



CITY OF UNION OHIO

Summer 2012

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City Council

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at City Hall, 118 North Main Street. When City Council calls for a second meeting of the month, it is typically held on the fourth Monday. Meeting dates are posted in the City's calendar at www.ci.union.oh.us

Mayor Michael O'Callaghan
836-0177

Vice Mayor John Bruns
836-9248

Councilwoman Colette Adams
771-3077

Councilman David Blackwell
832-8332

Councilwoman Jean Kyle
832-2811

Councilwoman Helen Oberer
836-3269

Councilwoman Robin Perkins
832-3902

Spirit of Union winner loves her old schoolhouse home

Not many people can say they live in a home that's more than 150 years old ... let alone a home that was once the first brick schoolhouse in the Village of Union. Ann Marie Shafner and Tom Tiley can claim this distinction. Right around 1860, the structure was built just east of Main Street on the north side of Martindale Road. For years, this was where the young people of Union received their first formal schooling.



Mayor Michael O'Callaghan with Spirit of Union Award recipients Ann Marie Shafner and Tom Tiley.

Fast-forward to year 2012 and this property at 100 E. Martindale Road has been honored with this year's Spirit of Union Award. Ann Marie and Tom are the 17th recipients of the award, which recognizes exceptional efforts in outdoor beautification projects in our community.

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Residents to receive new recycling toters in August

During the first week of August, Rumpke will deliver new 65-gallon recycling toters that can hold three times as much material as the red bins. The new toters are easily wheeled to and from the curb and have a lid to prevent litter. The toters are provided at no additional charge to residents.

Rumpke will collect the red Rumpke Recycling bins July 31. All residents will receive a green toter between Aug. 1-3. After Aug. 1, the green toters will be the only recycling container Rumpke will collect. Residents using the original circular red City of Union recycling cans may keep them but not use them for recycling with Rumpke.



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Residents should follow these simple steps for using the green toter:

- Face the toter toward the street (wheels away from the street).
- Position the toter within two feet of the curb (between the curb and sidewalk when possible or behind the sidewalk if there is no grass area between the curb and sidewalk). Toters should not block the sidewalks.
- Avoid placing the toter near a parked car, mailbox or trash receptacle. Keep a 4-foot distance between the toter and other objects.

Union was one of the first cities in the Miami Valley to start a curbside recycling program 20 years ago. With the new toters, Union should increase recycling even more than the 327 tons recycled in 2011. As of May of this year, Union residents recycled 137 tons.

Recycling is collected Tuesdays in Union and processed at Rumpke Recycling in Dayton. You can learn more about the recycling process at www.rumpkecleanandgreen.com.

What to recycle

These items are acceptable for recycling. You do not have remove labels or separate materials.

- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Aluminum and metal cans
- Cereal and snack food boxes
- Cardboard (flattened to 2' by 3')
- Newspaper with inserts
- Junk mail and phone books
- Empty aerosol cans (tips removed)
- Glass jars and bottles
- Magazines and catalogs
- Office and computer paper
- Cartons (juice, milk, egg substitute containers)
- Clean pizza boxes (free of food and grease)



Why recycle

On average, each person in the U.S. produces about four pounds of trash every day. Recycling is the easiest thing you can do to reduce your impact on the Earth. Not only does recycling conserve landfill space and natural resources, it also creates jobs and saves energy.

Storage of trash cans - reminder

Just a friendly reminder about the City of Union's "trash can code." All solid wastes, while awaiting collection, must be stored in such a manner that they do not constitute a fire, health or safety hazard or provide food or harborage for vectors, and shall be contained or bundled so as not to result in spillage.

Please take out trash cans no sooner than 12 hours before trash pickup and take them in no later than 12 hours after trash pickup. When removed from the curb, please store cans either in the garage, behind the house or at the sides of the house if they are screened by a fence and not visible from the street. We appreciate your cooperation!

Union's combined water/sewer rates are the lowest in the Miami Valley!

The City of Union's combined water and sewer rates are the lowest in the Miami Valley region three years in row, according to an annual survey conducted by the City of Oakwood. Union's rates have remained low over the past seven years.

"Our community has consistently ranked among the top five lowest combined water/sewer rates among the 63 jurisdictions surveyed," City Manager John Applegate said. "We're proud to provide quality water and sewer treatment services at a great price to our residents and businesses in the community."

To view the entire survey, go to www.ci.union.oh.us.

Car care and storm water pollution

What does storm water pollution have to do with owning a car? These topics may seem unrelated. But they aren't.

Whenever your car leaks oil or gasoline on the ground, there is the likelihood that these substances will be washed into storm drains during rainfall (or snow melts). Once on the streets, the oil, gasoline or other auto fluids are carried in the water to rivers and eventually to oceans where they pose threats to fish and other marine life.

Compared to the BP oil spill in the Gulf last year, this may not seem all that important, but as one of 300 million people owning cars, you can see how oil drippage and gasoline spills could seriously add up. And, the impact locally on our creeks and rivers will be even more immediate right here in our own back yard!

Vehicle owners can minimize polluting of the creeks and drains that handle storm water by doing these things:

1. When you pull up at a gas station to fill your vehicle, be careful not to spill gasoline on the pavement. Ensure that when you lift the nozzle, there is no

residual fuel that will spill. If there is some fuel there, pour it into the gas tank carefully.

2. Insert the nozzle carefully and deeply into the gas tank before starting the gas pump. If you intend to fill your tank, watch the tank as it fills up to avoid any overflow. Then, when you finish filling the car, take care to shake your nozzle off (into your tank) before you return it to the pump. Withdraw the nozzle slowly and carefully. Wait for the last drop to drain into the gas tank before you remove and replace the nozzle on the pump.

