

# 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 ~ Thursday 10:00am - 5:00pm  
Friday 10:00am - 4:00pm

*January 2022*



**From The Desk Of**

*Doug Wiggins*

City Administrator

Well today the snow has come, some slight drifting and it has turned cold this week. January 2022 is upon us, and the winter sails are blowing proudly.

December has been a somewhat busy month for our public works crew, even though December's weather hasn't been too bad until the final week of the month. Crews have been servicing vehicles and equipment, working on the completion of the Ranger Station home, continuing to clean the golf course reuse water pond, property clean up and burning, putting up seasonal lighting, and catching up on much needed other training. I believe our preparation for the winter this year is on point and will continue to evaluate to see how it goes as we progress and tweak where we must.

The city is going out to bid for a new influent screen at the wastewater treatment plant. Our other screen just is not cutting it and is nearly 20 years old. A new screen will cost the city around \$150,000 and then some building and channel modifications will bring the total project to about \$300,000. City of Union has saved diligently for this project and can't wait to get this upgrade done.

The City Council will be bringing an ordinance forward for public comment in both February and March of transient lodging tax. While a rate has not been decided at this time, it is estimated it will be around 5%. More details on this will emerge as public comment period nears. Of course, if you have questions, please contact us here at City Hall so we can get your input.

Council has also been working hard on the Buffalo Flats project and is soliciting feedback from citizens. While this is a contentious project, Council needs to hear your voice on the matter so they can bring a strong representation from Union citizens to the Union Soil and Water Conservation district on the project. If you are unsure of the what the Buffalo Flats project is, please see the Union County Soil and Water Conservation website at <http://unionswcd.org/> and click the Buffalo Flats tab. This project does have some potential to affect the City flood plain among other weed and pest issues. So please read and get with a Councilor or me so we can hear your views of the project. Council will be scheduling a public hearing soon for this event.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break and the year 2022 be bright for the City of Union and its residents.

Best regards and stay safe.



## **We can't stress this enough.....**

With freezing temperatures such as we just endured, we can't stress enough the importance of letting your water run, just a trickle. We have already had residents with frozen pipes. We understand the concern of your water usage and charges, but the costs of a plumber and repairs are going to be so much higher than the relatively small charge for water usage.

A few things we recommend to do:

- \* Open cupboard doors to expose pipes to heat
- \* Leave water running at a trickle (about the size of a pencil lead)
- \* Insulate pipes under the house

If your pipes do freeze, warm them up slowly so that the pipes don't break. Using a space heater or a hair dryer.

## **Snow Plow Etiquette....**

City crews are out moving snow and want you to remember that the snow plow has the right of way.

If a snow plow comes up behind you, move to the side if possible to let the plow pass by.

Don't ever pass a snow plow on the right, and if it is possible to pass on the left do it very carefully.

Don't follow a plow or gravel truck too closely as there can be gravel or other articles flipped up behind and can damage your windshield or vehicle.

There are copies of the City's snow removal policy available at city hall.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFE THIS WINTER



### Show Some Love

If it's too cold for you outside....it's too cold for your pets. Cold weather creates stress to your pet, causing hypothermia or other health issues. When the temperatures drop give your outdoor pets a loving break by bring them inside, even if it's just in the garage. If that absolutely isn't an option then they need some kind of shelter with dry warm bedding out of the wind. Insulate their shelter with straw or blankets.

Although we think our pets would drink more water in the summer month's, they drink just as much in the winter month's. Make sure to check their water often to make sure it is not frozen and that they have plenty.

When walking your dog this winter watch for injuries or frost bite on their paws. There are boots or other protective products for their paws. They will enjoy their walks so much more and they will thank you!

Our pets love us unconditionally and rely on us to take care of them and protect them.

Don't let them down, show them love.



### A Huge Thank-you!

Union's Volunteer Fire & Ambulance crews would like to Thank everyone who donated to this last year's Toys for Tots annual toy drive.

They were overwhelmed with happiness with the amount of generosity from the community. There were so many local children that were provided with a very Merry Christmas! And it couldn't have been done without YOU!

Again, a huge Thank-you and wishing you a very Happy New Year!!

