

# 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 2024



From The Desk Of...

**Celeste Tate**  
City Administrator



Spring has begun and as such the weather cannot decide whether it will be 70's and sunny, or 30's and snowing. While we had some record-breaking temperatures in Oregon and many unseasonably warm temperatures here in Union in March, the weather has returned to normal Spring fluctuations while trending upwards.

Work has started on well #2 that will be paid for with the CDBG grant. This well will have improvements completed this summer along with a new building. This project will take approximately 2 ½ to 3 months to complete after which time, well #3 will also be improved to include new controls. The city hopes to have these two projects completed by the end of August.

Public Works is also preparing for several chip seal projects to be completed in mid-July. South 4<sup>th</sup> will be chip sealed 3 blocks along with portions of E Delta, Bellwood and E Harrison. More to come as the project time approaches.

Public Works will also be completing some scheduled maintenance, repairs, and cleaning at the wastewater treatment plant this summer which will take most of the summer to complete.

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. Advertising will begin this month with interviews towards the end of the month. Applicants must be age 18 years or older and possess a Driver's License.

As a reminder, budget meetings are scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We welcome you to come and observe and comment on the FY 2024-2025 budget. Public comment on the budget will be received on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00pm and observation from the public of the budget committees deliberations will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm.

The Council has formed committees to work on the goals for the 2024-2025 year and encourages citizens 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 City of Union welcomes the newly appointed positions to the Budget Committee and Planning Commission. Marlin Good was appointed to the Planning Commission and fills a vacancy left from Lani Jones resignation. Brett Baxter and Lavelle Braun were appointed to the Budget Committee and fill vacancies from two members who were unable to serve due to moving out of the city or otherwise unavailable.

Enjoy the sunshine when it is out and stay safe during those springtime storms.

*Celeste Tate*

## Water & Sewer Rates

Per City of Union Ordinance 508, the city council has reviewed the current water and sewer rates and it has been determined to adjust the water rate at 1% increase, and the sewer rate by 3% increase. For a 3/4 inch meter water service this will raise your base utility bill by \$1.93

This rate will be effective April 1, 2024 and will be reflected on the utility bill you receive in May





# Union Carnegie Public Library

## ~April Activities~

April kicks off our youth book club! Join us every Friday from 10am~11am. In April the librarian will read *Dreams of the Golden Country* while kids complete book related projects, like Lego Statue of Liberty, coloring pages and word search. This book is perfect for reading equivalent of grades 4 ~ 6.

Thank you to the Oregon Humanities mini grant for funding this project!

### Storytime Tuesdays from 10am ~ 11am

April 2nd	Hopscotch
April 9th	Balloon haircuts
April 16th	Rainbow Fish
April 23rd	Straw Spelling
April 30th	Pop Art Self Portraits



### After School Craft Group ~ April 2nd and April 16th 4:00pm to 5:00pm

### Adult Craft Night ~ March 11th starts @ 5:00pm ~

Adult Craft nights will be hosted by community partners this month!

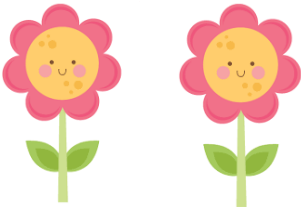
April 8th	Tea & Infusions with Mary Horn of Rising Tide Soulpothecary
April 15th	Jewelry Beading with Tara Brizendine

### 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



## 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, waste water treatment facility and mechanical maintenance. Wage will be determined on experience. Job application and a full job description is available at city hall, or can be emailed upon request.

Applications with references are accepted beginning April 1st, deadline April 19th.  
Call 541-562-5197 or email [lauradodds@cityofunion.com](mailto:lauradodds@cityofunion.com) for more information.



## Please Use Caution

Public Works Crews have many projects slated for this spring and summer. We ask that residents be aware of their surroundings, watch for employees and equipment, to please slow down when approaching a work site as traffic flows may change and if possible take an alternate route.

Parents, please talk to your children and tell them to stay clear of work areas and explain the dangers of heavy equipment and work zones.

Thank you for your patience as these projects proceed this spring and summer. Please be safe!



## Notice From Union Sanitation

Effective March 1st rates are now:

42 Gallon Roll Cart	\$26.36/month
68 Gallon Roll Cart	\$31.41/month
96 Gallon Roll Cart	\$36.47/month
Once a month pickup 42 Gallon Can	\$14.00



In the spring, at the end of  
the day, you should smell  
like dirt.

~Margaret Atwood

**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 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 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](http://www.digsafelyoregon.com)



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 at City Hall

**Annual Backflow Preventer Testing ~ Now Is The Time**

**What is a Backflow preventer:**

Backflow preventers keep your drinking water and the city's water safe by keeping potentially contaminated water being drawn back into the public potable water system.

