

City of Union News Letter

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

CITY HALL HOURS: Mon thru Thurs 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - Open during lunch

March 2016

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

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



March

USDA Loan Refinancing

Sewer Rate Increase will appear on May 2016 billing statement

Refinancing the current 40-year, \$2,600,000, 4.5% interest USDA Rural Development (USDA) wastewater improvement loan which was secured in 2000 will require an increase in the current sewer rate. Currently the annual loan payment amount for the USDA loan is \$142,887 and is due in November of each year. In order to refinance the loan, Umpqua Bank has offered the City of Union a 15-year, 3% loan for the USDA principal and interest amount currently due.

With projected bond attorney costs of \$25,000 to \$30,000 it is expected the final amount of the Umpqua Bank loan will be in the neighborhood of \$2,200,000. A \$2,200,000 loan financed for 15-years at 3% interest results in \$184,000 annual loan payments. This refinancing plan will save the City of Union nearly \$900,000 over the life of the loan.

In order to fund the increased payment of \$41,113 per year sewer rates will increase. Each sewer account (including vacation accounts) will be charged the same amount to cover the higher annual payment. The additional charge for each sewer account is expected to be between **\$3.50** and **\$3.75** per month (dependent on the final amount refinanced).

Should the City experience a surge in growth during the time period of the loan that results in a significant increase in the number of sewer accounts, the surcharge amount could be adjusted by the City Council.

If you have any questions please contact Rod McKee at City Hall, 541-562-5197.

Also see article on page 3 of this newsletter



Bring Mom

Just For The Halibut



The 4th Annual Halibut Dinner in Union, at the High School Gym
On Saturday, May 7th, 2016
Two seating's.....4 to 6pm and 6 to 8pm

\$20.00 per plate (Fresh baked halibut, baked potato, coleslaw, bread, dessert & Pepsi)
\$5.00 for a hot dog plate
You may also pre-order **uncooked** fresh halibut for \$25.00 a pound.

All proceeds will benefit Booster Club Projects, Union High School & Jr High Sports & Clubs

Call now to reserve your tickets and seating time ~or~ purchase tickets on line at
www.eventbrite.com click on Discover Events (small charge per ticket)

For more information or tickets call Rose at 541-910-5986

Hope to see you there!

This ad paid for by the Union Booster Club



We need your input...

We want to hear from you.
What information would you like to read in your newsletter?
Email your thoughts and ideas to cityhall@cityofunion.com

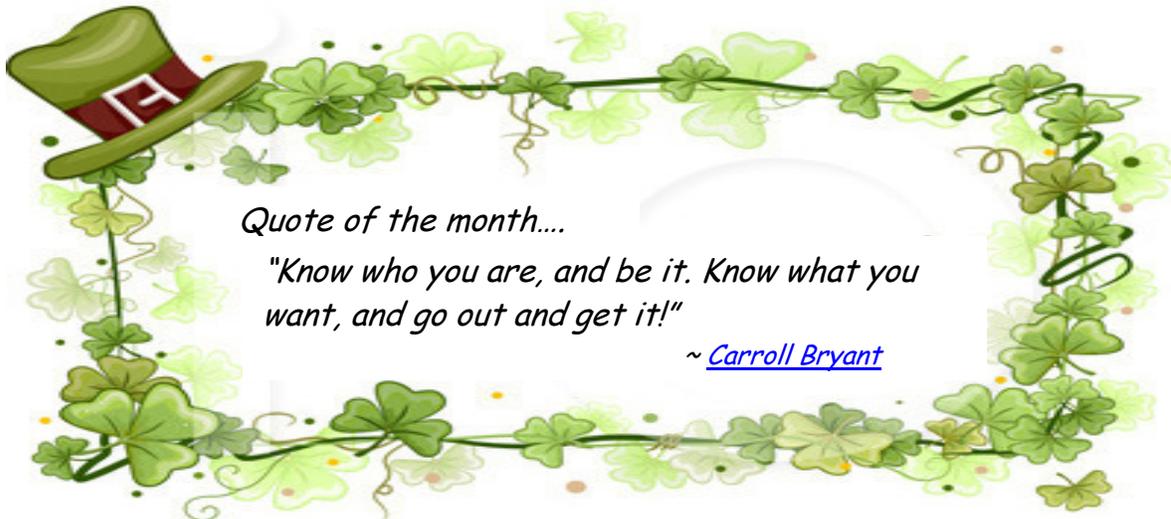
Windy!!



Please bag your garbage. When trash cans blow over trash gets out and blows all around town.

Make sure the lid is completely closed and trash is bagged.

Let's work together to keep Union beautiful



Quote of the month...

"Know who you are, and be it. Know what you want, and go out and get it!"

~ [Carroll Bryant](#)

March!

In like a lion...



Out like a lamb...

Union may refinance loan

Potential move would save city about \$900,000

The City of Union's long-term financial picture may soon get much brighter.

The town is close to entering into an agreement for refinancing a loan via a plan that would increase sewer rates and save the city close to \$1 million.

"In the long term, it will be a huge benefit to the city," said Union Public Works Director Rod McKee, who along with Union City Administrator Sandra Patterson led the push for the refinancing project.

The city is refinancing its repayment of a \$2.63 million loan it received in 2000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for renovation work on wastewater treatment facilities. The city received the loan at an interest rate of 4.5 percent and entered into a 40-year repayment plan in 2000, one which calls for it to pay almost \$143,000 a year to the USDA through 2040.

Under a proposed refinancing plan the City of Union would get a new 3 percent loan from Umpqua Bank, which has a branch in Union, for the money it still owes the USDA. Umpqua Bank would pay the USDA the \$2.2 million balance the city owes as part of the refinancing agreement.

The city would then have its annual loan payments increased to \$184,000 allowing it to pay off its loan by 2030. Paying off the loan 10 years early would have a major financial impact.

"The city would save \$900,000 as compared to the terms of the original loan," McKee said.

The additional \$41,000 the city would spend each year in loan repayment costs would be generated by an increase in monthly sewer rates. The Union City Council on Feb. 8 approved a resolution allowing for an increase in sewer rates to be imposed if the refinancing plan is finalized. The rate increase would cost each residential sewer user about \$3.50, McKee said.

Should the refinancing plan be finalized soon, the earliest the sewer rate increase would take effect would be April, McKee said. The increase would first be reflected in May utility bills.

City Councilor Matt Later said he supports the refinancing plan for a number of reasons, including the money it would save Union and the because it would "align with the expected lifespan" of Union's sewer treatment system. He explained that without the refinancing, the city would still owe 10 years worth of payments in 2030, around the time Union's wastewater treatment facility will be at the age it would need major repairs or to be replaced. This means the city would be in the unenviable position of still paying off its loan when it might need to replace its wastewater treatment facility.

McKee said the money Union would save from the proposed refinancing will increase the options available to it in years to come for city improvement projects.

"This is going to give the city multiple opportunities it would not have otherwise had," he said.



Mayor's Corner

Due to the resignation of the previous ordinance officer, mid February, the city is without an ordinance officer.

There have been many comments in reference to “why we have ordinances if we will not be enforcing them” There have also been complaints when ordinances are enforced and residents are cited.

The council and I are currently working on the best and most cost effective way to solve this issue.

Residents with suggestions may email them to cityhall@cityofunion.com or drop suggestions in the city's payment box in the foyer of city hall. All suggestions will be forwarded to me for consideration.

From The Fire Chief....



What should you do?

You could drive for decades and never be one of the first persons at the scene of a serious accident. On the other hand, if you do ever come across that accident, there are precautions you should take. The foremost question the bystander should ask is, “can I leave this accident victim better or in at least the same condition as I found him?” Even with the best intentions, if an accident victim's injuries are made worse by your ‘help’, you could be liable for his/her possible additional injuries.

If a car smashes into a utility pole, and the driver isn't making any effort to get out, you might think the best thing to do is drag him from the wreck. Yet that's usually not the best thing to do. Unless there is some other danger, such as fire, victims should not be moved by bystanders. The first thought should be, “what can I do to protect victims from sustaining additional injuries?” Pausing for a few seconds, literally, and looking over the situation, you'll probably see several things that should be done before caring for victims. Turning off the ignition on vehicles can reduce risk of fire.

Before attempting to render aid to victims, if the accident victim is conscious ask if he/she wants assistance. If he/she rejects an offer of help, for any reason, do not aid him. As difficult as it may be, wait for professional help to arrive. If you give aid when a person says he doesn't want it, you might be vulnerable under Good Samaritan laws. Even if an accident victim says ‘yes help me’, you still need to be cautious. If there is no immediate danger, why move him? It's usually best to wait for professional help to arrive.

