

UNION



Newsletter Published for Union Residents

FALL 2010

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City Council

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at City Hall, 118 North Main Street.

Mayor Patricia Goudy
 867-5759
Vice Mayor
Michael O'Callaghan
 836-0177

Councilman David Blackwell, 832-8332
Councilman John Bruns
 836-9248
Councilwoman Jean Kyle
 832-2811

Councilwoman Helen Oberer, 832-3269
Councilwoman Robin Perkins, 832-3902

City launching new website!

The City of Union is launching a new website! The web address remains the same: www.ci.union.oh.us. The website was first built in 1999 and has been modified over the years. The new website is designed to give users a consistent

experience and information that is easily found. "We designed the website with four audiences in mind: those who live in Union or who are considering

photo will be used on the City of Union website from Dec. 21, 2010, to March 20, 2011. Please submit digital photos in jpeg format on CD by mail at Website Photo Contest, City Hall, City of Union, 118 North Main Street, Union, Ohio 45322; or, submit digital jpeg photos by email at jhamilton@ci.union.oh.us. No photos or emails over 2 MB please. Print photos may be scanned and converted into digital jpeg format before being submitted for consideration. Up to two photos per Union resident. Photos cannot be returned. Photos will be judged based on depiction of winter life in Union, clarity and quality. Good luck!

Spirit of Union winners announced!

Frank and Carlotta Webb of 110 Williams Way in Union's Lindeman Commons neighborhood are the 15th recipients *continued on page 2*



our City, and those who do business in Union or are thinking about setting up shop here," Assistant City Manager Denise Winemiller said. Read on to learn about our website contest!

Digital photo contest

"If you look at the main page of the website, there's a central photo that depicts the season we're in -- in this case, autumn. We need a photo that depicts winter in Union. We'd like Union residents to submit digital jpeg photos that they've taken in our City that depict wintertime," Winemiller said. Photos will be accepted until Dec. 10, and the winning photo will be selected Dec. 15. The



Frank and Carlotta Webb pictured with Union's Vice-Mayor and Park Board President Michael O'Callaghan.



of the Spirit of Union Award. The annual award recognizes those who make

exceptional landscaping improvements. The Webbs' six-year-old brick ranch is adorned with flowers, bushes, trees and walkways.

Mr. Webb, who retired in 1998 after 35 years of service with Delco Moraine, and Mrs. Webb, who retired in 2008 after having served for 22 years in the U.S. Reserves, are loving life in Union. "I couldn't ask for anything better. The home we built is outstanding, and we love caring for the property -- it's not work; it's pleasure," Mrs. Webb said.

Mrs. Webb was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1986 as a second lieutenant with the 2291st combat

support hospital. In 1993, she then

wedding anniversary.

"They did a fantastic job," Mrs. Webb said.

She's also very happy with the neighborhood they chose, which has several building lots left.

"We selected the community of Lindeman Commons in the City of Union after an exhausting search across the Montgomery County region. We were looking for a location that would

provide us with a homey, quiet and serene feel that we became accustomed to while living in Trotwood's Sycamore Woods neighborhood for more than 20 years. When we investigated the area, we knew right away that we had found our new home location. Retiring here in Union has been so peaceful," Mrs. Webb said.

transferred to the U.S. Air Force as a captain to become a flight nurse. She retired lieutenant colonel from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in 2008; she also retired from the Dayton Veteran Administration Hospital in July 2010 after 20 years of service to our veterans. While she was deployed in the 2000s -- in Iraq, then Germany and finally at Andrews Air Force Base serving as a flight nurse caring for wounded soldiers -- her husband oversaw construction of their new home, built by Scott Temple Builders. They moved into the home in July 2004 -- the same month as both of their birthdays and their

The Webbs have lived in their home for six years now. Every year, Mrs. Webb finds she favors a different plant. "This year, it's hostas. We don't have a lot of shade, but you learn what kinds of hostas can tolerate brighter light."

Her advice to other gardeners is to know there

"is no wrong. ... If something doesn't look right or begins to deteriorate in a spot, move it to another location! That's part of the fun -- seeing what works and what doesn't."

She expects her 2011 garden to have new favorites and surprises.

The Webbs, married for 33 years, have two grown children and five grandchildren.

"We would like to thank the City for honoring our home with the Spirit of Union Award. We are humbled and very appreciative of this honor. We absolutely love our community -- it's our own little piece of heaven," Mrs. Webb said.

The Park Board established the Spirit of Union Award in 1997 to encourage exterior enhancements of residential and business properties. Be thinking about the Spirit of Union Award for 2011 -- perhaps you know someone whose property should be nominated -- perhaps it's your own property! More information about the City's Spirit of Union Award can be found on our website at www.ci.union.oh.us.



Union's newest water tower at Old Springfield Road.

