

City of Union Oregon Newsletter

PROMOTE RURAL VALUES, PROTECT LOCAL ASSETS AND FOSTER COMMUNITY PRIDE

342 South Main Street P.O. Box 529 Union, OR 97883 541-562-5197 Fax 541-562-5196 cityhall@CityOfUnion.com www.CityOfUnion.com

CITY HALL Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Open During Lunch

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY Monday 10am-6pm
Tues ~ Thurs 10am-5pm
Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm

April 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate
City Administrator

Just a week into Spring and I am relishing every warm sunny day we get! With Spring comes Spring cleaning and the City of Union will be having a city-wide clean up day May 3rd, 2025. The city will be accepting from its residents the following types of waste; Yard Debris; Household items such as Appliances, Lawnmowers, Furniture, etc; Electronics; Tires without rims (limit 4 per household) FCFS until bin is full; Bikes; Outdoor kids toys. The following will not be accepted; Household garbage; Roofing shingles; Ashes; Batteries; Hazardous waste such as paint and chemicals. The location for this year will be at the public works shop at 61323 Hwy 203 (by the gun club).

Work on the 2025-2026 Budget is wrapping up and I encourage folks to come attend a budget committee meeting. Budget Committee meetings for this year will be on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th at 6pm. April 22nd and 23rd will be reserved for budget committee deliberations and open for public observation. Public comment on the budget will be had on April 24th, 2025 at 6:00pm.

The City of Union welcomes the newly appointed positions to the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the Budget Committee. Walt Brookshire, Ilene Kingery, and Samn Diller were app appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission and Donna Beverage was re-appointed. They replace Diana Jones, LaVon Hall and Cherie Kausler who have stepped down. Thank you to Diana, LaVon and Cherie for their many years of service and to Donna who has graciously agreed to continue her service. Josh White and Walt Brookshire were appointed to the Planning Commission. They replace Ed Baird and Jocelyn Jones who are stepping down after many years of service. Thank you to Ed Baird and Jocelyn Jones for their year of service to the city. Leslie McMillan was appointed to the Budget Committee and Tyler Griffiths and Becky Platz were re-appointed. Leslie replaces Lavelle Braun who has stepped down. Thank you to Lavelle for his service to the city as well as Tyler and Becky who have agreed to continue their service. These Commissions and Committees are essential to the on-going work of the city so thank you.

As part of the charter review, there are some suggested changes that I will be sharing with you each month and may be discussed at a future council meeting. If council would agree with the suggested changes, it would be referred to voters in a future election for consideration. The first section to share comes from the Charter Chapter III. First it has been suggested to re-number each section to correspond with the Chapter that it is located. For example, Sections 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 could be re-numbered 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 that would correspond to Chapter 3 where they are located. The wording changes suggested are as follows with the strikethroughs the suggested deletions and the words in parenthesis the suggested additions and come from the current Section 9. ~~Section 9.(3.2)~~ Council. The council shall be composed of six ~~councilmen~~ (councilors) elected at large. Each ~~councilman~~ (councilor) shall serve a term of four years and until his (their) successor is elected and qualified. ~~The two councilmen in office at the time of adoption of this charter whose terms of office expire at the end of 1941 shall continue in office until 1942. At the regular city election in 1940, four councilmen shall be elected. The one receiving the lowest number of votes shall serve until the end of 1942. The other three shall serve until the end of 1944. At each subsequent regular city election, three councilmen shall be elected to serve a term of four years.~~ (Council will consist of six numbered seats with the three odd numbered seats and the three even numbered seats rotating election every two years.)

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, I am starting a monthly trivia contest with questions related to the city charter, or Ordinances, with the chance to win a small monthly prize by turning in your answer to city hall. Must be a resident of the City of Union to be eligible. City employees and council members and their immediate family members are not eligible to win. Last month's question was: "What year was the City of Union's charter last updated?" The answer is: June 18th, 1988. Unfortunately, nobody entered so we will try again this month. April's winner will receive a gift certificate for the Union Merc graciously donated by Sara Hartley. Check out the Union Merc at 306 S Main St. for wonderful antiques, vintage decor and locally made goods! Look for this month's question in this newsletter and good luck!