Eighty percent of traffic accident victims have head injuries. If a person has a head injury, you should also assume he/she has neck and back injuries. Do not move victim unless there is immediate danger. If you feel you need to help, stabilizing the head and neck in alignment is the most that you should do.

If an injury is obviously life threatening, and waiting for professional help would endanger a life, then necessary action probably should be taken. For instance, if a victim has stopped breathing, CPR becomes vital. If a serious wound is bleeding, compression to stop the bleeding can be done. In case of head wounds, however, experts suggest you use only light pressure due to the possibility of a fractured skull.

Traffic accidents are terrible things. They can be traumatic for victims and bystanders alike. Still, if you ever have to ‘take charge’ at the scene of an accident, keep in mind that your primary job is to help protect the victim(s) until professional help arrives-not to treat their injuries.

LUNCH & DINNER

LG

NEW MENU

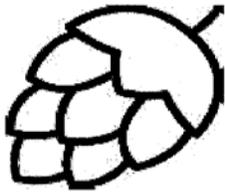
BREWSKIS PUBLIC HOUSE

Serving Northwest Craft Beer & Wines

Growler Fills

Billiards * Lottery * Shuffleboard

Outdoor Seating



267 SOUTH MAIN STREET, UNION OR * 541-562-6286

This ad paid for by LG Brewski's

Mt. Emily Realty now has office hours in UNION!!!

Located in the Union Drug Co Old Fashion Soda Fountain, 105 Main, Union, OR

Candy Bowman, Principal Broker,

While office hours will vary, Candy will take appointments and meet with you at the Union Office or come to your home or place of business.

Candy has been a Realtor since 1998 serving the communities of Union and Baker County.

"I have experience in selling homes, farms and ranches, and commercial properties"

"Being successful in Real Estate means meeting the goals of Buyers and Sellers". and it is not a 5 day 8:00---5:00 job. I do my best to accommodate my buyers and sellers.:

Let Candy tailor a marking plan for you !

Buyers let me help you find the perfect property!

Check out all properties www.candybowman.house

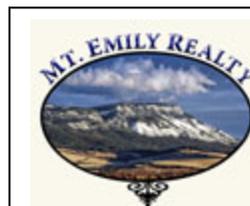
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY

CHECK OUT THIS UNION, OR LISTING

287 W Jefferson Complete re-model

2 Bedrooms 1164sqft

1 Bath 100x150 lot



Candy Bowman,
Principal Broker

541-786-3164

Email: homes@candybowman.house

MOVE IN WORRY FREE. Interior is fresh with abundant natural light. Updates include New sheet rock, paint floor coverings, counter tops, cupboards, bathroom fixtures, roof, updated wiring, plumbing. Small Deck just right for mountain watching and long summer evenings.

THIS IS NOT A DRIVE BY, ITS A MUST SEE! Subject to offer seller may carry a short term contract. Build shop or garage and still have room for yard/garden

This ad paid for by Candy Bowman

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONTEST

Last Months
Photo Location:



Congratulations to Mary Gibbons! She recognized this as the historic date corner stone located on the Union Carnegie Public Library. 1912 is the year that the City of Union received a letter from Andrew Carnegie including a check for \$5,500 to build a new library. Mary, you can come pick up your prize at city hall.

Union's Historic Preservation Committee wants to raise community awareness of historic preservation and promote better awareness of architectural details, cultural history and Union's historic past. Drop off your guess at City Hall or email your guess to cityhall@cityofunion.com. A prize will be awarded to the winner!

This Months Photo:



Winner will be announced in next month's newsletter
Good Luck!

There is an open position on the
Historic Preservation Committee

Historic Committee members, city employees and family members may not participate.

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		12:30	unionchamber@eoni.com
City Council	2 nd Mon of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
CUP Medical Association	2 nd Wed of the month	City Hall	5:00 pm	541-562-6134
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	541-910-6002
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
Grande Ronde Valley Masonic	3 rd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:30pm	
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	PO Box 337
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	United Methodist Church	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
Weight Watchers	Every Monday	Library	5:30 pm	541-910-4889



City of Union is an equal opportunity provider and employer