

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

December 2025



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

As we officially settle into the winter season, Union is beginning to glow with lights and decorations. December has a way of bringing both excitement and quick reminders that colder weather is here to stay for a while. Whether you enjoy the snow or simply endure it, I hope this month brings warmth and community to all.

City Events & Holiday Festivities

This year's Lighted Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 6th at 5:00 p.m., bringing another year of creativity and festive spirit to Main Street. Crews have been busy placing lights in the park and getting everything ready for what is always one of our best-loved community traditions.

Earlier in the day, the Winter Wonderland Bazaar will fill the Catherine Creek Community Center from 10AM-4PM with local vendors, handmade gifts, treats, and holiday fun. It's a wonderful way to support local artisans and kick off the season.

The Library continues to offer great programming throughout the month, including craft days for both children and adults, story times, and special holiday events. Stop in and see what's happening each week.

Preparing for Winter Weather

As temperatures drop, I want to remind residents to disconnect hoses from spickets, even frost-free ones. Unnecessary breaks can lead to costly repairs. Insulating pipes, protecting crawl spaces, and taking preventive steps now can save money later.

Public Works has been completing winter preparation as well—plows are on the trucks, sanding equipment is ready, and materials are stocked. As winter storms arrive, please give crews space and time to work safely.

When traveling, especially with early-morning or evening ice, build in extra time and remember that even clear-looking roads may be slick underneath.

Other Projects

Public Works has also been completing routine maintenance, equipment servicing, service line installations for new residences, and small repairs across town before deep winter.

Work continues on the last of the three Ranger Station units with the hope of opening the final unit springtime 2026.

A Personal Note

As we close out another year, I want to express my gratitude for this community. Working with the residents, staff, and council of Union continues to be an honor, and each year brings new opportunities to serve and improve the place we call home. I hope this holiday season brings joy, rest, and warmth to you and your loved ones. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our community.

Celeste Tate



Christmas Parade Winter Wonderland Bazaar Tree Lighting & Santa



5:30pm Light Parade (theme Santa's Workshop)
Parade line up is 4:45pm in front of Old West Federal Credit
Union. Email mainstreetunion@gmail.com to register



Followed by ~

Tree Lighting with Santa!

Located at Hometown Hardware

Chili provided by VFW

Join us to Welcome in the Holidays!



Wonderland Bazaar



Catherine Creek Community Center

Saturday, December 6th 11am ~ 4pm

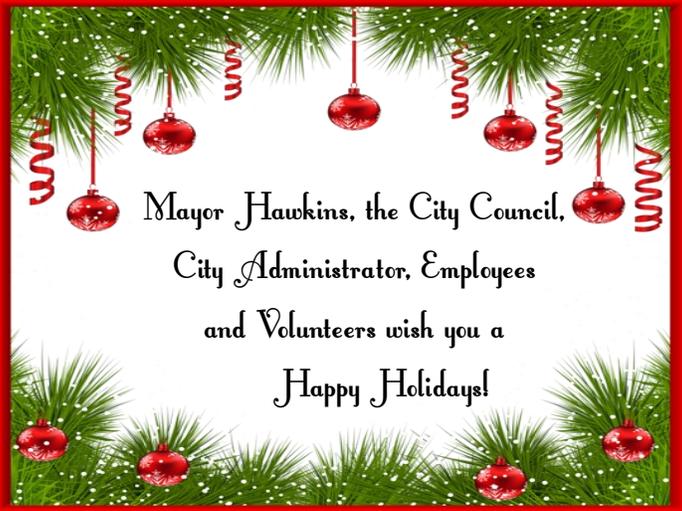
Art, Baked Goods, Concessions
Crafts, Gifts, Jewelry and Music!

Fun for the whole family!!

667 S. Main, Union, OR



Shop Local this Holiday Season



Mayor Hawkins, the City Council,
City Administrator, Employees
and Volunteers wish you a
Happy Holidays!

