

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

February 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

As I sit at my desk and write this newsletter, the wind howls outside my office. While the wind howling may be normal for Union, the lack of snow is not. However, the lack of snow has allowed the Public Works crew to make significant headway on the 3rd and final ranger station building. The crew is almost done with the inside demolition to be able to then begin remodeling the inside. The hope is to have this final building ready and available for reservations by the end of this summer.

This past month city council welcomed three new councilors and re-elected mayor. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Councilors Kori Cox, Trisha Seale, and Donald George. Also, a warm welcome back to Mayor Susan Hawkins who was re-elected. The new councilors will be attending a training in Baker City the end of January for newly elected officials. The entire council will also be attending a training later this spring as part of the Public Meeting Law training requirements surrounding HB2805 that became effective this past fall.

The new council held a Goal Setting meeting on Saturday January 25th to review accomplishments over the past year, to set goals for the upcoming year, to assign liaisons to local groups and committees, and to set meeting times and days for committees. To that point, the following committees will meet this year: Water and Sewer the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm; Charter the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am; Zoning the 4th Saturday of each month at 9am; Streets the 4th Saturday of each month at 10am; Buffalo Flats the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10am; and the Ordinances committee will set their meeting dates and times in the near future. All meetings unless otherwise noted will be held at City Hall and the public is welcomed and encouraged to attend. I would like to bring particular attention to a Buffalo Flats committee that will be held on Saturday February 15th at 10am. Donald George and Dick Middleton will be holding this committee to discuss questions and concerns about the project and hear from anyone who wishes to come and meet and discuss.

It has been brought to my attention that not everyone is aware of the ability to sign up to receive electronic notices of council work sessions and business meetings and receive electronic copies of agendas. I encourage folks to give us a call or go to cityofunion.com and click on "City Council" to subscribe to the agendas and minutes of council meetings. Council wants residents to be involved in their local government and welcomes attendance and public comment at city council meetings.

Coming up at the February 10th work session at 6pm and council meeting at 7pm, the council will be discussing the water and sewer rates and welcome your input. Per Ordinance 563, council is to review the water and sewer rates in January and no later than March determine the appropriate rates to go into effect in April of that same year.

Also coming up at the February council meeting will be appointments to the Budget Committee. There are two vacancies to be filled for the upcoming budget committee with meetings to be held on April 22nd, 23rd 24th. If you are interested in volunteering on this committee please turn in a volunteer application by Monday February 3rd so that council can review applications and appoint at the February 10th council meeting.

As always, my door is always open and I welcome folks to stop in and say hi, or to bring their questions, suggestions or concerns to me for discussion.

Celeste Tate

Valentine's Day Menu
Friday, February 14th, 2025

Appetizers

1 lb Steamed Clams
1 lb Steamed Mussels
Shrimp Cocktail

Main Course

(your meal will include salad bar and parmesan toast)

Ribeye w/Fettuccine Alfredo or Baked Potato
New York Steak w/Fettuccine Alfredo or Baked Potato
Seared Tuna Steak w/Fettuccine Alfredo or Baked Potato
Seafood Scampi Fettuccine w/choice of Chicken, Shrimp or Steak

Dessert will be available as well as regular menu

RSVP recommended 541~562~6286

LJ Brewski's
267 S Main
Union, OR



Fun Facts

Origin: The holiday was originally celebrated to honor George Washington's birthday.

Date: President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February.

Official Name: The holiday's official name is Washington's Birthday, but it's more commonly referred to as President's Day today.

History: The holiday was established in 1885. In 1971, Richard Nixon combined Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays into one holiday.

States that don't celebrate: Some states, including Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, don't observe President's Day.

State of Virginia: Virginia holds month-long parades to celebrate President's Day.

City Hall will be Closed February 17th, 2025
In honor of President's Day

Don't Forget!

Before you burn in 2025 you will need a burn permit! Burn permits are \$10.00 and are valid for the 2025 calendar year.

Burn permits are available at City Hall



February 10th, 2025 ~ City Council Work Session and City Council Business Meeting.....council will be reviewing the current water and sewer rates and discussing any possible increases. The city invites you to attend and voice any concerns, to learn how and why the rate review is so important and the process behind the decision to change rates of water and sewer.

Work Session begins at 6:00 pm





Union Carnegie Public Library

~February Activities~



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

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

- 2/4 HAND TRACING ART
- 2/11 VALENTINES DOT ART
- 2/18 FISH SCALE ART
- 2/25 ANANSI ART

AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ FEBRUARY 4TH & FEBRUARY 18TH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

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

- 2/3 MACRAME (CLASS IS FULL)
- 2/24 MACRAME FINISHING WORK (CLASS IS FULL)

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING:

- 2/27 MEETS AT 9:00AM



THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY ON FEBRUARY 17TH

OUR SECOND ANNUAL SEED EXCHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH FROM 5:00PM ~ 6:00PM

SWING BY TO PICK UP NEW SEEDS FOR YOUR GARDEN OR TO EXCHANGE WITH A NEIGHBOR!

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY
182 S MAIN, UNION OR
541-562-5811
TIFFANY DERICHSEWILER ~ LIBRARIAN



Saving The Small Town Economy....