Shaw Road water tower project

The City was awarded a zero-interest loan through the Ohio Public Works Commission to repaint the Shaw Road water tower. The 136-foot-tall tank holds 500,000 gallons of water. The interior and exterior of the tank will be cleaned and painted. The estimated cost is \$416,000 and work is expected to begin this spring. When completed, the tank will be the same color and logo design as the City's new water tower on Old Springfield Road. The original water tower behind City Hall is expected to be taken off line and dismantled in the near future.

Issue II waterline project

Work affects Maple Garden and Park Grove drives

The City was recently awarded an Issue II grant through the Ohio Public Works Commission to install a new water main on Maple Garden and Parkgrove drives. \$329,000 in grant funding will be used to install a new 8-inch water line, water services, new fire hydrants and pavement restoration. Project bids were recently accepted and construction is expected to start in late October.

New basketball court

The City has installed a new basketball court at the former Union pool site, and it's now ready for play! All of the equipment that was at Martindale Road Park has been moved to the new courts. The new site is located at the end of Parkgrove Drive west of City Hall.

New trash rates

Effective with the September 2010 billing, trash collection is now \$15.75 per month, and waste wheelers are now \$2.50 per month. The City solicited bids and Rumpke was the sole bidder for the current five-year contract. Trash rates will remain the same during the

term of the contract.

Trash schedule

For the remainder of 2010, the waste and recycling collection schedule is as follows:

- **Veterans' Day, Nov. 11** - no delays

- **Thanksgiving Day, Nov.**

25 - waste and recycling

service will not occur that

day and service will be

delayed one day for the rest

of the week; the trash

hauler, Rumpke, will return

to its regular collection

schedule on Nov. 29

- **Christmas Day, Dec. 25** -

no delays

- **New Year's Day, Jan. 1** -

no delays

For more information about

waste and recycling services

in Union, including what is

accepted in recycling,

please visit our website at

www.ci.union.oh.us.

Fall leaf collection

This fall is the

20th year in a

row Union

will offer

curbside

leaf pickup.

Service

begins

Tuesday,

Oct. 12,

and thereafter runs Mondays through Nov. 15. In inclement weather, crews may skip days, but they will go back to pick up the rest of the leaves on a route when the weather improves. A few tips:

1. Leaves must be raked in elongated rows onto the street in front of the curb.

2. Rows must not exceed 4 feet in height or 6 feet in width.

3. Remove objects such as rocks, tree limbs and branches from leaf piles.

Leaf piles with this type of debris won't be picked up to avoid damaging equipment.

4. For safety reasons, children should not play in leaf piles at the street.

5. Please remove vehicles from the street during collection time. The leaf loader is unable to maneuver in small areas such as

between parked cars or around them. Leaves cannot

be picked up in these areas, and

the City will be unable to make a special trip

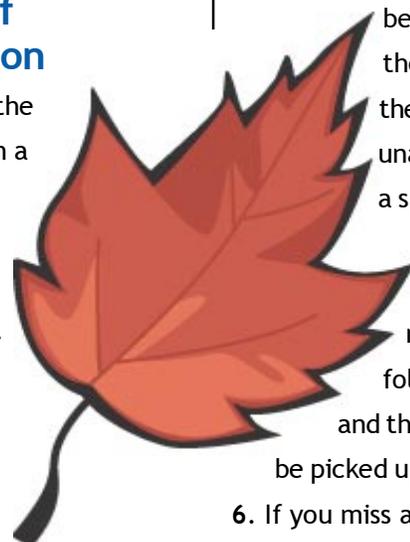
back. Have the cars

moved for the following week,

and the leaves will

be picked up then.

6. If you miss a pickup or



Shape our region's future

Find out what people throughout the Miami Valley Region think about how the region should grow! Join us at upcoming Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) open houses -- on Oct. 21 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Troy Rec, 11 N. Market St., Troy, Ohio; or on Oct. 27 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Friendship Coffee House, Door 18 at Friendship Village, 5790 Denlinger Road, Dayton, Ohio. Info at www.mvrpc.org/rlu or contact staff at 937-223-6323 or by email at goingplaces@mvrpc.org.



believe your street was missed, please wait until next week's pickup -- please do not call the City for a special leaf pickup because to do so would be cost-prohibitive to the program. Delays may occur due to huge volumes of leaves, bad weather or equipment malfunction. Leaves will be picked up as soon as possible in the fastest, most productive method. For this reason, crews cannot deviate from their scheduled route.

7. Residents who prefer to bag their leaves may place them in 35-gallon trash bags. Place the bags with the leaves next to your trash cans (not in the cans) on trash collection day.