Travel plans in your future?...

We urge travelers to not blindly follow their GPS devices/
mapping apps to navigate road closures.

We know in our area road closures happen often! Road
closures can happen at any time, with no warning, and for
many reasons, not only depending on the weather.

Just recently there were multiple motorists stranded in our
area after relying on GPS to divert them around a road closure.
They were fortunate that a SOS signal reached authorities and
Union County Search and Rescue located them.

Just because your GPS device/mapping app shows the best
alternate route it doesn't mean the road is open and passable.
Remember, the farther off the normally travelled route you
get, the farther away from help you get, and the possibility of
losing all cell services.

Nothing is worth taking the chance, it's best to get to where
you are going late, than to not get there at all.

As always, we also recommend having a few safety essentials
when driving anywhere this winter:

Keep these items in a bag or container in your car or truck:

- ◆ Ice Scrapper, and small travel/camping size shovel
- ◆ Something to give traction; sand or kitty litter, or chains
- ◆ Flashlight and extra batteries, matches
- ◆ Jumper cables, tool box
- ◆ First Aid Kit, with, if possible extra daily medications
- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Non-perishable foods
- ◆ Cell phone charger
- ◆ An extra quart of oil, and container of anti-freeze



Before heading out, plan your trip and allow plenty of time to
get to your destination safely.



TOYS FOR TOTS TOY DRIVE

Your local Fire & Emergency Service Departments are requesting your help in making this Christmas a very special one for the local children of the community. Your donation has the power to make a difference.

A small donation of a New unwrapped toy, game, gloves, hats, or cash (which the department uses to purchase needed gifts), are just a few suggestions.

Look for donation boxes at local businesses.

Cash donations can be made to the Fire Department please call to set up arrangements.

If you know a family that could benefit from Toys for Tots please contact the Fire Department 541-562-5758 Please leave a message as they do not have staff to answer the phone full time at the Station



UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School News:

We love this time of year! So many wonderful things are happening at our school and in our community. We shared the message of World Kindness Day on November 13th by making hearts to hang in many of our businesses throughout the community. The K-12 students worked together on this project, and we hope you will notice them displayed in many windows and inside businesses.

We held our first quarter academic assembly on November 18th. We recognized 92 students for meeting our established criteria, which includes: a 3.0 or higher GPA, 90% or better attendance, no behavior incidents, no cell phone violations, and no skipping or excessive tardiness to class. Eighteen of those 92 students also had perfect attendance and were treated to a drink at Rattle tail to reward their efforts.

In addition to the individual recognition mentioned above, we do a class competition to see which of the classes has the highest percentage of students who receive the award. The 7th-grade class earned the first quarter title and was treated to donuts, generously donated by Justin and Anna from the Union Market! Yay for the 7th grade!

Our 7th-12th-grade students had a 92% cumulative attendance for the 1st quarter! We couldn't be prouder of the efforts our students are making to be in school and doing what it takes to be successful.

One final thought! Our Junior and Senior students are required to earn community service hours for graduation. Please reach out to Rhondie Johansen at the school if you have ideas or needs with which we may be able to help. The number is 541-562-5166.

We encourage you to follow our Union School District Facebook page for updates on athletics, game schedules, and all the great things happening daily within our district.

Union Elementary

The holidays bring such excitement and energy to our younger students. We have many traditions that generations of Bobcats have been involved in and that we still share today. One of those is that our K-2 students will be making pumpkin pies for friends and family to enjoy after their Thanksgiving program. We have dress-up days, holiday parties, and a community favorite, our Christmas program. The students are working hard to prepare for all of these things.

The elementary school students also achieved their goal of exceeding 90% attendance for the first quarter. What a testament to hard work and dedication from both students and families. We sincerely thank you for your efforts.

Mrs. Sheehy's class won the attendance award for October and received special donuts from Justin and Anna from the Union Market. We enjoy these yummy donuts and greatly appreciate the support they give us.

We are learning all about gratitude in our Social-Emotional Curriculum, called Character Strong, which really enriches the meaning of the seasons.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you, from all of us at Union School District.

Happy Holidays!



Union Carnegie Public Library

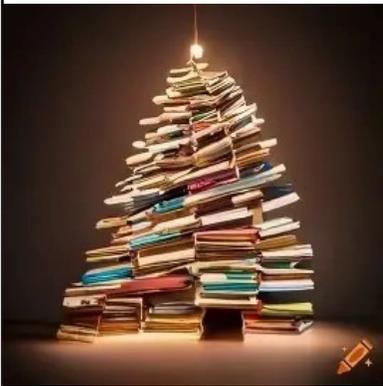


~December Activities~

Keep an eye out for Pip, our Elf on the Shelf! He moves around the library causing mischief!

****WATCH FOR OUR PARADE ENTRY IN THIS YEAR'S SANTA'S WORKSHOP CHRISTMAS PARADE! SATURDAY DEC 6TH @ 5:30 PM**

THANK YOU TO THE CITY OF UNION PUBLIC WORKS AND THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!



STORYTIME EVERY TUESDAY 10:00AM ~ 11:00AM

WE WILL READ TOGETHER

12/2 ANGRY BIRDS CAN THROW

12/9 DOILY SNOWFLAKES

12/16 CARDBOARD GINGERBREAD

12/23 JEWELLED TREES



AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ DECEMBER 2ND & 16TH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

12/2 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BRACELET

12/16 CARDBOARD GINGERBREAD

ADULT EVENTS, SELECTED MONDAYS 5:00PM ~ 6:00PM

12/1 DIAMOND DOT BOOK COVERS PART 1 (BRING YOUR OWN BOOK)

12/8 DIAMOND DOT BOOK COVERS PART 2 (BRING YOUR OWN BOOK)



AFTER SCHOOL VIDEO GAMES THURSDAYS 4:00 ~ 5:00 PM

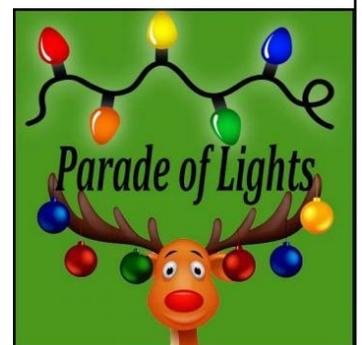
WE'RE HOSTING A CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY, GET TICKETS EACH DAY YOU COME TO THE LIBRARY FROM 12/1-12/19 AND WE WILL DRAW THE WINNER ON MONDAY 12/22/25

SELFIES WITH SANTA DECEMBER 22 3-6 PM & DECEMBER 23 3-5 PM DOWNSTAIRS AT THE UNION CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY. BRING YOUR PHONE OR CAMERA. FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

*WE'RE DOING A JOLABOKAFLOD COCOA & MUG GIVEAWAY STARTING 12/22/25



TIFFANY DERICHWEILER ~ LIBRARIAN





What's Happening at the Museum....



In addition to the many unique historic items found in the museum there is also one plant that is traditionally symbolic of Christmas. I wonder if any visitors have ever noticed the large holly bush growing just to the right of the door leading from the foyer into the courtyard? Since the museum is closed during the winter this lovely holly bush doesn't get much attention from folks other than those still working in the museum. Its leaves are quite green and the berries are brilliant red.

During autumn and early winter, we all experience less sunlight everyday. In the distant past this early darkness troubled people. With leafless trees and chilly air the green holly bush seemed to be a symbol of hope that everything in nature wasn't dying.

Before the winter solstice ancient Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a festival honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture, abundance and renewal. These festivities reminded Romans that their world would not be plunged into darkness. Wreaths and boughs of holly appeared indoors and out. When gifts were exchanged a small sprig of holly was tied to each gift. Saturnalia celebration lasted 7 days beginning before the solstice and ending December 25th.

Some interesting facts about holly are:

- + It is dioecious meaning in order for it to bear fruit a male and female plant is necessary
- + the red berries only appear on female plants
- +holly is an evergreen
- +European holly is considered an invasive plant in California
- +cutting down a holly bush is considered bad luck
- +since holly is a slow growing plant there are protection laws in Maryland and Delaware regulating extreme plant trimming

It's nice to know the museum has one of these holly bushes adding holiday brightness and protection to our winter courtyard.

Happy and bright holidays to all. More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

Union was the scene of quite a romantic elopement on Christmas Day. A young man by the name of Davis from Wallowa County and a daughter of Mr. Paddy Miles of Big Creek being the chief actors. It seems that the young man had been forbidden to pay his addresses to the girl by her parents, and had seemingly obeyed their cruel demands and absented himself. The parents, thinking that everything was all serene, permitted the girl, in company with a young man of this vicinity to attend the ball in this city on Christmas Eve. It seems that the young lady had apprised Davis of her movements and he also came to town. Next morning he secured a buggy and the girl, eluding her escort, got in and was taken to Telocaset where the pair took the train to Idaho where they are now, no doubt, enjoying the sweets of married life. The drama will not be complete however until they come back home penitent and are forgiven, which will probably be in a few days.

happy holidays



The Catherine Creek Community Center has been officially accepted into the National Register of Historic Places! This recognition marks the successful completion of a long and dedicated preservation effort, and our board is delighted to have reached this milestone.

The Union Food Bank shed is nearing completion. The building now has a heat source, insulation, fresh paint, and a sidewalk. These improvements will create a safer environment for visitors and volunteers and help us respond effectively to the increasing number of food bank guests, as noted by the Oregon Food Bank. The Union Food Bank is open from 10 to 11 on the third Friday of each month.

Senior/Community Meals continues each month with support from multiple sponsors. The volunteer-driven event occurs on the second Friday of each month at noon and includes a wonderful set of volunteer musicians. The December Community Meal will be sponsored by the South County Health District.

Our youth programs include a Monday after-school Youth Group, a homeschool art class in partnership with Art Center East, and our Backpack Program, which provides children with take-home food.

Our next vendor show is scheduled for December 6th.

Winter Wonderland BAZAR Saturday Dec6th 11:00am ~ 4:00pm



Volunteer positions are available on our Board of Directors and the Union Food Bank. Email CCCcenter667@gamil.com for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of the Catherine Creek Community Center in Union Oregon.

Wind And Trash!!....

Union Sanitation asks that citizens make sure that their trash is bagged with the bag tied shut, trash can lids are closed (even with the lid weighted with a rock or something similar if possible), and trash cans are pulled out to the edge of the road or street on pick up day.

Unbagged trash blows all over the city with these harsh winter winds! A weight of a rock or something similar will make sure the lid stays closed. Trash cans that aren't at the edge of road or street can not be picked up by garbage truck, therefore it may be missed on pickup day.

Thank You from Union Sanitation



Public Notice:

Freezing Temperatures mean the possibility of frozen pipes!! The city urges citizens to run their water at a steady 'trickle'. This helps prevent your waterlines from freezing as well as preventing your water meter from freezing.

A 'trickle' is described as about the size of a pencil lead.



COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances
- ⇒ Committees working on the City Charter, Deer, and Ordinances



~City Council Members ~

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

**OH DEER
WINTER
IS HERE**

December 2025 Council Meetings

December 8th

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

Council Meeting @ 7:00pm

December 22rd

Council Work Session @ 6:00pm

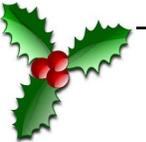
All meetings are held in the Leonard Almquist Chambers at City Hall.

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 Laura Dodds at 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@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 Comm Ctr	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 Wednesday of the month	Rattle Tale (332 S Main St)	6:00 pm	541-910-7048
Planning Commission	3rd Thur. 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