Celeste Tate



CLEAN-UP DAY!! SATURDAY, MAY 3rd 9am - 1pm

Location: Public Works Shops

61323 Hwy 203 (next to gun club)

There will be someone in attendance to direct you once you get to the entrance gate

Accepted Items:

- * Yard Debris * Household Items (appliances, lawn mowers, furniture, mattresses, etc)**
- * Electronics * Outdoor Kids Toys and Bikes**
- * Tires (without rims) only 4 per household!**

Limited space (when box is full no more will be accepted)

NOT ACCEPTED:

- * NO Household garbage * NO Hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, etc)**
- * NO Roofing shingles * NO Ashes * NO Batteries**

It is appreciated, and easier for staff to unload your items if they are kept separated as you load them in your truck or trailer, such as yard debris separate from metals etc.

UNION RESIDENTS ONLY



Easter Egg Hunt

Open To All Ages!

April 19th at 10:00am

City of Union Park

Bring the family and join the fun!!



Earth Day...April 22nd

One of nature's gifts to our planet are honey bees. Worldwide bee populations are in decline. Many factors contribute to this including: land use changes, habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity create a foraging opportunities for bees. With industrialization always on the rise, areas of natural habitat are being converted to roads and developments. This pushes the bees off their habitats which causes changes in behavior when it comes to foraging and mating.



How to help: Plant a bee-friendly garden. Find a nursery near you that sells native and local plants for pollinators in your area. Native plants are the ideal choice. It is important that no pesticides, or insecticides get sprayed on the bee-friendly garden, particularly the flowers. Provide water to these little pollinators by hanging a dripping bottle, bird bath with stones placed for the bees to crawl on, or placing a small container of water out in the open. Plant a tree this arbor day, when it blooms it provides thousands of blossoms for pollinators. Educate yourself by studying native bee species, their life cycles and ecological roles. Encourage your community to help.



Main Street Musings for April 2025

If you are unfamiliar with Main Street Union (MSU) it is Union's 501(c)3 nonprofit program which is a part of Main Street Oregon and Main Street America. MSU's goal is to Build on Community Assets and make Union the Quality Community we all wish to live, work, and invest in.

MSU is the organization responsible for putting on the two music events in the park last year, Family Roots Blues & Brews, and are looking to increase the number of events to three for Summer 2025. The dates for these events will be June 20th, July 18th, August 15th. Crafters, artisans, and vendors of all types should contact MSU about participating. MSU is also planning the Block Party to welcome families back to school in late August early September.

MSU is the "Park Project Group"; After securing funding (thank you City of Union) to develop a Union City Park Master Plan, MSU selected an architect (SPVV Landscape Architects) and the community now has a plan for their City Park. It is hopeful that this plan which includes a splashpad, tennis (pickleball) court(s), half-court basketball court, new children (age 0-12) play equipment, adult exercise stations, increased parking, along with a 2nd bathroom and covered picnic areas, will stand the test of time and be a plan the community may follow into the future. MSU will now be seeking input on playground equipment from the school children, MSU hopes that if they build it the children will come to play.

Main Street Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the old Knitkabob building at 6pm, anyone interested in helping Union Build on Community Assets and make Union the Quality Community we all wish to live, work, and invest in, will be welcomed.



As the weather continues to warm up the Public Works crew will be starting projects around the city. For the city's crew and for your safety, please be

cautious and aware around work zones as there could be changes in traffic flow, large equipment, and employees doing ground work.

Please Slow Down, and Proceed with Caution

Remember!! The city's treatment facility is designed to handle only water, human waste and toilet tissue. And that is all.

ONLY WATER, HUMAN WASTE AND TOILET TISSUE SHOULD BE FLUSHED INTO THE CITY SEWER SYSTEM! PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS, EQUIPMENT REPAIRS OR EQUIPMENT FAILURES, NOT JUST TO THE CITY SEWER, BUT ALSO YOUR PRIVATE SEWER SYSTEM, LEADING TO COSTLY REPAIRS.



From Your Ordinance Officer~

Tips for Avoiding Spring Cleaning Code Violations

The weather is getting warmer & the days are getting longer, Spring (and soon Summer) has arrived. With Spring comes flowers, singing birds, and dare I say it, that dreaded spring cleaning. Here are some tips for safe spring cleaning that will keep the code enforcement officer happy....

