

# 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

*September 2022*



**From The Desk Of**

*Doug Wiggins*

City Administrator

August was hot and with some of those long dry days, it takes a toll. I hope you all were able to stay cool and hydrated during the heatwaves in August.

The Ranger Station, final inspection has been scheduled and we await the building inspector. Landscaping will continue, but focus has been on getting the inside of the house ready for guests. While the goal was to hit the first of September, we await the final inspection and believe we are only a couple of weeks off. We began siding the middle and home closest to town and hope to have them done and painted before winter weather hits. We will soon begin work on the interior of the middle home in the next few months.

The park has been busy this past month with Grassroots Festival and the neighborhood barbeque sponsored by Mainstreet Union. Robin worked hard this summer on the park to keep it in good shape for the end of summer happenings and I believe she did a great job on it. A Mainstreet Union group has formed a committee and will be sending questionnaires out to Union citizens asking for future park plans. They are working at creating a Master Plan for the park in which they hope that Council will adopt and put in place a way to start applying for grants and such to build out a great park for years to come.

The wastewater plant is getting a new screening system. Within the next few months, construction should begin out there to begin the placing of a better screen to remove the solid items that seem to find their way into the sewer. This will help clean the plant and make the plant more efficient as the current screen is over 20 years old and not functioning the way it should, causing a dirty plant.

Negotiations continue with the contractor and business Oregon on the big water contract so we can meet our construction budget. With inflation the bid came in nearly \$300,000 over budget, so we continue to work with Business Oregon, the Contractor and our City Engineer to get us back in line with the grant budget. Due to this, construction has been delayed another month or so.

The Library Levy will be placed on the ballot at a rate of \$1.05/\$1000. After thorough review we believe we can maintain the services we currently have and not have to cut any programs with nearly a 15% cut in the tax rate. I should note this has been a busy year for the library as their summer program was larger than ever and serving over 285 youth and adults through the summer.

Talking with Donna Beverage and being here for the Grassroots Festival and car show, it was a great event. The number of vendors doubled from the previous year along with many more car entries and activities held during the day. It was so great to see the streets lined with people for 3 blocks with vendors flooding into the park.

Also, on the ballot this coming November will not only be the Library Levy but whether the residents of Union wish to ban Psilocybin activities in Union. On the 2020 ballot, 70% of Union residents voted against the State measure. Council felt that even though Union residents were strongly against it and yet passed the statewide ballot, it was important to get it on the ballot for local control.

What a great summer it has been, and we continue to plug away with the Chestnut Street rehabilitation coming within the next couple of months.

Here's looking to a great fall.

## **Your Toilet Is Not A Trash Can.....!!**

**We have been experiencing an alarming amount of 'non flushable' items, causing problems of clogging and pumping issues at the treatment facility. The pumps and systems are designed to only handle water, human waste and toilet tissue paper only.**

### **Items that should NOT BE FLUSHED:**

- Cloth rags, towels, flushable towelettes (that are not actually flushable)
- Paper that is not toilet tissue, feminine hygiene products of any kind, beauty products, dental floss
- Medications, syringes, catheters, prophylactics
- Grease or oils of any kind, pesticides, fertilizers

**All these items need to be disposed of properly.....not down the toilet!**



THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!

THESE ACTIONS COULD JEOPARDIZE THE CITY OF HAVING A RECYCLE CENTER! IF THE BIN'S ARE FULL, JUST TURN AROUND AND BRING YOUR RECYCLE BACK ANOTHER DAY. OUR TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR CALLS THE LA GRANDE RECYCLE TO COME PICK UP THE BIN'S JUST AS SOON AS THEY ARE FULL, SO YOU WILL ONLY HAVE TO HOLD ONTO IT FOR A DAY OR SO AND BRING IT WHEN WE GET AN EMPTY BIN DELIVERED. NOTE: IF YOU BREAK DOWN YOUR BOXES THE BIN WILL HOLD MORE!



REMEMBER: THERE ARE CAMERAS LOCATED AT THE RECYCLE AREA, WE SEE WHO DOES THIS AND IT CAN RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO \$500.00!!

ALSO....THIS IS NOT A DUMP SITE. THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO GET RID OF NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS, SUCH AS OVEN DOORS, SHELVING AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD TRASH ETC.



Union Carnegie Public Library

Adult Craft Night ~ September 12th @ 5:00pm

Storytime on Tuesdays @ 10:00am

September 6th story-time will include a Unicorn Craft

September 13th story-time will include Sidewalk Stained Glass Art

September 20th story-time will include a Blanket Fort

September 27th story-time will include Michelangelo Art

If you have any questions about the Library budget or would like to see the Library Budget you can get a copy at the Library or City Hall.

BACK TO SCHOOL....

