology so essential to education excellence.

All members of the Union School community are welcome to attend Board meetings the second Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Athletic Complex.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions as we all work to provide the opportunities for success and happiness in life an excellent education will bring to all our children.

Charlie Morden

Member Union School Board

# The Mayor's Corner



Hi Residents of Union

This month I would like to recap some of the discussion's I have had with the Union County Commissioners.

I was on a committee with Union County Economic Development Corporation to find what type of businesses would be best for Union County and pay \$15.00 to \$25.00 per hour. In discussions we decided the \$17.00 to \$25.00 needed workers with skills and we had no way to train them. So could we create a trade school (this was my proposal and one local business owner). The committee decided not to, which has other business owners and a county commissioner. The committee project failed to produce any new companies to move here.

Two years later the State brought a consultant to meet with UCEDC about what it takes to have new companies locate in Union County. I asked about \$20.00 per hour jobs and would hire locals. He said you would need a system in place to train them.

I along with two other cities in Union County went to the Union County Commissioners and their budget committee. I requested 25% of their revenue the county receives from Union property taxes within the city limits of Union approximately \$59,000.00 per year for five years for infrastructure repair within the city limits. The other two communities also requested funding. Other than one budget committee member laughing aloud they would not even discuss it with me. Union did not receive any funds, but the other two communities did.

I have tried to get the county commissioner that is in charge of the Golf Course to meet and develop a path forward in creating more revenue for the Golf Course and more revenue for our local businesses. The Commissioner will not respond. Buffalo Peak Golf Course for 2014-2015 budgeted loss is \$165,000.00. So what does the City of Union get for the \$239,000.00 dollars of property taxes the County receives?

So I have a modest proposal....

*"Jonathan Swift 1729".*

Should the City of Union look into seceding from Union County and becoming part of Baker County. To see if there might be some economic value for residents and the City. We could also ask the City of North Powder to join us in a dialogue with the Baker County Commissioners possibly using school district boundaries as a guide line.

William C. Lindsley  
Mayor of Union

P.S.

The City of Union did not renew their membership in UCEDC this year, because when asked why they did not show the gun manufacture a site in the City of Union that has 15,000 square feet of commercial building plus additional land. They said they did not know about the property. Two years ago the director and board members including the County Commissioner on the board were made aware of this property and said they would come out and talk to the owner and see if it would fit in the UCEDC business plan.

Union County has intergovernmental workings with the county seat which returns at least 25% (\$300,000.00) of the property taxes they pay to the County annually.

The business owner I mentioned on UCEDC committee is still working with a group of volunteers to get trades training in the County.



## WAIT! DON'T PICK UP THAT TURTLE!



Western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta belli*) is northeast Oregon's only native turtle. Painted turtles have been, and continue to be, quite successful in our area but that success is often in spite of human interference rather than because of our help. Well-meaning people often pick up turtles they find on dry land thinking they are in trouble and in need of help to find water. This is almost never the case.

Painted turtles are primarily aquatic but they also spend much of their time out of the water for a number of reasons and they can travel long distances on dry land to meet all their needs. I have known painted turtles to travel over a mile on dry land to get where they need to go. Young turtles hatch in an underground nest and, when they leave that nest, must travel overland to find water. This will be just the first of many overland journeys in their lifetime of over 20 years. Painted turtles prefer ponds or slow moving streams or ditches with ample aquatic vegetation. Such water bodies may dry out seasonally requiring the turtles to move to another pond or ditch. They seem to know where these water bodies are and make direct, overland movements from one to another. Painted turtles in our area spend the winter in hibernation at the bottom of a pond or slow moving ditch so they also make directed movements, often overland, to traditional overwintering sites. Lastly, and of great importance, females must travel to dry land sites that may be very far from water to dig their nests and lay eggs. People who live near water may find themselves hosting turtle nests in their lawns or gardens. The best course of action if this occurs is to try not to dig up the nest or compact the ground by driving over it and let nature take care of the rest.

Western painted turtles found on dry land are simply going about the business of being turtles and only rarely need intervention by humans. If a turtle is seen crossing a road or basking in a road, it can be moved off the road in the direction it was headed to prevent it being run over by another vehicle. Always make sure of your safety if you decide to do this; stopping on the highway to move a turtle is NOT recommended. Moving turtles any more than this or picking them up to take home or to school or anywhere else is the wrong thing to do on a few different levels: 1. These are wild animals and should not be held captive for our entertainment; it is just wrong, 2. These animals are protected; capture, transport and/or holding them is a violation of Oregon law, and 3. These animals can be carriers of diseases, including salmonella and plague, that do not affect them but can be passed to careless humans. If you do handle a turtle to move it off the road, be sure to wash with soap and water immediately afterward.

Children may wish to keep a turtle as a pet but before parents agree to this, they must take into account that keeping native turtles is prohibited as is keeping most non-native aquatic turtles. When non-native turtles are released into the environment, as they almost invariably are at some point, they pose a serious risk to the native species.

Painted turtles are another example of the fabulous wildlife that is at least one of the reasons many of us love this place. If you see a turtle, watch it, enjoy it, photograph it, wonder at the amazing adaptations that allow it to survive so well in northeast Oregon but don't pick it up, don't take it to school and don't hold it captive. Twenty years from now your kids may get to see the same turtle.

## It's The Perfect Time!!



Now is the perfect time to think about the steps needed to prepare your pipes and faucets for the fast approaching winter months.

- \*\* Make sure everyone in your household knows where the main water shut off is and how to turn the water OFF. In event of a broken pipe the quicker you can shut off the main valve, the better off your home will be.
- \*\* Prepare your outdoor faucets, remove and drain water hoses. Cover and insulate faucets.
- \*\*Perhaps the most obvious, yet most ignored, step you can take to prevent frozen pipes is insulation. It is crucial to perform regular checks on your pipe insulation and replace as needed. Applying electric heat tape to your piping is another precaution against freezing and bursting pipes.
- \*\*Migrating south? Shut off water completely and drain your pipes. Any water left in the system is at risk of freezing and causes pipes to break.
- \*\* Be a good neighbor! Check in on your elderly neighbors and see if they need help preparing for winter.



## **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

If you would like to advertise your monthly event or activity email [cityhall@cityofunion.com](mailto: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 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs of the month	See Nick @ Union Drug	Noon	www.visitunionor.org
City Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
CUP Medical Association	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month	Health Clinic	6:30 pm	541-562-5441
CUP Senior Assisted Living	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays	Union Drug Co.	6:00 pm	541-562-5441
Order of Eastern Star	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:30 pm	541-805-0779
EMS Department	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon of the month	Rural Fire Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5660
Food Bank	Saturday after 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	Methodist Church	9-11 am	541-562-5675
Food Alliance	Every Monday	Methodist Church	12:30-1 pm	541-562-6192
Friends of the Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month	Union Library	7:00 pm	541-562-5807
Int'l Rainbow for Girls	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays	Masonic Hall	7:00 pm	541-975-9495
Library Board	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed of the month	Library	3:30 pm	541-562-5811
Lions Club	1st Wed of the month	Union Library	5:30 pm	541-562-5685
Municipal Court	1 <sup>st</sup> Wed/every quarter	City Hall	5:30 pm	541-562-5197
Planning Commission	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
Senior Lunch	Every Tuesday	Methodist Church	12:00 pm	541-562-5675
School Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month	Athletic Complex	7:00 pm	541-562-5166
South County Health Dist	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of the month	Health Clinic	7:00 pm	541-562-6180
Stockshow Board	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of month	VFW Hall	7 pm	541-562-6035