

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

March 2023



From The Desk Of

Doug Wiggins

City Administrator

As March comes in I'm happy that some of these large projects will be getting underway. After delays through funding, delays from supply chain issues, the water project will be moving forward with construction beginning around mid-March. Additionally, we will be moving forward with our screen project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The screen has finally come in and the bid by Becker Construction was accepted by the Council. As soon as we can get the contracts signed and going, the project will get underway.

Bidding for the middle building at the Ranger Station will take place this month as we worked in February on working out all the bugs in the paperwork for the bid packets. We are still hopeful that this project will be completed by the end of the summer.

We should have our new DEQ permit by the end of March, something that has been in the works for over 15 years. It is nice to finally get this completed as we have been working on extensions since 2008.

Congratulations to the ARPA grant winners the City is looking forward to how these applied projects come together for our small City. The City gave out nearly \$24,000 in funds and will be evaluating the progress to decide whether to let more funds available following the summer.

I will begin working on the next fiscal year budget this month and we will look forward to hearing from the community in late April during the budget committee meetings.

The City did have some minor flooding in February from ice blockage on Catherine Creek west of 10th Street. With some quick work by crews and the Emergency Management Department of the County and the Mayor, we were able to get into the creek and clear the jam before any major damage occurred to homes. The flooding was alleviated within 24 hours. I call that a success and am very grateful the work of many hours of emergency planning came together to make the event manageable by the City.

Stay safe and we are heavily anticipating the coming of spring.

BUDGET SEASON

The City will be working on this next fiscal year's budget this month.

Budget hearings will begin in April. Dates will be posted and advertised next month.

In need of a Notary?

The City has three notary's on staff. There are two at City Hall, and the librarian at the Union Carnegie Public Library.

We are happy to offer this service free of charge.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please Join Us...

There will be a public hearing held April 10th, 7:00pm at city

hall in the Almquist Chambers regarding the City and Rural fire department's annexation.

We encourage all citizens of Union to attend.

The City of Union is accepting applications for a seasonal part-time Library Assistant. This position will not exceed 20 hours a week and will run through the summer, from May to the end of August 2023. Must be 18 or older to apply. The pay for this position will be \$13.00 an hour.

Applications can be picked up at city hall, or emailed upon request. Applications will be due by March 31st, 2023

If you have questions regarding this position contact city hall @ 541-562-5197 or

Tiffany at the library @ 541-562-5811

The City of Union is an equal opportunity employer.





What’s Happening At The Museum in March:

The Museum is still "buttoned up" for the winter. On the subject of buttons, how many of you readers could identify a button hook? This little item was listed as a very useful common household tool from 1890 to 1915. It simply made tasks like buttoning shoes (there were few shoe laces and no velcro fasteners), gloves, spats and collars much easier. The Museum has a nice collection of button hooks on display as well as some unique shoes with rows of buttons just waiting to be "hooked or unhooked."

When the Museum opens in May there will be a new, informative display focusing on one prominent feature on the north end of Union people notice when entering town as well as a final view when they leave. The Miller House.

This lovely home was built in 1869 by George Eames. The Miller family has retained ownership since the early 1900's and this historic home remains in the family to this day.

Some interior features were a dining room with elegant wallpaper and Victorian era wood work. There was a formal parlor with a unique fireplace with a three dimensional scene made of clay created by the hands of Elida Miller.

In the early days there was a swimming pool and a tennis court on the east side of the home. These features are long gone from the grounds.

In the 1930's there was a raised wading pool in front of the house. A picture of Mrs. Miller with a large group of young children will be included in the new display. Some of the children are identified and some are not. It would be wonderful if more of these happy children could be identified by Museum visitors.



Snippet of Union’s History.....