3. When parked on clean pavement, check to see that oil, brake fluid or gasoline does not leak or drip from your car. If you notice a leak, take steps to fix it quickly.

4. Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. Never throw used auto fluids into storm drains, catch basins or open ditches. The City of Union provides for free disposal of such automobile oils and fluids at the City Service Yard, 216 Shaw Road in Union. The drop off box is located outside the fence by the gate and your

used oil can be dropped off any time of the day.

5. Wash your car on your lawn instead of on a driveway or the street to keep the soapy wash water from washing into the storm water drains (and then on to the creeks and rivers and beyond).

Better yet, if you can afford it, wash the car at a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater. Many do. Even the ones that do not recycle drain their dirty water to the local wastewater plant where it is cleaned up before it goes into the river.



New volleyball court! We've just installed a sand volleyball court at Parkgrove Park (former city pool site). Two cornhole courts are near completion at the facility, and a basketball court was installed last year.



Spirit of Union
winner's side
yard

Spirit of Union (continued from front)

Ann Marie bought the property in 2009 after deciding to return home to Union, the town where she had grown up. She went to grade school and high school in Union through the Northmont School System and then pursued a college degree leading to a career in social work. Life brought her to Brookville (where she still works, at the Brookhaven Nursing Facility, as a Licensed Social Worker) but, after having lived in Brookville for a number of years, her hometown was calling. So was the unusual property that needed some tender-loving care.

She brought Tom with her. Tom, also reared in Union, has traveled the world as part of the U.S. Air Force and has lived in such faraway places as Guam, Hawaii and Alaska. The couple is glad to “boomerang” back to Union.

“We love it here,” Ann Marie said. “It is the perfect place to live.”

She helped to put herself through college by bussing tables at The Toll House on Main Street. That restaurant-tavern and many other stops along the way are within strolling distance of her home.

“Yet,” she said, “it’s like living in the Smoky Mountains.”

Indeed, you’d never know you’re a stone’s throw from Main Street. The property on Martindale enjoys hilly, gauzy views of the land as it ambles toward the Stillwater River.

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Ongoing and upcoming community accessibility improvements

The City of Union began replacing walkways in Concord Farms North last year, installing more than 3,100 lineal feet of 5-foot-wide walks. The City plans to continue this program in 2012. The walks in Concord Farms North will be completed this year, and we will begin the replacement of walkways in the Concord Farms West greenspace area. These improvements will be completed in 2013-2014. A federal Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG) for \$68,000 was awarded to the City to continue our efforts to improve accessibility. A local contractor will be replacing curb access ramps in Concord Farms North and West later this summer. Phase one of these improvements were completed in 2011 in the Beery Boulevard and Greencliff areas south of Martindale Road with the help of a \$55,000 CDBG grant. The City has submitted for a CDBG grant to install sidewalks in Community Park, which would make the facility handicapped-accessible and allow for the walkway from Martindale Road to be extended through the park property all the way to Phillipsburg-Union Road. If the grant application is approved, this project will take place in 2013. Income tax dollars and grant funding are allowing the City to make important community improvements.



Union’s water tower dating to 1959 was dismantled in July.

City of Union passes a “Do-Not-Solicit” ordinance

On July 9, Union City Council approved a “Do-Not-Solicit” ordinance. This ordinance will enable residents to sign up to “opt out” of having solicitors/peddlers come to your home. You can sign up any time and your address will be added to the list. Every five years, a new registration list will be created, and everyone will have to reconfirm that they want to be on the list. Once a person is signed up, your address will remain on the Do-Not-Solicit list until the next time a new registration list is created (which is every five years) but you always have the option to withdraw or add your address at any time. If you would like to be added to the Do-Not-Solicit List, please complete this form below and return it as indicated. Or, if you prefer, use the form online at www.ci.union.oh.us.

Please add my address to the Do-Not-Solicit List!

Only your **ADDRESS** will be on the list provided to solicitors (not your name).

Your signature: _____

Please print information below:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Then do one of the following with this completed form:

Mail the Form to:

City of Union
 Attention: Do-Not-Solicit List
 118 North Main Street
 Union, Ohio 45322

OR

Drop in the Water Bill Payment Box:

Located behind the City Building
 118 North Main Street
 Union, Ohio 45322

**Please send in this entire page/form.
 Be sure to make a photocopy for your records.**



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website! Visit
www.ci.union.oh.us

Time-Sensitive Recycling Info inside this newsletter!

Spirit of Union (continued from page 4)

Whoever owned the property at one time apparently did a lot of work on it, creating ponds, a creekbed and walkways. The ponds, stone-lined, are on the west side of the property's double-wide lot. Leafy trees and evergreens shade the yard, giving it a peaceful, park-like setting. Ann Marie's perennials, "split" from plants from her previous home in Brookville, have taken root and are in full bloom.

"I like hearty plants that you can just throw in the ground and they grow," she said with a laugh.

Tom puts in a vegetable garden each year, and Ann Marie cans the produce in the fall. A new addition this year is a Mastiff puppy named Samson who is already 50 pounds and bounding around the property. (Mastiffs can grow to, well, massive proportions!)

"I am so thankful to my family and friends who helped me work on 'Marty'" - that's Ann Marie's nickname for the home. "Also, our neighbors have been so welcoming and kind. The City of Union is very dear to both Tom and me, and we are so blessed to have moved back home after having lived away for many years."

Congratulations, Ann Marie, Tom and Samson, on an award well-deserved! To see more pictures of the property as it is now, plus an old news clip about the schoolhouse and an aerial photo provided by the Randolph Township Historical Society, visit http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/spirit_awards/. To learn more about the Spirit of Union Award, visit <http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/departments/detail/spirit-of-union-award/>.



Ann Marie enjoys her yard!