

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 am ~ 5pm
CLOSED for Lunch Noon ~ 2 pm
Fridays CLOSED

Union Carnegie Library

Monday 10 am ~ 6pm
Tuesday ~ Thursday 10am ~ 5pm
Fridays 10 am ~ 4 pm



On the Original Oregon Trail Hwy Main Street Musings for January 2026

Main Street Union held its Annual Meeting on January 14, 2026 at RattleTales coffee shop at 6pm electing new Board Members and Officers for 2026. Walt Brookshire was elected to serve a Board position with two years remaining. There are still two board positions remaining to be filled; one for one year (for someone just wanting to get a toe wet) and one for three years (a full body dunking). Next up on the agenda was election of officers for 2026; officers elected are Walt Brookshire-President, John Baker- President Elect, Tara Brizindine- Past President & new Secretary, Treasurer-Meriah Williams. 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 in our community.

Main Street Union also updated their Bylaws allowing for: 1. Electronic voting by members for board positions and officers 2. Discouraging President from serving more than two consecutive terms 3. Internal financial audit to be completed within 30 days of board election/change by the new President, Past-President, and Treasurer 4. Treasurer required to file IRS form 990 within 60 days of election of a new Board.

A Mission Statement and Goals were reviewed and adopted. Main Street Union's Mission is to organize and promote constructive relationships between local government bodies, private business and citizens. Goals in areas of Organization, Promotion, Economic Vitality, and Design were discussed and adopted to better fit the organizations bylaws and the Main Street Oregon program.

Reviewing Main Street Union's project list for 2026 identified 23 projects for the organization with 18 projects directly working to make Positive Changes in our Community. Focus programs for 2026 will be establishing MSU's website, restoring the Pursel Memorial (November newsletter), Park Project (electrical, plumbing, paving, identifying equipment), signs for the Historic District and our community's presence "On the Original Oregon Trail Hwy", Family Roots Blues & Brews, Grassroots Festival, Halloween Kiddie Parade & Trunk or Treat, Holiday Parade, and Downtown planters. If you and your family enjoy these programs MSU could definitely use your help. You may contact President Walt Brookshire at 541-805-8689 or email Main Street at mainstreetunion@gmail.com.

If you didn't catch the article on the Pursel Memorial that Garrett Christiansen with Elkhorn Media wrote in December you should read it, he did a very nice job. I am attaching the link for your reading pleasure: [Main Street Union working to restore Union's historic Pursel Memorial. - Elkhorn Media Group](https://elkhornmediagroup.com/main-street-union-working-to-restore-unions-historic-pursel-memorial/) (<https://elkhornmediagroup.com/main-street-union-working-to-restore-unions-historic-pursel-memorial/>).

March MSU's meeting on the 11th will be a Community & Member recognition desert. A power-point presentation on Main Street Union and how it works under the Oregon Main Street program will be presented along with awards recognizing Main Street Members and Community Members for their service in helping the Community reach Main Streets mission.

Please start looking for Main Street Union's web page which is under construction with the help of Cindy Edwards and board members Jana Dick, John Baker, and Meriah Williams. Postings on meetings and other Main Street activities will start to be uploaded to keep the community informed on what Main Street Union is up to and how the community can help and participate.

Main Street Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm and will be meeting February 11 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. Contact Walt Brookshire-President at 541-805-8689 if you have questions about Main Street Union or ideas where the organization may help Our Community.

Union High School



And here we are, already halfway through the school year. This year is flying by. We enjoyed many activities and celebrations prior to break, and now it's time to get down to business again. The second part of the school year always seems to go by even faster than the first. Our senior class is entering the last stages of their high school career and is busy obtaining scholarships, applying to colleges and trade schools, or lining up their next steps after graduation. As we wrapped up the first semester, I wanted to make it clear how hard our students worked both academically and on their attendance. It is with such excitement that I get to announce we are celebrating another 90% average attendance for students in grades 7th-12th and a district-wide achievement of 91.3%. The Oregon Department of Education imposes many guidelines and rules regarding student attendance, and I'm proud to say that in the Union School District, we make attendance a priority and work to improve it each day. Thank you, students and families. Be on the lookout for exciting things coming in the next few months. Our Elementary PTA organization is hosting the first annual BINGO NIGHT on Feb. 6th, and we'd love for anyone and everyone to join in the fun. Then we will continue with our winter sports events, have some winter homecoming dress-up days and dances, and plans are underway for our Union-Cove Prom in April. Lastly, we would like to invite you to our 2nd-quarter/first-semester Academic Assembly on January 29th at 8:40 am in the high school gym. It's a great time to celebrate the students' efforts in the classroom and let them know that hard work does pay off. A friendly reminder that Juniors and Seniors are looking to fulfill their community service hours. If you or an organization you are a part of needs some helping hands, please reach out to Mrs. Johansen at the school: 541-562-5166. Continue to follow us on our social media platform and keep an eye on the reader board outside the high school for upcoming events.



Fun Facts

Origin: The holiday was originally celebrated to honor George Washington's birthday.

Date: President's Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February.

Official Name: The holiday's official name is Washington's Birthday, but it's more commonly referred to as President's Day today.

History: The holiday was established in 1885. In 1971, Richard Nixon combined Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays into one holiday.

States that don't celebrate: Some states, including Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, don't observe President's Day.

State of Virginia: Virginia holds month-long parades to celebrate President's Day.

**City Hall will be Closed February 16th, 2026
In honor of President's Day**

Don't Forget!

Before you burn in 2026 you will need a burn permit! Burn permits are \$10.00 and are valid for the 2026 calendar year.

Burn permits are available at City Hall





Union Carnegie Public Library

~February Activities~



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

WE WILL READ TOGETHER FOR HALF AN HOUR AND THEN DO A CRAFT/ACTIVITY ALL SUPPLIES FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

- 2/3 EPSOM SALT PAINTING
- 2/10 MIXED MEDIA VALENTINES ART
- 2/17 BLUEY ART
- 2/24 PAPER SPINNERS

AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTS: FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH ~ FEBRUARY 3RD & FEBRUARY 17TH 4:00PM ~ 5:00PM

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

- 2/2 ANNUAL SEED & PLANT EXCHANGE
- 2/9 BOOK NOOK SESSION 1
- 2/16 CANCELED ~ PRESIDENTS DAY
- 2/23 BOOK NOOK SESSION 3



AFTER SCHOOL VIDEO GAMES EVERY THURSDAY FROM 4 ~ 5 PM

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY ON FEBRUARY 16TH

WE ARE HOLDING A VALENTINE'S ART CONTEST GIVEAWAY!! TURN IN YOUR VALENTINE'S ART BY 2/11. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT ENTRIES. NEED SUPPLIES? STOP BY THE LIBRARY IN THE AFTERNOONS IN FEBRUARY AND WE WILL MAKE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE. WINNERS WILL BE CONTACTED ON 2/12 TO PICK UP ON OR BEFORE 2/14. ALL ART MUST BE PICKED UP BY 2/20.

UNION CARNEGIE LIBRARY
182 S MAIN, UNION OR
541~562~5811



TACO FEED FUNDRAISER

Linda & Richard Franks

TACO FEED & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

February 20th 2026 4:00 pm ~ 7:00 pm

Location: S.E Miller Gym Union Oregon

If you can Help with the Taco Feed Contact Jodi George 541-805-9117

Silent Auction Donations Please Contact Ilene Kingery 208-991-7575

Suggested items for Auction: Baskets, Baked Goods, or Crafts





What's Happening at the Museum....



The weather damaged roof above the office at the Museum has been repaired and work is now focusing on painting walls, ceilings and installing a new floor. It will be nice to have a new and updated office when the museum has its traditional opening on Mother's Day in May. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who, in addition to many tasks, now need to use serious muscle power to move filing cabinets, desks and tables back into the refurbished room.

It is always nice to take a break from any task and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and chat with friends. This month I'd like to share a history in a different form. How about conversations from a 1959 coffee shop. Sixty-seven years ago these comments represent thoughts and concerns about the world of yesterday.

"Did you hear that the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday actually cost 50 cents a gallon? Guess we would all be better off if we left our cars in the garage."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price I'm going to quit smoking. Twenty-five cents a pack is ridiculous."

"I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."

"Do you suppose television will ever reach our part of the country?"

"I never thought I'd see the day when all of our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters."

"Do you know that one of the churches in town is actually allowing women to wear slacks to their services?"

"I don't know about you but if they raise the price of coffee to 15 cents a cup, I'll just have to drink my coffee at home."

"If a few idiots want to risk their necks flying across the country in airplanes that's fine, but nothing will ever replace trains."

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will never catch on."

"If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it. I'll just have my wife learn to cut hair."

I wonder if our 2026 coffee shop conversations will cause folks to chuckle in 67 years in the future? I guess we will have to wait and see. Happy Valentine's Day. More next month.



Snippet of Union's History.....

For some time past the streets of Union, being covered with snow, have presented a very dazzling appearance. A great number of our citizens have noticed a peculiar black and blue streak darting athwart the white surface, on numerous occasions, and much speculation has been indulged in as to the cause of it. Some have asserted it to be "an optical delusion caused by the refraction of the sun's rays" or words to that effect. Others thought it was caused by some strange phenomenon in nature. After considerable trouble we have solved the mystery, and when we say that Dr. Deering is the owner of a blue sleigh, or "go-devil," in which he hitches his black horse, "Chief," and goes out riding occasionally, the mystery is explained

~Oregon Scout January 27, 1888

Frigid Temperatures!....

The temperatures the last few weeks have dipped well below freezing! Have you had any problems with broken water pipes? We really hope not!!

We all know that February in Eastern Oregon can be brutal, and will probably bring more extreme cold temperatures. The city's public works crew still cautions citizens to take precautions to avoid costly repairs to waterlines and even your home if waterlines inside break.

These few suggestions could save you hundreds of dollars:

- ◆ Let a faucet **"trickle"** (the size of a pencil lead)
- ◆ Leave cabinet doors open to expose pipes to warmth
- ◆ Wrap pipes inside and under house with insulation

If you do have a frozen waterline, thaw with a hair dryer or space heater. Low heat to thaw lines slowly is best.

If you do experience a waterline break and you see that the amount of water usage is unusually high, let us know here in the office and we can usually do a leak adjustment once repairs are done and the leak is fixed.



Union Elementary

Half of the school year is already under our belt. It truly is flying by, and we are making the best of it all. We had a very busy time before our Christmas vacation, during which we enjoyed many traditional activities at our school. The elementary music program, class parties, gift exchanges, and time spent with our friends making special gifts and crafts. The 12 days of Christmas dress-up were so fun, and we had lots of smiles as we saw what the students chose to wear each day. However, here we are, working hard to get back into the swing of things and into our routines again. We are continuing to work towards our daily attendance goal of 90% or better, both individually and as a district. Winter can be a challenging time of year with sickness and vacations, but our students and families are making school a priority, and we can't say THANK YOU enough. Our 2nd-quarter average was 91.9% in grades K-6 and 91.3% districtwide. The Oregon Department of Education imposes many attendance requirements, and we work hard here at Union to show that we can meet them! We have some exciting events planned for the upcoming months, so keep a close eye on notes coming home, the reader board outside the school, and, as always, our school social media page. The first of many is BINGO NIGHT on February 5th, which is sponsored by our PTA! While it's the first time, the committee has put a lot of effort into making it a fun night. Reach out with any questions and check those backpacks for information! Let's kick off the 3rd quarter strong and keep rising.



Happy Valentine's Day

COUNCIL CORNER:

Current City Council Topics Include:

- ⇒ Ranger Station project
- ⇒ 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

February 2026 Council Meetings

February 9th

Council Meeting @ 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

Like us on Facebook!



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 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	Feb 27th, May 22nd, Aug 21st	Library	9:00am	541-562-5811
Lions Club	3 rd Tues of the month	Catherine Creek Comm Ctr	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