

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

July 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



Greetings To The Citizens Of Union

Hi, my name is Ken McCormack and I want to introduce myself to those that do not know me. I have been elected the new Mayor of Union by the City Council.

I have been in the leadership role all of my life, so I accept this challenge as just another step in my life. I realize that I have some learning about city government but that will allow me to earn the respect of the citizens of Union.

I will be happy to meet with you at City Hall on Wednesday's between 10:30am to Noon. Right now I have citizens calling for appointments with me so please call City Hall at 541-562-5197, to see when I am available and to set up your appointment.

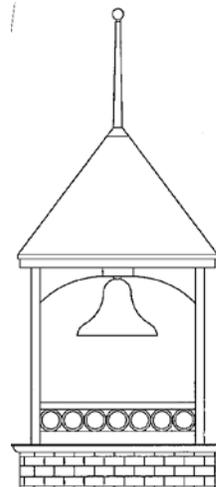
Bell Tower Returns to City Hall

The city has recently learned the Historic Bell Tower Project will be funded with a grant awarded from the State Historic Preservation Office.

For some unknown reason the original bell tower at city hall was removed in the 50's and never replaced until now. Currently at city hall horns are used in place of the tower to call out emergency service volunteers. The new tower will be a testament to the resilience of Union's history. Union's newly formed Historic Preservation Committee is excited about their project and plan to seek donations of material to help with the match requirement of the grant.

The committee hopes to place the original bell in the tower, it is unknown at this point if it will ring as it did 100 years ago, but it is true the tower will stand watch over Union for hundreds of years to come. The tower will be built locally and installed early next year.

The committee currently has a seat open, if interested contact Sandra Patterson at city hall 541-562-5197





Mayor McCormack Meets With The Public.....

Mayor Ken McCormack has set office hours at city hall on Wednesday's 10:30am to noon to meet with the public.

Feel free to walk-in or call city hall to make an appointment.
541-562-5197.

Grass and Weeds

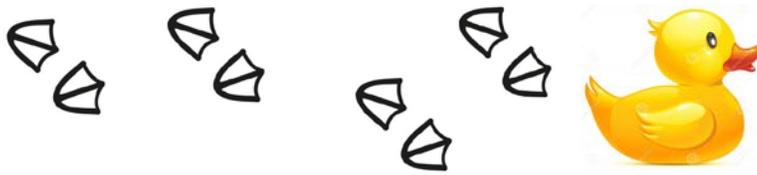
Please do your part to keep our city looking beautiful by mowing your lawn and keeping weeds in check. Do not let weeds get taller than ten inches or go to seed. Cut over hanging trees and don't let a pile of dirt or gravel sit too long in the right-of-way.

The city appreciates everyone's hard work keeping our city looking great!

GRASSROOTS!!

August 8th, 2015

All Day Fun For The Whole Family!!



CHANGES FORTHCOMING FOR CATHERINE CREEK WATER QUALITY

More restrictive water quality parameters in Catherine Creek are scheduled to be implemented by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) in the near future. The two (2) water quality parameters that are being changed are temperature and ammonia. Since the City of Union wastewater treatment plant discharges to Catherine Creek some of the year, these changes will impact the operation of the plant.

The ODEQ informed the City these water quality changes were coming a few years ago. In response, the City Council elected to prepare a Wastewater Facilities Plan to address necessary improvements to comply with the new regulations. Anderson Perry and Associates, Inc., an engineering firm from La Grande, prepared the Facilities Plan. Continued operation of the treatment plant with no improvements was not identified as an option as the current treatment process could not meet the ammonia limits and would therefore be in violation of water quality standards if the effluent were discharged to Catherine Creek. The improvement option selected by the Council included continued operation of the existing plant, lagoon storage, and crop irrigation. The City is currently investigating funding sources to finance the project. A copy of the Wastewater Facility Plan is available at City Hall for review.

Quote of the month.....

Some people find fault like there is a reward for it..

Zig Zigler

Please Note.....

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED DAILY DURING THE LUNCH HOUR

Only until clerk position has been filled
For your convenience there is a drop box in the foyer of city hall





FREE COMMUNITY PICNIC!



Friday July 17th ~ 5:00-8:00pm Union City Park ~ Near The Gazebo
Hosted by The United Methodist Church

Hamburgers ~ Hot Dogs ~ Baked Beans ~ Chips ~ Punch ~ Dessert
Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on



The United Methodist Church wants to thank the community. Our Mission Statement is Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors for Everyone. Please join us for an evening of picnic food and visiting with friends and fellow townspeople. The program is to just have fun! So gather up your friends, neighbors, little ones and anyone you can and come join us for an old fashioned community picnic in our beautiful city park.

