

# 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

March 2024



*From The Desk Of...*

**Celeste Tate**  
*City Administrator*



As March comes to our front doorstep I welcome the continued transition to longer days, warmer temperatures and a beginning to the growing season. It has been a busy month as I continue to gain knowledge on the projects already in progress and also embark upon goals for the next year. Current activities as well as upcoming items include:

Ranger Station Project – Work has been completed on the second unit and we have received our Certificate of Occupancy. The unit will be available for reservations for short-term rental starting Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>. The unit looks great and we look forward to welcoming people to our community.

Fire Station Annexation – The Request for Ballot Title has been filed with the County Clerk for the upcoming May 21, 2024 election. The ballot will be asking residents to vote on whether to annex the City Fire and EMS departments into the Union Rural Fire Protection District. Please get out to vote and voice your wishes in the upcoming election.

Throughout the months of March and April I will be working on the next fiscal year budget and I look forward to input from the community during the budget committee meetings here at City Hall on April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We welcome you to come observe and comment on the upcoming 2024-2025 budget. April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> will be reserved for budget committee deliberations and open for public observation. Public comment on the budget will be had on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00pm. In addition, we have an open position on the budget committee. Please see City Hall for an application and apply today.

City Council has set their goals for the 2024-2025 year and committees have been formed to help work on those goals. The Council welcomes and encourages public participation and citizens are welcome to attend and participate. All meetings are here at City Hall. The meeting times are:

Water/Sewer Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30pm

Charter Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 9am

Zoning Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6pm

Trails Committee: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6pm

Ordinances Committee: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1pm

The Charter committee has already met a couple of times and has some suggestions. Once the full charter has been reviewed, a draft with proposed updates will be presented to the council for approval at a future date. So far, suggestions are:

Renumber the Charter for easier access, adding numbers to subsections for ease in locating topics.

Change gender specific pronouns to instead refer to a position rather than a pronoun such as "the councilor", instead of "councilmen".

Removal of 4 sentences that address the 1941-1944 election which is irrelevant at this point in time.

Change "qualified voter" to "registered voter".

Add that neither the mayor nor a councilor may be an employee of the City and that the council shall be the judge on the eligibility of its members.

Again, all of these suggestions are preliminary in nature and the entire Charter is under review. A draft will be presented to the council for approval at a future date and notice will be given to the public at that time.

Enjoy the upcoming start of Spring and stay safe.

*Celeste Tate*

## Water & Sewer Rates

City Council will be discussing water and sewer rates at their next work session and business meetings held on March 11th, starting at 6:00pm, at the Leonard Almquist Chambers at city hall.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting for information regarding rates for the upcoming year, which would become effective April 1st. Public comment will also be heard during these meetings.

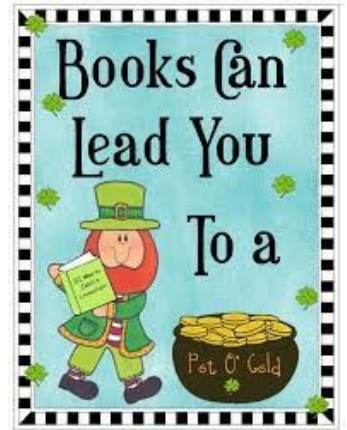
## Union Carnegie Public Library



### ~March Activities~

#### Storytime Tuesdays from 10am ~ 11am

|            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| March 5th  | Starfish Wands         |
| March 12th | Pipe Cleaner Bracelets |
| March 19th | Domino Run             |
| March 26th | Paper Quilled Eggs     |



**After School Craft Group ~ March 5th and March 19th** 4:00pm to 5:00pm  
Katie Martin will host our after school project on March 5th. Thank You Katie!

**Adult Craft Night ~ March 11th** starts @ 5:00pm ~ DIY earrings  
Thank you to Wild Woman on Fire for donating these materials!

**Thank you to Oregon Humanities for awarding us their rural libraries mini grant.**  
**With just under \$4000.00 in funding we are going to do a series of cultural studies for both youth and adults.**

#### Library Hours:

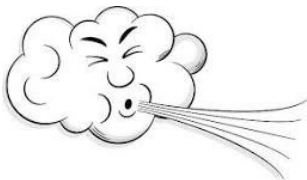
Monday ~ 10am to 6pm  
Tuesday thru Thursday ~ 10am to 5pm  
Friday ~ 10am to 4pm

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



#### Living in Union means there is no escaping the wind!...

The City would like to remind citizens who have garbage service to

bag your garbage. Unbagged garbage gets caught in the wind and blows all through town. Let's keep our town clean and beautiful!! And to make sure the trash can lid is down. This will help keep animals from getting into the trash bags and therefore tearing them open, causing trash to be blown around.

