

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

November 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate
City Administrator



As the crisp air settles in and the last of the leaves fall, November reminds us to slow down and reflect on all that we are thankful for. This is the time of year when our community truly shines—neighbors helping neighbors, lights beginning to twinkle around town, and familiar faces preparing for the winter season ahead.

Our Public Works team has been busy winterizing city facilities and equipment, and making sure the city is ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store. Their dedication to keeping Union running smoothly—often in less-than-ideal weather—deserves our appreciation.

Our Planning Commission has been active in reviewing applications for new residential and small business developments—always a good sign of progress and vitality. Thank you to our commissioners for their thoughtful service and dedication to keeping Union a great place to live, work, and invest.

Our Historic Preservation Commission has been hard at work reviewing the city code surrounding protection of the city historical landmarks and the corresponding state law. Thank you to our commissioners for all their many hours of volunteerism serving on this important commission and working to protect our historic resources for years to come.

With the change in seasons also comes our favorite annual traditions. The Christmas Light Parade will once again illuminate Main Street on Saturday, December 6th. This event is one of the most festive nights of the year, and it's made possible by the hard work of many volunteers including the Union Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Union volunteers. Bundle up, bring your holiday spirit, and enjoy this magical evening with family and friends.

A reminder to those who burn yard debris: please do so safely. Even in the cooler months, wind can turn a small fire into something dangerous. Burn permits are available at City Hall—please obtain one before lighting up.

Finally, as we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th, I encourage everyone to take a moment to thank those who have served our country. Their commitment and sacrifice ensure the freedoms we enjoy every day.

This Thanksgiving season, I want to express my gratitude for our dedicated city staff, council, volunteers, and residents who continue to make Union such a wonderful community. It's an honor to serve as your City Administrator and to witness, every day, the heart and resilience of this town.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and joyful Thanksgiving.

Celeste Tate

Thanksgiving HAPPY

Fall
IS IN THE
Air



Union Carnegie Public Library



~November Activities~

STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY 10AM ~ 11AM

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

- 11/4 YARN RESIST BIRCH TREES
- 11/18 SNOWY FOX ART
- 11/25 MING ART

AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ NOV 4TH & 18TH 4PM ~ 5PM

- 11/4 YARN RESIST BIRCH TREES
- 11/18 SNOWY FOX ART

ADULT EVENTS, SELECTED MONDAYS 5PM ~ 6PM

- 11/10 FIRE CIDER
- 11/17 BANANAGRAMS



AFTER SCHOOL VIDEO GAMES THURSDAYS FROM 4PM ~ 5PM

November 6th we will be holding a movie marathon thanks to donations from patrons. All day we will have popcorn and ice cream available while supplies last. Attendees will choose what to watch.

Friends of the library meet **Nov 4th @ 5:30 pm** downstairs at the library for elections

We will be **CLOSED Nov 11th for VETERANS DAY** & Nov 27 & 28 in observance of **THANKSGIVING**



Seems like every year we urge citizens multiple times to prepare for winter and freezing weather. We do this to hopefully save citizens from frozen pipes and costly plumbing bills. In fact, burst pipes are one of the most common causes of property damage during frigid weather and can cause thousands in water damage—easily \$5,000 or more, according to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, attics, and garages. But even pipes running through cabinets or exterior walls can freeze. The good news is there are some simple things you can do to keep your water running and your house dry.

For a weekend's worth of time, you can reduce the headache of time-consuming clean up and costly water damage repairs and avoid the worry and the cost. Wrap exposed pipes with insulation or heat wrap, using insulation or spray insulation seal up cracks and spaces around windows, doors and crawl spaces to keep heat in and cold out.

If you plan to be away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F. Leave kitchen cabinets open and other places that pipes are potentially at risk. **Be Prepared Now, It Could Save You Those Costly Repairs!**



Thanksgiving at LJ Brewski's

Come Join Us Noon—5 pm

November 27th 2025

THANKSGIVING BUFFET

267 S Main St. Union Oregon

For more information
541-562-6286



Catherine Creek Community Center

Holiday Harvest BAZAR

November 15th

11 am ~ 4pm

667 Main Street, Union OR
CCCenter667@gmail.com





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

The City of Union accepted Main Street Union’s nomination and listing of the Pursel Memorial to its Landmark Registry. This the little-thought-of, run-down, memorial in the turn around of 1st Street in the park and was erected by the community as a thank you to Samuel and Esther Pursel for their donation of approximately 4-acres to the City for the establishment of the City Park in 1919. Main Street Union will now obtain an agreement from the City to proceed with restoration work on this important City Landmark. MSU board member Jana Dick has researched the possible design to The Memorial’s 3-tiered fountain along with the three globe lights on top of the three “pillars”. Bids for the Memorial’s restoration will be sought along with in-kind donations. If you or someone you know is a contractor willing to provide in-kind services such as excavation, plumbing, electrical, and/or concrete work please contact MSU member Walt Brookshire 541-805-8689.