We hope to see you there and if someone who does not drive or just needs a ride please call the church ahead of time and leave a message at 541-562-5848

Don't Forget! November 14th ~ Bizarre Bazaar and Baked Sale! We offer gift certificates for several charitable groups.

Sunday Worship: 11:00am, refreshments follow.

Senior Meals: Tuesday's at noon

Prayer Meeting: Wednesday's 5-6:00pm (county wide prayer line 541-786-PRAY)

Bible Study: Thursday's 1-2:00pm

Council Meeting Agenda

Have you ever wondered what's on the Council's agenda or would you like the agenda before the meeting date?

Send your email address to Sandra Patterson at admin@cityofunion.com and you will get notice of every meeting and a full copy of the agenda before the meeting.

Seeking participants interested in a Pediatric CPR class.

Pediatric CPR is required for kids who want to babysit. This is the perfect time for your child to get certified and ready to start that summer babysitting job!

If you are interested in this class please call 541-910-1033 for more information



Oregon Trail Electric Franchise

Union City Council will have its first reading of an Oregon Trail Electric Franchise Ordinance 549 during July 13th regular Council meeting at 7pm. A second reading and passage will take place at the August 10th meeting. If you would like a copy of the franchise or have questions please contact city hall.

GOT DUST?

Tired of living on a dusty gravel street? The City has a program with limited funds to help residents pay for dust control on gravel City streets fronting their property. The program pays for 1/3 of the cost of the dust control application. Only ecologically friendly and approved dust control products qualify.

If you are interested in participating in this program please call the City at (541) 562-5197, so we can grade the street prior to the dust control application. Grading before applying dust abatement helps minimize, to some extent, the formation of potholes later in the year when heavy fall rains begin. The base and soil in streets treated with dust control agents become extremely hard and difficult to grade the following year.

According to Ed Staub and Sons in La Grande, the cost for dust abatement application 20 feet in width is approximately \$2.50 per lineal foot. Ed Staub and Sons can provide more information and recommendations for their services. The cost for dust control can be shared with neighboring property owners, which together with the City participation, will lower individual participant costs.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

Union City council is accepting applications for persons interested in the open Council seat position which was created as a result of Councilor Ken McCormack being elected to the office of Mayor of Union.

Applications will be taken up to July 9th at 5 pm. Applications can be picked up at city hall or online at www.cityofunion.com.

If you have questions please call Sandra at 541-562-5197.



From The Fire Chief....

Thunderstorm Safety!

We have been experiencing a large number of thunderstorms already this summer! Here are a few guidelines we all should remember....

Situation Awareness: Observe the 30/30 rule. If you see lightning and hear the thunder follow in less than 30 seconds, take the storm precautions listed below. Do not resume work or play in exposed areas until 30 minutes after storm activity has passed.

Hazard Control:

- ✓ Take shelter in a vehicle or building if possible.
- ✓ If outdoors, find a low spot away from tall trees, wire fences, utility lines and other elevated conductive objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- ✓ If in the woods, move to an area with shorter trees.
- ✓ If only isolated trees are nearby, keep your distance twice the tree height.
- ✓ If in open country, crouch low, with feet together, minimizing contact with the ground. You can use a pack to sit on, but never lay on the ground.
- ✓ If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, immediately crouch low to the ground. Make yourself the smallest possible target and minimize your contact with the ground.
- ✓ Don't group together.
- ✓ Don't stay on ridge tops, in wide open areas, or near ledges or rock outcroppings.
- ✓ Don't operate landline telephones, machinery, or electric motors.
- ✓ Don't handle flammable materials in open containers or metal hand tools.



City of Union

PO Box 529***Union, OR 97883

Drinking Water Report 2014 Sampling Results

This is our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on your drinking water system. The most recently required sampling results have been gathered to inform customers about their tap water. With this information, we hope you will learn more about your water and will help protect the water for future use.

We provide quality drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements.

During recent years we have sampled for many different chemicals. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria as an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small creatures) that should not be present. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past calendar year or in our most recent tests as noted. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling [541-562-5197](tel:541-562-5197) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). EPA's website is www.epa.gov/safewater.