Let's work together and keep Union beautiful ~

#### Planning to Build the Spring & Summer?

Regardless of what you are building, you will need to check with the City Planning Department.

The City requires you to obtain a pre-build permit.

To obtain this permit the City has a form with information of who the owner is, what the owner will be building, and the setbacks, and when approved will be signed by the city administrator.

We will need a drawing/sketch of your property showing existing structures and where the new structure will be and measurements of set backs. If

you have questions regarding setback requirements, call us and we can help you.

We will also notate if your property is within a flood plane or not. This permit, if needed, will also go to the County Planning Department and will show them that the City has approved your setbacks, which the County requires.

Pre-build permits are \$25.00



Never iron a  
four-leaf clover  
You don't want to  
press your luck

~Irish Proverb



*The City of Union has an open seat on the Planning Commission...*

*The Planning Commission, a quasi-judicial body, consists of seven members appointed by the Union City Council. The Commission conducts public hearings on planning applications and subdivision applications for specific parcels of land and in some cases recommendations to the City Council. The Planning Commission is the approval authority for most special use permits. On occasion, it is responsible for reviewing site plans. The Planning Commission makes decisions and recommendations based on the Comprehensive Plan and requirements in the City's zoning codes. The Planning Commission is responsible for updating the Comprehensive Use Plan for the continued growth and development of the City.*

*Planning Commission meetings are held once a month, when there are applications to go before the commission. These meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month. Candidates for this position must also be a registered voter.*

*If the Planning Commission interests you and you would like to be considered for the position, please come by or call city hall for a volunteer application. You can also call email city hall at [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com) for an application.*



**In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb**

March roars in like a lion  
So fierce,  
The wind so cold,  
It seems to pierce.  
The month rolls on  
And Spring draws near,  
And March goes out  
Like a lamb so dear

by Lorie Hill



City Council welcomes and encourages your participation with many committees that they have deemed an important goal for this year. If you are interested in becoming involved with any of the following committees please come and join in:

- \* Water/Sewer Committee: 1st Monday of the month @ 7:30pm
- \* Charter Committee: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month @ 9:00pm
- \* Zoning Committee: 1st Thursday of the month @ 6:00pm
- \* Trails Committee: 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6:00pm
- \* Ordinances Committee: 2nd Thursday of the month @ 1:00pm

All meetings will be held here at City Hall

**Budget Committee Open Seat...**

Budget season is upon us, and the City has an open seat on our budget committee.

The budget committee meets annually, usually in April, for approximately three meetings. The budget committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the budget presented for the next fiscal year of operations.

If you're interested in applying for the budget committee seat you can pick up an application at city hall or request by email [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com) and an application can be emailed to you.

This years budget meetings will be April 23rd, 24th and 25th.

**Catherine Creek Community Center**

**St. Patrick's Day Irish Music Celebration**

**March 16, 2024**

**7:00pm**

**Featuring the Sheehy Family Band  
and Lucky Strike**

**Admission is Free**

**Donations to the Community Center are always  
deeply appreciated.**



**Know What's Below!.....Call Before You Dig!!**

It is a law that you call before you dig...

Big job, small job, planting shrubs or trees, building a fence, putting in a pond, building a storage shed....any time you dig call 811. It's smart, it's safe and it is the law.

The Utility Notification Center—811 is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They accept calls from all over the state. Best of all...it's FREE!

Calling ensures that any public owned underground utility is marked according to the APWA color codes so that you will know what is below. Locates are done within 2 business days (does not include weekends or holidays) from the time you call. Before to plan far enough ahead to accommodate these days before you plan to dig. Please be aware that utilities are marked at the street, and are not marked on personal property.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**





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

MARCH IS ALREADY HERE AND WE ARE GETTING CLOSER TO THE MUSEUM'S OPENING ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12. THIS COLUMN HAS FEATURED SOME OF THE INTERESTING AND UNIQUE HISTORICAL ITEMS IN THE PERIOD ROOMS AT THE MUSEUM. THIS MONTH LET'S VISIT THE MUSEUM'S COUNTRY STORE. COUNTRY STORES FROM THE PAST ALWAYS SOLD A HUGE VARIETY OF USEFUL EVERYDAY NECESSITIES. ONE WOULD GO TO THE STORE AND GIVE THE CLERK YOUR LIST OF ITEMS YOU NEEDED, WHICH HE WOULD THEN GATHER TOGETHER AND GET READY FOR PAYMENT AND PICKUP. OF COURSE THERE WERE ALWAYS BARRELS OF DILL PICKLES, CRACKERS AND PEPPERMINT CANDY STICKS WHICH COULD BE SELECTED BY THE CUSTOMERS THEMSELVES.

