

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

February 2023



From The Desk Of
Doug Wiggins
City Administrator

February has come and the weather has been so back and forth through January, extreme cold to mild temps. Budget season approaches for the City of Union and the city will be holding their annual budget meetings in late April. Watch for the dates and we welcome public participation. There is an opening on the budget committee and we welcome volunteers to apply for the few days of meetings during April to help set our budget for Council. Please see City Hall for an application and apply today. Additionally, the city is taking applications for a Planning Commissioner. The Planning Commission generally meets once a month, sometimes less, depending on applications coming before it. Again, see city Hall if you may be interested and want more information.

Public works has taken a break on the middle home at the Ranger Station as we are working to get bids out for a contractor to finish now that 90% of the demolition on the inside has been completed. Even though they stopped working at the Ranger Station, they have been busy on the city shops working at insulating and making the shop more efficient. Upon inheriting the old buildings, it was found there was no insulation in any of the shops. We discovered as our heat bills climbed and have been working diligently at taking care of the issue as time allows.

At the wastewater plant, bids for the new screen construction have been let and we hope to receive bids back by the first part of this month. The hope is to have this project up and going soon with completion by spring. DEQ has put our new permit for the WWTP out for public comment and it should be in full force by summer.

The City will be awarding grants to non-profits this month with the use of ARPA funds. As of the writing of this article two grant applications have been turned in to the City, but many more are expected. Council is forming a committee to work at identifying the needs for the remaining ARPA funds, that must be expended by the end of 2024 or given back to the State.

We are already looking forward to March as the water project should begin to get underway. This project has needed an update for many years and working with the State on this project seems to drag, but progress remains, albeit slow.

January did welcome in three new councilors and a new mayor. Welcome Mayor Susan Hawkins, Councilor Dick Middleton, Councilor Anita Boyer-Davis, and Councilor John Black. They all attended a new Mayor and Councilor training put on by the League of Oregon cities in Island City and are hitting the ground running. They will be working in February to adopt goals for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Stay warm this month and here at the city we are anxiously awaiting the coming of spring.

December Newsletter Error!

CORRECTION

In last month's newsletter article about burning regulations there was a big mistake in wording regarding what citizen's are allowed and not allowed to burn.

The correct regulations are as follows:

- **Citizens are only allowed to burn dry leaves, and yard debris.
- **Citizens are **NOT** allowed to burn any kind of garbage, tires, furniture, waxed cardboard, plastics, magazines or diapers. **No Trash Of Any Kind!**

Citizens must have a burn permit to burn. They are available to purchase at city hall.

A regulation brochure is also available at city hall.

We are sorry for the error and any confusion from last month's article.

UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

February Storytimes - Tuesdays 10 am - 11 am

7th Frog Puppet

14th Heart Name Resist Art

21st Musical Instruments

28th Clay Handprints



Adult craft night February 13th 5-6pm:
Beginning Embroidery

Library Hours

Monday 10am - 6pm

Tuesday thru Thursday 10am - 5pm

Friday 10am - 4pm

182 N Main

541-562-5811

From the Union Carnegie Public Library

Thank you to our volunteers and
Friends of the Library who donate
their time and energy. We couldn't
do it all without you!



BOOK SALE!!

FEBRUARY 7TH ~ 14TH

ROMANCE BOOK SALE!

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WILL
HOST A MINI BOOK SALE AT THE UNION
CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR ONE WEEK
ONLY. DON'T WAIT FOR GRASSROOTS FOR
A VARIETY OF ROMANCE BOOKS!!

Will He See His Shadow?

Without the groundhog, February 2 would be just another day on the calendar, but the great Punxsutawney Phil is also our harbinger of warmer weather to come. Besides predicting the weather, there are some other quirky facts surrounding this kooky holiday that you need to know.

The Germans started the whole Groundhog Day thing. Yes, the see-his-shadow-or-not concept stems from Germany and the holiday, Candlemas. Early European Christians believed that if the sun came out on Candlemas (also February 2), winter would last for another six weeks.

Punxsutawney Phil is just a nickname. Punxsutawney Phil has a ridiculously long official name. His full moniker is "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators, and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." Yikes!

Punxsutawney Phil isn't the only weather predictor.

A few states use their own groundhogs to celebrate the holiday rather than relying on Phil. Other weather oracles include General Beau Lee of Atlanta, Georgia, Sir Walter Wally from Raleigh, North Carolina, and Birmingham Bill from Birmingham, Alabama.



CLEAN UP DAY!

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

9:00am ~ 1:00pm

Watch for more information!



City of Union Fire/EMS Volunteers Are The Best!!

The last few month's have been very busy for our local Fire and EMS departments! The City would like to send them a huge Thank You for all they do to protect our community and provide our citizens with such professional care.

Thank a volunteer today!



LIBRARY SURVEY.....WE WANT TO KNOW.....

WOULD YOU RATHER: please check one

_____ Have a summer reading program t-shirt

_____ Have more summer reading programs



Please either call 541~562~5811 with your choice or drop off this slip
at the library or city hall



What's Happening At The Museum in February:

Even though the museum is officially closed for the winter many endeavors are ongoing. Our curator, Sharon Hohstadt, and three wonderful volunteers from Baker City work each week numbering, cataloging and recording pertinent information about every historical item donated. That way each item can always be traced as to the date donated, the donor and historical data.