Philanthropic propensities entertained by Andrew Carnegie, the steel magnate, backed by enterprising diligence on the part of the leaders and membership of the Union Women’s club, has spelled a splendid public library for Union. Word was received today from Carnegie’s representative in the east that a donation of \$5,000 will be forwarded to Union to construct the library building and to be used in the embryonic equipment of the building, once erected. This gift is based on the usual Carnegie library plan but the Union people are fortunate in their possession of a site which immediately reduces the preliminary expense and guarantee funds to be raised by the town.



Through the leadership of Mrs. Alice Cooper, president of the Women’s Club, Mrs. George Selbird and Mrs. Nellie Hill, the women of Union have been able to purchase a desirable site and have provided for the assurance of the needed \$500 maintenance fund yearly.

The Union people have the selection of plans in their hands and this work will progress with due dispatch. There is much elation here among the ladies who planned and brought the project to a successful culmination and also among the public in general. The amount of money yet to be raised is so trifling as to be a minor consideration in the procedure now remaining to insure a completed building.

La Grande Evening Observer May 3, 1911

CLEAN UP DAY!

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

9:00am ~ 1:00pm

Watch your newsletter for more information!

March....Health & Wellness Awareness Month

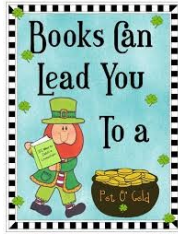
We should all be aware of our health and wellness each and every day of every month!! But March is a month of special awareness’s such as: Kidney, Endo-metrioses, Colorectal, Sleep, Nutrition, Poison Prevention....just to name a few.

In today’s crazy busy world we tend to forget to take care of ourselves!! Take this month to reassess your health and wellness and to take care of YOU.

UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

March Storytimes - Tuesdays 10 am - 11 am

7th Rainbow Blower
14th Chia Planter Pots
21st Puppet Theater
28th Ghost Letters



**Adult craft night March 13th 5-6pm:
Painted Planter Pots

**March Madness Book Bracket

**Vote weekly on Union's favorite titles to find
the ultimate people's choice champion!!



Library Hours
Monday 10am - 6pm
Tuesday thru Thursday 10am - 5pm
Friday 10am - 4pm
182 N Main
541-562-5811

The Mayor and City Council honored city employees
Robin George, Brandon George and Paul Phillips at the
last council meeting held on February 13th, 2023.

These employees showed exemplary bravery and citizenship
during a recent trailer fire, by pulling a man away from the

burning trailer and staying
with him, putting out the
fire that was on him and
providing comfort
measures until EMS
arrived.

The City is proud to have
such great citizens as city
employees.



Annual Backflow Preventer Testing

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
- ◆ Solar heat systems
- ◆ Fire sprinkler systems
- ◆ Auxiliary water supplies (wells)
- ◆ Laboratory equipment
- ◆ Food and beverage processing equipment
- ◆ Chemical feed 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.

I have had my backflow preventer tested, now what:

You must submit a completed test report to city hall
annually. If you have not had your backflow preventer
tested within the last year you have until April 15th to
provide the City with your test report.

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

City of Union will not be able to allow water ser-
vice 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.

Catherine Creek Community Center....

The Catherine Creek Community Center has multiple opportunities and events planned for spring 2023. Events begin with a second Anniversary Auction Celebration on March 4th. The event will include a silent auction with donations from local businesses and artists.

The Catherine Creek Community Center Thriving Entrepreneur Program funded by the Oregon Community Foundation is hosting Co-Starters Core. The 10 week class begins Monday, March 6th and is provided in collaboration with Northeast Oregon Economic Development District and Reinventing Rural.

Two renovations projects are planned in the next few months. The stained glass windows will get new plexiglass coverings. The Delta Street walkway and ADA ramp will be replaced to assure safe access to the building.

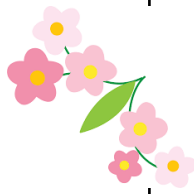
Our Last Friday's vendor shows will return on March 31st, 2023. In addition to vendors, live music and food will be available. A fundraiser will launch this March to repair and stabilize our historic stained glass windows. Coloring books are available for sale now at \$5.00 per book.

