

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

April 2015

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



APRIL SHOWERS...

BRING MAY FLOWERS

GOALS SET FOR 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR

Union City Council met Saturday February 21st and came up with 52 potential goals for the coming year. They held a second meeting, and with additional effort they narrowed their list down to 10 obtainable goals. As volunteers, they recognize these goals will take a community to achieve, which they look forward to working with each of you to move Union into a prosperous future.

Goals:

1. Collaborate with local social groups (lions, VFW, Masons, Chamber) in Union to better the community.
2. Apply for the ODOT TGM grant for a downtown HWY 237 and 203 revitalization plan.
3. Seek ways to partner with property owner and other economic development groups to market the industrial land.
4. Seek a community building for kids and seniors
5. Locate and develop dump site for RV waste dump or perhaps partner with another company and or RV park.
6. Add welcome signs to highway 203 east and 237 north and west Arch.
7. Support library board in seeking a library district, meantime support a minimal budget for operations.
8. Aggressively seek funding alternatives outside the street and general fund for street expenditures.
9. Replace Charter
10. More activates for children of all ages (in the park perhaps).

CHECK YOUR WATER METER!

Public Works have begun reading manual read meters for the summer. If you have a manual read meter your water usage over the winter months will be averaged for the four months your meter was not read. If you see an increase on this month's utility billing it could be one of two things; you could have a leak that began during that time, or your household used over the 1000 cubic feet you are allowed per month. If you have concerns or questions about your utility bill feel free to contact city hall at 541-562-5197.

Reminder: It is important that your meter is accessible. Vehicles should not be parked over your meter, shrubs should be trimmed back and not cover your meter, and yard decorations need to be clear of your meter. If we have to return to your home again because of a blocked or covered meter you could be charged a fee.

Historic PHOTOS Needed!

Union's Historic Preservation Commission is on a mission to find out what Union's old buildings once looked like.

The Commission is turning to the public for help in this effort. Do you have photos of buildings here in Union from the past? Buildings that are currently standing or of buildings that are no longer standing. If you can bring your photos to city hall, the photo will be scanned and returned to you.

For more information please contact city hall.

Happy  *Easter!*

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!

If you get a call from someone pretending to be the utility company, someone insisting you pay your bill or else –don't ignore it. Report it to the Sheriff, especially if someone shows up at your door. Don't get upset or give the caller any personal or financial information.

Ask questions, demand verification, hang up, then call the Sheriff's department 541-963-1017.

Perfect Time for New Business

Union City Council rolls out their mini stimulus package for two lucky new businesses in Union. While this program won't bring hundreds of jobs to Union, it might just help fill one or two of the vacant buildings on Main Street.

Union's mini stimulus package will provide funding that might not otherwise be available and could be the actual reason why someone hasn't taken the next step and opened their business. If you are considering opening a business on Main Street please call Sandra Patterson at city hall for the details on this great benefit.



From the Fire Chief

Kids Safety Rules

As adults, it is our job to keep all kids safe. That means teaching them about fire safety. The National Fire Protection Agency has compiled a few simple rules to teach your kids:

1. Don't play with matches or lighters. Tell them if they see matches or a lighter to tell an adult right away.
2. Show them where the smoke detectors are in your house, set them off and let them hear the piercing sound and to associate that sound with danger.
3. In case of fire, **DO NOT HIDE! GO OUTSIDE!** Teach them to never hide in closets or under beds.
4. Teach them to **Fall and Crawl**. It is easier to breathe if you stay low while getting out of a fire.
5. If your clothes are on fire **Stop, Drop and Roll** until the fire is out. Shout for help, but don't run.
6. Have an escape plan and practice it. As with anything else, practice makes us all better! Find two ways out of your house in case one way is blocked. Escape ladders should be placed by second story windows, and practice using them.
7. Teach them how to test a door to see if it is hot before opening. Teach them if it is hot to try to use another way out.
8. Practice 'feeling' their way out in the dark. Do this as a game, use a stop watch to time how fast they go, with special rewards waiting outside.
9. Decide on a meeting place outside, such as the end of the driveway or sidewalk.
10. Lastly, teach them that once they are outside, **TO STAY OUTSIDE!** To **never** go back for any reason, if someone or a pet is missing tell the firefighters.



NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the City of Union, Union County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, will be held at 342 S. Main Street Union, Oregon 97883. The meeting will take place on April 21, 2015 at 6 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed program with the Budget Committee.

A copy of the Budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 14, 2015 at 342 S. Main Street Union, Oregon between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm. A copy can also be viewed on the city website at www.cityofunion.com. If you would like a digital copy emailed to you please contact city hall at 541-562-5197. All further questions can be directed to the City's Budget Officer Sandra Patterson at city hall.

Quote of the month.....