MSU again this year sponsored the annual Kiddy Parade on Thursday October 30th. If you are unfamiliar with the Kiddy Parade it is an event on the Thursday prior to Halloween where the school allows the students from grades k-4th (additional community trickers join in the fun) to dress up in their Halloween costumes and parade down the east and west side of Main Street “trick or treating” the businesses and community members as they go. This has been a tradition in Union which goes back several decades (into the 1980s it is believed) and was started to allow children who lived on the rural bus routes an opportunity to trick or treat prior to leaving the community. Usually around 250 students participate. What a Great Tradition!

Halloween evening, MSU again hosted its Trunk-or-Treat down in the school’s parking lot. Oregon Trail Realty provided hot chocolate and cider to warm Trickers and their adult helpers. Pizza was provided again this year by Papa Murphy’s with MSU President, Tara Brizindine, in the kitchen baking them. MSU members busily handed out the warm slices to warm the innards of the ghouls and goblins. Many community organizations and members set up their “trunks” to hand out treats. This was Main Street Union’s third year in taking over this wonderful community project after its originator Dennis Falk stepped down. The Trunk-or-Treat was from 5pm to 7pm with many community members heading to the football field for a big show down between Union and Adrian for their league title.

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. 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”.

Topics for the November 12th Meeting will be finalizing plans for the Community’s Holiday Light Parade on Saturday, December 6th. The Holiday Light Parade was a Chamber event which MSU was asked to take over and will be organizing in the future. Discussion of new officers for 2026 and MSU’s annual meeting in January will also be on the agenda in addition to the usual park update, treasurer’s report and possibly several other new business issues.

Main Street Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm and will be meeting November 12 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.

Why a Red Poppy?...

Written on May 3, 1915, “In Flanders Fields” is widely recognized as one of the most famous poems about World War I, and its reference to poppies growing over the graves of the fallen soldiers contributed to the widespread use of the red poppy as a remembrance symbol.

Poppies are distributed on Memorial Day, to honor veterans who have passed, and on Veterans Day to honor those who are still with us.

What else can we do to honor a veteran?

A simple, sincere “Thank You” and a smile is a great way to show your appreciation for a veteran’s service.

Buy a veteran a meal, or deliver groceries to a veteran.

Visit a VA hospital, this will make them feel special and remembered.

Teach your children what the true meaning of freedom and sacrifice and why we celebrate veterans day and why we thank them for their service.





What's Happening at the Museum....

The month of November seems to have arrived too fast. The Museum is now closed for the winter months and as the famous Christmas poem states--"not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse." Let's hope that is a true and lasting sentiment. Focusing on critters, are the names Sweet Lips, Snipe, Topsy or Old Ike familiar? If not, I'd like to report that these names all were residents in the White House and were beloved pets of former presidents.

Only three presidents had no animals during their presidency. The petless presidents are James K. Polk, Andrew Johnson although it is reported that he found some mice in his bedroom that he thought were quite cute so he kept food and water for them to enjoy and lastly, our current president Donald Trump.

Scentswell, Sweet Lips and Vulcan were American Fox Hounds belonging to George Washington along with Drunkard, Taster, Tipler and Topsy, his black and tan CoonHounds. I wonder how he thought up these names?

In 1818 Thomas Jefferson had 40 sheep grazing on the White House lawn. He also owned a Mockingbird named Dick and two grizzly bear cubs that began causing so many problems they were reluctantly given to the National Zoo. Those lawn sheep no doubt looked pretty tasty to the bears.

James Adams raised silkworms and his wife Louisa was quite talented in harvesting and spinning silk for elaborate and exquisite embroidery work.

Serious swearing and profanity not limited to single words but including entire sentences caused Andrew Jackson's pet parrot Polly to be removed from any encounters with the public. We can only wonder how this bird acquired such a vocabulary.