- * Apply proper waste disposal procedures
- * Know what to do when getting rid of larger items
- * Recycle when you can
- * Maintain your trees and lawn (grasses and weeds can not be higher than 10")
- * Noxious vegetation must be controlled either by spraying or pulling before plants go to seed

Make your local code enforcement happy & help maintain your neighborhood.

City Clean-Up Day is May 3rd!! 9:00am – 1:00pm





Union Carnegie Public Library

~April Activities~

STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY 10:00AM ~ 11:00AM

WE WILL READ TOGETHER FOR HALF AN HOUR AND THEN DO A CRAFT/ACTIVITY:

4/1 ORIGAMI BUTTERFLIES

4/8 KIRIGAMI

4/15 BUNNY EARS

4/22 PAINT CHIP GEOMETRIC ART

4/29 LAMB STRING ART

Storytime
AT THE LIBRARY



AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ APRIL 1ST & 15TH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

ADULT EVENTS, SELECTED MONDAYS 5:00PM ~ 6:00PM

4/7 HEIRLOOM PAINTED EGGS

4/14 TISSUE PAPER WINDOW ART

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEET AT THE UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY APRIL 8TH AT 5:30PM



UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY
182 S MAIN, UNION OR
541~562~5811



HAPPY
EASTER

BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

IT IS BUDGET SEASON FOR THE CITY. WORK IS BEING DONE NOW FOR THE
2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR'S BUDGET.

BUDGET HEARINGS WILL BE APRIL 22ND, 23RD, & 24TH. HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN
THE ALMQUIST CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL AT 6:00PM. IF YOU WISH TO OBSERVE THE
FY 2025-2026 BUDGET HEARING PLEASE COME AND DO SO.

Just a reminder....

City Council has made the decision that water and sewer rates will be increasing beginning April 1st, and will be reflected on your upcoming May billing statement.

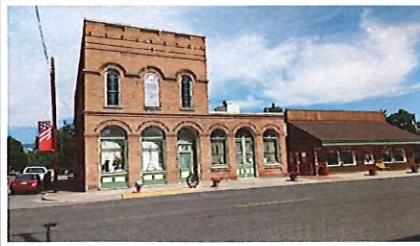
Rates are determined according to your meter size, and as the majority of residents have a 3/4" meter the following will be the new average rate beginning April 1st:

Water base rate (before any water used) \$35.72, in addition to the base rate, each cubic foot of water used is charged at .005 cents up to 1000 cubic feet (up to 2000 cubic feet during summer months, beginning in June) and charged at .0125 per cubic foot thereafter.

Sewer base rate will be \$55.74

EMS fee at this time \$10.00 - although in July this fee will be removed from your utility bill.

As stated, these changes are effective April 1st, but will not be reflected until you receive your April billing statement the first part of May.



What's Happening at the Museum....

At Saint Mark's Cathedral in Venice, Italy one can see the Pala d' Oro which consists of more than 80 enameled panels with a gold screen backdrop decorated with large, uncut precious stones. In fact there are 300 emeralds, 300 sapphires, 90 amethysts, 4 topazes, 2 antique cameos and 1,300 pearls. The Venetians somehow acquired these panels from a monastery in Constantinople in the 13th century. The large quantity of priceless jewels are not the main attraction of this artifact, The most interest and admiration is focused on the 80 enameled panels.

The history of enamelware or granite ware traces how an ancient art form from China and the Middle East transitioned from exquisite art to popular and functional cookware and kitchen tools.

The earliest account of enameling vessels for the kitchen was found in the 1803 *ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA*. What was needed at that time was a composition that would be better than copper, lead, tin or glazed pottery for everyday useful pots, pans, spoons and other kitchen items. Enamelware or granite ware was the answer and became extremely popular and could be found in a wide variety of colors including gray mottled, white, blue and white, Alice blue, concord grape and canary yellow. Enamelware became so popular it was also used on wood cook stoves, table tops, plumbing fixtures and advertising signs. Most common were tea kettles, dippers, salt boxes, lunch pails, double boilers, roasters, strainers, ash shovels, cuspidors and one quite unique item that I would like to find is a nutter butter cutter. This little device looked quite similar to a meat grinder but had very fine blades and was used for making peanut butter,

Repairing granite ware was fairly easy. Leaking water buckets were always being mended with copper rivets and these rivets could also be used to repair holes and leaks in enamelware, A commercial product called Mendets was also available for repairs.

