

Newsletter *City of Union Oregon*

"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

Mon ~ Thurs 10am-5pm
Closed for Lunch
Friday CLOSED

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Monday 10am-6pm
Tues ~ Thurs 10am-5pm
Friday 10:00-4:00 pm

January 2026



From The Desk Of.....

Celeste Tate

City Administrator

Happy New Year to everyone in Union. I hope you all enjoyed a restful holiday season and that the year ahead brings health, opportunity, and continued progress for the community.

The Christmas Parade was a fantastic event, and I would like to thank the public works crew and the city's librarian Tiffany, for their work on the library's float, and to all the other folks who participated in the parade. It was a wonderful event. I would also like to extend my thanks to the city staff for their efforts in setting up the festive lights in the city park and along Main Street.

The start of the year is always a good time to reflect on where we've been and look ahead to what's coming. The winter season has begun, and while we haven't seen significant snowfall in the valley just yet, our public works crew is fully prepared. They have diligently completed the servicing of all equipment needed for winter-weather road conditions and have taken measures to weatherize facilities where necessary. I encourage all residents to do the same for your homes, especially insulating pipes and preparing vehicles for colder temperatures. Although I don't always enjoy driving in heavy snow, I do hope for a healthy snowpack this year. It's crucial for our agriculture, streams, and helping to minimize the fire risk later in the year, so I am optimistic that the mild start to winter is not indicative of the season to come.

City operations continue to move forward on several fronts. Ongoing maintenance and planning work is taking place across our utilities, streets, and facilities, with staff focusing on both immediate needs and long-term reliability. As projects progress, updates will continue to be shared with the public through council meetings and future newsletters.

January also marks the beginning of budget season. Over the coming months, staff will begin developing the proposed budget, which will then be reviewed by the Budget Committee in the spring. This process helps guide how City resources are prioritized and invested. I encourage residents with an interest in local government and community planning to attend the Budget Committee meetings and give their input on where the city allocates its resources.

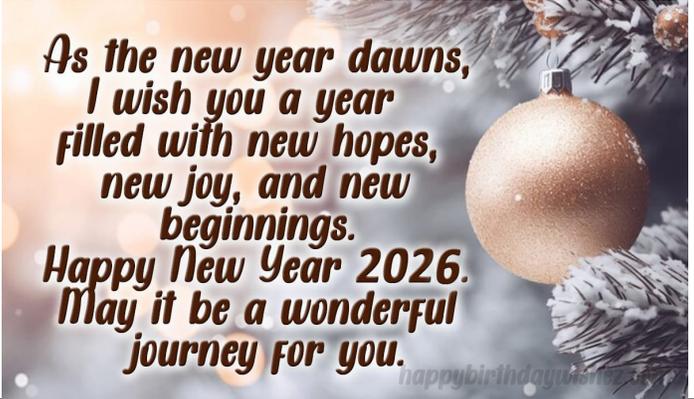
With the new year comes continued opportunities for public engagement. City Council meetings and committee meetings remain open to the public, and your participation is always welcome. Whether attending meetings, sharing feedback, or volunteering, community involvement plays an important role in shaping Union's future.

I want to thank City staff for their continued dedication and service, particularly during the winter months, and thank residents for your patience and cooperation when weather or projects cause temporary inconvenience.

As always, if you have questions or would like more information on City projects or services, please feel free to contact City Hall. We are always happy to help and point you in the right direction.

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Celeste Tate



***As the new year dawns,
I wish you a year
filled with new hopes,
new joy, and new
beginnings.
Happy New Year 2026.
May it be a wonderful
journey for you.***



Thank You!

To all who donated to our annual Toy's for Tot's drive this year.....we were able to provide a very happy Christmas to many of our local kids thanks to your generous donations!

All of the volunteers with your Rural Fire/EMS service wish you all a Happy New Year!

