

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
June 2015

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

Bidding Mayor Lindsley Farewell...



After 6 successful years as mayor, William Lindsley submitted his resignation as mayor of Union on May 11, 2015.

On May 20th, at a special meeting of the Council, Councilor McCormack was voted in as Mayor. He will finish the remaining two year term.

Ken McCormack will be sworn into office during the June 8th meeting. He is standing in the picture above.

WATER RATES GO UP .54 CENTS JULY 1ST

The city of Union prides itself on providing high quality water and sewer services at a reasonable cost to our ratepayers.

Rate revenues must cover the day-to-day expenses incurred to operate the departments, recover the payment of debt service, upgrade and rehabilitate facilities and equipment reaching the end of its useful life, as well as the maintenance and improvements that must comply with federal and state agencies which protect our health and the environment.

July 1st of each year Union's rates increase by 2.5% to keep up with increasing cost of the system. This small increase was put in place to lessen the impact on the rate payers. The following is the new rates for a residential home:

Water will increase .54 cents New rate \$22.23

Sewer will increase \$1.04 New rate \$42.67

Monthly utility billing (which includes EMS fee and water project fee) New rate \$80.90

City Council identifies with those on a fixed income, but it is Council's responsibility to maintain the system in working condition. The city has a hardship program. If the head of household passes away, is hospitalized or loses a job you may qualify for assistance with your late fees and the city can set up payment plan.

Important Notice

**FOOD
BANK**

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE!
THE FOOD BANK WILL BE THE FOURTH FRIDAY

Thank You!

To all rural mail carriers for collecting and rural residents for your generous food donations for the needy families of our local area.

The Union Food Pantry had an extra 480 lbs of food for the month of May because of your generosity. Thank You!

Avista Maintenance Work – July 2015

NPL Construction Company, a contractor working for Avista will begin excavating and inspecting gas service tee transitions valves throughout the City beginning the first part of July. With more than 300 residential gas services to check in the City, the work is expected to take the entire month of July. The excavation will be accomplished by means of “hydro-excavation”, where water and a strong vacuum machine are used to excavate and expose the gas service connection at the gas main. The gas service tee transitions connect the service line serving a home or business to the main natural gas line in the street. As each gas service tee transition is exposed, a safety feature known as an excess flow valve will be installed. According to Avista, service disruptions and inconvenience to its customers will be minimal. Customers who will have a short interruption of the natural gas service during this work should have already received a letter from Avista with more information.

The contractor plans to be in the area in the next few weeks to begin hanging door tags with information about the project and phone numbers to call. They will also be marking the service to main connection locations for locates. Most of the service to main locations are located outside of paved street areas. However, those locations within paved City streets will be repaired according to City Public Works Standards.

To learn more about the project, visit www.avistautilities.com/gasproject.



Help Wanted

Part Time Utility Clerk

Requirements: Detailed oriented, 2 years customer service, word processing, cash receipting.

Other skills a plus but not required: bookkeeping and accounting skills.

Interested applicants may request and submit an application to City Hall at 342 S. Main Street Union, Oregon during business hours 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday.

Wage will depend on skills.

Deadline is June 15th at 5 pm.

Questions regarding this position call city hall at (541) 562-5197.

Please Note!

**City Hall Will Be Closed During
Lunch Hour**

*Only until the utility clerk position
is filled*

Reminder drop box at front entrance of city hall



South County Health District Welcomes New Dentist



South County Health District would like to welcome Dr. Kali Gray to our dental team! Dr. Gray will be seeing patients at the Union clinic on Mondays and Thursdays starting June 29th. Dr. Wogman will be seeing patients at the clinic on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our dental hygienist, Amber Daggett, sees patients on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please call 541-562-6180 to schedule an appointment today!

Paid for by South County Health Clinic

Chamber Business of the Month... The Historic Union Hotel

Pacific Northwest Hotel News of July 9, 1921 announced the opening of a "beautiful new hotel" in Union, Oregon. Hard to miss, the mammoth 3 story structure, designed by Hummel & Hummel architects of Boise, was the project of local businessmen who wanted visitors to have a place to stay along US Highway 30, the major east/west route between Salt Lake City and Portland Oregon. According to an early brochure it was billed as the only year-around route through Oregon.

At the time of its opening it was one of the most modern hotels in the state of Oregon offering 76 rooms, many with connecting baths, hot and cold water, steam heat, electric light, telephone and a dining room and ladies parlor. The 1920s saw a good business at the hotel, but the Great Depression brought severe financial difficulties to the hotel just as it did too much of America at that time. This was the beginning of the decline of the hotel. Like many small communities Union was not directly on the new Freeway system bringing even fewer visitors to our small town.