If you think you are too small to make a difference....try sleeping with a mosquito.

~The Dalai Lama



Ronald McDonald House Fund Raising Benefit

Mark your calendar for
March 27th at 7:00pm

Call LG Brewski's for more
information!

TIME TO TEST YOUR CROSS CONNECTION!

The following are Cross Connection examples that need yearly inspection:

- Wash basins and service sinks
- Hose bibs
- Irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems
- Swimming pools and spas
- Solar heat systems
- Fire sprinkler systems
- Auxiliary water supplies (wells)
- Photo developing equipment
- Laboratory equipment
- Attachment to hoses to apply weed killer or fertilizer or to flush anti freeze
- Food and beverage processing equipment
- Boilers
- Chemical feed equipment
- Ornamental fountains



The drinking water system can become unsafe whenever backflow occurs and the plumbing system comes in contact with harmful or objectionable substances.

The Oregon Department of Human Services **requires** that all backflow assemblies be tested once each year by a certified tester. If you have one of the above cross-connections please send your test results to the City of Union Water Department. If it is determined that you have not completed the test or failed to come into compliance, the property water will be turned off.

The City of Union works hard to supply customers with safe clean drinking water. With an understanding of the hazards associated with cross-connections and backflow, you can help us protect our drinking water.

The Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the opening of *Blue Mountain Bookstore* on Saturday, April 18.

They're located in the brick building on Main Street between City Hall and the Post Office, where they'll be selling used books and more. The storefront is currently undergoing repairs, but as soon as the dust settles, they'll start buying, trading and taking your extra books. Watch for the signs out front. They're also currently scheduling wall space upstairs for artists and store space for selling your antiques on consignment, so give them a call if interested.

Contact Todd at 541-975-4290.



Union Carnegie Public Library

182 N. Main Street
541-562-5811

Come in and jump into a good book!

Library Hours

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Monday | 10:30~6:00 |
| Tuesday | 10:00~5:30 |
| Story Time | Tuesday 10:00 |
| Wednesday | 4:00~8:00 |
| Thursday | 1:00~6:00 |
| Friday | 9:00~3:30 |

There is a large selection of books, movies, audio books and computers!



Happy Spring

Do You Plan To Build This Spring?

Regardless of what you are building, you need to check with City Hall Planning Department.

The city requires all new construction, either built on site or delivered, to have a City of Union pre-build. We will also help you determine if you need a building permit from Union County.

Note; Setback requirements

- 20' front yard line
- 10' side yard line
- 10' rear yard line



If you have any questions please call city hall, 541~562~5197

Bring Mom!

Just For The Halibut
Saturday, May 17th



The 3rd Annual Halibut Dinner!
Union High School Gym
Two seatings....4~6pm and 6~8pm

\$20.00 per plate
Which includes fresh baked halibut, baked potato, coleslaw, bread, dessert and Pepsi
or
\$5.00 for a hot dog plate

You may also pre-order UNCOOKED Halibut for your freezer at \$25.00 a pound

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Call Rose at 541-910-5986 for tickets and to reserve your desired seating time.
All proceeds will benefit Union High School, JR High Sports and Clubs, and Booster Club Projects.

Still Available! Surplus Gun Locks!

The city still has surplus gun locks. Limited to 5 locks per household. Only while supplies last. If there are still locks available come July 1st the city will allow households to have more locks if needed, while supplies last.

If you want more information come down to city hall and view the locks.

Ordinance 547 – Re-numbering of Ordinances

During April 13, 2015 City Council meeting Council will have its first reading of Ordinance 547 an ordinance clarifying the codification and renumbering sequence of ordinances previously adopted.

For more information please call city or email admin@cityofunion.com.



Bicyclist Be Cautious!

When cyclists are faced with streets full of fast moving vehicles it's not surprising many cyclists feel that sidewalks are the safest place to ride.

However, sidewalk riding can be significantly more dangerous in Union's downtown core than in many other places. City law forbids cyclists from riding on the sidewalk.

Although you might think it's a safer option, motorists are not looking for bicyclist on the sidewalk, especially those riding at high speeds. So at every driveway and intersection a cyclist is at much more greater risk of being hit by a motorist than if you were riding on the road with traffic.

Sidewalk riding is dangerous for three main reason; speed, visibility and predictability. Cyclist travel much faster than people on foot. People that use the sidewalks are not always comfortable walking with fast moving bikes coming and going along side of them. Weaving in and out of pedestrians, signage, trees and whatever else that might be on the sidewalk makes it visibly difficult for drivers. For this reason no one can predict what a cyclist will do next.