Note: City residents and businesses with sidewalks are reminded that it is your responsibility to keep the sidewalk fronting their property and adjacent to city streets free of snow and ice accumulation. When sidewalks are not kept clear it may cause pedestrians to walk on the streets, therefore being a hazard to them and drivers.



### Important!

In the months to come we will be facing more freezing temperatures, wind and snow. That combination can cause frozen pipes and water meters.

In case of such emergency we may need to contact you! We request that you notify us if there have been changes in your contact information. In case of an emergency it may be important to contact the home owner and/or tenant, it is so important that we have your information.

Please call city hall at 541-562-5197, email [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com), or note any changes on your payment coupon.

We thank you so much for your cooperation.

### UNION SANITATION NEWS

DID YOU KNOW UNION SANITATION HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE? YOU CAN GET UPDATES ON DAILY ROUTES AND OTHER HAPPENINGS WITH YOUR GARBAGE SERVICE.

“LIKE” UNION SANITATION ON FACEBOOK AND STAY IN THE KNOW!

### Be Prepared Before You Hit The Road

Winter weather can shut roads down quickly, causing drivers to possibly be stuck away from home. This winter make sure you're prepared for winter weather driving emergency's. Having these essentials in your vehicle is a must:

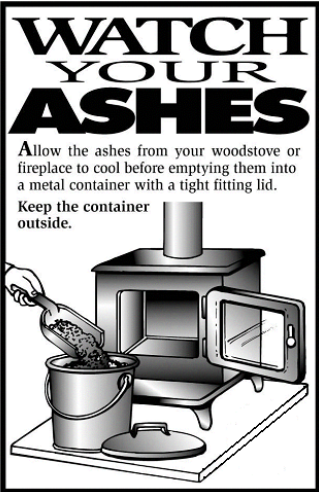
- \*\* Flashlight and extra batteries
- \*\* Blankets
- \*\* Boots, gloves, hats
- \*\* Cell phone chargers
- \*\* Water
- \*\* Emergency Flares

All items, except for the water, can be left in your vehicle at all times, therefore never leaving you in an emergency unprepared.

# Ashes Don't Belong In The Trash....

Are you using your wood stove to keep warm this winter? Please remember that your ashes should be disposed of properly, and not put into your trash can until they are **completely cold**. Place ashes in a metal container outside away from the house, out buildings, or anything else flammable. Keep your family and your property safe.

Ashes put into the trash too soon can also cause fire and costly damages to the garbage trucks. Those costs will be passed onto to you, so take care of those ashes properly.



City Newsletter.....  
*Would you like to receive the City's newsletter by email? Call us here at city hall, 541-562-5197 or email [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com) to request to receive your copy emailed to you.*



## COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ EMS pay
- ⇒ Transient Lodging Tax
- ⇒ Discussing Audit Results
- ⇒ Wastewater Influent Screen

City Council Members ~

Susan Hawkins  
Tim Cox  
John Farmer  
Mayor Leonard Flint

Leslie McMillan  
Terra Richter  
Heidi Denton



## December Council Meetings

- January 10th  
Council Work Session @ 6:00pm  
Council Meeting @ 7:00pm
- January 24th  
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](http://www.cityofunion.com)

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| 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    | <a href="mailto:unionchamber@eoni.com">unionchamber@eoni.com</a> |
| City Council                            | 2nd Mon of the month                                 | City Hall                        | 7:00 pm    | 541-562-5197                                                     |
| Council Work Sessions                   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon of month       | City Hall                        | 6.00 pm    | 541-562-5197                                                     |
| CUP Medical Association                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month                  | Catherine Creek CommCtr          | 10-11:00am | 541-562-2038                                                     |
| Friends of the Library                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues January, April, July & November | Union Library                    | 7:00 pm    | 541-562-5807                                                     |
| Grande Ronde Valley Masonic             | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month                     | Masonic Hall                     | 7:30pm     |                                                                  |
| Historic Preservation                   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed of the month                     | City Hall                        | 6:00pm     | 541-562-5197                                                     |
| Library Board                           | 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed of July, Oct, Jan, April         | Library                          | 4:00 pm    | 541-562-5811                                                     |
| Lions Club                              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Tues of the month                    | Union Cemetery Office            | 9:00 am    | 541-562-5212                                                     |
| 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                                                     |