THERE WERE SEVERAL FLOUR MILLS IN THE VALLEY AND THE MUSEUM HAS MANY COTTON SACKS USED BY THESE MILLS FOR THEIR FLOURS. ONE IS FROM THE OREGON ROLLER MILLS WHICH WAS USED FOR GRAHAM FLOUR. OTHER SACKS ARE FROM THE THE UNION FLOURING MILL, THE NORTH POWDER M AND M COMPANY AND THE PIONEER MILL IN ISLAND CITY. THE USED AND EMPTY SACKS WERE PRIZED FABRIC FOR DISH TOWELS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

THERE ARE MANY TOBACCO TINS ON DISPLAY, SUCH AS THE POPULAR PRINCE ALBERT TINS OF "CRIMP CUT TOBACCO" AND THE UNION LEADER "CUT PLUG" TINS. THERE ARE ALSO CIGAR BOXES SUCH AS THE ROI TAN WHICH WAS ADVERTISED AS "THE CIGAR THAT BREATHES." THE EMPTY TINS AND CIGAR BOXES HAD MANY USES. MY DAD ALWAYS USED A PRINCE ALBERT TIN TO CARRY WORMS WHEN HE WENT FISHING. APPARENTLY IT WAS THE PERFECT SIZE TO KEEP FISHING WORMS IN HIS SHIRT POCKET.

LOCAL BUSINESSES USED CALENDARS AS INTERESTING FORMS OF ADVERTISING. ONE SUCH IS THE 1914 CALENDAR FROM THE LLEVY MERCANTILE WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MUSEUM, WHICH TODAY IS THE UNION MERC.

SOME PRODUCTS CAME IN TIN CANS, SUCH AS COFFEE AND LARD. OUR COUNTRY STORE SHELVES ARE STOCKED WITH MANY EXAMPLES, SUCH AS THE MT. EMILY PURE LARD CAN.

BUT COUNTRY STORES STOCKED MORE THAN JUST FOOD ITEMS AND WE HAVE TWO VERY RARE AND UNUSUAL ITEMS ON DISPLAY. ONE IS A FLUTING IRON FROM THE EARLY 1800'S WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN HEATED ON A WOOD STOVE AND USED TO CREATE SMALL PLEATS ON A PETTICOAT TO GIVE IT JUST THE PROPER FLARE. THE OTHER ITEM ON DISPLAY IS THE REVIGATOR, AN EARTHENWARE CROCK THAT YOU WOULD FILL WITH DRINKING WATER. INSIDE THE CROCK WAS A "RADIOACTIVE" CONE WHICH WOULD REACT WITH THE WATER TO GIVE IT CURATIVE PROPERTIES. EXTREMELY POPULAR IN THE 1920'S THE REVIGATOR WAS SIMILAR TO SPA OR SPRING WATER TO AID IN TREATING ARTHRITIS, FLATULENCE AND SENILITY.

ADD A VISIT TO THE "COUNTRY STORE" ON YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR. EVEN IF PICKLES FROM A BARREL CAN'T BE SAMPLED YOU ARE GUARANTEED AN ENJOYABLE VISUAL "SHOPPING" TRIP FROM THE PAST

### Opening Day Will Be Here Soon!

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, it is for this reason. 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 or would like more information of what it means to be a host please contact Raye Clark @ 541-414-7316 or email [hookandrave@yahoo.com](mailto:hookandrave@yahoo.com)



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

### Standard Time Adopted

Dr. H.B Drake informs us that for all practical purposes Portland has adopted 'standard time'. The time will be telegraphed along the Western Union line every day at noon. Mr. Drake will also receive it at the same time every day by telephone and will keep the time at Dan Moore's hotel regulated by it, also the public school will adopt the time. This will be a great convenience to the people of Union and will obviate the trouble of correct time which heretofore existed.

Oregon Scout ~ January 30, 1886

Are Your House Numbers Easily Read?

Ordinance 151.25 states that all houses, stores, establishments, and other buildings, excepting minor sheds or outbuildings within the city limits shall have numbers placed near the main entrance of the structure.

It shall be the duty of every person, firm or corporation owning, occupying or controlling any structure to display numbers affixed to the door or door frame of the main entrance to be conspicuous from the street of which the structure faces. Numbers shall be easy to read at any time of day or night. Numbers shall be not less than four inches high.

Install house numbers, not only because it’s an ordinance, but for Fire/EMS responding to a call, making it for a faster response time. In an emergency every minute counts!!

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
- ⇒ City/Rural Fire annexation
- ⇒ Upcoming Water System Update Project
- ⇒ Union County Sheriff Contract
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances

~City Council Members ~

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

Mayor Susan Hawkins

March 2024 Council Meetings

- March 11th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

- March 25th
- 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  | 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