Methods of cleaning granite ware was, according to *THE HOME COMFORT RANGE COOKBOOK* from 1924 recommends softening lime deposits on tea kettles by boiling a few stalks of rhubarb. Burned or discolored ware could be cleaned with salt and vinegar and grease could be removed with a cloth saturated in kerosene. Tea and coffee stains would disappear by boiling a teaspoon of soda for 45 minutes.

Every kitchen was stocked with some kind of granite ware. When the Museum opens in May check out our kitchen from the past to see how many granite ware items you can find. We have some very unique ones on display. Also check your own kitchens to see what useful granite ware items are still being used. My mom always used a blue granite ware roaster with a white insert. She would pour water into the bottom of the roaster, place a turkey on the insert and cover it with a lid that had two vents on it. You never tasted a better roasted turkey. She always attributed the deliciousness to the roasting pan.

Happy spring. More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

A man by the name of King Spain, who is working on the Coffin place, below town, while riding a horse having harness on , last Thursday, was thrown off and his foot catching in the harness he was dragged a considerable distance, and pretty badly injured. Dr. Cromwell attended the patient and thinks he will get all right again in time.

~Oregon Scout April 7, 1887

MAIN STREET UNION PRESENTS....

FAMILY ROOTS BLUES & BREWS

SAVE THESE DATES!!

JUNE 20TH

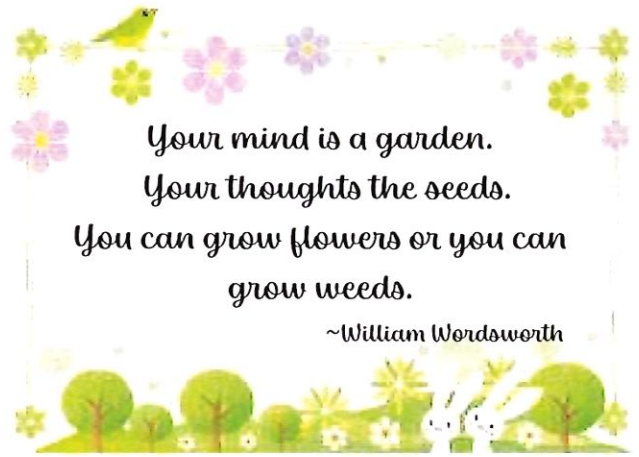
JULY 18TH

AUGUST 15TH

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND JOIN US AT THE
HISTORIC UNION CITY PARK!

BEER GARDEN ~ VENDORS ARTISANS
~ CRAFTERS

MUSIC STARTS AT 5:00PM
MAIN PERFORMER AT 6:00PM



Contest Entry Coupon

This month's contest question is: What is a quorum?

Name: _____ Address: _____

Answer: _____

Phone#: _____

Must be a Union resident to enter. Drop your entry by City Hall in person, payment drop box, mail, or you can email your entry to lauradodds@cityofunion.com City employees and immediate family are not allowed to participate. Deadline for entries is April 24, 2025

There will be a prize for the winner!!

CITY OF UNION SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S SCHEDULE

Committee	Meetings Held	Time	Location
Water/Sewer Committee	Every 2nd Tuesday of the month	6:00 pm	City Hall
Charter Committee	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Zoning Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	9:00 am	City Hall
Streets Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Buffalo Flats Committee	Every 3rd Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Ordinances Committee	TBA		City Hall

Meetings will be held at City Hall, 342 S. Main, unless otherwise announced.

We encourage you to attend these meetings, ask questions, be involved and gain knowledge of the workings of your community. If you have questions regarding these committee's please feel free to call us.

Annual Backflow Preventer Testing ~ Now Is The Time

What is a Backflow preventer:

Backflow preventers keep your drinking water and the city's water safe by keeping potentially contaminated water being drawn back into the public potable water system.