It's time when kid's are back in school. That means a lot of children on the streets, sidewalks and crosswalks. Be extra careful and watchful when driving around town.

We all need to work together to take care of and protect our kids!



Extreme Fire Danger

A very wet spring, an abundance of vegetation growth and then the weeks of hot weather.....all add up to extreme fire danger. Fires are going on now in our local wildernesses.

All of us, hunters, campers, recreationalists and those who just love to go for drives, we all need to be responsible stewards of our mountains and surrounding areas. All smoking should only be done inside your vehicle, and never dispose or throw a cigarette out of your vehicle. Park on a gravel or dirt road with no grasses that could be fueled by a spark or the heat that radiates from your vehicle.

Always carry a shovel, a bucket, water and even a fire extinguisher.



ATTENTION JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

THIS SEPTEMBER CITY COUNCIL WILL HAVE AN OPEN STUDENT LIAISON POSITION. THIS STUDENT LIAISON POSITION IS A LINK BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY, PROVIDING A WAY FOR BOTH PARTIES TO EASILY COMMUNICATE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.

THE POSITION IS ONLY OPEN TO JUNIOR & SENIOR STUDENTS IN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE POSITION IS A 9 MONTH TERM, ONE MEETING A MONTH IN THE EVENING (SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH) AND POSSIBLY A SPECIAL PROJECT APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR. AT THE END OF A SUCCESSFUL 9 MONTH TERM THE STUDENT WILL BE AWARDED A \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIP PAID TO THE COLLEGE THEY ATTEND.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY CONTACT CITY HALL AT 541-562-5197 OR EMAIL [LAURADODDS@CITYOFUNION.COM](mailto:LAURADODDS@CITYOFUNION.COM)

Labor Day

Monday, September 5. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers and is traditionally observed on the first Monday in September. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894.

In the late 1800s, at the height of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the average American worked 12-hour days and seven-day weeks in order to eke out a basic living. Despite restrictions in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 toiled in mills, factories and mines across the country, earning a fraction of their adult counterparts' wages.

People of all ages, particularly the very poor and recent immigrants, often faced extremely unsafe working conditions, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks. They began organizing strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and compel employers to renegotiate hours and pay. Many of these events turned violent during this period, including the infamous Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed.

In the wake of this massive unrest and in an attempt to repair ties with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories. On June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed it into law. More than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has yet to be identified.

Labor Day weekend also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, street parades and athletic events.



Ordinance Education Corner....

NOTICE:

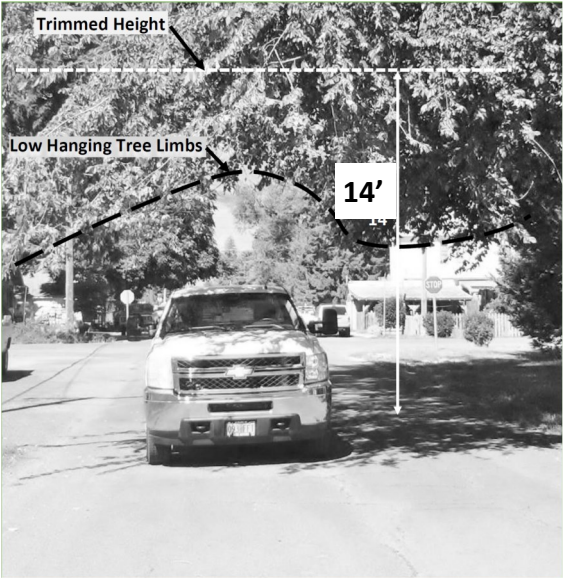
There are many trees abutting City streets throughout town whose branches hang too close to the road. The photo below shows a tree on a typical Union city street where the limbs of the shown tree are hardly more than 7 feet above the street.

It is the responsibility of the property owner and/or tenant to maintain overhanging trees and shrubbery encroaching onto the sidewalks and streets.

Trees and shrubs that encroach into the sidewalks and streets can block stop signs and other street signs. Low hanging trees also cause damage to city equipment, fire trucks, and the ambulance, as well as other utility entity vehicles.

Some trees overhanging the street and rights-of-way can be easily corrected by the homeowner or tenant. Some trees may require special equipment and operators. In those cases, property owners are encouraged to use a qualified, licensed and bonded tree service.

This photo is an example of the height that trees should be trimmed.



COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:



- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Wastewater Influent Screen
- ⇒ Water System Update Project
- ⇒ Chestnut Street Project

~City Council Members ~

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

September Council Meetings

- September 12th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

- September 26th
- 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)



| 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 <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          |
| Union FFA Alumni & Supporters           | 3rd Wednesday                                        | EOLS Clubhouse                   | 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                         | 7 pm       | 541-562-6035          |

Community Calendar