The Catherine Creek Community Center will be hiring part time staff to work in youth programming.

For more information see. www.CatherineCreekCommunityCenter.com



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12TH



Reminder: Utility bills are due by the 15th of each month. Any account with a balance after the 15th will receive a late fee of \$15.00. If account is not paid by the last working day of the month late notices are delivered and accrue an additional \$20.00 late notice fee. If account is not paid by the due date notated on late notice, services will be discontinued, a \$35.00 fee will be assessed for turn off and account will be due in full to have services restored. The city accepts credit/debit cards (includes a small convenience fee), cash and checks. There is a convenient and secure drop box in the foyer at city hall. And there is online payment services on the city's website.

Dog's At Large...

It seems we have always had a problem with dogs running at large, but recently we are having a larger number of them reported.

The City's ordinance regarding this issue states:

****It shall be unlawful for the owner or custodian of any dog to cause, permit or allow such dog to roam, run, stray or be away from the premises of such owner or custodian and to be on any public place, any public property or the private property of another within the city. An owner or custodian of a dog may take it off the owner's or custodian's premises provided the dog is under restraint. Any dog found roaming, running, straying, or being away from the owner or custodian's premises and not on a leash or under control as herein provided, is hereby declared to be at large, and such dog may be seized and impounded subject to the redemption provisions of this chapter. In lieu of, or in addition to, impounding a dog, the owner or custodian may be cited by a Deputy or the Sheriff for violation of this chapter.**

The City contracts with the Union County Animal Control to enforce our dog ordinance. If you are having issues with dogs running loose call the sheriff's department at 541~963~1017 and report it to animal control.

If you have a dog that is running loose, you need to take measures to keep it contained.

Building Plans?

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

We can help you with setbacks, will be able to determine if you need to obtain a pre-build, and if you need to follow up with the a building permit from Union County Building Department.

Pre-builds from the city cost \$25.00 and are required by the county.



Call Before You Dig!

Did you know that it is the law that you call 811 before you dig? It's smart, it's safe, and it's the law!

Big job or small, calling before you dig prevents damage to underground utilities, service interruptions and possibly bodily injury.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

The Utility Notification Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They accept calls from anyone planning to dig anywhere in the state. And best of all....IT'S FREE!

Calling before digging ensures that any publicly owned underground utility is marked according to color codes set by the APWA. Normally locates are done in as little as 2 days (not including weekends or holidays). Locates are marked up to your property, utility workers are not allowed to mark utility locations on private property.

Be sure to call far enough in advance of the date you plan on beginning your work.

Don't risk hitting a public utility, call 811!



Ordinance Education Corner...

With Spring hopefully right around the corner, the ordinance officer wants to remind you to control that tall grass, weeds and noxious weeds!

What the ordinance officer will be watching for this spring:

- ◆ Overgrown lawns and weeds exceeding 10”
- ◆ Noxious weeds
- ◆ Grasses, weeds and noxious weeds that are allowed to go to seed and spread
- ◆ Tall grasses that are allowed to dry and become a fire hazard

Be a good citizen and neighbor. Take pride in your community and keep Union beautiful. Help a neighbor if you can!

It is the property owner/tenant responsibility to maintain property. Please remember you can receive a citation for violation of this ordinance.



Would you like to receive your newsletter by email? Just call city hall at 541-562-5197 or email lauradodds@cityofunion.com and we will put you on the email list.

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:



- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Wastewater Influent Screen
- ⇒ Water System Update Project
- ⇒ Rural & City Fire/EMS merger
- ⇒ Water/Sewer Rates

~City Council Members ~

Jay Blackburn Dick Middleton
Tim Cox John Black
John Farmer Anita Davis

Mayor Susan Hawkins

March 2023 Council Meetings

March 10th
Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

March 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



Like us on Facebook!

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	
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 Wednesdaynight	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	7 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar