

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

September 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

As fall peeks around the corner and kids are back in school, please be sure to stay aware of your surroundings as always, watching for kids crossing the street or buses stopped at a bus stop.

September 9th is Emergency Services Day so I want to take the opportunity to thank our Union Rural Fire and Ambulance for their dedication and service to our area. You are so appreciated!

Work continues on a possible College Street Bridge replacement. The city council work session on August 25th had several documents that were reviewed with council and those in attendance including design alternatives, a right-of-way services agreement and a contract amendment. Thank you to the residents for staying plugged in and involved with this project and giving feedback. The hope is for the city to have a finished bridge that meets residents' needs sometime in 2027.

The city is working with the county to Fog Seal 41 blocks within Union. Fog Sealing is a pavement treatment that applies a thin layer of special pavement oil to an existing asphalt surface. This layer serves to seal cracks and waterproof the pavement extending the life of the road surface. This project will occur the week of September 18th in areas around town. Look for more details on specific locations within this newsletter.

The Planning Commission still has one open position. This commission is vital to the smooth running of the city by reviewing and making decisions on all; conditional use permits; variances; partitions and subdivisions and making recommendations to the city council on; zone changes; comprehensive plans; and ordinances related to planning and development. Do consider serving the city in this capacity. Come by city hall to pick up an application.

Work continues on the third and final Ranger Station unit. The City Council awarded bids for Electrical, HVAC and plumbing at its August 11th council meeting and contractors have been scheduled. The hope is to have the unit completed early 2026.

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 VII. It has been suggested to re-number each section to correspond with the Chapter that it is located. For example, Sections 32-34 could be re-numbered 7.1-7.3 that would correspond to Chapter 7 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 32.~~ (7.1) When Office Is Vacant. An office shall be deemed vacant upon the incumbent's death, ~~insanity~~ (adjudicated incompetency), conviction of a felony, resignation, ~~removal from~~ (ceasing to reside in) the city, (recall from office,) absence from ~~the~~ city (duties) for a period of 30 days without the consent of the council, or (from all council meetings within a 60 day period,) ceasing to possess the qualifications necessary for the office; or upon the failure of the person elected or appointed to an office to qualify therefor on or before the day his term of office commences. ~~and in the case of the mayor or a member of the council, in addition to the above causes, upon his absence from meetings of the council for a period of 60 days without the consent of the council.~~

(7.2 Removal from office. If the mayor or councilor is absent from more than 25% of the meetings of council over a rolling 12 month period, the individual will be subject to review for removal from office by majority vote of the city council, after written notice and the opportunity to be heard on the matter.)

Section 33 (7.3). Filling of Vacancies. Vacancies in office shall (will) be filled by (qualified applicants after an interview and approval by council.) ~~appointment of the council, and~~ (The) appointee shall serve the unexpired term of his predecessor. ~~Within 24 hours after his appointment, an officer appointed to fill a vacancy must qualify for the office as in case of an officer elected and, in case he fails to so qualify, be deemed to have declined the office and the office shall be deemed vacant.~~

Last month's trivia question was: "Who donated the original property for the City Park and in what year?" The correct answer was: C). Samuel Pursel, 1917. Congratulations to Ruth Rush Helus who submitted a correct answer and whose entry was drawn. With disappointment I announce the end of the trivia contest in the newsletter. The participation was dismal with some months only having one entry. Thank you to those who did participate.

Union County Museum Society Annual Sale

September 12 and 13, 2025

8:30am - 4pm

Little White Church (next to City Hall)

366 S Main, Union



All proceeds benefit the Little White Church

Gently used items, no clothing please, can be donated to the Museum for this Sale.

Call Louise @ 541-910-0828

or Val @ 541-975-9495

It's The Perfect Time....

As fall fast approaches, the next few month's while the weather is still cooperative, it's the perfect time to prepare for those cold winter months that we know will soon be upon us.

What can you do now to prepare?

- ◆ **Check doors/windows for air leaks and repair weatherstrip if needed.**
- ◆ **Check the furnace and make sure it is running efficiently and serviced if needed, and change out the filters.**
- ◆ **Do you have a woodstove or fireplace? Be sure to have the chimney professionally cleaned and checked prior to starting your first fire of the season.**
- ◆ **Check plumbing under the house, it's a great idea to heat wrap/insulate pipes to prevent frozen pipes this winter.**

Put your mind at ease, take care of these few things now and go into winter knowing you are prepared.

Don't forget to put up those house numbers now too! If emergency services can't find your house it could cause precious minutes that could have saved a life or your home.

Fall Lawn & Garden Care



Lawn Care:

- * Continue to mow, gradually lowering the height as the season progresses. Apply a late fall fertilizer to promote strong root growth through the winter
- * Continue to water weekly, even as temperatures cool, to help absorb fertilizer
- * Aerate the soil to allow air and nutrients to reach the roots. Dethatch to remove any thick layer of dead matter that has built up over the year
- * Apply a broad leaf weed killer in the early fall while weeds are still active and before temps drop below 50 degrees
- * Fall is an excellent time to overseed thin or bare lawn

Garden Care

- * Apply mulch (even use your raked up leaves) around trees and plants after the ground has cooled to protect them from freezing
- * Remove dead & damaged branches from trees and shrubs. Pull any weeds to prevent them from coming back next spring
- * Planting spring blooming bulbs like tulips and daffodils will bring a burst of color in the spring
- * Drain hoses and irrigation systems to prevent freezing and cracking





*On the Original Oregon Trail Hwy
Main Street Musings for September 2025*

Main Street Union asks that you take a look at their logo (above) which will now include “On the Original Oregon Trail Hwy” after the Mayor’s proclamation designating the City of Union’s Main Street being on “the Original Old Oregon Trail Highway”. This proclamation encourages citizens, merchants, and governing bodies to include the designation when referring to Union’s Main Street. In addition, MSU will be using its mission statement “To Foster Economic Growth and Strengthen the bonds within our Community” to promote and market our community along with a catchy tagline of “Old Trails New Discoveries”. You should see these on MSU’s new web site which is being developed by Cindy Edwards.

Main Street Union’s final music in the park (**Family Roots Blues & Brews**) was **August 15th** with vendors, the Old Time Fiddlers playing at 5pm and the main band, Fading Sage Band, began playing at 6pm. The Old Time Fiddlers were as always fun to hear and Fading Sage Band was really good. If you didn’t make it down to the park you missed an evening of strolling through the park and enjoying some really good music and food! MSU hopes to next year (2026) again bring this event to our City’s Park a few times during the summer.

Up next for Main Street Union will be its annual **Block Party** Saturday September 27, late afternoon to early evening, come celebrate our students returning to school and meet your community neighbors. All events at the Block Party are free of charge and donated by other nonprofits and businesses. 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.

Main Street Union is a volunteer organization and an active participant in bettering our community. During 2024 MSU volunteers donated of 687 hours volunteering in community activities. Through June of this year (2025) MSU volunteers have volunteer over 542 hours on pace to volunteer close to 1000 hours for 2025. At \$20 per hour this would be \$20,000 in benefit to the community of Union for 2025. If you want to volunteer and have your time value Main Street Union is willing to accept your help and put you to work.

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 rebuilding the memorial in turn-a-round area, irrigation and electric service. A proposed design for the memorial has been completed by Ralph Edwards of Associated Designs and Engineering and can be viewed at a MSU meeting or by contacting a Board Member. Main Street hopes to have a play equipment list completed by late summer and will ask 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.

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 September 10 at Rattle Tales. 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.





~September Activities~

THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL GRASSROOTS BAKE & BOOK SALE FUNDRAISER!! WE APPRECIATE YOUR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK.

STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY FROM 10AM-11AM. WE WILL READ TOGETHER THE FIRST HALF HOUR AND THEN CRAFT.

- 9/2 LLAMA PINATA
- 9/9 CORN NECKLACES
- 9/16 WET DOG ART
- 9/23 ABORIGINAL ART
- 9/30 PNW PEG DOLLS



ADULT CRAFTS SELECT MONDAYS FROM 5PM-6PM

- 9/8 CORN DOLLIES
- 9/15 SAND MANDALA PART 1
- 9/22 SAND MANDALA PART 2
- 9/29 SAND MANDALA PART 3



AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS, 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS FROM 4PM-5PM

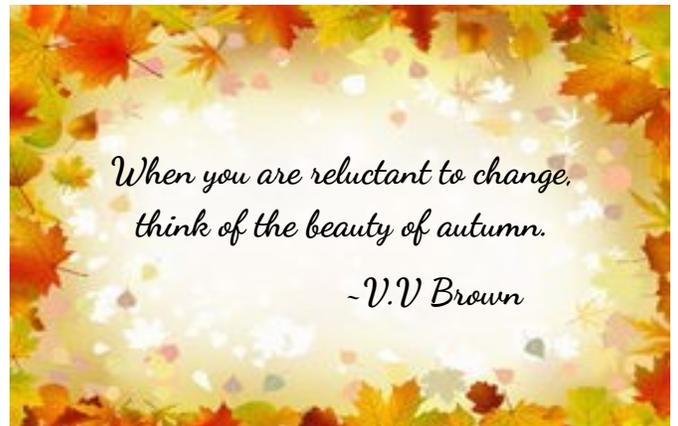
- 9/2 WINDOW PAINTING
- 9/16 CORN DOLLIES



AFTER SCHOOL VIDEO GAMES!! EVERY THURSDAY FROM 4PM-5PM
THANK YOU TO THE PATRON WHO DONATED AN XBOX 360 TO THE LIBRARY!



UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY
182 S MAIN, UNION OR
541-562-5811
TIFFANY DERICHSWEILER ~ LIBRARIAN





What's Happening at the Museum....

Where did summer go? It's almost time for the Museum to close for the winter. Work is underway in the office. The positive side of the rain and ice damage is that the complete renovation will result in a new and modernized office and work space. It's always nice to refresh areas, even in a museum.

I wonder how many folks remember the outrageous local group known as The Blue Mountain Boys? Their participation in parades and civic events started in 1957. There are many pictures of them participating in the EOLS parades in Union. John Turner wrote and published a limited edition of a book in 2016 entitled LA GRANDE BLUE MOUNTAIN BOYS which I am going to donate to the Museum's library.

This was a secret organization of men and to this day the identities of these bearded hillbilly characters is virtually unknown. Because of the secrecy of the group John Turner's book was written from newspaper articles, photos available from these articles as well as comments made to the media by the "boys" themselves.

If the Blue Mountain Boys were to make an appearance today in their 1923 truck with their identities disguised by large black felt hats, bib overalls, long beards and mud, blasting blanks from 12 gauge shotguns I'm positive Homeland Security, SWAT teams, the National Guard and the FBI would converge to save Union County from terrorism.

The antics of these "hillbillies" were outrageous. They often towed an outhouse or a moonshine still behind their vehicle. It would seem that they were all intoxicated but drinking during appearances was grounds for immediate expulsion from the group. They always played tricks on spectators and actually had some of their antics backfire. Once they blew up a mannequin in their outhouse and many people thought it was a real person. Once a bank window was shattered when too much wadding was used in the blank ammunition reload. Another hazard was when several of these "boys" would follow horses in parades and use golf clubs to putt horse droppings.

The Blue Mountain Boys main goal was to promote commercial interests and to be good ambassadors in a truly unique way. They actually wandered into a state Elks Convention in Roseburg and convinced the delegates that the next convention should be held in La Grande. The next year the next year that is exactly where the convention was held. It is also reported that they helped induct 3 Oregon governors and made many surprise appearances at events, including the Lay Family Reunion at Medical Springs in 1995.

The Blue Mountain Boys haven't been seen for about 30 years. For those who do remember their antics I believe they would be delighted to know that their appearances are remembered and to also be aware that such an unconventional group will probably never happen again. Those were fun times.

More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

~Oregon Scout September 21, 1891~

Three section hands from the railroad came into town last Saturday night and proceeded to 'fill up'. On leaving town the party became very noisy, using profane language. City Marshal Johnson started in pursuit of them but succeeded in capturing only one by hard work. The man, whose name is Frank Miller, is very powerful and resisted arrest, necessitating a heavy blow from the marshal's cane before he could be brought to the cooler. On Monday morning Miller was fined \$15 and cost on a charge of drunk and disorderly and \$10 and cost on a charge of resisting an officer, amounting in all to a fine of \$30.

School Zone Safety Tips.....

- ◆ Be aware for school zone signals and of school zone speed limits
- ◆ When entering a school zone, always slow down and obey traffic laws
- ◆ Always stop for school busses that are loading and unloading children. Often children must cross the road to and from a bus stop.
- ◆ Look for children near school grounds, bus stops, sidewalks, parking lots and in the streets.
- ◆ While driving, never pass other vehicles, change lanes, make U-turns or text in a school zone.
- ◆ Avoid using a cell phone, unless it is completely hands-free while driving in a school zone.
- ◆ Unless licensed to do so, never use a handicap or emergency vehicle lanes or spaces to drop off or pick up children at school.



Please stay vigilant and aware to keep our community's children safe!

Street Work ~ Please Be Patient

During the week of September 15th, the County will be fog sealing some streets. Please watch for large equipment, workers and closed streets.

It is a relatively delay time, approximately 20 minutes from time of application, so traffic shouldn't be affected for a long length of time.

This project will be on the following streets:

- * S. Third ~ from Arch to Oregon street
- * W. Oregon ~ from Main to South Third
- * W. Grande ~ from Main to South Tenth
- * W. Bryan ~ from Main to South Tenth
- * S. Gale ~ from Center to Fulton



Thank you for your patience during this project

CITY OF UNION SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S SCHEDULE

Committee	Meetings Held	Time	Location
Water/Sewer Committee	Every 2nd Tuesday of the month	6:00 pm	City Hall
Charter Committee	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Zoning Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	9:00 am	City Hall
Streets Committee	Every 4th Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Buffalo Flats Committee	Every 3rd Saturday of the month	10:00 am	City Hall
Ordinances Committee	To Be Determined		City Hall

Meetings will be held at City Hall, 342 S. Main, unless otherwise announced.

We encourage you to attend these meetings, ask questions, be involved and gain knowledge of the workings of your community. If you have questions regarding these committee's please feel free to call us.

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project, 3rd house
- ⇒ Buffalo Flats
- ⇒ College Street Bridge
- ⇒ 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	

September 2025 Council Meetings

September 8th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

September 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



Did you know you can receive a city newsletter by email? If you would like to receive your newsletter this way just email lauradodds@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@coni.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 Commission	4th Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00pm	541-562-5197
Library Board	Feb 27th, May 22nd, Aug 21st	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 work session	3rd Wed of the month	City Hall	6:00 pm	541-562-5197
Planning Commission business meeting			7:00 pm	
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 Tuesday of month	Health Clinic	4:00 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 Wednesdaynight	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035
VFW Formal meeting	1st Thursday of month	VFW Hall	6 pm	541-562-6035

Community Calendar