

City of
UNION
Missouri

SUMMER
2023

Cover Photo: 2023 Memorial Day Parade
by Wanda Parsons

TALK OF THE TOWN



PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF UNION, MISSOURI
10 E LOCUST STREET, UNION, MO 63084
WWW.UNIONMISSOURI.GOV • 636.583.3600



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCHMUKE

Hello Citizens of Union,

I hope you are enjoying a long and relaxing summer!

This is the first all digital copy of the newsletter after the Board decided to move away from the print/mailed copies so I hope you enjoy the new format. The new format will allow us to produce a quarterly newsletter and add additional content which should help keep you informed of what's happening in the City while saving on print and postage costs.

I know many of you were disappointed the City's fireworks display was postponed, but we are looking forward to having it when the conditions are better. We will have information on the rescheduled date posted on our Facebook page and website.

As many of you have noticed, there are a number of projects underway and great things happening in the City of Union.

Construction on Hansen Park is ongoing and we are looking forward to adding the new downtown park to the City's park system. In addition, the City completed the purchase of the vacant lot across from City Hall. We're getting ready to remove the existing buildings, and should have a new private/public development project beginning on the site later in the year. The two spaces, joined by Main Street, will provide a great entertainment venue for our community for years to come.

The summer provides a great opportunity to travel, but an even better chance to appreciate what we have here at home. Check out what's going on with your local community. From restaurants to retail, small mom and pop, to locally grown produce, you can do your part to support locally owned and operated businesses.

From the parks to the college, there is something for everyone in Union.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Robert L. Schmuke
314-808-3056

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

WARD 1

Brian Pickard
636-667-9790

Amanda Sullivan
314-920-9923

WARD 2

Barbara E. Laberer
636-584-9631

Russell Rost
636-744-6292

WARD 3

Jacob T. Doepke
636-388-9896

Dennis Soetebier
636-584-9309

WARD 4

Heather Eppe
636-584-1701

Tom Strubberg
636-675-3838



Board of Aldermen Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at City Hall, 10 E. Locust Street, Union, MO 63084

Agendas are posted at

<https://www.unionmissouri.gov/government/agendas.php>

AGENDA



Want to be notified as soon as the next issue of Talk of the Town is published?

Sign up to receive email or text alerts at

https://www.unionmissouri.gov/government/talk_of_the_town.php



**JULY**

10	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
21	Movie in the Park—"Minions the Rise of Gru" City Park

AUGUST

4	Concert in the Park—The Brother's Dickson City Park
14	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
18	Movie in the Park—"The Bad Guys" City Park
25	UHS Multi-year Class Reunion—City Park

SEPTEMBER

1	Concert in the Park—Crossfire City Park
4	Labor Day (City Hall Closed)
11	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
15	Movie in the Park—"Lyle, Lyle Crocodile" City Park
29-30	WingFest—Union Fairgrounds

OCTOBER

1	Veterans Fishing—Veterans Memorial Park
7	Fall Rummage Sale—Memorial Auditorium
9	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
13	Farmers Market Trunk or Treat at ECC
27	Boo Bash! - City Park

NOVEMBER

10	Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)
13	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
18	Electronics Recycling, 8am-1pm, 202 W Brown
23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday (City Hall Closed)

DECEMBER

8	Children's Christmas Party—Memorial Auditorium
11	Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall
25-26	Christmas Holiday (City Hall Closed)

**WHO YA GONNA CALL?**

CITY HALL	636.583.3600
BUSINESS LICENSES	636-583-3600 x1110
BUILDING PERMITS	636.583.1805
HUMAN RESOURCES.....	636.583.3600
MUNICIPAL COURT	636.583.8436
PARKS & RECREATION	636.583.8471
UTILITIES	636.583.3600 x1106
UTILITIES PAY BY PHONE	877-812-3501
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.....	636.583.8979
FIRE DEPT NON-EMERGENCY	636-583-2515
FRANKLIN COUNTY.....	636.583.6358
PROPERTY TAXES (FRANKLIN COUNTY COLLECTOR)	636.583.6353
LICENSE BUREAU	636.583.3282
POLICE DEPT NON-EMERGENCY	636.583.3700
SWIMPLEX.....	636.583.3316

YARDWASTE SCHEDULE

July 12, 26
August 9, 23
September 13, 27
October 4, 11, 18, 25
November 1, 8, 15, 22
December 13, 28



Franklin County Fair—By Wanda Parsons





Union, Missouri

Summer 2023

TALK OF THE TOWN

INDOOR CORNHOLE



BEGINNING JULY 6TH!

**Thursdays
1pm-2pm
City Auditorium**

**4 CORNHOLE SETS
WITH BAGS!**

**PLEASE BRING AN ITEM FOR
DONATION TO THE
LOCAL FOOD PANTRY
IN LIEU OF FEE**

No preregistration needed!