If you have school-aged children please talk to them about walking their bicycles, skateboards and scooters when downtown and when around pedestrians. Cycling is a fun, healthy form of transportation as long as you do it safely and smart. **Remember to wear your helmet.**

The Benefits of Walking Walking Toward a Healthier You

There are countless physical activities out there, but walking has the lowest dropout rate of them all! It's the simplest positive change you can make to effectively improve your heart health. Research has shown that the benefits of walking and moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day can help you:

- Reduce the risk of coronary heart disease
- Improve blood pressure and blood sugar levels
- Improve blood lipid profile
- Maintain body weight and lower the risk of obesity
- Enhance mental well being
- Reduce the risk of osteoporosis
- Reduce the risk of breast and colon cancer
- Reduce the risk of non-insulin dependent (type 2) diabetes

There really are so many benefits for such a simple activity!

Source http://www.startwalkingnow.org/whystart_benefits_walking.jsp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING THE CITY OF UNION PLANNING COMMISSION

The Union City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Wednesday April 15, 2015, on the following application:

- Arnie Young for a variance approval for 3 foot 6 inch set back located in the City of Union, to wit: Tax lot 41, Map 04S 40E 18CA, otherwise known as 470 E. Bryan 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.

LEAVES, LEAVES, AND MORE LEAVES!

This is the time of year that we are all doing a little 'Spring Cleaning'. Are you trying to burn the leaves from last fall and winter? Leaves are still wet from winter and are not only difficult to burn, they produce a lot of smoke. This smoke can be very dangerous to those residents with respiratory health problems. That leaves us with the question 'What do we do with all those leaves?'



A few ideas include:

Mulch...A layer of mulch helps to retain moisture, especially in raised beds or places with rock underground. When mulch is organic, like leaves, it brings a bonus benefit of adding nutrients to the soil as it breaks down. And yes, because it breaks down you will have to eventually replace it. But we never run out of leaves!

Compost...Leaves are an excellent source of high-carbon 'brown' material for your compost pile. They are also a good source of trace minerals.

Summer Stock...Again, leaves being carbon rich, they are a great addition to your summer garden and flower beds. Have a pile of leaves ready for this summer's garden and flower beds for fantastic veggies and beautiful flowers.

Yard Protection & Fertilizer...Mowing over the top of leaves breaks them into tiny pieces that work down to the base of the roots of your grass. These pieces can act as a water saving mulch and also is a free and readily available fertilizer. They will even help with weed fighting.

As you can see there are many uses for those leaves gathered around our homes and fences, and this is the perfect time to start utilizing them as the ground is soft and they can be added easily. Plus the nutrients will be well on their way into the soil for when it's time to plant that summer garden.

You can always bag your leaves and have them picked up along with your garbage but if burning is the way you want to be rid of your leaves please let them dry out before burning, be courteous of your neighbors and considerate of any respiratory health problems they may have.

Arbor Day ~ April 24th

Among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton and his wife from Detroit. Both Morton and his wife were avid lovers of nature, trees, shrubs, and flowers. Morton was a well respected agriculturalist and known for his push to educate the public in new agricultural and forestry techniques. In Nebraska trees were badly needed as wind breaks, to keep soil in place, for fuel and for building materials, and also for shade from the hot Nebraska sun.

On January 4th, 1872 Morton first proclaimed a tree planting holiday, to be called 'Arbor Day'. The date was set for April 10th. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for properly planting the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted on that first Arbor Day. During the late 1870's other states passed legislation to also observe Arbor Day.

Traditionally Arbor Day is observed in much the same way as they did in 1854 with tree planting being the primary focus.



"Each generation takes the earth as trustees"

~J. Sterling Morton



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 | | | 6:00 pm | |
| City of Union Chamber | 2 nd Tues of the month | See Nick @ Union Drug | 12:30 | www.visitunionor.org |
| City Council | 2 nd Mon of the month | City Hall | 7:00 pm | 541-562-5197 |
| CUP Medical Association | 3 rd Tues of the month | Health Clinic | 6:15 pm | 541-562-5441 |
| CUP Senior Assisted Living | 2 nd & 4 th Thursdays | Union Drug Co. | 6:00 pm | 541-562-5441 |
| 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 |
| EOLS Board | 2 nd Tues of the month | EOLS Club House | 7:30 pm | 541-562-5631 |
| Food Bank | 3 rd Friday of the month | First Baptist Church | 10-noon | 541-562-5531 |
| Friends of the Library | 2 nd Tuesday of the month | Union Library | 7:00 pm | 541-562-5807 |
| Library Board | 3 rd Wed of the month | Library | 4:00 pm | 541-562-5811 |
| Lions Club | 1 st 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 |
| School Board | 2 nd Wed of the month | Athletic Complex | 7:00 pm | 541-562-5166 |
| South County Health Dist | 3 rd Tues of the month | Health Clinic | 7:00 pm | 541-562-6180 |
| 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 |

