

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 10:00am - 4:00pm

October 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

The First day of Fall was September 22nd and I have definitely felt the change in weather. While I enjoy the change of colors, it also means shorter days, lower temperatures and working on winter prep. It is also a good time for homeowners to do a little fall maintenance before colder icy weather comes. It is never too early to insulate your water faucets and other items subject to freezing weather. It is also a good idea to check gutters and roofs for any needed repairs while the weather is still good. A little maintenance and prep can save hours and money on repairs.

October is also Cybersecurity month where governments, industries and organizations work to increase awareness on the importance of cybersecurity. With so much of our personal data online nowadays, it is important for individuals to educate themselves on best practices for protecting sensitive data, personal information. Cybersecurity best practices include things like implementing strong passwords for all online accounts and using multi-factor authentication when available. Using strong encryption for home networks and avoid using public, unsecured Wi-Fi for things using sensitive data. Keep your software programs updates to ensure use of security patches and always be cautious of suspicious emails and links which could be used to steal your personal information. Consult with computer professionals for more tips on keeping your data safe.

The month of October has Halloween and all of its activities and I look forward to that. October 10th is also World Mental Health Day. Fall and Winter can bring on more mental health challenges for some folks and I encourage everyone to check in with those around them and try to have meaningful connections with others. Some say that only 8 minutes of dedicated undivided attention can help those struggling so try to take time whenever you can to check in with others and connect.

The city is looking to hire a Utility I in public works. Robin George will be retiring at the end of the year. Consider applying for this opportunity to serve the residents of Union.

Progress continues on the third and final Ranger Station unit. Windows and doors have been installed and contractors scheduled for Electrical, HVAC and plumbing. It will be nice to see this project completed that was started several years ago. In the future, revenue from these units will support economic development work in the city and I am excited to start seeing the benefits of many years of work.

The Planning Commission has been very busy with many applications brought forth for approval. However, the month of October has no applications to review but the commission will still hold a work session to learn about several topics that may be the source of future applications. Please see the city website, Facebook, city hall or one of the other postings around town for the agenda.

The Historic Preservation Commission has been working on procedures and templates to move forward with the Local Landmark Register that was approved over a decade ago. The Commission serves to assist with protecting and preserving the historical structures within Union. The Commission will hold a work session and commission meeting during October and meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

City Council continues its work on subcommittees as well and as part of the continued charter review, there are some suggested changes that I have been sharing with you each month and may be discussed at a future council meeting. If council would agree with the suggested changes, it would be referred to voters in a future election for consideration. This next section to share comes from the Charter Chapter VIII. It has been suggested to re-number each section to correspond with the Chapter that it is located. For example, Sections 34-36 could be re-numbered 8.1-8.3 that would correspond to Chapter 8 where they are located. The wording changes suggested are as follows with the strikethroughs, the suggested deletions, and the words in parenthesis the suggested additions.

Section ~~34~~ (8.1). Enacting Clause. The enacting clause of all ordinances shall be, "The city of Union does ordain as follows:"

Section ~~35~~ (8.2). Introduction, Reading and Passage. Every ordinance shall be fully and distinctly read in open council meeting on two different days previous to being put upon its final passage; but any ordinance may be introduced, read twice, once in full and once by title, and put on its final passage at a single meeting by a unanimous vote of all members of the council present at the meeting. Upon the final vote, the ayes and nays of the members of the council shall be taken and recorded ~~in the journal~~. If the ordinance passes, the recorder shall so endorse it, with the date and his name and title of office; and the mayor shall, within three days thereafter, sign the ordinance with the date, ~~his~~ name and the title of office.

Section ~~36~~ (8.3). When Ordinances Take Effect. Each ordinance passed by the council shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it has been signed by the mayor; but when the council desires, or in case of an emergency, an ordinance may provide a different time when it is to take effect, or that it is to take effect immediately.

Happy October and enjoy those pumpkin spice flavors and the changing leaves of Fall.

Celeste Tate

Yes.... You Can Burn

Burning is allowed beginning **October 1st**, with a burn permit issued by the City of Union. You can obtain a burn permit at City Hall. Burn permits are \$10.00 and are valid for each calendar year, January through December.