There has been many more improvements to insure the preservation of this beautiful old hotel. Many of the hotel's visitors have lived here in Union or in the hotel, visited friends in the hotel, delivered paper, had music lessons, had a meal or danced at the Skeet Club. Over the years the hotel has played a prominent role in the city of Union.



Rabies/Licensing Clinic

June 6th 10:00am-2:00pm

Held at the City Park, by the
Union Public Carnegie Library.

Vendors ~ Games ~ Prizes

Grassroots Festival

August 8th, 2015

**There will be lots of fun and activities for
the whole family!**



Mark August 8th on your calendar!



Special Thank You!

A Special thank you to Union High School FBLA group for their hard work at the Community Cleanup day. About 100 tires were collected and 5 tons of yard debris was collected.

Quote of the Month...

*"If you have a dream,
don't just sit there.
Gather courage to believe
that you can succeed and
leave no stone unturned
to make it a reality."*

~Roopleen

Main Street Chip Sealing

Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) maintenance crews will be chip sealing downtown Union (Main Street/Highway 203) on the afternoon of June 17, 2015. Loose chip seal rock will be picked up early the morning of June 18. A fog seal of the street will complete the maintenance work on the morning of June 22.

Within a few weeks of completing the fog seal, the ODOT paint stripe crew will place temporary crosswalk and traffic markings. Permanent markings will be applied this fall.

Please call Brian Wiggins, ODOT La Grande Maintenance at (541) 963-8406 with any questions or concerns.



Summer Safety Tips From the Fire Chief.

With nice weather is just around the corner, City of Union Fire Department joins the Rural Fire Department in encouraging everyone to always practice safety when enjoying summer activities:

Water Safety: According to NSC Injury Facts, 3,858 people died in 2008 due to drowning, including swimming and water transport accidents. More than one in five drowning victims are children 14-years-old and younger, and for every child who dies from drowning, another four receive emergency department care for non-fatal submersion injuries. Most drowning and near drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub.

Fireworks Safety: Summer brings picnics, barbecues, parades, and fireworks displays, especially around the 4th of July. Summer also brings an increase in injuries from backyard grills, bonfires, and fireworks. In 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, included 1,100 structure fires. The fires resulted in an estimated 8,600 people treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 39 percent of whom were under 15 years of age.

Please be safe, your local fire chief.



A public meeting of the Union City Council will be held on June, 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm or shortly after at 342 S. Main Street Union, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 as approved by the Union Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at City Hall 342 S. Main Street Union, Oregon 97883, between the hours of 10a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday - Thursday or online at www.cityofunion.com. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Sandra Patterson, Budget Officer

Telephone: 541-562-5197

Email: admin@cityofunion.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2013-14	Adopted Budget This Year 2014-15	Approved Budget Next Year 2015-16
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	724,956	1,149,700	1,783,052
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	1,372,570	1,267,950	1,272,984
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	126,614	102,131	118,366
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt			
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	154,000	103,125	183,150
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	1,844	18,535	17,885
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	176,694	169,900	171,290
Total Resources	2,558,478	2,811,341	3,547,527

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	471,772	543,004	640,955
Materials and Services	574,139	720,079	839,590
Capital Outlay	367,976	764,778	1,206,068
Debt Service	154,899	157,000	157,393
Interfund Transfers	154,000	103,000	176,000
Contingencies		338,830	364,047
Special Payments		18,765	
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure			163,474
Total Requirements	1,722,786	2,814,341	3,547,527

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name GENERAL FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Administration	73,885	107,039	139,341
FTE	2.0	1.5	2.5
Police	87,176	87,523	91,373
FTE	4.0	4.0	4.0
Library	67,668	69,950	68,800
FTE	1	1	1
Park	8,242	28,200	31,550
FTE	0.15	0.30	0.3
Municipal Court	3,404	7,471	5,094
FTE	0.50	0.10	0.1
Transfer Station	1,570	3,050	3,050
FTE	0.03	0.05	0.05
Planning	9,068	22,200	12,450
FTE	0.15	0.05	0.5
Total Requirements	251,013	325,433	351,658
Total FTE	7.83	7.45	7.45

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*

FTE includes 4 rotating Sheriff's Office employees. Park department funds include savings for future replacement of infrastructure.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name UTILITY FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Water Fund	377,420	538,700	801,000
FTE	3.25	2.00	3.25
Sewer Fund	594,486	818,200	1,006,200
FTE	2	1	2
Total Requirements			
Total FTE	5.25	3.00	5.25

