

# 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

August 2023



**From The Desk Of**

*Doug Wiggins*

City Administrator

July turned hot and it turned hot fast. The fourth of July event came off well this year. It is estimated we had a record number in attendance at the golf course, and not one fire broke out. I believe this keeps getting better every year. From what I heard they raised more money this year than in years past, so I believe that may translate to a bigger show for next year.

The public works department has been busy on many projects and often pulling them in so many directions at once. It was predicted to be a very busy summer for the City of Union and thus far has proven to be so. Projects in the works include the new screen upgrade at the wastewater plant. This project should be near completion by the end of this month. The water system upgrade project began in July and continues to be on track to finish up in the Spring of 2024. The City of Union continues progress on the Ranger Station project. This project is now awaiting HVAC to get in and do their preliminary installations and then we can progress into insulation and wall cover. This building is shaping out nicely. A couple years ago the City of Union received shops from the State of Oregon located by the gun club. These buildings had no insulation and were in disrepair. Public Works has been rehabilitating and insulating these buildings on their down time between projects and as budget allows. Given the workload this summer, please be patient when calling for locates and information from public works, as they prioritize calls and will be there just as soon as possible. They do thank you ahead of time for your patience.

The Fire/EMS merger ballot will be mailed August 2, 2023 to City residents. Please get out and vote on this issue. Your voice needs to be heard. There is no better way to let the Mayor and City Council know how you feel on the issue of this important topic. Please vote by August 22, 2023.

Many volunteer groups/committees have been so busy and will continue this summer. The Main Street Union committee has been busy with producing the blues and brews festivals in the park, along with working at getting a master plan put together for the park using public input. These volunteers put in many man hours for these entertainment activities. Nothing shows your support better by attending and participating in the events. The City of Union Chamber has grassroots coming up on August 12, 2023. It is rumored the car show this year will be bigger than ever. Many vendors and booths along with all other traditional activities and music you have come to expect will be there.

Noted in the last newsletter, my last day will be August 21, 2023. My family and I are relocating to Toledo, OR as I have accepted the position of City Manager there. I have so enjoyed this community and the changes that have come over the last five and a half years. So many new things happening and upgrades for the city: An Active Mainstreet Committee, Increased transparency, Wastewater Upgrades, New Ambulance, Water System Upgrades, Active building of new homes in the area, 4th of July Celebration, movies in the park, increased library participation, new public works facility, Ranger Station Rehabilitation, and numerous other items and events. I want to reiterate, none of this is possible without the hard work of our city crew, volunteers, citizens, and council members. I am proud to be a part of that change and believe the City of Union can continue moving forward and building upon this base. Thank you, Mayor, Council, Residents and Staff, for allowing me to be a part of this important vibrant transition. Please keep the momentum going. I can honestly say and without reservation that the elected officials for the City of Union for which I have worked, truly do want what is best for the citizens. Please do not let those discussions fade. As for this being my last note to Union residents, thank you for allowing me to be a part of this great community. I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure in the City of Union and the memories will follow me for my lifetime. I hate goodbyes as they seem so final, so I leave you with: Until we cross paths again..... Also, if you find yourself on the Oregon coast and near Toledo, stop in and see me, I always enjoy a great visit.

## Catherine Creek Community Center....

### Free Resume Writing Class!

Enhance your skill of writing a fine tuned resume for that career you have been looking for!!

Monday, August 21, 2023

5:30pm ~ 7:00pm

667 N Main Street ~ Union OR 97883

Sponsored by Catherine Creek Community Center in partnership with The City of Union

Register at: [cccenter667@gmail.com](mailto:cccenter667@gmail.com) or call 541-562-2038

## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!

City of Union Fire & EMS  
annexation with Union Rural

Special Election

Vote by

August 22, 2023



## UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

We are wrapping up our summer reading program at the end of July and would like to thank everyone who has volunteered, donated, and participated. It has been a great summer thanks to you!

We'd like to acknowledge the generous grants received from Libraries of Union County Foundation and Ready to Read which helped fund our summer reading program this year! You asked for more, and thanks to these grants we were able to deliver.

Thank you to Sara Hartley from The Merc and At Ease Cleaning LLC for donating gift cards to us as part of our summer reading program prizes. Thank you to our activity hosts who volunteered their time in July: Danae Yurgel/Avella Orchard, Annette Evans, Jennifer McBride, Allyson Smith/Savage Serpents, John Townsend/Robocats, Wild Woman on Fire Apothecary, Brittney Johnston, Nicole Haggerty, Jim McIver & Donna Rainboth, Carrie Caselton Lowe, Kelly Goodnight, Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Kalli from the Museum of Natural & Cultural History, EOU Go-STEM!

Friends of the Union Carnegie Public Library will have their annual Grassroots book sale and bake sale August 12 as a fundraiser for the library. Any persons who are interested in baking for the sale or volunteering to help with the book sale please reach out to the library or to Ronda Emery.

Our LAST movie in the park this summer is scheduled Friday, 8/18 at 8:45 PM. Bring your lawn chairs! Movie title to be announced.

### Summer Reading Program Schedule "Find Your Voice"

**\*\*All events at 10:00am at the library unless otherwise noted**

#### 0 ~ 5 Age

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Wed 7/26	Ice Painting
Mon 7/31	Superhero design
Wed 8/2	Chalk art, @ City Park
Wed 8/9	Constellation play doh
Tues 8/15	Storytime ~ Nature Walk
Tues 8/22	Storytime ~ Butterfly Symmetry
Tues 8/29	Storytime ~ Animal Masks



#### All Ages

Thur 8/3	Book Character Costume Contest
Fri 8/4	Dog Pawty in the Park @ City Park
Thur 8/10	Parachute @ City Park
Sat 8/11	Dragon Puppet Theater @ City Park
Fri 8/18	Movie in the Park @ City Park
Fri 8/25	Avella Orchard Tour @ 2807 N. Fir in La Grand



#### School Age

Thur 7/27	Go STEM! Magnetics & Solar Energy
Tues 8/1	Stained Glass Coloring
Mon 8/7	Butterfly Symmetry
Tues 8/8	Tree Identification
Mon 8/14	Skeleton Team Race
Wed 8/16	Airplane Aerodynamics



#### Teen/Adult

Tues 7/25	Go STEM! Teen @ City Park
Mon 7/31	Watercolor Bookmarks
Mon 8/7	Intro to Genealogy
Mon 8/14	Intro to Genealogy II
Mon 8/21	Intro to Genealogy III
Mon 8/28	Intro to Genealogy IV

Don't forget our annual Friends of the Library book sale coming up at Grassroots!

Check us out on Facebook @Union,OR Carnegie Library

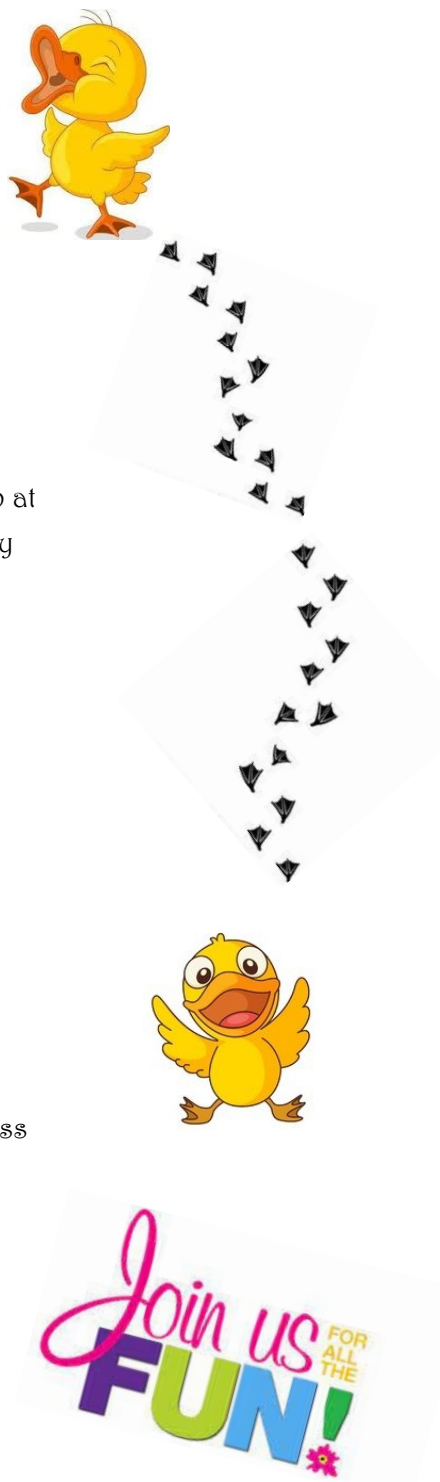
## BOOK SALE!



We ♥  
Our Library

Grassroots Festival  
August 12th, 2023

- 7:00am City Wide Yard Sales call 541-910-5425 to sign up
- 8:00am ~ 11:00am VFW Breakfast @ VFW Hall N. Main
- 9:00am National Anthem at The City Park
- 9:00am ~ 4:00pm Vendors & Library Book & Bake Sale
- 9:00am ~ 3:00pm Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest chalk can be picked up at Union Merc on Thursday and Friday
- 9:00am ~ 4:00pm Car Show/Poker Walk
- 10:00am ~ 1:00pm Kiddy Carnival at The City Park
- 11:00am ~ 3:00pm Union County Museum will be open
- 12:00pm Pig Eating Contest in The City Park
- 11:00am ~ 5:00pm Live Music in The City Park
- 1:00pm Puppet Show behind the library
- 1:30pm ~ 4:00pm Pony Rides in The City Park
- 2:00pm Duck Races down Catherine Creek buy your duck from the Senior Class
- 3:30pm Car Show Trophy & Poker Walk Winners  
Announced in front of the Post Office
- 5:30pm ~ 7:30pm Lawn Mower Races
- 7:30pm ~ 10:00pm Family Street Dance with DJ Scott Newman
- Sign up for the car show and to be a vendor at [grassroots@conl.com](mailto:grassroots@conl.com) or call 541-786-1492



Recycle Center  
410 Treatment Road

When using the recycle center is very important to BREAK DOWN your cardboard boxes!

- \* When boxes are left whole the bin fills up extremely fast and it can take days to get the bin replaced with an empty one.
- \* When boxes are left whole it encourages others to just dump their cardboard on the ground causing a large mess which takes hours to clean up
- \* Be aware that there are cameras located at the recycle center
- \* There could be fines associated with dumping at the recycle center. Never use the recycle center as a dump!
- \* The recycle center is provided free of charge. Let's not lose it

The recycle center is NOT A DUMP

thank you

*The Mayor,  
City Council,  
City Employees, and Volunteers,  
would like to give a big Thank  
You to our City Administrator,  
Doug Wiggins, for a great  
5 1/2 years. For his  
administrative services,  
guidance, hard work and many  
accomplishments.*

*We wish you and your  
family all the best !!*

*Best Wishes*

**BURN BAN**  
**JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**





### What's Happening At The Museum in August:

The good news for August is that the Museum will now be open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm thanks to additional volunteers who are generously donating their time so we can share our many displays and historic collections with the public. Last month the Museum welcomed many visitors from other states. Often people stop by to see what kind of historic information can be found about their families. Our many reference books, historic files and archived photographs help provide pertinent information and often unknown facts. Such was the case when a couple from Sunray, Texas visited. They were most appreciative of the information we could find about their family. And we also learned from them that what we think of as hot weather really isn't as hot as it could be.

Summer is a time associated with fun outdoor activities. For the month of August we have decided to have a file folder of historic photographs available for visitors to sit and look at of past activities that took place on Catherine Creek. In one photo two young ladies wearing long dresses are out in the water catching fish. There are great camping photos with lavish picnics, outdoor canning kitchens and great fishing photos with amazing catches. Seeing these photos makes one wonders if there were even possession limits on fish in those days. These are delightful photos of people enjoying good, old-fashioned summer fun. Do come, sit in our lobby and look at good times on Catherine Creek through the lenses of historic photos.

And don't miss our Third Tuesday event August 15. We will be meeting in La Grande at 7 p.m. for a program and tour of the Liberty Theater.

Stay cool and be aware that if you are traveling to Texas it could be much hotter than here in Union, Oregon. More next month.



### Snippet of Union's History.....

#### Oregon Scout November 11, 1888

There is one matter that has been considerably discussed of late, and the council has been urged repeatedly to take action on it. That is the enacting of an ordinance prohibiting cows from running at large within the city limits. No action has been taken however, because it is a question with two sides and the council is ignorant of the wishes of the majority of the citizens in regard to it.

There is no doubt that it is very annoying to many residents, and expensive to the city, for cattle to roam around the streets, breaking into yards and enclosures, ruining sidewalks and investigating the contents of the farmers' wagons on market days and thereby causing much unseemly language and bloodcurdling profanity. But on the other hand it will be a great hardship on those owning these animals, which are almost indispensable in any well regulated family, to be compelled to keep them constantly at home.

In view of these facts it has occurred to us that it would be a good idea for citizens to express their views on the subject at the election next Monday. And should the majority desire such an ordinance passed, the presumption is that the council will at once comply with their wishes.

### How Can You Help The Museum?

The Union County Museum is staffed solely by valued volunteers. Occasionally, there are no volunteers available to act as hosts. We apologize, if the museum is closed, but it is for this reason. Recently we have been able to increase our open business days due to a few more volunteers, and we would love to be able to open even more days. But this can only be done with additional volunteers.

If you live in Union County and would like to volunteer as a host please contact

Raye Clark @ 541-414-7316 or email [hookandrayer@yahoo.com](mailto:hookandrayer@yahoo.com)

You are also welcome to come by, visit the museum and speak with Raye about becoming a volunteer.



Ordinance Education Corner...

How many dogs do you have?

City ordinance states that if a resident has four or more dogs they must obtain a kennel license. How do you go about obtaining a kennel license?....

A kennel license application can be picked up at city hall. Once the City has signed the approval for a proposed kennel license, the dogs owner then takes the signed application to the Union County Sheriff's department and speak with Animal Control who will then inspect the property and authorize a kennel.

Initial application fee is \$50.00 and renewed at \$50.00 each year after as long as there is four or more dogs at the property.

A kennel license may be denied or revoked for not complying to the provisions of the ordinance, falsifying information, or failure of inspection by Animal Control.

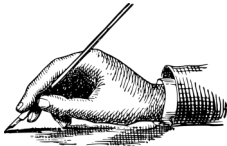
Full ordinances on dogs and dog control can be found on our website [www.cityofunion.com](http://www.cityofunion.com) under ordinances.

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email? Just call city hall at 541-562-5197 or email [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com) and we will put you on the email list.



COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:



- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Upcoming Wastewater Influent Screen Project
- ⇒ Upcoming Water System Update Project
- ⇒ Rural & City Fire/EMS merger
- ⇒ Hiring of new City Administrator

~City Council Members ~

Jay Blackburn

Tim Cox

John Farmer

Dick Middleton

John Black

Anita Davis

Mayor Susan Hawkins

August 2023 Council Meetings

- August 14th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

- August 28th
- 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](http://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 <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	
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	6 pm	541-562-6035