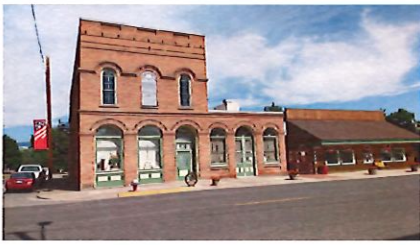
We all want Union to have the buildings downtown to have businesses in them. Small businesses bring people to our town which generates revenue to our town. They make downtown look alive and welcoming.

A small town business is crucial, it provides local jobs, contributes to the town's economy by generating revenue. Small business owners often have a close relationship with their customers, providing personalized service and the needs of the local population. Unlike large chains, small businesses can offer unique products and services that reflect the character of the town. Small business owners are often deeply involved in local events, charities, and community initiatives, contributing to the town's overall well-being. Small businesses help to define the identity and character of a town, contributing to its unique atmosphere and appeal.

When customers patronize a local business, most of the money they spend will end up circulating back into the local community. The Better Business Bureau's statistics show that when you spend \$100.00 at a local business, roughly \$68.00 stay within the local economy.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of our communities. They are contributing to your local community in ways you probably never even thought of. When you find that you need a special gift for someone, dinner out, a hair cut or groceries....remember to shop local. It may even result in more small businesses to open and prosper in our community.





What's Happening at the Museum....



February is a month that brings fond memories of grade school Valentine fun from the past. I'm sure many folks remember creating your very own decorated "mailbox" placed on your school desk just waiting for Valentine cards from classmates to be delivered. The real fun was in opening the cards and reading clever and fond sentiments from friends. I still have my Valentine cards from the first grade which by now could be viewed as valuable antiques. My Valentines aren't from the early 1800's when the Industrial Revolution helped make printed cards a new fad. There are several very ornate old Valentines at the museum. Many of the cards are found in postcard albums and have gold edging, flowers, birds or cupids with sweet messages or delightful poems.

Lovely and very ornate heart shaped boxes of chocolates were also a creation from the early 1800's. Some of the very early boxes were actually made of glass and are very rare and collectable items today. Cardboard heart shaped boxes were less expensive and could be more elaborately decorated with ruffled lace and velvet flowers. A few years later the New England Confectionery Company (NECCO) produced the small conversation hearts which are still popular today. Apparently ten new sayings are introduced each year and older sayings are retired. I wonder how people from the Victorian era would respond to messages such as "text me later", "yeah right", and "call home"?

Flowers are a popular gift for Valentine's Day in the past and currently. Approximately 189 million roses are sold in the U.S. around February 14th. In Victorian times various types of flowers were codified into an elegant and unspoken language understood by everyone. Many flowers, grasses, herbs and leaves represented carefully chosen sentiments. For example, a gift of snowdrop blossoms signifying hope and jonquils meaning a return of affections gave the unspoken message to the bouquet's recipient that the sender hoped for a return of affection. A red carnations message was "alas for my poor heart". A white clematis meant "I love your mind", a four leaf clover meant "be mine", an ice plant meant "your looks freeze me" and lavender indicated extreme distrust. Decrease of love or infidelity was the message in yellow roses and the silent message found in a spray of nettles simply meant "you are cruel." The many popular flowers of the time all had interesting and special meanings. My hidden message in plant form this month is cactus which simply means warmth.

More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

Mrs. Mathieus, a lady recently from Paris, France will open a dressmaking establishment next week in the building adjoining the Mortgage bank.

Mrs. Mathieus is an accomplished milliner and will employ an entirely new system for cutting and fitting dresses and wraps. Her advertisement will appear next week.

~Oregon Scout February 10, 1888

Frigid Temperatures!....

The temperatures the last few weeks have dipped well below freezing! Have you had any problems with broken water pipes? We really hope not!!

We all know that February in Eastern Oregon can be brutal, and will probably bring more extreme cold temperatures. The city's public works crew still cautions citizens to take precautions to avoid costly repairs to waterlines and even your home if waterlines inside break.

These few suggestions could save you hundreds of dollars:

- ♦ Let a faucet **"trickle"** (the size of a pencil lead)
- ♦ Leave cabinet doors open to expose pipes to warmth
- ♦ Wrap pipes inside and under house with insulation

If you do have a frozen waterline, thaw with a hair dryer or space heater. Low heat to thaw lines slowly is best.

If you do experience a waterline break and you see that the amount of water usage is unusually high, let us know here in the office and we can usually do a leak adjustment once repairs are done and the leak is fixed.



Budget Season

It is budget season for the City. Work is being done now for next fiscal year's budget.

Budget hearings will be April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th. There are two vacancies to be filled for the upcoming budget committee, if you are interested in volunteering on this committee please turn in a volunteer application by Monday February 3rd so that council can review applications and appoint at the February 10th council meeting. Volunteer applications can be picked up at city hall or found online at www.cityofunion.com.

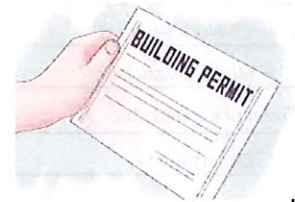
Planning To Build?...

Do you have plans to build soon? Remember, regardless of what you are building, you need to check with City Hall's Planning Department.

We will provide you with a pre-build permit, which is required by the Union County Building Department, and help with setbacks and other requirements.

Pre-builds from the city are \$25.00.

If you have questions regarding your building projects feel free to come by city hall or call.



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	To Be Determined		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.

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Water and Sewer rates
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances
- ⇒ 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	

February 2025 Council Meetings

February 10th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

February 24th

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 Laura Dodds at 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	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	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 Wednesdaynight	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar