

# 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 - Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

February 2021



I sit here and write this correspondence as the wind howls and the drift builds outside my office door. The story for January is "Cold" and to me unseasonably windy for the area, but many believe to tell me this is quite normal for Union.

Council held its annual Goal Session on January 25, 2021. Many goals and projects have been identified to include:

Parks, Water and Sewer Rates, Ranger Station, Fire/Ems Services, Ordinance Review, and City Charter

Council will meet at their regular meeting on February 8, 2021 to formally adopt their goals for the year.

The City staff just completed valve replacements inside the facility at the wastewater treatment plant and will move to outside valve replacements as weather allows. Many of these valves were 20 plus years old and failing to properly open or close. Staff continues the draining of the Golf Course pond for cleaning this early spring. This project should help control pond odors and the City will be adding fountains for help with biological breakdown.

We found out the Governor just released the lottery money for grant programs and are still in the running for the lamp replacement at the park. The City hopes to find out in late February if we are awarded the grant. We remain optimistic on procurement of the grant, but although funds were released for these grants they have been severely limited due to lottery revenues being down.

The City secured a plumber for the Ranger Station and this project begins to move ahead once again. The goal to have the building open by June is still attainable and while slightly behind schedule, we believe it can be made.

Staff has continued to work on their education requirements for their respective certificates. While many classes are no longer in person I think we all can say we are about "zoom"ed out. It's unfortunate the County remains in extreme risk and has been since the beginning of the year. Staff at the office misses the public contact and we are itching to open our doors again.

Until then, stay safe.



## COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Water/Sewer Rate Study
- ⇒ COVID updates
- ⇒ 2021 Goals
- ⇒ Monitoring Local Economy/Small Businesses
- ⇒ Weed Ordinance Updates



The City of Union has two open seats on the following committees:

There is one open seat on the City of Union's Planning Commission. The planning commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month when there are planning applications. This seat is open to city residents or residents outside city limits.

There is one open seat on the City of Union's Budget Committee. The budget committee meetings are held during the months of April, May and June. This position is for residents inside city limits only.

If you are interested, applications can be mailed, emailed, faxed or found on our website [www.cityofunion.com](http://www.cityofunion.com). If you have questions call 541-562-5197

## February Council Meetings

February 8th

- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

February 22nd

- 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)

*Like us on Facebook!*



## Position Opening:

Union Cemetery Maintenance District has a position opening up for a new board member. The position is for 4 years and will come up for vote in April. Applications must be turned in no later than March 18, 2021.

If you are interested please go to the County offices or come to the Cemetery Office between the hours of 9:00am to 11:00am Monday through Fridays and pickup an application.

If you have questions please call 541-562-5212

*Note: This is not a City position, please do not call city hall.*



## UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

**AT THIS TIME WITH COVID RESTRICTIONS  
THE LIBRARY IS 'BY APPOINTMENT ONLY'**

### LIBRARY HOURS

**MONDAY ~ THURSDAY**

**10:00 ~ 4:00**

**FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL  
541~562~5811**



## Burn Permits Are Available

2021 burn permits are available for purchase at city hall, please call for an appointment.

Common Questions about burning:

- ◇ How much does a burn permit cost and how long are they valid? A burn permit costs \$10.00, it is valid for one calendar year.
- ◇ Do I have to buy a permit? Yes, if you want to burn either in a burn barrel or open burn.
- ◇ Can I burn any time of day or night? No, all fires must be out by dusk. Burning should be done during daylight hours. (preferably on a day when the wind is fairly calm)
- ◇ Can I burn everything? No, there are things you are not allowed to burn. You **can't** burn trash, tires, waxed cardboard, wet leaves and debris. You can burn dry leaves, yard debris, branches and untreated wood.
- ◇ Can I burn any size of pile? Where do I have to put my burn barrel?

The city's burning regulation pamphlet answers all of these questions and more. If you need a pamphlet you can request one from city hall when you purchase your burn permit. Or we can mail, email or you can call and make an appointment at 541-562-5197 to pick up a copy.