EMPAC WORKERS ...

Making an impact in Union parks

You might see some new faces in the Union Parks this summer.

Union Parks Department has partnered with Empac on their summer work program which allows high school students with disabilities to find jobs and gain employment skills. They are supervised by a job coach at each work site. Empac workers will focus on maintaining flower beds, cleaning pavilion areas, removing invasive plants, and picking up litter.



Josh, Nathan and John at City Park

Photo submitted by Empac

For more information about the Empac Employment Resources, visit www.empacemploymentresources.com.

EAST CENTRAL COLLEGE



COME SING ABOUT LOVE.

An eclectic blend of songs, from pop to vaudeville, is employed as the story of Jesus' life dances across the stage, leaving you dancing in the aisles.

Performances are held in the ECC John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center located in Hansen Hall, 1964 Prairie Dell Road, Union, MO.

To learn more or purchase tickets, call 636-584-6693 or go online to ecctheatre.com

FUN IN THE POOL
WATER
AEROBICS
BY LIFEFORCE FITNESS
**TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS**
JULY 11 - AUG 3
6:45PM - 7:30PM

Register at unionmissouri.gov/uprd

DRUM CLASS

**WEDNESDAYS
1PM-2PM**

**CITY AUDITORIUM
500 E LOCUST ST**

**PLEASE BRING AN ITEM FOR
DONATION TO THE
LOCAL FOOD PANTRY
IN LIEU OF FEE**

No Registration Required

WHAT IS A DRUMMING EXERCISE CLASS?
DRUM FITNESS WORKS NOT ONLY
YOUR BODY, BUT ALSO YOUR
BRAIN! IT'S DIFFERENT THAN A TYPICAL
CARDIO DANCE CLASS
BECAUSE YOU ARE DOING
CHOREOGRAPHED
MOVEMENTS WITH YOUR BODY
WHILE ALSO DOING SYNCHRONIZED
MOVEMENTS WITH YOUR
HANDS. THINK OF IT LIKE LEARNING
TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT WHILE
WORKING OUT!

FARMERS MARKET

2nd & 4th Fridays, 4pm-7pm
April 28—September 8
PLUS
October 13 (Trunk or Treat)

**East Central College
1964 Prairie Dell Road**

(636) 583-3600
UnionMissouri.gov/market





BUZZWORTHY NEWS FROM CITY HALL

ORDINANCE UPDATE

Following is a partial list of ordinances passed by the Board of Aldermen from January 2023-June-2023. Stay in the know ... Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Agendas are posted at www.unionmissouri.gov.

SALES TAX ON MARIJUANA SALES (Ord 4603—5/8/2023)

Voters approved a 3% sales tax on recreational marijuana sales and a 2% sales tax on medical marijuana sales (in Union City Limits). The tax will be imposed on future marijuana sales; currently there are no retail sales of marijuana in Union city limits.

MISSOURI EASTERN RAILROAD (Ords 4572-4574—2/13/2023)

Three ordinances pertain to emergency access easement agreements and the Minor Subdivision known as “Peters Century Farm”. These actions were needed to allow Missouri Eastern Railroad, LLC to operate a transload facility at Rock Road and Old County Farm Road east of Hwy 47N. The parcel of land was previously rezoned from R3 to I1 (General Industrial) in December of 2022. The City of Union recognizes the importance in preserving rail access to our current industries and allowing for future demand.

BLACK SHEEP AMMUNITION (Ord 4578—2/13/2023)

Rezone 800 N Washington Ave from “B-2” Highway Business District to “I-1” General Industrial District. Black Sheep Ammunition, a new manufacturer of small caliber ammunition is renovating this facility, investing \$2.9 million and creating 17 jobs.

BUSINESS LICENSES / FOOD TRUCKS (Ord 4587—3/13/2023, Ord 4606—5/8/2023)

General Business license fees are now \$50 for a new license and for annual renewals. Renewal fees were increased from \$30 to \$50. The ordinance now allows for prorating of 50% if the business begins operation on or after November 15th.

A new license for Temporary Mobile Concessions (Food Trucks) was created to simplify the application process and fee structure, while adding certain regulations to insure the safe operation of the food truck within the Union city limits. An Annual License is \$100 or a One-Time Event License may be purchased for \$25.

EMPAC EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST PARKS (Ord 4599—5/8/2023)

The City of Union has partnered with EMPAC to employ high school sophomores and juniors over the summer assisting the Parks Department with projects such as maintaining planter areas, cleaning picnic tables and pavilions, removing invasive plant species and cleaning public areas during and after events held in the parks.

EMPAC Group works with individuals with disabilities to find meaningful and sustainable employment that matches their skills, interests and aspirations.

ONE-PERCENT SALES TAX TERMINATED IN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (Ord 4602—5/8/2023)

The Community Improvement District (CID) was created in 2007 to help fund the infrastructure required for the QT and Jack-n-the-Box at Hwy 47 S and Hwy 50. The CID had imposed an additional 1% tax on retail sales at those locations.

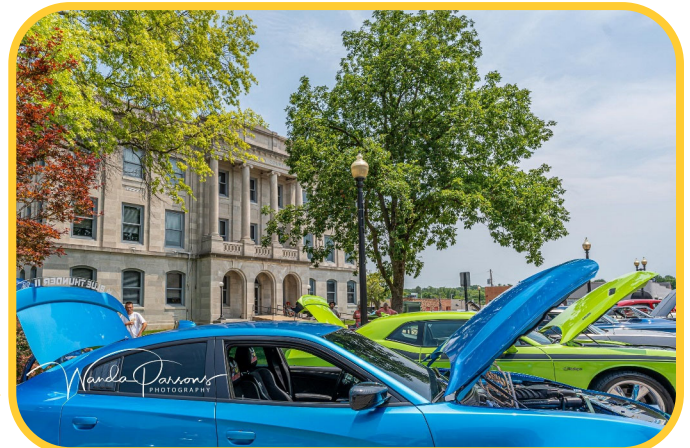
WELCOME THESE NEW BUSINESSES! *

- Scooters Coffee—1501 Denmark Road
- Sip on Main—201 E Main
- Old Ozarkian Distillery—203 E Main
- Piccadilly Palace—181 Audrey Lane



*Source Business License Listing — Retail/Food/Entertainment only.
Complete Business License Listing available at www.unionmissouri.gov.

Annual White Rose Car Show ... hundreds of cars lined the streets of downtown Union. Photo by Wanda Parsons





PULL TO THE RIGHT FOR SIRENS AND LIGHTS!

The Union Fire Protection District would like to remind drivers to

yield for emergency vehicles while warning lights are in use.

The Missouri Driver Guide, Chapter 3 states, "You must yield the right-of-way to police, fire, ambulance, or any other emergency vehicles using a siren or air horn, and a red or blue flashing light. Pull over to the right edge of the road, or as near to the right as possible, when you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching from any direction."

With this law in mind, please avoid "slamming" on your brakes and/or yielding to the left. "Slamming" on the brakes and/or yielding to the left creates a dangerous scenario for everyone on the roadway. Emergency vehicles will almost always pass on the left when it is

safe to do so. "Slamming" on the brakes is not a recommended practice for yielding to emergency traffic. It is possible that a safe place or time may not immediately present itself to yield for emergency traffic. In the event it is not safe to yield, continue driving safely until the opportunity to yield presents itself and then do so as recommended. Many emergency incidents require more than one apparatus to respond. Be alert for multiple emergency vehicles responding in succession of one another.

Please exercise extreme caution when approaching and passing through emergency scenes. Emergency personnel are operating on roadways with the intent to care for those in need of assistance. It is not uncommon to close a lane of traffic or the entire roadway till the incident is stabilized. Please be patient and cautious during these events. Remember to stay calm and in control of the vehicle when approaching emergency scenes and when emergency vehicles require the right-of-way.

Thank you for your support to keep EVERYONE on the roadways safe!

UNION POLICE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES (OH MY)



Captain Rick Neace (above) and Patrolman Don Wade (below) with Chief Andrew Parker



The Union Police Department has had some changes in 2023. Two Officers have retired. Captain Rick Neace with 32 years of service, and Patrolman Don Wade with 38 years of service. We wish them the best in their retirement.

We're excited to introduce our newest patrolman to the department, Anthony Giancola. Anthony is a lifelong resident of Franklin County and graduated from St. Clair High School. There have been several movements within the department. Charlie Raymond has moved into the School Resource Officer Division, Tommie Lowe has moved into the Detective Bureau, and Mike Williford has been promoted to Assistant Chief/Captain. We are excited about a new position coming

in 2023, a Police Service Technician, with Patrolman Jacob Johnson accepting the position. The Union Police Department still has multiple openings in the Patrol Division.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Don't make it easy for thieves to take advantage of an unlocked vehicle.

Keep your vehicles locked at **all** times. If you must leave valuables in your vehicle, please keep them out sight. Firearms are frequently stolen from vehicles, and as a responsible gun owner, properly secure your firearm.

Law Enforcement has recently seen an increase in mail theft, in particular theft of checks. Online banking is an option but there is sometimes a need to mail your checks. If you mail a check, pay attention to your account to verify your check clears to the person or business it was intended to. If possible, mail your checks directly from the Post Office, but keep in mind the recipient may have an unsecured mailbox.

Stay safe and if you see something, say something.

Emergency 9-1-1

Non-emergency (636) 583-3700