

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

April 2023



From The Desk Of
Doug Wiggins
City Administrator

I anxiously await the snow ending and the April showers. March weather has been unforgiving for outdoor projects, between intermittent snow falls and the cold temperatures it has been hard to find the rare few days of March that were conducive to working outside for public works. They are itching to get out and have their lists together for the many things needed (i.e. potholes, blading streets, cleanup, new hook ups of water and sewer, line maintenance, hydrant flushing, project management, sewer plant upgrades and maintenance, right of way work, and other items as they pop up or are called in).

Bidding on the Ranger Station middle unit ended March 30, 2023, and that city will be looking over the bids for the getting a general contractor on board and getting this project completed this summer.

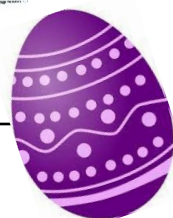
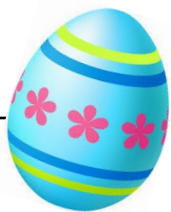
The new DEQ permit is due at any time for our wastewater treatment plant. The comment periods have ended, and we await the permit to be finalized by DEQ.

The budget meetings are scheduled at the end of this month for April 25-27 at 6pm here at City Hall. If you wish to observe and comment on the FY 2023-2024 budget please come and do so. Public comment on the budget will be had on the 27th of April, but you are free to observe the deliberations on the 25th and 26th.

The City of Union welcomes the newly appointed positions to the Budget and Planning Commission, Brian McDowell to the Budget Committee and Jeff Williams to the Planning Commission. Brian replaces Dick Middleton who was recently elected to the Council and Jeff replaces Dan Davenport who recently stepped down after many years of service. It is always a pleasure to see volunteers step up into these important roles with the City.

Keep a look out, the City of Union will be hiring soon to fill a full-time vacancy in the Public Works Department as a Utility/Water/Maintenance position. I believe we will begin advertising this month for the position with interviews to come near the end of the month. Additionally, we have begun taking applications for a part-time seasonal position as a laborer for the City. Applicants must be age 16 years or older and possess a Driver's License.

I feverishly await the coming of spring and the wonderful April showers.



Open to all ages 0-100+

Saturday, April 8th @ the City Park

Start time is 10:00am and will begin at the gazebo.

Youngest kids will go first, with separate areas for each age group.

Open to the public ~ sponsored by the Carpenter's House Church



CLEAN UP DAY!

May 6th, 2023

9:00am ~ 1:00pm

410 Treatment Plant Road

City of Union Residents Only



Accepted Items:

- ~Yard Debris
- ~Household Items (appliances, furniture, mattresses)
- ~Electronics
- ~Tires without rims—8 per household
Limited Space, once box is full no more will be accepted
- ~Bikes
- ~Outdoor Kids Toys

Not Accepted:

- ~Household Garbage
- ~Hazardous Waste (paint, chemicals, etc)
- ~Shingles
- ~Ashes
- ~Batteries



Union Sanitation Rate Increase

Union Sanitation went before City Council at their February council meeting to request approval of a 7.1% increase in their garbage service rates due to high dumping increases.

This increase will be reflected on this months billing.

**PLEASE READ:
IMPORTANT
MESSAGE**

Water / Sewer Rates Increase

At the January City Council meeting council approved a 2% rate increase in sewer base rates and a 1% rate increase in water base rates, effective April 1st, 2023.

You will see these changes reflect on your May 1st utility billing.

Beginning April 1st water base rate will be \$34.33 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, and .0125 per cubic foot thereafter.

Also beginning April 1st sewer base rate will be \$52.53 according to size of meter multiplier. A normal household with a 3/4" meter will be \$52.53.

Therefore a household with a 3/4" meter will have a utility bill base rate, before any water usage, of \$96.86 (includes the EMS fee)

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

UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

April Storytimes - Tuesdays 10 am - 11 am

- 4th - Tea Party
- 11th - Butterfly Symmetry
- 18th - Earth Day Seed Bombs
- 25th - Memory



Adult craft night 10th 5-6pm:

DIY Bath Salts

-All supplies provided-



Library Hours

Monday 10am - 6pm

Tuesday thru Thursday 10am - 5pm

Friday 10am - 4pm

182 N Main

541-562-5811

Check us out on Facebook @Union,OR Carnegie Library

National Arbor Day is April 28, 2023

Mark the occasion by participating in a local planting event in your area, walking in a local park and appreciating everything trees do for us, or making a donation to have more trees planted in areas where they're needed most.



Utility/Water/Maintenance Position Opening

The City of Union is accepting applications for a Utility/water/maintenance position. This is a full-time, benefited position. Duties will include, but not limited to, streets work, water/utility work and mechanical maintenance. Wage will be determined on experience. A full job description is available at city hall.

Applications with references are accepted beginning April 1st, deadline April 21st.

Call 541-562-5197 or email lauradodds@cityofunion.com for more information.

Part-time Seasonal Position

The City of Union is accepting applications for a part-time seasonal worker. This position will be for a general laborer working with public works and parks. Hours in this position will be no more than 20 hours per week. Wage is \$15.00 per hour. Applicant must be 16 years or older and posses a valid drivers license.

Applications are available at city hall. Applications will open April 1st and due by May 1st.

Call 541-562-5197 or email lauradodds@cityofunion.com for more infor-



BUDGET MEETINGS

The budget meetings are scheduled at the end of this month for April 25-27 at 6pm here at City Hall. If you wish to observe and comment on the FY 2023-2024 budget please come and do so. Public comment on the budget will be had on the 27th of April, but you are free to observe the deliberations on the 25th and 26th.



Catherine Creek Community Center

The Community Center is hiring!! We are looking for a *Youth Program Coordinator* to promote and host youth programming through the end of December. This will include weekly youth group and preschool playgroups, as well as summer programming. This position is paid through grants, with potential for continued funding.



The Community Center is also looking for individuals who are interested in joining our Board of Directors! The Center has been up and running for two years, and has grown and expanded its programming, done major building renovations, and provided a venue for many community and personal events. If you would like to be a part of our team, please let us know!

And.... mark your calendars for May 13th, when the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers host a show to help the Community Center raise money to repair and rehabilitate our historic stained glass windows! Look for more details to come. We are excited to see you there!

541-562-2038

Ccccenter667@gmail.com

Avista reminds you safe digging is no accident; call 811 before you dig

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, call 811 at least two business days before you dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to your site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines. There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free. Remember, you may have your own utilities that require a Private Locate request at 811.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs. Underground utility lines can be just about anywhere, so keeping your shovel in the shed or garage and calling 811 first is a smart move (and it's the law).

Every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Here are just a few examples of when to call:

- Installing a rural mailbox
- Putting in a fence
- Planting a tree or shrubbery
- Building a patio or deck
- Excavating a new garden area



Call 811 or go to www.digsafelyoregon.com



What's Happening At The Museum in April:

There is increased activity at the Museum in preparation for opening May 14. Volunteers are busy removing dust covers from displays, sprucing up the lobby and arranging a variety of new items for sale in the gift shop. Dusting, sweeping, polishing and making any necessary repairs to keep the Museum attractive and inviting for the public is the goal.

The Museums' success relies on many people who generously donate their time in a myriad of capacities to make the Museum a success. Our volunteer coordinator Raye Clark is seeking volunteers who are willing to serve as a host or hostess or to help in various other ways. If you haven't met Raye, she and her husband Dennis (aka Hook) moved to Union in 2017 from Oakridge, Oregon. But Raye is no stranger to our area. She was born in Baker and spent a good portion of her life there. Raye and Dennis are a delightful and positive addition to our town. If you would like to help in any way at the Museum give her a call at 541-414-7316 or e-mail hookandrave@yahoo.com.

Winter is a good time to peruse recipes in old cook books. Some of the recipes use terminology that might be difficult for a modern cook to follow: saleratus, 'butter the size of an egg', 'a slow oven' or 'eat with sippets'. Sippets are not to be confused with the word "snippets". Snippets of History, which is now appearing in the city newsletter, are a small piece or fragment of history and "sippets" are a strip of toast to be used to sop up gravy or meat juices.

Since snow seems to want to linger in the Grande Ronde Valley here is a solution to get rid of some of this white stuff. Before refrigeration people loved winter so they could enjoy Snow Ice Cream. Here is an old recipe:

- 4 cups snow
- 1 cup cream
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Place snow in a bowl and pour ingredients and mix well.
Yum. Enjoy.



Snippet of Union's History.....

Almost any day an old man, with one leg missing, may be seen hobbling around town encumbered with a bucksaw, seeking for work. When he finds it he goes in with a will and never lets up till his work is accomplished.

He is an inmate of the county poor house and his name is Albert A. McLaughlin. We know not what brought him to this condition, but surely it is through no fault of his. In conversation with him a few days ago he informed us that he was hoarding all his little earnings for the purpose of buying a cork leg which he thought would enable him to work with greater ease, and that he would then be able to support himself.

As the leg will cost nearly a hundred dollars it will be a long time before he gets it, unless he is assisted. Mr. Schoonover, the efficient and kind-hearted supervisor of the poor farm has drawn up subscription papers - subscribing liberally himself - for the purpose of raising money to buy the leg for the old man. One of the papers can be found at this office. If our charitably inclined people will drop in and contribute a very little, each, the old gentleman will have his desires gratified many weary months before he expects it.

~Oregon Scout May 23, 1889

KEEP THE POLES CLEAR!

It's yard sale time! Fund raisers! Events!

Sure, we all enjoy these and many more events that we see advertised on posters nailed or stapled to our power poles. However, a left-behind nail can cause a lineman's climbing hooks to cut out of the pole and cause a fall. A staple can snag a lineman's protective clothing or gloves which could cause electrocution.

Please do your part in keeping our linemen safe.

If you post a sign or flyer on a power pole remove the nails or staples....even if they aren't yours!

Ordinance Education Corner...

As a reminder once again....

Living in a camp trailer is not permitted in the City of Union, even if it is on your property, without going through the planning commission for approval.

There are certain circumstances that the planning commission will consider approval for living in a camp trailer. Such as taking care of elderly family, while building your house, as temporary emergency housing.

The process for going before planning is to bring a drawing of where the trailer will be located, showing that it will meet city regulations for set-backs, a letter of explanation of why you are requesting to live in a camp trailer and to pay the fee of \$350.00 (non-refundable). These items must be into city hall 45 days prior to the next available meeting. The city will send letters to surrounding citizens within 300 feet for any comments, for the approval or against the approval. There will be a staff report prepared and given to the planning commission prior to the planning meeting for them to review and consider. At the planning meeting they will discuss, take any public comments into consideration, and make a decision at that time.

As it appears there is a rising issue of trailers being occupied in city limits, the ordinance officer will be watching for them as she is doing her daily rounds. If needed she will contact the property owner to discuss the matter.

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

~City Council Members ~

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

Mayor Susan Hawkins

April 2023 Council Meetings

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

- April 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