How do I know if I have a backflow preventer:

A few examples of who should have a backflow preventer installed and is required to have them tested:

- ♦ Irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems
- ♦ Swimming pools or spas
- ♦ Fire sprinkler systems
- ♦ Auxiliary water supplies (wells)
- ♦ Laboratory equipment
- ♦ Food and beverage processing equipment



How often do I have to test my backflow preventer:

Upon initial installation your backflow preventer will be tested. After which it is mandatory that you have your backflow preventer testing annually or after any repairs or cleaning. Since backflow preventers contain parts that can break down and wear out it is important to test at least annually to assure your preventer is functioning properly.

How do I get my backflow preventer tested:

A certified backflow prevention assembly tester must perform tests on your assembly. Although we can't recommend a tester, you can obtain a list of a few certified backflow testers from city hall.

What happens if I don't have my backflow preventer tested:

City of Union will not be able to allow water service to continue to property with a backflow that has not passed testing and who have not provided a test report to the city.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your backflow or if you are required to have a backflow please contact city hall and we can get public works to speak to you regarding your questions.

AVISTA REMINDS YOU SAFE DIGGING IS NO ACCIDENT! CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG....

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. This service is free. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811

Knowing where underground utility line are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and....it's the law).

Every digging job requires a call—even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call 811:

- ♦ Installing a rural mailbox
- ♦ Putting in a fence
- ♦ Planting a tree or shrubbery
- ♦ Building a patio or deck
- ♦ Excavating a new garden area



Call 811 or go to www.digsafelyoregon.com

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ 2025-2026 Budget
- ⇒ Reviewing Charter
- ⇒ Committees working on the City Charter, Water/Sewer, Zoning, Trails, and Ordinances



~City Council Members ~

Trisha Seale	Dick Middleton
Kori Cox	John Black
Don George	Anita Davis
Mayor Susan Hawkins	

April 2025 Council Meetings

April 14th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

April 28th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

All meetings are held in the Leonard Almquist Chambers at City Hall.

Meetings are live streamed and can be viewed on our

Facebook page. Or you can view

them any time later on our website

www.cityofunion.com



Did you know you can receive a city newsletter by email? If you would like to receive your newsletter this way just email lauradodds@cityofunion.com and request your name be added to the list.

ORGANIZATION	MEETING DATE	LOCATION	TIME	PHONE
Awana	Every Thurs/during school year	Baptist Church	6:30pm	541-562-5870
Catherine Creek Community Center	4th Thursday of month	Community Center	6:00pm	541-562-2038
City of Union Chamber	2nd Thurs of the month		6:00 pm	unionchamber@eoni.com
City Council	2nd Mon of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
Council Work Sessions	2 nd & 4 th Mon of month	City Hall	6.00 pm	541-562-5197
CUP Medical Association	2 nd Tues of the month	251 S Main	6:00 pm	541-910-6268
Order of Eastern Star	2nd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:00 pm	541-805-0779
EMS Department	1st Mon of the month	Rural Fire Hall	7:00 pm	
EOLS Board	2nd Tues of the month	EOLS Club House	7:00 pm	541-562-5631
Food Bank	3 rd Friday of the month	Catherine Creek CommCtr	10-11:00am	541-562-2038
Friends of the Library	2 nd Tues January, April, July & November	Union Library	5:30 pm	541-562-5807
Grande Ronde Valley Masonic	3 rd Wed of the month	Masonic Hall	7:30pm	
Historic Preservation	3 rd Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00pm	541-562-5197
Library Board	Feb 27th, May 22nd, Aug 21st	Library	9:00am	541-562-5811
Lions Club	3 rd Tues of the month	Sports Complex	5:30 pm	PO Box 337
Mainstreet Union & Economic Development	2nd Thursday of the month	Call contact # for location	7:00 pm	541-910-7048
Planning Commission work session	3rd Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00 pm	541-562-5197
Planning Commission business meeting			7:00 pm	
Senior / Community Meals	2nd Friday of the month	Catherine Creek Community Center	12:00 pm	541-562-2038
School Board	2nd Wed of the month	Athletic Complex	6:00 pm	541-562-5166
South County Health Dist	Last Friday of month / Oct, Jan, April, and July	Health Clinic	1:30 pm	541-562-2222
Union Cemetery Board	2 nd Tues of the month	Union Cemetery Office	9:00 am	541-562-5212
Union FFA Alumni & Supporters	3rd Wednesday	UHS Ag Science Classroom at the back of the gym	6:30pm	541-975-9495
VFW Bingo	Every Wednesday night	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar