

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

March 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

March is upon us and Daylight Savings Time is just around the corner! I look forward each year to the start of spring, the longer days, and the new growth with flowers popping up, green grass and local produce. We should also strive to grow as individuals and learn new things. I

know that I have learned an immense amount over the course of the last year as your City Administrator. I have enjoyed expanding my knowledge and meeting many of you as well. Though spring is also a busy season I look forward to continued growth as I do my best to meet the needs of the residents and support city council in their goals for Union. I also appreciate those that I have met that continue to work hard at continuous improvement within the city, keeping it a wonderful spot in eastern Oregon and looking for ways to make it better.

I continue my work on the 2025-2026 Budget and 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. I encourage you to attend and see how the city budgets the public resources we are entrusted with. 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 new City Council have set their goals for the 2025-2026 year, committees have been formed and liaisons assigned to help work on those goals. All meetings are open to the public at city hall and participation is encouraged. The meeting times and council members that lead are:

Committees:

Water/Sewer - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm – Donald George and Dick Middleton

Charter - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 10am – Susan Hawkins and Anita Boyer-Davis

Zoning - 4th Saturday of each month at 9am – Kori Cox and Trisha Seale

Streets - 4th Saturday at 10am – Kori Cox and John Black

Ordinances - TBD – Trisha Seale and John Black

Liaisons:

Main Street Union – Trisha Seale

Historic Committee – Susan Hawkins

Fire/EMS – Trisha Seale

Library – Anita Boyer-Davis

Trails – Kori Cox

Buffalo Flats – Dick Middleton and Donald George

Do you know what a charter is? A city charter is a document that defines the basic rules on how the city will operate and serve the needs of its residents. It is similar to a country's constitution, or an organization's bylaws. The primary purpose is to define the structure, powers and responsibilities of the municipality. An example of things that are typically in a city charter are how the city council and other officials are elected; the roles of the mayor, city council and city manager or administrator; and the scope of the city's authority to manage issues such as zoning. Examples of things that should not be in a city charter are specific day-to-day operational details; specific budget allocations or dollar amounts; or any rules that could conflict with state or federal law. Instead, local Ordinances are to address those specifics.

I will be 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. Look for the first question in this month's newsletter and good luck!

Celeste Tate

BUDGET SEASON

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.

March 9th, 2025

Daylight Savings
Begins.....

Don't Forget To
"Spring" Forward



Water / Sewer Rates Increase

City Council has reviewed the city's finances and has approved a 3% rate increase in sewer base rates and a 3% rate increase in water base rates, effective April 1st, 2025. You will see these changes reflected on your May 1st utility bill you receive.

Beginning April 1st, water base rate will be \$35.72 for a 3/4" meter. In addition to the base rate each cubic foot used is charged at .005 cents up to 1000 cubic feet, (up to 2000 cubic feet during summer months) and .0125 per cubic foot thereafter.

Also, beginning April 1st, sewer base rate will be \$55.74 according to size of meter and multiplier.

Therefore, an average household with a 3/4" meter will have a utility bill base rate, before any water usage, of \$101.46 (includes the EMS fee). Looking forward, the EMS fee will be removed in July.

As stated, these new rates will be reflected on the utility bill you receive in May.

WE NEED YOU!



The City of Union has two open seats on our Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission consists of seven members, conducts public hearings on planning applications, subdivision applications, variances, conditional use, and other land use applications. The Planning Commission is the approval authority, making decisions and recommendations based on the city's Comprehensive Plan and requirements in the city's zoning codes for the continued growth and best interest of the city.

The Planning Commission meets once a month, on the third Wednesday, with a work session beginning at 6:00pm and a business meeting at 7:00pm. Business meetings are dependent on applications received.

The Planning Commission is the perfect place to start if you are interested in becoming more involved in the city, and want your community to thrive. If you are interested in applying or want more information, please contact city hall. Applications can be picked up at city hall, or found online at www.cityofunion.com, or call 541~562~5197 and we can email you an application.

We need **YOU** to apply!

WE  OUR
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. When you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

~Marjorie Moore



Union Carnegie Public Library

~March Activities~

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

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

- 3/4 BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OOBLECK/DR. SEUSS
- 3/11 GLITTER WANDS
- 3/18 TRUCK BRIDGE
- 3/25 BIRD FEEDERS

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

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

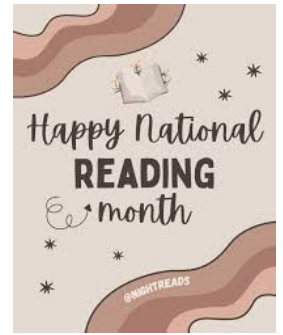
- 3/3 LOOM BEADING ~ FINAL SESSION
- 3/10 PUZZLE NIGHT! BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND USE OUR PUZZLES OR BRING YOUR OWN TO WORK ON IN A RELAXED ENVIRONMENT
- 3/31 BOOK NOOK ~ WORK TOGETHER ON THIS COMMUNITY CRAFT THAT WILL ADORN THE LIBRARY SHELVES

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

182 S MAIN, UNION OR

541~562~5811

TIFFANY DERICHWEILER ~ LIBRARIAN



Feeding The Deer?