Congress finally had to intervene and force Martin Van Buren to send his two pet tiger cubs to the National Zoo when they became a threat to guests and inhabitants.

William McKinley owned a yellow headed Mexican parrot that could whistle Yankee Doodle which was more appropriate than Jackson's swearing parrot.

Woodrow Wilson had 48 ewes and a ram named Old Ike grazing on the White House lawn. He sold their wool to raise funding for the Red Cross.

Herbert Hoover had some cute tree houses erected for his favorite pet, Betty, the opossum who like to walk on a leash around the White House grounds.

The John Kennedy family owned a pony named Macaroni who was much loved by Caroline and John Junior.

Most presidents owned dogs and cats but occasionally a gift of some exotic animal would arrive and would eventually find a new home at the National Zoo, So, after some fun research. it's apparent there have been many and varied creatures stirring at the White House.

Happy Thanksgiving and more next month.

Snippet of Union's History.....

Be sure and call at Dr. North's dental parlor in Union where you can get a full set of teeth for six dollars. Call and see for yourself.

Don't get a set of teeth that will rattle around in the mouth. Go and get a perfect fitting set at Dr. North's dental parlor in Union.

~Oregon Scout November 26, 1891

Union School District News:



Junior High and High School

It's hard to believe that the end of the first quarter of school is upon us already. It's been a great start to the year, and we are very proud of our students and staff. We host a Teacher Access day each quarter that falls on the Friday before the last day of the quarter. This is a day set aside for our students to come in from 8-12 and work with staff to complete any work or unfinished projects. The best part is, we cook them breakfast and provide a light lunch to send them into their weekend. We generally have a very good turnout and lots of things get accomplished. We will host our first quarter Academic Assembly on November 18th to recognize the accomplishments of our students.

This month, I also wanted to share some very exciting news with our community about our High School! We were recently crowned the OSAA Cup (Oregon School Athletics Association) Champions for the 2024-25 school year. This is the most prestigious honor that OSAA gives out each year. It is a culmination of our performance on the fields/courts and in the classroom, as well as the sportsmanship shown by our coaches and players. If you want to read more about this award, you can go to the OSAA website under 'Awards'. We received a huge trophy that was presented at our Community Homecoming celebration last month from an OSAA representative. We also have a very nice banner hanging in our gym representing the efforts of our teams and student athletes, so next time you're in there, make sure to check it out. A heartfelt thank you to Cat Dooley with Monkeys on the Run for your efforts and donation of the banner we proudly represent. Union School District has never previously received this award, so we are definitely celebrating this accomplishment. Go Bobcats!



Elementary:

We are celebrating the efforts of our elementary students as they have worked very hard to maintain a 90% attendance rate throughout the first quarter of school. The winner of the monthly attendance challenge for September was Mrs. Laughlin's 2nd graders! Their classroom average was 96.8%. They were treated to delicious doughnuts, generously donated by Justin and Anna from the Union Market. We truly appreciate their support! In other news, the PTA brought back the very popular pumpkin contest at the elementary school this year. We had many students participate, and the pumpkin decorating talent in this community is fantastic! Winners from the categories of: scariest, funniest, most creative, and most traditional will be announced at our next Student of the Month Assembly on October 29th at 9:00 am. Our K-2 students visited the Wing Family Pumpkin patch this past week, and thanks to the lovely Mark and Judy, each student brought home their very own pumpkin. Mark and Judy have been hosting students for years during this time and we sure do appreciate their kindness and beautiful farm that gives our students a great experience.



Happy 
Fall y'all 

Please Remember...

- * *All accounts are due by the 10th of the month.*
- * *All accounts that are unpaid after the 15th of the month is past due and subject to a \$15.00 late fee.*
- * *All accounts that are unpaid by the last business day of the month is subject to a delinquent door notice including a \$20.00 fee.*
- * *All accounts that are still unpaid by the date of shut off, noted on the delinquent door notice, services will be shut off, a \$35.00 fee assessed, and the account will need to be paid in full to restore services.*

WHEN ASKED IF MY CUP IS HALF-FULL OR
HALF-EMPTY MY ONLY RESPONSE IS
THAT I AM THANKFUL I HAVE A CUP.

Sam Leffkowitz

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances
- ⇒ Deer



~City Council Members ~

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

November 2025 Council Meetings

November 10th

- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

November 24th

- 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 Heather Daggett at heatherdaggett@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