

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

December 2023



UNION'S ANNUAL
Christmas Celebration
ENJOY A DAY OF HOLIDAY MAGIC IN OUR TOWN

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND SHOPPING
CATHERINE CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER
12PM - 5PM

LIGHT PARADE
CANDY LAND THEME
5:30PM

LINE UP AT OLD WEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION @ 4:45PM

TREE LIGHTING AND SANTA VISIT
AT HOMETOWN HARDWARE STORE
FOLLOWING THE PARADE

CHILI PROVIDED BY VFW POST 4060



ANNUAL UNION VOLUNTEER FIRE/EMS

TOYS FOR TOTS



Your donation of a new toy can make a child's Christmas a very Happy One!! Toy drop boxes are located at local businesses and here at city hall. Donate a new, unwrapped toy, coats, mittens or cash today. All donations are tax deductible, city hall can give you a receipt for tax purposes upon request.



Deadline for donations is December 21st



Union Carnegie Public Library



Thank you to the Friends of the Library for all of your help with the parade float and Christmas decorations!

Storytime Tuesdays from 10am ~ 11am

Dec 5th	Block Prints
Dec 12th	Bead Ornaments
Dec 19th	Star Topper/Puppet
Dec 26th	Closed



Adult Craft Night from 5pm ~ 6pm ~ In response to requests we will be hosting a second adult craft night

Dec 11th	Ceramic Painting
Dec 18th	Heirloom Felt Ornaments

Friends of the Library Open House will be held December 15th 6pm ~ 8pm. Join us and Santa for light refreshments, door prizes, and historical tours of the library (by request)



Storytime & Photos with Santa! Bring your camera or phone for a photo opportunity and a short story with our friend from the North Pole!

Wednesday, Dec 20th	3pm ~ 5pm
Thursday, Dec 21st	3pm ~ 5pm
Friday, Dec 22nd	1pm ~ 4pm



Library Hours:
Monday ~ 10am to 6pm
Tuesday thru Thursday ~ 10am to 5pm
Friday ~ 10am to 4pm

Union Carnegie Public Library
181 S. Main
Union, OR 97883

541~562~5811
Tiffany Derichsweiler ~ Librarian
Check us out on Facebook @Union,OR Carnegie Library



Natural Gas Safety Tips.....

We know that natural gas has a rotten egg smell, but do you know what to do or not do if you smell gas?

DO NOT remain in the building
DO NOT use light switches
DO NOT try to find the source of the leak
DO NOT smoke or strike matches
DO NOT use any electrical equipment that might cause a spark

SAFETY TIPS

Have at least one working carbon monoxide detector for each level of your home
Never use a gas oven or range top as a space heater
Never cover the temperature controls, air openings, or vents of a gas appliance
Turn off gas fireplaces and space heaters before going to bed, they are not intended to be a main heat source
Check gas appliance connector by a qualified appliance service contractor periodically
Never attach electrical grounding wires to gas piping
Keep the space around furnaces and water heaters clean and clear of build-up, rags, newspapers or other debris
Never store combustibles such as gasoline, aerosol cans, paint, solvents, cleaners etc, near any fuel-burning equipment
Be cautious using products such as paint strippers, glues, varnishes etc as they give off vapors that can be ignited by any flame source, such as a burner pilot light. Vapors can also corrode metal vents and appliance combustion chambers.
Turn off all gas appliances when using these types of products.
Be aware of where gas (and other utility) lines are buried, especially when working outdoors. Always call 811 before you dig!



Happy Holidays!



What's Happening At The Museum in December:

Winter months mean there is less activity although the Museum's fire truck is scheduled to participate in the holiday parade and of course, maintenance of the buildings is always an ongoing endeavor.

The month of December seems to be noted for early darkness so I was intrigued by the adult craft class November 13 offered by Union Librarian Tiffany. Botanical lanterns certainly focused my thoughts towards historic types of illuminations. I'm so glad I attended this class. Folks who missed out on making botanical lanterns truly missed an evening of fun and camaraderie at the library. These lanterns, each unique to its creator. were charming and reminiscent of paper Chinese lanterns. Fortunately, the use of led lights ensure the lanterns are much safer than the ones in which candles were used.