A TRICKLE OF WATER.....THE SIZE OF A PENCIL LEAD

REMEMBER, THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CATASTROPHE. BROKEN WATERLINES COULD END UP COSTING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN WATERLINE AND HOME REPAIRS!!

THE CITY CHARGES 1/2 A PENNY PER CUBIC FOOT FOR WATER, A CUBIC FOOT OF WATER IS APPROXIMATELY 7.5 GALLONS. RUNNING A 'TRICKLE' OF WATER WILL COST MUCH LESS THAN BROKEN LINES AND HOME REPAIRS.

WE ALL KNOW THAT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY CAN BE BRUTALLY COLD, AND WE CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH TO LET YOUR WATER RUN WHEN THE TEMPERATURES DROP!

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

- Seal cracks and holes properly
- Using heating tape can prevent freezing
- Keep the heat in your home at a minimum of 55 degrees Fahrenheit
- Allowing drips from faucets overnight can relieve pressure
- Insulate pipes that are located in cold, drafty places inside the home
- Disconnect all outside hoses

Ashes Don't Belong In The Trash....

Are you using your wood stove to keep warm this winter?

Please remember that your ashes should be disposed of properly, and not put into your trash can until they are **completely cold**. Place ashes in a metal container outside away from the house, out buildings, or anything else flammable. Keep your family and your property safe.

Ashes put into the trash too soon can also cause fire and costly damages to the garbage trucks.

WATCH YOUR ASHES

Allow the ashes from your woodstove or fireplace to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Keep the container outside.

PERMIT REQUIRED

2026 Burn Permits Available

Burn permits for 2026 are now available at city hall. Permits are \$10.00 and are valid for the 2026 calendar year. Burn permits are required for burn barrels or open burning within city limits.

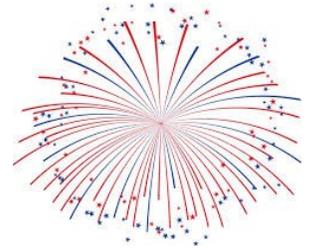
Rules and regulations are also available at city hall.



Union Carnegie Public Library

~January Activities~

We hope you make this year a year of lots of books and reading!



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

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

- 1/6 AERIAL SNOWMEN
- 1/13 CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS BOOKMARK
- 1/20 CRYSTAL PAINTING
- 1/27 MARBLE PETS



AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: THE 1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

- 1/6 AERIAL SNOWMEN
- 1/20 CRYSTAL PAINTING

ADULT EVENTS, EVERY MONDAY IN JANUARY FROM 5:00PM ~ 6:00PM

WE WILL BE ENJOYING "JANE AUSTEN EMBROIDERY" WHERE PATRONS CAN BRING THEIR OWN EMBROIDERY PROJECT, OR CHOOSE FROM HISTORICAL PATTERNS AND SUPPLIES ON HAND, WHILE WE LISTEN TO JANE AUSTEN AUDIOBOOK. PATRONS WILL VOTE ON OUR AUDIOBOOK ON 1/5.

CRAFT & CHAT!

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



House Numbers!

Winter means fire places, wood stoves, ice, flus and other illnesses.... These can all lead to the need for emergency response personnel. Every minute counts when emergency services are dispatched. At the time of dispatch they are given an address of the emergency. But can they find you? Do you have your address visible? Please post your house numbers! It may save your home or your life!

Storm Drains....just for rain!

If you have curbs and gutters near your home or business, they likely have a storm drain nearby. Storm drains are for rain water or melting snow and transports that water to nearby stormwater ponds, and from there to nearby creeks and rivers. Therefore, if there are contaminants, trash or other materials in the water that enters storm drains, they too will be washed into local waterways.

Oregon State Law states that essentially anything other than rainwater should NOT go down a storm drain, including: wash water from vehicles or equipment, paint, oil, grease, chemicals, pool water, cleaning solutions, yard waste and any hazardous materials; anything that could pollute the waterways where stormwater drains lead.

Keep our waterways clear by keeping our storm drains clear from anything but water.



Union School District

Building a Solid Foundation for Lifelong Learning



December is always full of fun activities and special traditions that make our school so proud. We celebrated with Christmas dress-up days in both the elementary and junior/senior high schools, classroom parties, lights, homemade gifts, and all the activities that make this time of year special. Then we came together for the traditional Christmas program. We want to give a massive shout-out to Mrs. Carson, our new music teacher this year. If you missed the program, you missed an outstanding production. Our students sang, danced, and played their musical instruments so incredibly well. There were lots of talents showcased, laughs shared, and memories made that evening. In addition, our 7th-12th-grade students participated in our annual food drive. All collected items were donated to our local food pantry, which supports those who need it most in our community. We are proud to do our part to help others.

Upon our return to school on January 5th, we will wrap up our first semester. Then, as we welcome 2026, we hope for continued dedication from our students and staff! We've set the bar high this year, and we want nothing more than to continue meeting those standards. We want to set new goals, strive to achieve them one by one, and always put our best foot forward. Happy New Year from all of us at Union School District.

2026





What's Happening at the Museum....



January seems to be one of the winter months that is optimal for staying inside and reading. This month my reading material has been about the history of local schools and stories and memories from long ago. The following rules for teachers from the year 1915 are quite interesting. I didn't realize teachers could actually hand carve pen nibs, For those of us used to ball point pens, a pen nib is an unusual item. The nib was the writing end of a pen that needed to be dipped in ink.

Rules for teachers 1915

1. Lady teachers will not marry during the term of their contract.
2. Women teachers are not to keep company with men. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes or 2 evenings a week if they go to church.
3. Teachers may not loiter downtown in ice cream parlors. Gentlemen teachers must not smoke, use liquor in any form, frequent pool or public halls or get shaved in a barber shop.
4. Teachers must carefully whittle pen nibs so as to compliment the individual skill and taste of the pupil.
5. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a good sum of their earnings for their benefit during the declining years so as not to become a burden to society.
6. The teacher must keep the school room neat and clean, and sweep the floor at least once a day, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the chalk boards daily and start the fire by 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.
7. The teacher who performs labor faithfully and without fault for 5 years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week provided the Board of Education approves.

One of the first schools in Union was located at the junction of Little Creek and Catherine Creek one mile east of the city in the year 1864. Then came Catherine Creek School located four miles from town in the early 1870's. 1882 lists North Valley school and South Valley School. Ramo Flat also had a school in 1882. There is a great picture of this school and its teacher who was standing in the doorway with a rifle.

The Museum has a treasure trove of information and pictures from these past schools. There are years worth of handwritten school records, handwritten report cards and copies of school expenses and bills paid. It is interesting reading about how teaching and education has evolved from the past to the present day. Now, I'm still thinking about nibs. Try to imagine an educator today carving the perfect nib for your pen so you could successfully compete in cursive contests sponsored by the State Board of Education. Let's hope we all have a perfect nib for 2026.

Stay warm and enjoy reading. More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

La Grande Evening Observer June 2, 1930

Union - The Cozy (Roxy) theater which changed hands a few weeks ago, has been repaired and remodeled and fitted up with a Vitaphone talkie and had its opening program Friday evening, presenting "The Showboat" for its first two nights. Patrons of the initial talkie for this city report that the acoustic properties are fine, the voices carrying as well as in the larger theaters.



COUNCIL CORNER:



Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ Reviewing Ordinances
- ⇒ Committees: City Charter, Water/Sewer, Zoning, Trails, Ordinances, Public Safety

~City Council Members ~

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

January 2026 Council Meetings

- January 12th
- Council Work Session @ 6:00pm
- Council Meeting @ 7:00pm
- January 26th
- 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



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 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	Catherine Creek Com Centr	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 Thursday 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