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*

Waste Water Treatment Plant will begin redevelopment to eliminate ammonia from effluent re-per order from DEQ.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name SEWER DEBT FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Sewer Debt Fund	12,012	55,350	53,585
FTE	0	0	0
Total Requirements	12,012	55,350	53,585
Total FTE	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*			
The bond debt is for two outstanding bonds. One from 1977 and another from 1980. Payment for these bonds are collected through your property taxes. Along with this debt the city has an outstanding loan of \$2,118,086.38 (sewer system improvements in 2000) which is paid with dollars out of your sewer bill. This bond is not reflected in the above figures, it is calculated in the sewer department fund above.			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT			
FTE for that unit or program			
System Development Fund	3,932	57,300	94,500
FTE	0	0	0
Total Requirements	3,932	57,300	94,500
Total FTE	0	0	0
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*			
System Development Cost (SDC) Funds are collected when new development takes place in Union, i.e. new home. These funds are then used to fund to upgrades to the water and sewer system in Union when needed to accommodate additional population growth. State law regulates how these funds can be collected and spent.			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name STREET FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Street Fund	122,550	366,000	431,700
FTE	1	0	2
Total Requirements	122,550	366,000	431,700
Total FTE	1	0	2
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*			
Potholes will be patched, and additional streets will be given a left of chip seal.			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Fire Department Fund	73,353	106,729	118,432
FTE	45	26	24
Ambulance Fund	65,513	106,196	114,449
FTE	3	8	6
Total Requirements	138,866	213,525	232,881
Total FTE			
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*			
Local user fee will remain at \$10. There are no large purchases planned at this time for either fire or ambulance. Recruiting and keeping volunteers continues to be a challenge. More local residents are needed to volunteer on the department if volunteers don't step forward ambulance service will be changed from a transport to a non-			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name RANGER STATION FUND			
FTE for that unit or program			
Ranger Station Fund	20,343	43,000	42,384
FTE	1	1	1
Total Requirements	29,343	43,800	42,384
Total FTE	1	1	1
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING*			
Ranger Station fund continues to be self-supporting. Funds are reinvested back into the property.			
PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 1.57 per \$1,000)	1.57		
Local Option Levy			
Local Option Levy			
Levy For General Obligation Bonds			
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS			
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1	
General Obligation Bonds	\$34,357		
Other Bonds	\$2,118,086		
Other Borrowings			
Total	\$2,152,443		

Street Patching

Streets in the northeast corner of the City that have not yet been patched, are scheduled to be completed before Stockshow.

Call the City at (541) 562-5197 regarding questions or concerns.



Union Public Carnegie Library

Summer Reading Program!



Starts June 17th, at 10:00am
It will be held each Wednesday through August 5th
The theme for this year's reading program is Heroes
"Every Hero Has A Story"



There are lots of fun activities happening at the library this summer!! Call the library for information for all activities 541-562-5811

Have A Heroic Summer!!

What Happens After You Flush the Toilet?

After negotiating many thousands of feet of underground wastewater collection system pipes, the contents you flush down the toilet arrive at the wastewater treatment plant. Here sanitary waste from the homes in the City is treated and the solids removed before it is either discharged to Catherine Creek or pumped to the golf course for use as irrigation water.

The wastewater enters the treatment plant at what is called the head works. Debris is removed from the influent initially by what is called a screw and screen. Rags and other similar debris are carried from the influent channel, up to a garbage can, where the debris drops out.

Much of the debris that the plant receives are actual pieces or entire sections of cotton towels or other rags. Some of this material can get by the screw and screen where it is picked up by the influent pumps. These rags can plug the influent pumps causing alarms and required maintenance in the middle of the night by public works personnel. So why is this important? Every sewer customer can do his or her part to help with this rag problem by avoiding flushing rags or rag type material down the toilet. Even sanitary wipes that clearly say they are disposable on the package would be better disposed of in the garbage. Thank you for helping where you can in this area.

Lost & Found



Have you lost something recently?

City Hall has a few items in our Lost & Found
Items such as keys, glasses and even bikes

Call city hall at 541-562-5197 to enquire and identify

You Can Make A Difference!

The city currently has one seat open on the City Council. The City Council is responsible for establishing policy direction for City staff to follow, that are deemed essential by the electorate and taxpaying residents and businesses of the community, and are provided in a cost effective and professional manner.

A term for a Council member is on a four-year basis. The open seat is set to expire January 2019.

For more information stop by City Hall, Applications can be picked up at City Hall or found at www.cityofunion.com





Dogs in the City Park

Not everyone who uses the City Park is a dog lover. Many people using the park don't own or if they do own, bring their canine friends to the Park. Unfortunately, the park is not large enough to accommodate a dog use area. Therefore, users of the park who bring their dog friends are reminded to keep them on a leash and to pick up, and properly dispose of any dog droppings generated by their dogs.



Hopefully, park users who want to bring their dogs will respect all other users of the park by keeping their pet on a leash and picking up any messes. Should untethered dogs in the park, and the failure to cleanup dog feces continue, the City will be required to cite violators to protect the rights of all park users.

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

