

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 10am-4pm

April 2022



From The Desk Of
Doug Wiggins
City Administrator

March has been busy administratively as budget work has begun for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. While preliminary, it has come to realization our budget will be somewhere in the vicinity of 8 million for the next fiscal year. Keep in mind, a little over 2.5 million of that is due to some large grants from Business Oregon and ODOT.

As spring has sprung, we all can't help but think about cleaning up. With that in mind the City of Union will be having a city-wide clean up day on May 14, 2022. The city will be accepting from its residence the following types of waste:

Limbs, Leaves, Lawn pilings, wood, large garbage objects (to include mattresses, exercise equip, etc.), Metal, Appliances (including refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners), and all recyclables

We will not be accepting the following:

General household garbage, tires, or hazardous materials.

The dump area will be located at the recycling area by the treatment plant (410 Treatment Plant Rd) and be open and accepting material that day from 10am – 2pm only. So please have your stuff ready to come that day.

Council passed the TLT ordinance in March and will begin collecting a 5% tax on all short term (less than 30 day) stays on July 1, 2023. This money will be earmarked for improving tourism to Union and marketing our small city across the State.

Budget meeting dates are set for April 25-27 on the FY 22-23 budget. All budget meetings are open to the public and comments will be taken from the public on April 27, 2022. If you want to know what it takes monetarily to run the city this is a good chance to learn, listen and ask questions. The meeting will begin at 6pm each night.

Water and sewer rates were increased by the vote of Council in March and will take place beginning in April. You will see these increase on you bill to come in May. The new water rate will now be \$33.99 plus \$0.005 per cubic foot of usage for the first 1000 cubic feet (2000 during the summer months) and \$0.0125 charge per cubic feet for all use over 1000 cubic feet (2000 during the summer months). The new sewer rate will be \$51.50 for each residential equivalent unit. This equates to a 3% increase in the overall bill. The raise was very necessary with current replacement parts, the cost of pipe and fuel costs rising anywhere from 7%-40% over the past 18 months.

As always if you have comment, concerns, or questions, please reach out to City Hall and we will try to get an answer for you.

Have fun, get out and enjoy the warming weather.



Volunteer To Advance Heritage Tourism In Union...

The community of Union, Oregon is filled with opportunities for visitors to learn about western history and culture. The Union Victorian Cemetery offers a gravesite tour, there is a walking tour of the Union Historic District, the Union County Museum is open beginning Mother's Day weekend, the Union Carnegie Library holds an Ollie Osborn Mural and soon visitors can stay overnight at the former historic Union Ranger District Compound. Union residents are surrounded by historic assets. But, is the community fully capitalizing on these assets? We know that tourists come through Union via the Grand Tour Bike Route, to visit Catherine Creek State Park, and to play at our renowned Buffalo Peak Golf Course.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines heritage tourism as "traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present." While visitors come through the community, are we inviting tourists to stop in Union and experience western history and culture? Do we tell a story that holds tourists in Union long enough to spend money? The City of Union, Union Business owners, civic organizations, and volunteers have produced, with honor, our history. We have two information kiosks in the community, a City website inviting visitors to Union.

While tremendous work has been completed, more efforts can be done to highlight Union's history, invite heritage tourism and ultimately stimulate the local economy. If you would like to participate in efforts to grow Union's economy, via our established historical assets, I encourage you to learn more about heritage tourism and join one of the multiple civic and government committees preserving our heritage resources in the community such as City of Union Preservation Committee, Main Street Union, City of Union Chamber of Commerce, Union County Museum, Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and the Catherine Creek Community Center.

Property owners and businesses located in the Historic District are eligible to participate in the Historic Grant Programs at:

oregonparksandrecreation.grants.oregonheritage.stateoforegon

I hope you will consider volunteering to preserve and promote Union's heritage. Thank you, Cherie Kausler

You Can Make A Difference.....

The City is looking for local citizens who share a passion for Union, want to make a difference, and have the same values that make Union a great place to live. The following positions are open for election this fall:

- Mayor – 2 year position
- Council Position 2 – 4 year position
- Council Position 4 – 4 year position
- Council Position 6 – 4 year position

This is an exciting opportunity to give back to your community and learn more about local government. Filing applications will be accepted beginning June 1st. The final day for filing will be August 19th @ 5:00pm. Filing papers and instructions can be picked up at City Hall.



Catherine Creek Community Center

- ** Community Meals are the 2nd Friday of the month at noon. \$3.50 per person.
- ** Food Bank is every 3rd Friday from 10:00am ~ 11:00am
- ** “Fourth Friday” with vendors and music 4pm ~ 8:30pm (times may change based on activities & vendors)
 - ~Vendor spaces start at \$20 monthly (an additional fee if larger space is needed.)
 - ~Spaces are open to Artists, Crafters, Farmers, Foodies, Home Based Business, Musicians, Ranchers, Small Business, etc.
- **You may sell anything that is legal and you have certification or license to do so.
- ~Vendor sign-up sheets are available on Facebook or by email @ cccc667@gmail.com

Our goal by summer is to have a farmer’s market type program with a broad array of products & services offered. As well as fund community activities in & around the Community Center

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. 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. This service is free. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

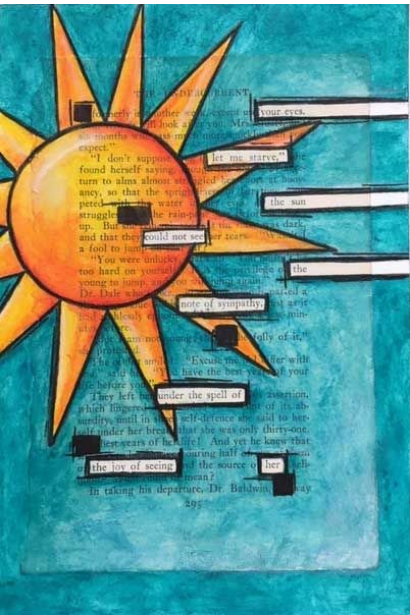
Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and 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:

- ♦ 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



Union Public Carnegie Library

**Join us for Adult Craft Night 4/11/22 @ 5:00
“Found Poetry”**

National Arbor Day ~ April 29th

Arbor Day is national holiday created to recognize the importance of trees. The most common way people celebrate is to gather together to plant trees.

Oregon is a “tree state”. We have diverse forests and beautiful trees. Oregon has some of the most productive forests and is home to some of the largest trees in the world. Trees are so important for our quality of life, for clean air, as well as a habitat for wildlife.

We invite you to celebrate the importance of trees in your life! Plant a tree this Arbor Day!

Summer Reading Program Survey

I have participated in the Union Carnegie Library summer reading program in the past.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ It wasn't available to me

I prefer many small prizes (stickers, pencils, magnets)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I prefer fewer, more expensive prizes.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I like useful prizes (bags, shirts, water bottles, skateboard)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I like manipulatives (fidget spinners, pop its, slime)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I like prizes that promote wellness (yoga mat, weights, gratitude journal)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I like prizes that promote education (books, science kits)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I like prizes that promote creativity (art supplies)

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I prefer gift cards.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I want activities specifically for teens.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I want activities specifically for toddlers & pre-k.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I want activities specifically for adults.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I would enjoy indoor activities.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I would enjoy outdoor activities.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

I want activities that promote wellness.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ No opinion

Comments:

Surveys can be returned to the library or city hall. Thank you for your participation.



Ordinance Education Corner....

Spring is here, and with that comes the invasion of noxious weeds and tall grasses. The City addresses these issues as follows:

Ord. 544, passed 12-8-2014; Ord. 547, passed 4-13-2015; Ord. 564, passed 11-8-2021

****NOXIOUS WEED.** A terrestrial, aquatic, or marine plant designated by the Oregon State Weed Board under O.R.S. 569.615 as among those representing the greatest public menace and as a top priority for action by weed control programs.

****NUISANCE WEED.** Any trees, plants, shrubs, grass, brush, weed, or other vegetation growing upon any property, which:

- (a) Has grown and died or has dried or is in a desiccated state and has become a fire hazard and/or a menace to public health, safety, and welfare; or
- (b) Are weeds or grass, except ornamental grasses, averaging more than **ten inches in height.**

****Responsibility.** A person in charge of property shall have responsibility for all vegetation on the subject property.

****Prohibition.** No person in charge of property may allow nuisances to exist on the property. It shall be the duty of a person in charge of property to remove nuisance and noxious weeds in violation of this chapter as often as needed to prevent them from becoming a fire or health hazard, or to prevent them from going to seed. A breach of any of these stated duties shall be a violation of this chapter. Failure to abate a nuisance within the time required by this chapter shall also be a violation of this chapter.

****Enforcing authority.** The City Council shall have full authority of law to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

The City Ordinance Officer will be monitoring tall grasses and weeds this spring and summer. We ask that property owners/tenants to be attentive to noxious weeds that you may have on your property (including the right-of-way) and handle them accordingly and immediately to prevent them from spreading. Grasses and non-noxious weeds, whether dry or green, are to be mowed and kept under the 10", to help prevent fire hazards.

For the full ordinance you can find it on our website www.cityofunion.com or call city hall at 541-562-5197

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ EMS / Rural Merge
- ⇒ Transient Lodging Tax
- ⇒ Wastewater Influent Screen
- ⇒ Buffalo Flats Project



City Council Members ~

Susan Hawkins	Leslie McMillan
Tim Cox	Terra Richter
John Farmer	Heidi Denton
Mayor Leonard Flint	



April Council Meetings

April 11th

- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

April 25th

- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

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

Masks are required when attending meetings.

- 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



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	
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	541-910-6002
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	7:00 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	4 th Wed of July, Oct, Jan, April	Library	4:00 pm	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	3rd Wed of the month	City Hall	7:00 pm	541-562-5197
Senior / Community Meals	2nd Friday of the month	Catherine Creek Community Center	12:00 pm	
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	EOLS Clubhouse	6:30pm	541-975-9495
VFW Bingo	Every Wednesday night	VFW Hall	5 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	7 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar