

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
January 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

Happy
New
Year

2015

November Election Results.....

The City welcomes back William C. Lindsley as Mayor of Union for his fourth term as Mayor. Congratulations also go out to Matt Later who will be returning to his council seat. He was appointed in October of 2013 to fill the remaining 4 term to position 4. Recently appointed in October Councilor Bryan Russell was elected to fill position 6.

A heartfelt goodbye and special thank you for her hard work goes out to City Councilor Susan Briggs. Her passion and knowledge for the city has resulted in significant efficiencies and cost savings. She will be leaving the Council as of the first of the year. Ms. Briggs has held numerous positions on the council and Mayor over the last couple of decades.

Opportunity Awaits!

Union City Council seeks civic minded citizens to fill two council seats, Position 1 and Position 5, both with 2 years remaining on the term. The city needs folks ready to dive right into budgeting, personnel, growth and service delivery topics. Training is available for those that wish to learn more. Council meets regularly the second Monday of the month at 7pm and occasionally other times. Applications can be picked up at city hall or found on the city website.

Deadline for applications is January 8th at 5:00pm. Call Sandra Patterson for more information 541~562~5197

Dear Union Resident,

The City of Union ended 2013-2014 in a healthy financial position, according to the financial audit, which was presented to council November 10th. Lewis, Poe, Moeller, Gunderson & Roberts LLC Certified Public Auditors informed council during a regular city council meeting the city finished in line with the budget as planned. They continued to report city staff and Council did a great job at internal controls and they had no difficulties working with management while working on the audit. Council was satisfied with the report and the city's ability to manage the budget. Citizens can review the audit and the auditor's findings at www.cityofunion.com or pick up a copy at city hall.

In view of the city moving into the 2014-2015 fiscal year, as budget officer I will closely monitor revenues and expenditures in all departments. Ballot measures passed in 2006 restricting water and sewer revenues to those departments is taken very serious. Unlike other communities and in Union prior to 2006 those funds were shared among other funds to support services. Good, bad or indifferent, management struggles to fund services outside of water and sewer fund. Growing cost of materials and services is out pacing the growth of dollars we have in our bank accounts. The departments hardest hit are parks, library, police and streets. Without the emergency service fee of \$10.00 per home, this department would also be included in the list.

Over the years drastic cuts have been made in the following areas to alleviate the burden; transfer station which was closed, Union's police department has been shut down and we now contract, library services were cut in half and now partly funded with a bond and city hall cut a full time position. This comes to about \$180,000 in savings. Each year the budget committee is faced with the same revenues and a growing need for maintenance and service.

I encourage you to get involved in the upcoming 2015-2016 budget process. These are your dollars and this is your opportunity to have a say. Currently the budget committee has two openings on the board. The budget committee is made up of the city council and one citizen for each of the council and mayor with a total of 14 members. All meetings are open to the public, stay tuned for further meeting notice.

Did you know the City of Union is a leader among municipalities when it comes to utility management? The 2006 ballot measures which assured water and sewer revenues stay in those funds has placed Union in the eye of envy of other communities for our good faith effort to maintain our aging system. To top it off both the water and sewer departments have facility plans which will guide the city to 2020. As you know the city has a built-in automatic 2.5% increase in the rates each year, which most cities struggle to implement. While it is important to realize fee increases are not popular, regardless they are essential to assure that our most important assets are taken care of. When the lavatory flushes, we're all happy.

Looking forward, several projects are scheduled for 2015. Union's water tank will get a facelift, several blocks of street will be chip sealed, several blocks of waterline and customer service lines will be replaced, there are a couple unknown sewer projects planned, several grants will be written and turned in, EMS will be recruiting and training volunteers and the library will be hard at work with the reading program.

That said, the city has numerous wheels turning which takes various folks with creative minds to keep those wheels going in the right direction. Don't hesitate to volunteer, it's our responsibility.

Respectfully,

Sandra Patterson, City Administrator



City of Victorian Heritage



From the Fire Chief

House Numbers!

I can't stress enough the importance of making sure your house is numbered, with numbers large enough to be seen from the street. It is recommended that they are at least 4".

Cold winter weather brings a higher chance of fires, accidents and illnesses. Your Fire/Ambulance volunteers respond to a dispatched address. If your house is not properly numbered it can mean precious minutes lost when responding.