Well-intentioned people often feed deer, elk and other wildlife without realizing the problems feeding wildlife can create:

- Artificial feeding concentrates wildlife, which leads to the easier spread of disease and parasites.
- Feeding deer and elk attracts their natural predators like cougar, coyotes and even wolves to populated areas.
- Once wildlife associate people with giving them food, they come to expect it, and can cause aggressive behavior towards humans
- Concentrating deer and elk in human-settled areas can lead to an increase in vehicle collisions and conflicts between pets and wildlife

Every year, ODFW sees seemingly healthy deer die because they have been fed the wrong food by people. Their diet needs are actually best met by natural foraging. What about deer that have been born here and live here? All wildlife is just that, "wild", and are born with natural instincts that they need to survive without the interference of humans.

The City of Union ORD 533 Prohibits the feeding of Deer, Racoons, Wild Turkeys, or any other potential habituated wildlife within city limits.

Union Sanitation Notice

Due to significant increases for landfill disposal fees and material recovery facility fees and the costs of operations there will be an increase in your sanitation services beginning March 1st.

New rates are as follows:

- 42 Gallon roll cart per week.....\$27.21/month
- 64 Gallon roll cart per week.....\$32.26/month
- 96 Gallon roll cart per week.....\$37.32/month
- Once a Month Pickup 42 Gallon Can.....\$14.25





What's Happening at the Museum....

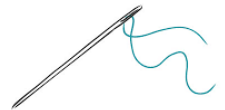


Stars with wild geese, double nine patch, wandering foot and birds in flight are only a few of the many patterns used to make historic quilts. Many beautiful quilts have been donated to the Union County Museum and represent true skill, talent and expertise with a needle and thread. Quilting was and still is a popular endeavor which has been made much easier today with a variety of sewing and quilting machines. However, in the past all sewing was done completely by hand and seeing these quilts today is a testament to great skill and pride in workmanship. I think it would be a treasure for the community and the museum to create a quilt display that includes pictures of the quilt maker, their life story and perhaps even favorite family recipes. Anyone interested in sharing please let us know.

Oftentimes fabric and sewing supplies were not readily available. I'd like to share a story about a darning needle I read in the book *QUILTS OF THE OREGON TRAIL* written by Mary Bywater Cross.

Apparently the 15 families living in Pass Creek Canyon in the Cascades had access to only one darning needle. Women did make their own pins out of slivers of dogwood but for patching, mending or quilting a needle was necessary. One lady referred to as Grandmother Drain owned a needle and generously shared it with all the neighbor ladies. This needle was passed from household to household by running a red string through the eye and then sticking the needle into a potato for transport. An eight year old boy was entrusted with the task of taking the needle to a neighbor. Unfortunately on his trip through the woods he was frightened by a bear and dropped the potato as he ran for safety. Several neighbors learning of this disaster combed the woods and luckily found the potato holding the needle. Then, one day while the needle was being used the eye broke off rendering it useless. Mending piled up and fortunately one day a peddler came through the area. The peddler was told the story of the lost and broken needle. After hearing the story of how the needle had been passed from family to family the peddler announced that he was going to give each lady a gift. He had one packet in his goods and he gave each lady her very own darning needle. This kind peddlers' name was Aaron Meier, who later was the gentleman who opened the Meier and Frank Store in Portland in 1857. The story of the needle was used in a Meier and Frank ad in the *Oregonian* newspaper in 1967 and each lady thereafter who shopped at the Meier and Frank Fabric Center received a complimentary needle.

Stay warm. More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

Monday last, marshal Cates gathered in two of our fellow townsmen, Sam Hing and Jew Lee, and took them before his honor, recorder Davis. They were charged with unlawfully indulging in the use of that deleterious, but soothing compound prepared from the juice of the poppy. Or in other words "hitting the pipe", smoking opium. Each plead guilty to the charge and contributed ten dollars each to the city treasury.

~Oregon Scout March 20, 1886

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

"March Comes In Like A Lion .. And Out
Like A Lamb"

This weather proverb associated with the month of March, signifying that the month may start with harsh, stormy weather, and end with milder, calmer weather. The most widely accepted theory is that the phrase refers to the position of constellations in the sky, with Leo (lion) appearing at the start of March and Aries (lamb) following late March. The phrase was first documented in 1732.



Contest Entry Coupon



A city charter serves as the foundational document for a local government, defining its powers, structure and how it operates, including roles of elected officials and procedures for governance. Charters can be amended through a public vote, allowing citizens to modify the structure of their government as needed.

This month's contest question is: What year was the City of Union's charter last updated?

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 Deadline for entries is March 20th, 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	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
- ⇒ 2025-2026 Budget
- ⇒ 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	

March 2025 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



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