Another very visible project is window repair. I'm sure many Union residents have noticed local craftsman Jake Heitz removing, replacing glass and painting the window trim on all of the windows in the museum building. What a huge project! We are so appreciative that this task is being done by such a skilled and meticulous local carpenter and glazier.

One new and unique display which was put up before the museum closed for the winter was a collection of eleven beautiful Heisey glass punch bowls with cups. Imagine, large, sparkling punch bowls with glass cups! Such lovely items are a memory of past elegance with the echo of elaborate glass.

**Watch for more happenings at the museum in the coming months!!



We Need You....

**The City of Union has an open seat on the Planning Commission. Candidates for the position must be a registered voter. Planning Commission meets once a month, depending on planning applications. If you are interested, applications are available at city hall.

**The City of Union has an open seat on the Budget Committee. Candidates for this position must be a registered voter and a citizen of Union. Budget Committee members meet approximately three days in April to review and approve the city budget for the next fiscal year. If you are interested, applications are available at city hall.

**The City of Union volunteer Fire and EMS departments are looking for dedicated citizens who have a desire to serve their community. If you are interested, volunteer applications are available at city hall.

Snippet of Union's History.....

Union with electric lights. Union to have a woolen mill. To old timers who remember Union in its infancy it seems almost incredible. Mr. Pete Coffin and my father in the fall of 1862 located on Catherine Creek 320 acres of land on what is know as the Coffin farm. Then this was a wild Indian country, no settlement near, Powder River diggings, (old Auburn) and Walla Walla being the nearest. There was only four settlers on Catherine Creek at that time, Mr. Conrad Miller, who settled on the Miller farm where the flouring mill now stands, Mr. M.C. Israel, who settled on the farm now owned by Mr. George Ames, and Mr. Fred Nodine located on the farm now known as the Swackhammer place in North Union. Mr. Nodine that summer cut and stacked the first hay ever put up on the creek, two or three stacks. He cut the hay up and down the creek where it grew the best. He had to haul it on brush, having no wagon. The Indians came down and run off his mules. He tracked them out in the mountains east of Union for some distance, but could not overtake them, so he lost his mules, also the Indians.

Late in the fall of 1862, John Andrew Jackson Chapman and Mr. Henry located 320 acres of land this side of Catherine Creek, where the business part of Union is now located. In 1870 I was working for Mr. Hannah in his store and he offered me the land, with the exception of a few lots sold for \$500. I did not know enough to buy. Seven or eight years after that he sold it for \$1700 to Mr. Abe Eaton, who made a small fortune by his purchase.

In 1863 there was some emigration to Union. The war was whooping things up lively back east and many came across the plains to escape the terrors of civil war. Union and vicinity caught some of the emigrants, many of them stopped and made some of our best citizens.

Letters came to Union in early days directed to "Catherine Creek, Grande Ronde Valley, Oregon, care of C. Jacobs & Co., Walla Walla, W.T. (Washington Territory)" The mail was brought over on horseback the carrier charging seventy-five cents for his trouble. It was three months before you could send a letter and receive an answer from the east. Mail went to Portland and then by steamer by the way of the Isthmus of Panama.

The fall of '62 Boise Basin was struck, and in the spring of '63 excitement ran high. The roads through Grande Ronde were lined with pack trains. The Coffin ranch, Union and the Proctor place in Pyle canyon did a rushing business feeding man and beast. From that time on Union commenced to grow.

~ C.F. Hinckley ~

Ordinance Education Corner...

96.02 RULES AND REGULATIONS: For the conduct of persons using or frequenting the public parks of Union, Oregon, the following rules and regulations to be observed and enforced within said public parks are hereby established:

There are many regulations regarding the use of Union's City Park, but let's look at the most common violations:

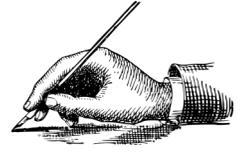
- **Dogs:** No person shall permit any dog to run at large within any public park, and all dogs shall be kept in control on a leash at all times. The person in charge of any dog shall pick up the feces left by the dog.
Note: There are two stations in the park that have doggy poo bags. One in the front of park and one in the back
- **Hours:** No person shall use or frequent the city's park between the hours of dusk to dawn. Except during special occasions or events as may be authorized by the city.
- **Waste Material:** No person shall scatter, discard or dispose of any garbage. It shall be unlawful for any person to haul household garbage, rubbish or trash to the city park and deposit in the park or public property
- **Public Nuisance:** No person shall use abusive, threatening, boisterous, vile, obscene or indecent language or gestures. Drunken and/or disorderly conduct shall be deemed a public nuisance.

These are just a few rules and regulations regarding the use of Union City Park. This full ordinance, as well as all city ordinances, can be found on the city's website at www.cityofunion.com

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~

Open Seat

Tim Cox

John Farmer

Dick Middleton

John Black

Anita Davis

Mayor Susan Hawkins

February 2023 Council Meetings

February 13th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

February 27th

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