## FOG

### What Is FOG?

FOG is an acronym for **Fats, Oils, and Grease**, which is commonly found in wastewater. When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes and equipment and cause significant problems in the sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. Problems such as sewer line blockages cause environmental health hazards and property damage and lead to increased operation and maintenance costs which show up as higher sewer bills for customers.

### Why Should You Care?

Residential households and some businesses contribute FOG build-up in the sewer lines because of the amount of grease washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Sewer lines in older homes are most at risk of sewer backup if residents don't properly dispose of FOG. It may seem obvious and straight forward that if a sewer backup occurs the City is responsible for cleaning it up and for any financial loss that may have occurred. But often, this is not the case. The City is responsible for maintaining the mains, keeping them clean so your sewage flows freely to the transmission mains. Homeowners and businesses are responsible for the laterals; these are the lines connecting your home to our mains. If a blockage occurs in the lateral, it is the homeowner's and business owner's responsibility to repair it and pay the cleanup costs.

### What Can You Do?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem is to keep FOG out of the sewer system in the first place. Follow these easy tips listed below and not only will you be protecting the environment from sanitary overflows, but you may not have to call a plumber and spend unknown amounts of money.

- ⇒ Never pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink drains or garbage disposal
- ⇒ Pour FOG into jars, cans, and plastic tubs (wait until cooled). Let contents cool and solidify. Or mix with absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container and then when the container is full, just throw it in your trash.
- ⇒ Never dispose of FOG outside, on the ground, or down the storm drain.

Our goal is to keep our system clean and running smoothly to provide the best system for our citizens. We all need to work together to ensure these standards are continued to be met.

**RATTLE TALE**  
*Coffee & Such*

Espresso  
Coffee, Tea,  
Smoothies  
Breakfast Burrito's  
Pastries  
Winger Wednesdays!

332 S Main St  
Union, OR 97883

Present this coupon to  
receive \$1.00 off any  
purchase.  
Limit one coupon per  
purchase.

**SNOW PLOWS & SANDERS!!**

In a contest between a snowplow and another vehicle, the snowplow will be the clear winner. Drivers who try to pass on the right when a snowplow is in operation run the risk of damage their vehicles, hitting the snowplow or going off the road.

On state highways, passing a snowplow on the right is illegal. On most Oregon highways, snowplows have 'wing' plows that stick out more than 8 feet from the right side of the truck. In addition, the snow being plowed or blown off the road can contain rocks and other debris damaging to vehicles.

Trying to pass a plow on the left also presents problems. The road behind the snowplow is in much better condition than the road ahead. If conditions are severe enough to require the attention of a snowplow, it means you should use extra care when driving.

Drivers should give winter maintenance vehicles such as plows and sanders a wide berth. Yes, they travel slower, but they usually pull over periodically to let traffic pass. The best advice is to stay patient and plan ahead to give yourself more time to get where you are going when there is adverse weather.

Stay Safe!!

**local BIZ**

**Union Collision Center**

**Owners:** David & Laura Dodds  
**Established:** 2001  
**Address:** 379 S Main Street  
**Phone:** Office: 541-562-5264  
**Hours:** Monday - Friday from 8am - 5pm  
**Type of Business:** Auto body, repair and paint  
**Specialties:** Minor and major collision repair. They mix their own paint to ensure a perfect match.  
**History:** David graduated from Blue Mountain Community College in 73 and together with his son John they have 70 years experience. Davids passion is working on his own projects: 1952 Buick Special and a 1966 GMC pickup. David, Laura and John want to thank the citizens of Union and surrounding area for their 20 years of business and support.



**Attention:**

At this time, due to COVID restrictions, City Hall's lobby is closed to the public. But we are still in the office every day and are able to take your utility payments either over the phone, or in the drop box or by mail. Other city business is by appointment only. If you need an appointment call 541-562-5197

ORGANIZATION	MEETING DATE	LOCATION	TIME	PHONE
Awana	Every Thurs/during school year	Baptist Church	6:30pm	541-562-5870
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> Thurs of the month	City Hall	6:00 pm	541-562-6134
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	Union Baptist Church	10-11:00am	541-562-5531
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 Lunch	Every Tuesday	VFW Hall	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

Community Calendar