Terms and abbreviations

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Action Level (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

na: not applicable **nd:** not detectable at testing limit **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter **pCi/L:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Regulated	MCLG	MCL	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	0	15 AL	1.9	9-10-13	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3 AL	0.058	9-10-13	No	Corrosive water & home plumbing
Arsenic (ppb)	na	10	4.3	6-4-12	No	Natural deposits, orchards, glass & electronic production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.48	6-4-12	No	Naturally occurring
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.02	6-4-12	No	Naturally occurring
Sodium (ppm)	na	na	32.7#	6-4-12	No	Naturally occurring
Nickel (ppb)	na	100	0.001	6-4-12	No	Naturally occurring
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	na	60	17.9	9-8-14	No	Disinfection byproduct

#Sodium: There is no standard for sodium in drinking water at the federal level, but USEPA recommends that drinking water sodium be held to 20 ppm or less because sodium is so common in other beverages and food.

WE HAD NO VIOLATIONS!

The Drinking Water Program has identified criteria for determining whether a community public water system has provided safe water to the public and should be considered to have "**Outstanding Performance.**" **The City of Union received this designation in December 2009!**

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The State of Oregon has completed this assessment plan for our wells which includes a map of where the water comes from, possible sources of contamination, and a review of the susceptibility of the source for contamination. This plan is available for public review.

Your drinking water comes from ground water

The City of Union presents this report to inform their water consumers of the quality of the drinking water supply.

The City is committed to supplying their water consumers with a safe and sufficient supply. The City's water is ground water derived from two deep wells that are tapped into a basalt aquifer. The two wells have the potential to produce four million gallons per day. During the high usage period from July through August the demand rarely exceeds 1.5 million gallons per day. Because of the nature of the aquifer, the water reaches the surface at 65°F.

The City's water supply and system are continually monitored in compliance with State and Federal laws. There are 105 different contaminants that the City tests for in the drinking water. This report will list only those contaminants that have been detected from the water samples. The samples are analyzed by laboratories certified by the State of Oregon.

Sources of drinking water: both tap water and bottled water originate as "surface water" from rivers and lakes or as "ground water" from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water is usually filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize easily (volatile). Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Crypto sporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink by writing regulations that limits both natural and manmade contaminants. We follow both state and federal regulations. Interstate bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

HEALTH TIP

If present, elevated levels of **lead** can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. **When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.** If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods & steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

**If you have any questions or in emergencies please call:
Rod McKee or Paul Phillips 541-562-5197**

DEER INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS



On a fairly regular basis, Union City residents report deer problems to the City. Deer problems reported include deer damage to flowers, shrubs, trees, and gardens; deer injuring or fatally injuring dogs; aggressive deer behavior; injured deer; sickly appearing deer; and dead animals that need to be removed from the City. This list is likely not complete. While just about everyone enjoys seeing wildlife in their natural surroundings, for the most part wildlife and urbanization are usually not a desirable mix.

If you could take a moment to answer the following question, detach, and include with your utility payment, or put in the drop box at city hall, the City administration would like to hear from you.

----- (Detach Here)

Question – “Should the City administration pursue lethal and non-lethal means to reduce deer numbers within the City Limits of the City of Union?” _____ Yes _____ No.

Name (Optional): _____

Comments: _____

Thank you for your time and effort

Bar-B-Que Safely This July 4th!!

- Fire is the most destructive force in the universe and you are inviting it into your backyard or patio when you have your cookout. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher!
- Read!! Read your operator manual. Follow all the safety restrictions to the letter. All grills, gas or charcoal, and smokers have specific ranges of operation.
- Charcoal grills are the cause of far more fires than gas grills. The number one problem, lighting the charcoal. The lighter fluid causes all kinds of horrific burns. Never let using lighter fluids become a game, and never add lighter fluid to already hot coals.
- Location is everything when it comes to placing your grill or smoker. Make sure you have ample room for people to move around and that children won't be close by while playing. Check your operator manual for proper distance from your house, garage or other buildings
- The number one cause of a gas grill fire is an obstruction in the path of the fuel. At the first sign of a problem turn off the control valves, turn off the tank, and disconnect before check for blockage.
- Bacteria grows at any temperature above freezing and stays alive until that temperature hits around 165 degrees. So, until it goes on the grill food needs to be kept cold.
- Never use the same plate to transfer uncooked food to the grill and cooked food from the grill.
- Keep hot foods hot! After grilling, keep food hot by keeping it inside the grill but off direct heat

Happy 4th of July! Have a Safe Bar-B-Que!!



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