Storm water practices

In a previous newsletter, we mentioned that the City of Union was required to prepare and submit a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) in compliance with new regulations (40 CFR Part 122.32) and Ohio Law. This plan is intended to protect water quality, reduce the amount of storm water discharge after small storms and satisfy requirements of the nation's Clean Water Act and the Ohio EPA. The EPA Program has six Minimum Control Measures: 1) Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts; 2) Public Involvement/Participation; 3) Illicit Discharge Detection

and Elimination; 4) Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control; 5) Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment Areas; 6) Pollution Prevention/Good House-keeping for Municipal Operations

For item 3, the City of Union has hired Norton Engineering to help examine and document the condition of all its creeks and streams. We are doing pretty well in that regard. The new regulation requires that a report of storm water conditions and activities be submitted each year to Ohio EPA.

EPA has suggested some ways of controlling storm water pollution:

- Keep litter, pet waste, cigarette butts, candy wrappers, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.
- Dispose properly of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household chemicals, not in storm sewers or drains.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose

them into the street.

- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorus.

Contact City Manager John Applegate at 937-836-8624 to express interest if you'd like to help improve Union's local ecology.

Christmas tree lighting ceremony

The City of Union will hold the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 28, at the City of Union Fire Station (corner of Montgomery Street and Martindale Road). Union residents, their families and friends are invited to this event to enjoy the beginning of the holiday season. Come before 6 p.m. because Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck at that time. Parents can bring cameras and take pictures of Santa and their child against a seasonal backdrop. The City's Park Board and Union Fire & Rescue Department, the sponsors of this event, will be providing hot chocolate and cookies. Families are asked to bring a donation of nonperishable food and canned goods for the FISH organization or items can be dropped off at City Hall.

Northmont FISH food collection

The City of Union office at 118 North Main Street has again offered to collect food for the Northmont FISH program. A basket will be placed in the lobby of Union City Hall to help out families with their Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please consider donating a few canned-good items or other nonperishable foods. The FISH Program (Friends in Service to Humanity) is based at the Earl Heck Center in Englewood and serves the entire Northmont area including Union.

Snow ordinance

A note from Public Safety Director Mike Blackwell:

Winter is approaching, so I would like to remind residents of the City's Snow Emergency Ordinance. If we receive 2 inches of snow or more, all vehicles must be removed from City streets. If the forecast calls for a heavy snow, I would recommend moving your vehicles ahead of time. By taking your vehicles off the street, it makes it so much safer for Union's Maintenance Department to remove the snow and for you to get to work on time and get the

Fire safety!

Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With! is the National Fire Protection Association's official theme for Fire Prevention Week in October. This year's campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encourages everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. Smoke alarms save lives. But you need to make sure they are working. **Download Sparky's smoke alarm safety sheet at firepreventionweek.org and hang it on your refrigerator or some other handy spot.** It will help to remind you to test your smoke alarms every month. There's more on the website that your family can download, including pictorials, a fun reminder to kids about the importance of working smoke alarms -- print out the boy and girl pictorials and hang on the fridge! Also available for download is a grid for creating a home fire escape plan.



Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.

children to school. I would also ask that you not push or blow snow back into the street, as this could be a traffic hazard. See our website for more information at www.ci.union.oh.us.

View, pay utility bills online

Residents can view their current utility bill balance, last payment date, payment amount and water consump-

tion history online. To access the program, please visit the City's website at www.ci.union.oh.us where you'll find a link that says "Pay Utilities."

You can pay your bills online, for a small convenience fee, through a secure online credit card transaction. Residents can also have their utility bill automatically debited from their checking account each

month. There is no charge for this service.

To receive a form to sign up for auto debit, visit our website, stop by City Hall or call us at 937-836-8624.

About 11 percent of Union's 2,600 utility customers are using these convenient payment methods.





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**Important RENEWAL
street levy on ballot!
Please vote on Nov. 2!**

Check out our
NEW website!
Visit
www.ci.union.oh.us



Beggars' Night is Oct. 30

This year's
Beggars' Night
is Saturday, Oct.

30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please put
on your porch light if you plan to
participate. Trick-or-treaters, please
follow safety practices, including
wearing costumes that are visible to
motorists. Remember to check all
candy before eating!

ISSUE 21 - 3-mill road renewal levy on the Nov. 2 ballot

A 3-mill road renewal levy (Issue 21) is on the Nov. 2 ballot in the City of Union. **The renewal levy means there will be zero increase in taxes.**

The 3-mill road levy was last approved by City of Union voters in 2006. The five-year levy expires in 2011. Since its original passage in 1976, the levy has never exceeded 3 mills. The levy generates approximately \$239,795 annually for street maintenance, including snow plowing, and for street construction, reconstruction and repairs. The City maintains 31 miles of roadways.

Residents of a \$100,000 home will pay approximately \$82.60 annually, which is less than when the levy was passed in 2006. If passed, collections for the renewal street levy will begin in 2012. Please support your community and vote on Nov. 2. Voting polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you have questions about where to vote, please visit the Board of Elections website at www.mcboe.org or call the Board of Elections at 937-225-5656.