Please remember, **ONLY** burn the following:

⇒ Dry leaves & Twigs

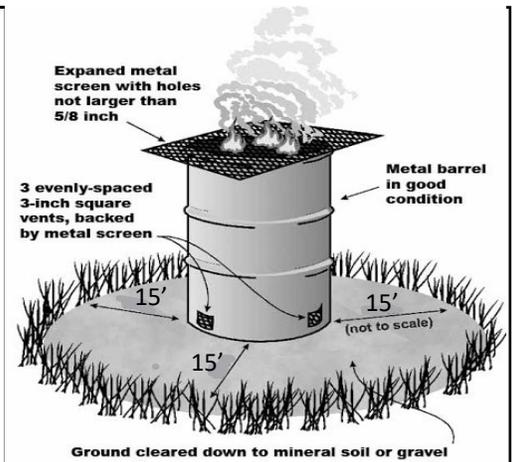
⇒ Un-waxed paper & cardboard

ABSOLUTELY NO GARBAGE

All fires must be completely out by dusk.

Violations of burning regulations can result in a citation.

Be sure to pick up your pamphlet for burn barrel regulations and other burning regulations at City Hall, or contact us and we can email you a pamphlet.



TRUNK or TREAT

Union High School Parking Lot, October 31st

5:00pm - 7:00pm



On the Original Oregon Trail Hwy
Main Street Musings for October 2025

Main Street Union was busy in September with the **Block Party** Saturday September 27. This is a free event for the community to meet your neighbors and celebrate our students returning to school. MSU would like to thank the Ford Family Foundation for again donating the food and beverages. The Ford Family Foundation has been very supportive of our community's efforts regarding the Park Project and the Community Center. MSU would like to thank all the teachers, support staff, volunteers, and coaches who support our students throughout the year. All events at the Block Party are free of charge and donated by other nonprofits and businesses. Main Street has also nominated the Pursel Memorial to be placed in the City of Union Local Landmark Register; this was the result of looking to "replace" the old memorial, more on this exciting discovery below.

The Pursel Memorial is the little thought of, run down, memorial in the turn around of 1st Street in the park. The City (or community members-further research is needed) decided to erect a memorial to recognize Samuel and Esther Pursel for their donation of approximately four acres of land for the establishment of a City Park in 1917. The Memorial had a 3-tiered fountain along with three globe lights on top of the three "pillars", further research is needed to determine the exact date of construction but it appears to have been sometime in the 1920s. Samuel Pursel moved to Union with his wife Esther in 1877 to continue his lumber business and run an 800- acre farm.

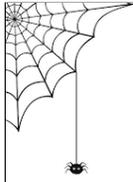
Union had another first related to the City Park, and possibly the Memorial, in being the site of the planting of the first "Peace Rose" in Oregon sometime about 1951 (further research to exact date is needed), "the Portland Rosarians came to Union to do the planting. The "Peace Rose" symbolizes hope, peace, and unity, particularly as a commemoration of the end of World War II and the desire for a harmonious future. Named "Peace" in 1945, the rose's journey from its development during the war to its presentation to United Nations delegates at their first meeting imbued it with global significance as a reminder that beauty can endure and peace can prevail, even after great conflict. " Information obtained from a LaGrande Observer article (date to be researched).

So yes, **Our Park** is important to not only Union but to Union County and the State of Oregon. Park update- Would you like to see our City Park add new play equipment, adult exercise area, Splash Pad, Pickleball Courts and basketball area, along with upgrading electrical service and irrigation systems MSU can use your help in implementing the "Park Master Plan". Phase 1 will most likely include: improvement to parking on 1st and 2nd streets, along with restoration of the Pursel Memorial in turn-around area, irrigation and electric service. A bid on the memorial restoration has been received and a letter of agreement has been sent to the City of Union to allow MSU to take the lead on its restoration. Main Street hopes to have a play equipment list completed to take to the school children this fall to help in making the final decision as to what they would like in their park. If you haven't seen the Park Master Plan, many local businesses have a copy in their front window as does Main Street Union's office at 251 S Main.

In October on Halloween evening, MSU will again be hosting its Trunk or Treat down in the school's parking lot. You are welcome to "trunk" and enjoy handing out treats to all the ghosts and goblins.

Where Main Street Union could use a little help would be on the City Park Project and a couple of New Board members, especially one willing to serve as the organization's secretary.

Main Street Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm and will be meeting **October 8** at RattleTale. Anyone interested in helping Union Build on Community Assets and make Union the Quality Community we all wish to live, work, and invest in, are welcome. You DO NOT have to own property on Main Street, or own a Historic home, or even be a resident of Union, you only have to want to help make positive changes.



Union Carnegie Public Library

~October Activities~



STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY 10AM ~ 11AM

WE WILL READ TOGETHER FOR HALF AN HOUR AND THEN DO A CRAFT/ACTIVITY:

- 10/7 GOREY ENVELOPE ART
- 10/14 EYEBALL ART
- 10/21 SKELETON HANDS
- 10/28 SPIDER TIC-TAC-TOE
- 10/29 CHICKEN ART

CHECK OUT OUR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TRUNK AT UNION'S TRUNK OR TREAT!!

ADULT EVENTS, SELECT MONDAYS 5PM ~ 6PM

- 10/6 SAND MANDALA
- 10/13 VELVET MUSHROOMS
- 10/20 CELESTIAL STATIONARY



PUMPKIN PAINTING: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST 10:00AM TO NOON, OUR ANNUAL PUMPKIN PAINTING EVENT!! ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED.

DID YOU KNOW: NEXT FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 4TH 2025 @ 5:30 PM

HAPPY BANNED BOOKS WEEK: OCTOBER 5-11 2025. CELEBRATE YOUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY. AS A PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY ABIDES BY FEDERAL LAW AND ALA FREEDOM TO READ, MEANING LIBRARY STAFF DOES NOT CENSURE PATRONS' READING CHOICES. WE BELIEVE YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS. [HTTPS://WWW.ALA.ORG/ADVOCACY/INTFREEDOM/FREEDOMREADSTATEMENT](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement)

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY WEEK!!! OCTOBER 19-25TH 2025 THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND ALL THEY DO FOR US. THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING THEIR LOCAL LIBRARY.

Starting in October we will make courtesy calls to any of our patron with late fees of \$5 or more. We'd love to give you the chance to trade us a pumpkin or squash in lieu of late fees, and we will use them for our annual pumpkin painting October 31 10-noon. Pumpkins can be traded for late fees, but cannot replace materials. Pumpkins need to be turned in to the library by October 30. You are welcome to join us to paint pumpkins on Halloween!

After School Crafts the First and Third Tuesdays from 4 - 5:00 pm

- 10/7 Gorey Envelope Art
- 10/21 Skeleton Hands

After School VIDEO GAMES Thursdays from 4-5:00pm.





What's Happening at the Museum....



Fall has officially arrived and the Museum is again closed to the public for the winter months. It's been, as always, a fun season of sharing history while working around the renovation of the museum office.

This month I'd like to focus on one very special clock. This large street side clock is located in La Grande on west Adams Avenue near the La Grande City Hall. I'll wager very few people know this clock had a brief history in Union, Oregon. Mr. George Birnie moved from British Columbia to Union in 1925 with his large, cast iron street clock and opened a jewelry store. The actual age of the clock was unknown. What is known is that it was built sometime after 1857 by the E, Howard and Company of Boston as was known as a post clock. This clock needed to be wound every day with a key. It is a "history mystery" as to whether George Birnie briefly located his clock on the Main Street of Union. This will be a winter project to see if more information about the jewelry store and clock can be discovered.

In 1928 Mr. Birnie moved to La Grande and formed a business partnership with William Siegrist at his jewelry store located at 1108 Adams Avenue. The post clock also moved to this address. In 1932 Mr. Birnie purchased the store from William Siegrist and it became Birnie's Jewelry Store. In 1950 the store hired Loren Hughes. One of Loren's many jobs was to daily wind the clock. In 1968 Loren and his wife Betty purchased Birnie's Jewelry, including the clock. Loren and Betty operated this store for 48 and 1/2 years until it closed in 1999.

In 1972 a catastrophe occurred. A freight truck smashed into the clock. The many ragged pieces were collected and stored in Loren and Betty's barn where they remained until 2018. The Hughes family felt the clock needed to be back on Adams Avenue. After much effort, restoration began led by La Grande Economic Director Christine Jarski and master welder Matt Orthmann. The clock was unveiled October 18, 2018 in perfect working condition and again has its place on Adams Avenue as a gift of time for all of Union County from Betty Hughes and her 5 sons.



Snippet of Union's History.....

The county court has let the contract for building the fence around the county jail to Joe Nodine for \$266, payable in county warrants. The fence is to be 12 feet high and of 1 1/2 inch plank, post 6 feet apart and all secured firmly with bolts. Two barb wires are to be placed on the fence one a foot above the top, and the other a foot above that. Altogether it will be a very good and substantial fence and an improvement that is much needed. A space of 15 feet will be left on all sides of the jail. Mr. Nodine has already commenced the work.

~Oregon Scout October 23rd, 1886



Hello, from Union School District!

We are so excited to become a part of the city's newsletter each month. It's a great space for us to share some of the achievements and exciting events that are happening. We encourage you to follow our school District page on Facebook, check out our website for updates, and don't forget to pause and read the electronic reader board in front of the high school!

For those that do not already know, while our entire district is all located in the same area, we function separately as an elementary school serving grades Kindergarten through 6th grade and a 7th-12th building where our junior high students (7th & 8th grades) and high school students (9th-12th grades) travel the hallways. We are super proud of our district and looking forward to sharing it with our community.

Elementary:

One of our many goals this year is to have 90% or better daily attendance, because being here is important and vital to the success of our students. We have a special display in each of our buildings that shows our daily attendance percentage and hopefully encourages our students and families to help us meet that goal daily. We run a monthly class competition to see who earns the best class attendance. That class is treated with the most delicious doughnuts around from our very own Union Market.

Our elementary Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is a very involved, ambitious group that supports our elementary students and staff. They host many fun activities throughout the year and work diligently to help us fund field trips, playground equipment, sound systems, benches, student/classroom needs, and the list goes on. This group is actively seeking to increase its membership. The more ideas and hands to help with activities and projects, the better opportunities we can provide for our students. If you are interested in participating or sharing ideas, please reach out to the elementary office for further information and a contact person. The elementary office number is 541-562-5278. They would love to have your support.

Junior High & High School:

We have had a great start to the school year! This group is also working on attendance goals, trying to hit the daily and overall average of at least 90%. Each quarter, we host an Academic Assembly where we recognize our students for meeting attendance goals, academic goals, and behavior goals. To be recognized, these students must meet our requirements in each of these areas! Our first assembly will be held on November 18th. These assemblies always begin at 8:40 am, and anyone is invited to attend and witness these students achieving high standards.

Homecoming is a BIG deal for our students! Monday, September 29th, marks the beginning of our exciting week of dressing up, earning spirit points, and showing off our school spirit. We have our Community Pep assembly on Thursday, October 2nd, at 6:30 pm in the High School gym. If you've never been to see this, it is definitely some good, fun humor! It's a chance to see the silly side of our students and celebrate the legacy of UHS.

Our Booster Club, which supports our 7-12th-grade students, is equally looking to boost its membership. This group provides opportunities for our students and staff, as well as contributions to various programs, clubs, & athletics. We certainly appreciate the hearts and efforts of this group. If you are interested in volunteering on behalf of the students at UHS, please call the office, and we will put you in touch with the correct person. The HS office number is 541-562-5166.

This amazing group is also starting a new tradition at Union, and this is the Bobcat Hall of Fame. Our first few teams and past athletes & coaches will be inducted at a special ceremony on October 4th. Attendance at this event does require an advanced ticket purchase. That ticket will include a catered meal, time with family and friends, and ensure the continued celebration of future inductees. It is a special honor to have this opportunity come to life this year. Thank you to the members of the Booster Club for all that you do. The class of 2025 Inductees are: Gene McKinney, Dar Wood, Tom Hayes, Katriel O'Reilly-Edifor, McKenzie Evans-Sheehy, John Comisky, Jessica Reynolds-Huggins, the 1949 Football team, the 1978 Boys Cross Country team, and the 1996 Girls Track team. Congratulations to all! Once a Bobcat...**ALWAYS** a Bobcat!



COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ System Development Fees
- ⇒ Schedule of Fees
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances
- ⇒ Committees working on the City Charter, Water/Sewer, Zoning, Trails, and Ordinances



~City Council Members ~

Trisha Seale	Dick Middleton
Kori Cox	John Black
Don George	Anita Davis
Mayor Susan Hawkins	

October 2025 Council Meetings

October 13th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

October 27th

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



Did you know you can receive a city newsletter by email? If you would like to receive your newsletter this way just email City Hall at cityhall@cityofunion.com and request your name be added to the list.

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 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	5:30 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	Nov 21, Feb 27 & May 22nd	Library	9:00am	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	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 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