It only takes a few minutes and a few dollars to attach house numbers, take time to do it today!

The City staff needs to have accurate contact information of all our residents. We need to be able to contact you in a case of emergencies, such as, if we need to shut off water for pipe repairs. If you have changed your contact information, phone numbers or forwarding address please let us know. You can call us at City Hall or you can write it on your payment stub when remitting payment. Thank You



Meredith Matthews!

Meredith recently gave the "Welcome to Union" signs a new fresh paint job. We appreciate your talent and all your hard work!



Library Hours

Monday 2:30pm ~ 6:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am ~ 5:30pm

Story Time ~ Tuesday 10:00am

Wednesday 4:00pm ~ 8:00pm

Thursday 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm

Friday 9:00am ~ 3:30pm

The library has many resources such as computers with Internet for public use, a great selection of books for all ages, books on tape and movies.

Union Carnegie Public Library

541~562~5811

It's warm inside!



Santa Delivers Christmas Joy!!

It was another great year of giving for our local children. Santa and your local Fire/EMS volunteers delivered toys and brought Christmas cheer to lots of Union kids.

Thank you to all of those whose gave so generously. You made Christmas full of joy and happiness to lots of deserving boys and girls.

Remember to thank a Fire/EMS volunteer for all of their hard work with the Toy's for Tot's program. They donate many hours picking up, wrapping and delivering all of the gifts.



WHERE IS THAT SNOWPLOW?

The City of Union Public Works Department does not plow city streets unless we have six-inches or more of snow. They do not plow driveways!

The snowplow always has the right of way! If one is behind you, move off to the side as soon as it is safe to do so. Do not ever attempt to pass a snowplow.

Don't follow too close! The sander mechanism is spraying out fine gravel at a relatively high speed. Following too close is risking your windshield.

Your City crews are trying to get everything cleared and safe as quickly as possible, please be courteous and please be safe

Quote of the month....

What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.....

Vern McLellan



Happy New Year from the Union School Board! May the New Year bring happiness, health and prosperity to all.

Our last meeting was a seven hour marathon of learning and planning. We began with a six hour session with Jill Zurschmeide from the Oregon Scholl Board Association. Jill led us through a program of Board roles and responsibilities. As the newest member I found this presentation and instruction an excellent way to learn and understand the possibilities and limits of our board.

We ended our day with a constructive session of goal setting for the future of the Union schools. After much discussion we agreed to establish 3 major goals for education in Union.

First to maximize student achievement and opportunity through a challenging and meaningful curriculum.

Second to insure quality instruction through expanded professional development.

Third to make decisions that ensure long term financial stability.

I worry most about the third goal because without success here the other two goals are not possible. As always I am sure that our decisions for the future viability and excellence of our schools will be driven by our passion to provide the best possible education and life opportunities for our students.

It is a regrettable shame that our goals must be tempered by the harsh realities of increased costs and reduced revenues. Charlie Morden

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY!

During these winter months there is greater chance of weather related emergencies. Make sure you have the essential supplies packed and ready:

*Medical Supplies, *Radio, *Flashlight, *Matches, *Batteries, *Blankets, *Water, some extra *Money, a change of *Clothes, and *Food.

Brrrr It's Cold!!

Don't forget to take care of your four-legged family!

Remember if it is too cold for you to want to be outside, then it's too cold for your pet to be outside.

If you opt to not bring your pet inside take measures to ensure they can be warm and protected. Make certain your pet has shelter with warm and dry blankets or straw. Your pets need just as much fresh water in the winter as they do in the summer. Make sure their water is fresh and kept from freezing.

Your vehicle can be a dangerous place for your pets too. Cold temperatures can act as a refrigerator for a pet left inside a car, and when riding in the back of a pickup the wind chill is extremely dangerous.

Your pet looks to you to love and take care of them, don't let them down.



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THIS YEARS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL HAPPEN:

VOLUNTEERS:

VFW

FBLA

UH GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

JIM & CONNIE TWISSELMAN

US MUSIC DEPT

RAY MCDANIELS

LEE & TERRI STOLTZ

HUFFMANS

POST OFFICE

NORM VOGEL

DENNY & KATHY MEREDITH

JAY & JULIE PETERSON

HENRY DUSCHARM

NICK SHAFFER

BARBARA FERGUSON

MICHEAL MCMILLAN

DONATIONS:

HOMETOWN HARDWARE

LG BREWSKIS

FOLLY FARMS

RENN MORRIS CONST.

BEAR HANEY

BARRETO MANUFACTURING

AGGIES

FALKS SHELL STATION

UNION DRUG

KNITKABOB

RUTH SHUCK

UNION COLLISION

UNION FAMILY HEALTH

GRAVY DAVES

HISTORIC UNION HOTEL

DR. MINDY CATOR CHIRO.

UNION MARKET

UNION STOPLIGHT

from City of Union
Chamber Of Commerce

This ad paid for by the Union Chamber of Commerce

Union County Dog Control

The Union County Dog Control Ordinance was recently reviewed and changes were put into effect October 1, 2014. Some of the changes to note are the public nuisance barking ordinance and the fees and fines associated with the ordinance. The fees and fines for citations being issued have been increased under the new ordinance revision.

	1st offense	2nd offense	3rd offense
Dog at-large	\$100	\$250	\$500
Dog as a nuisance/Barking dog	\$50	\$100	\$150
Unlicensed dog	\$30	\$60	\$90
No Rabies vaccination	\$100		
Animal Abandonment	\$200		
Animal Neglect	\$200		
Failure to comply: Aggressive dog	\$250		
Failure to comply: Dangerous dog	\$500		
Dog in livestock	\$100		
No Kennel license	\$150		

A revision to the ordinance changed the barking dog complaint procedure and lessened the amount of time a dog in the county is allowed to bark. A dog is classified as a public nuisance if it makes disturbing noise, including howling, barking, or whining for 10 consecutive minutes at a time or intermittent episodes lasting a minimum of 30 minutes which causes unreasonable annoyance, disturbance, or discomfort to neighbors or others in close proximity to the premises where the animal is kept.

A person making the complaint must be willing to keep an accurate log of the disturbance and submit the log as required to the Sheriff's Office. It is encouraged to obtain other documentation as evidence such as photographs or video.

Before lodging a complaint to our office it is best to be a good neighbor and contact the dog owner to try to work the problem out directly. If the dog is still a nuisance, we encourage you to contact our office directly to start the complaint process. We work hard to work with the dog owner to find a solution to the problem by offering education materials that will help the owner to resolve the issue and often suggest a bark collar or other ways to eliminate the noise and fix the problem without issuing a citation. If the nuisance continues, a citation for a violation of the nuisance ordinance is issued.

A formal complaint form can be obtained from the Sheriff's Office by contacting our office directly or via our website. To access this form go to www.unioncountysheriff.us and click the animal control link under the patrol division. To contact our office directly call the business line at 541-963-1017 and ask to speak with one of the Animal Control Deputies in our office.

Union County Dog Control formal complaint forms can also be found at the City's website, www.cityofunion.com, or in the foyer of City Hall

IT'S A TRADITION.....

Whether it be the Western or the Eastern part of the world, New Year is celebrated with equal enthusiasm everywhere! In Denmark, residents keep a pile of dishes, all broken, in front of the door. Throwing dishes at friend's front door symbolizes friendship and brotherhood and they believe the one with the most dishes outside has the most friends. In Germany, lead is considered to be auspicious. They pour molten lead into cold water and the shape that the lead takes predicts the future. Heart shapes symbolize marriage, round shapes denote good luck, anchor shapes tell you that you will need help, and a cross signifies someone's sad demise. In England, they believe that the first guest for the new year would bring them the sign of fortune for the New Year. It should be a tall dark haired male, bringing with him a loaf of bread, a bottle of whiskey and some coal. The coal is put in the fire, the bread is eaten, with drinking the whiskey. He should enter the front door and exit the back door.

The idea of making deafening noise is believed to drive away any evil spirits for the New Year. This is why at the stroke of midnight we create noises such as sirens, car horns, whistles, party horns, bells and drums-anything that serves the purpose of chasing away evil from the New Year.

It is believed that the Babylonians were the first to make New Year's Resolutions, and people all over the world have been breaking them ever since.

WHAT IS YOUR NEW YEAR TRADITION?



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 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	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	Saturday after 3 rd 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 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 Wed of the month	Library	3:30 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