**How do I know if I have a backflow preventer:**

A few examples of who should have a backflow preventer installed and is required to have them tested:

- ◆ Irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems
- ◆ Swimming pools or spas
- ◆ Solar heat systems
- ◆ Fire sprinkler systems
- ◆ Auxiliary water supplies (wells)
- ◆ Laboratory equipment
- ◆ Food and beverage processing equipment
- ◆ Chemical feed equipment



**How often do I have to test my backflow preventer:**

Upon initial installation your backflow preventer will be tested. After which it is mandatory that you have your backflow preventer testing annually or after any repairs or cleaning. Since backflow preventers contain parts that can break down and wear out it is important to test at least annually to assure your preventer is functioning properly.

**How do I get my backflow preventer tested:**

A certified backflow prevention assembly tester must perform tests on your assembly. Although we can't recommend a tester, you can obtain a list of a few certified backflow testers from city hall.

**I have had my backflow preventer tested, now what:**

You must submit a completed test report to city hall annually.

**What happens if I don't have my backflow preventer tested:**

City of Union will not be able to allow water service to continue to property with a backflow that has not passed testing and who have not provided a test report to the city.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your backflow or if you are required to have a backflow please contact city hall and we can get public works to speak to you regarding your questions.





### What's Happening at the Museum in April....

We have focused on the period rooms and the country store at the museum. This month we would like to showcase one very unique item.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words and in this case it is definitely a true statement.

The “Gypsy Girl” Italian sculpture from the early 1900’s is prominently displayed in a case in the center aisle of the bank building. She is an exquisite example of master craftsmanship sculpted from two different types of marble.



Our “Gypsy Girl” donated by Mrs. George Decker is definitely an item museum visitors will find to be astonishingly beautiful.



### Snippet of Union’s History.....

*Last Tuesday night Mr. Mose Lore, who resides on Catherine Creek a few miles above town, heard a disturbance in his hog pen, situated a short distance from the house, and upon investigation found that a large mountain lion, probably driven from the mountains by hunger, had entered the pen and was presenting his case to the swine.*

*Mr. Lore and Mr. Anderson, who was present, arming themselves with shot guns proceeded to the pen and firing at the same time killed the lion instantly. It was found that he had dispatched one hog and torn another ones jaw off, besides killing the house cat that by some means had got into his clutches.*

*~Oregon Scout January 20, 1888*

### Opening Day Will Be Here Soon! And We Need You!

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)



WE HAVE HAD MULTIPLE REPORTS OF PEOPLE HAVING LOOSE DOGS AT THE PARK. DOGS ARE TO BE LEASHED AT ALL TIMES AT THE PARK, AS IT POSES A DANGER TO ALL WHO USE THE PARK. AS NICE AS WE ALL BELIEVE OUR DOGS ARE, THEY ARE ALSO UNPREDICTABLE. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE, CHILD OR ADULT, THAT ARE FEARFUL OF DOGS AND YET ALL DESERVE TO ENJOY THE CITY PARK AS EVERYONE ELSE. ALSO, THERE ARE DOGGY POO BAGS AVAILABLE AT TWO LOCATIONS IN THE PARK....USE THEM, NOTHING CAN RUIN ANY DAY BY STEPPING IN POO THAT HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP!

NOTE: IT IS A CITY ORDINANCE THAT ALL DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RUN AT LARGE ANYWHERE IN CITY LIMITS, AND IF OBSERVED THE OWNER OR PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE DOG CAN AND WILL BE CITED.



Always Assume a Downed Power Line Is Deadly

Overhead power lines carry thousands of volts of electricity. If a line is down, always assume it is energized and dangerous, even if the power is out in your area. Touching or getting near a live power line can injure or kill.

Never approach an accident scene where a line is down or damaged. You could become a victim if you enter an energized area.

Power lines can fall or sag close to the ground for a few reasons, including severe weather or damage from a truck or car accident. Remember, a downed power line isn't always visible. After severe weather, lines can lurk underneath water or debris or could be tangled in fallen trees.

Stay clear ~ at least 50 feet ~ of all types of utility lines. Even if you think the lines might be telephone or cable service lines.

Power lines do not have to be arcing, sparking or making a humming noise to be live.

If a power line falls on your vehicle, do not attempt to drive away or get out of the vehicle. Call 911 for help and stay inside until crews say it is safe.

For more information about electrical safety visit:

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

April 2024 Council Meetings

- April 8th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

- April 22nd
- 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	541-562-2038
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	541-562-2038
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