Kerosene lamps, which were extensively used before electricity, provided lights for dark evenings before the wonderful invention of electric lights. Some of the very early lights prior to kerosene used olive oil, whale oil, tallow, fish oil or bees' wax. I think fish oil or whale oil may have been an interesting source for light that may not have had the same scent factor as a modern scented candle.

Not only did kerosene lamps light up a room but the glass chimney could be used to heat Victorian hair curling irons. These curling irons were placed in the lamp chimney and I haven't found any instructions on how one determined when the iron was ready to use. I suspect singed hair was one of the hazards associated with the use of this hot curling tool.

In addition to the kerosene lamp there were some small lamps called fairy lamps that became quite popular. These little lamps were candle burning night lights that had a base and a shade made of glass. These small lights were usually placed in childrens' rooms and emitted a soft, gentle glow. I read that these fairy lamps were designed to keep children calm and could possibly also be a defense against burglars.

The Fenton Glass Company made many of these lamps in a wide variety of shapes including owls and Santas. Many of the glass shades included hand painted scenes or flowers. I discovered there is a Fairy Lamp Club for collectors. Apparently some of the very old lamps are quite valuable.

Years ago an elderly friend gave me a fairy lamp. I really didn't know what I had. My little lamp is now out of the kitchen cupboard and is warmly glowing in my kitchen window. I'm sure it won't scare any burglars but it is a warm and calming light and is the perfect glow for cold winter nights.

Warm wishes to all and more next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

A fire test of the Union water works which have just been completed was made late Friday and was witnessed by a large number of interested spectators. The test was made under the direction of the contractor and superintendent of the work, Messrs. Keefe and Jones and carried out by the fire department. The tests were satisfactory in every instance. At the intersection of Main and C streets two streams from one hydrant were thrown straight up a distance of seventy-five or eighty feet. Further down on Main street, four streams were thrown at the same time without any apparent diminution in force.

That the tests were satisfactory goes without saying. Union is now well protected against fire and it would be difficult for any conflagration to make much headway before being subdued. A picture was taken of the scene by Jones Bros., the photographers, which is a most excellent piece of work, showing every detail to perfection.

~Oregon Scout December 3, 1891

Holiday Tree Safety Tips

Ensure a merry and bright holiday season by safely maintaining your tree with the following tips.

Keep away from heat: Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace or space heater.

Examine cords: Examine extension cords and lights for signs of damage. Frayed electric cords should be discarded.

Inspect lights: Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

Trim the stump: Trim the tree's stump by at least two inches on freshly cut trees. Allow it to absorb water for 24 hours before bringing it inside.

Keep it watered: Fill the water reservoir daily and check the condition of the trunk bark and branches for moisture. Shedding or dry needles could mean the tree is drying out, increasing overall fire risks.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

The truth about Christmas Tree Fires.....

- *1 in 4...the number of home Christmas tree fires caused because the tree was too close to a heat source.
- *1 in 31...the number of home Christmas tree fires that resulted in death.
- *1 in 3...the number of home Christmas tree fires caused by electrical problems

Ordinance Education Corner...

Do I Need A Building Permit?

The City of Union requires a ‘pre-build’ permit on any accessory building, shed, or other structure that is over 120 square feet.

To obtain a pre-build permit bring a sketch of your property with existing buildings are located and where the proposed location of the new building will be, please included measurements to property lines and existing buildings to approve set back requirements.

Set back requirements for accessory buildings is 10ft from rear and side lot lines, except for on a corner lot where the two street sides it is 20ft. Unless attached to an existing building, the new building needs to be 10ft from other buildings for fire code. Homes and garage set backs are 20ft from front lot line, on a corner lot both streets are considered front lot lines. And as with other buildings the set back from rear and side lot lines is 10ft.

A pre-build permit is \$25.00, and we will be able to tell you if you may need to go to the county to inquire about county building permits.



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
- ⇒ Upcoming Wastewater Influent Screen Project
- ⇒ Upcoming Water System Update Project
- ⇒ Union County Sheriff Contract
- ⇒ Hiring of new City Administrator
- ⇒ Reviewing Nuisance Ordinances

~City Council Members ~

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

Mayor Susan Hawkins

December 2023 Council Meetings

- December 11th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm
- No end of the month work session due to Holiday
- 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	UHS Ag Science Classroom at the back of the gym	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

Community Calendar