

City of
UNION
Missouri

WINTER
2024

Cover Photo: Winter Greens and Blues 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 everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season and you were able to take time to relax and visit with family and friends.



As we ring in the New Year we are looking forward to several new projects that will be completed in 2024 and others that will begin construction across the City. There are several new businesses which we are looking forward to welcoming in 2024. Even more so, we are excited with the progress being made at Hansen Park and look forward to opening it to the public later this year.

We are also putting the Use Tax back on the ballot for April 2024. With online sales becoming more and more common, State Law requires communities to approve a use tax in order for a City to collect sales tax on those purchases. Without it, our local businesses are at a disadvantage compared to Amazon and online companies. We will have additional information in the coming months so make sure you learn about this important issue and vote on April 2.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor of our wonderful community. Here's to a happy and healthy 2024!



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 Epple
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>



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





JANUARY 2024

| | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall |
| 15 | Martin Luther King Day (City Offices Closed) |

FEBRUARY 2024

| | |
|----|--|
| 10 | Valentines Comedy Show |
| 12 | Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall |
| 19 | President's Day (City Offices Closed) |

MARCH 2024

| | |
|----|---|
| 11 | Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall |
| 29 | Good Friday (City Offices Close at Noon) |
| 29 | Breakfast with the Easter Bunny (West Park) 9am |

APRIL 2024

| | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Municipal Election |
| 8 | Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm City Hall |
| 13 | Kite Fest (Veterans Memorial Park) 1pm-4pm |
| 26 | Electronics Recycling 8am-1pm |
| 26 | Farmers Market—Opening Day 4pm (ECC) |

YARD WASTE SCHEDULE



January 10
 February 14
 March 13
 April 3, 10, 17, 24
 May 1, 8, 15, 22
 June 5, 12, 19, 26

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024
8AM-1PM
202 W BROWN STREET



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 |



What's on the Ballot?

Proposition U

Alderman Elections

- Ward 1**
Amanda S. Sullivan
- Ward 2—(vote for one)**
Bill Isgriggs
Barbara E. Laberer
- Ward 3**
Jacob T. Doepke
- Ward 4**
Tom Strubberg

Shall the City of Union, Missouri impose a local use tax at the same rate as the total local sales tax rate, currently 2 percent, provided that if the local sales tax rate is reduced or raised by voter approval, the local use tax rate shall also be reduced or raised by the same action? ...





BUZZWORTHY NEWS FROM CITY HALL

ORDINANCE UPDATE

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

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM RENOVATIONS (Ord 4623—10/9/2023, Ord 4640—12/11/2023) The City of Union entered into an agreement with Franklin County Construction LLC of New Haven for interior alterations to the Memorial Auditorium. Renovations include accessible restrooms, a new first floor storage room and office, entry vestibule and access controls.

SPLASH-N-SWIMPLEX POOL SHADE STRUCTURES (Ord 4626—11/13/2023) Dive into the 2024 summer season at the Splash-N-Swimplex with a cool new look. The City is purchasing three (3) 20x40 pyramid cantilever joined structures at a cost of \$48,530 including installation.

VALENTINE COMEDY SHOW (Ord 4627—11/13/2023) Since the Auditorium is undergoing renovations, the City has entered into a rental agreement to hold this year's comedy show and dinner at Immaculate Conception Parish. The Comedy Show will be held on February 10th.

BUILDING CODE CHANGES (Ord 4628-4636—11/13/2023) Building and Electric Codes will be updated effective February 10, 2024. Please contact the City of Union Building / Engineering Department at 636-583-1805 if you have any questions.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AT CITY PARK (Ord 4637—11/13/2023) A Little Free Library will be placed in the City Park (West Park).

UNION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT (Ord 4638—12/11/2023) The City and the Chamber have an agreement regarding the use of City facilities and services to be provided by City Staff. The agreement facilitates Chamber events such as the Distinguished Service Award Banquet,

Long Haul, Dinner on the Square, Trivia Night, Wingfest as well as monthly Chamber meetings.

MISSOURI MAIN STREET CONNECTION AND REDISCOVER UNION (Ord4639—12/11/2023) The Board of Aldermen approved an agreement to participate in the Main Street Program. The Community Empowerment Grant provides training, mentoring and technical services to revitalize Union's downtown. The non-profit, volunteer-based group, ReDiscover Union, will carry out the program based on the preservation and revitalization of Union's downtown.

NORTH OAK STREET IMPROVEMENTS (Ord 4641—12/11/2023) KJ Unnerstall Construction Company was awarded the bid for North Oak Street improvements, including curb and gutter, sidewalks with accent strips, street light relocation and asphalt overlay.

TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT RE DENMARK ROAD PHASE 4 (Ord 4642—12/11/2023) Using a Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) from the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the City plans to resurface, construct sidewalks and construct a roundabout at Denmark and Progress Parkway.

MINOR SUBDIVISION—COLLEGE PLAZA PLAT 2—SCHUH BROTHERS (Ord 4643—12/11/2023) This minor subdivision approval was required to allow Piccadilly Palace owners to construct an indoor go-kart racing facility adjacent to the skating rink on Audrey Lane.

MAJOR SUBDIVISION—PARK PLACE PLAT 3 (Ord 4643—12/11/2023) The Developers of Park Place Subdivision are adding another Phase to the Monopoly-themed neighborhood. Seventeen (17) new homesites are added on Pacific Avenue and Atlantic Drive.

RAILROAD OVERLAY DISTRICT (Ord 4645—12/18/2023) The purpose of this district is to recognize the unique attributes of the area and to encourage the development, redevelopment, and revitalization of the area. The regulations of this overlay district are intended to allow greater design flexibility in development; for example lot area, setback and parking requirements are less restrictive.



CITY OF UNION AWARDED \$40,000 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT

The City of Union has been awarded the Fiscal Year 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). These funds will play a crucial role in enhancing the city's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

The primary allocation from the grant will be directed towards the purchase of a generator designated for the emergency management center. This center, located at the City Auditorium, will serve as a vital hub in the event of an emergency, ensuring that the city can efficiently coordinate and respond to unforeseen situations.

Furthermore, a portion of the grant will be utilized to acquire an additional warning siren for the St Andrews subdivision. This strategic placement aims to enhance the community's alert systems.

The Emergency Management Agency works with the County, State, and Federal agencies in partnership with local volunteers and businesses to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards that affect the City of Union. Union EMA is the local agency responsible for coordination, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the City of Union, Missouri.

For more information on emergency preparedness visit unionmissouri.gov/ema.

EARL NEAL

Emergency Management Director
500 East Locust, Union, MO 63084
emgdirector@unionmissouri.gov
636-744-8406



LOCAL USE TAX → VOTE **APRIL 2**

What can the City of Union do with this revenue?

What is a Use Tax?

The local use tax is a sales tax imposed on the purchase of goods online. If approved the use tax rate would be 2%.



INCREASED PUBLIC SAFETY

OR



STREET IMPROVEMENTS

OR



PARKS



PARKS & RECREATION

Chad Pohlmann
Parks & Recreation Director

As we embrace the winter season and prepare for the upcoming year, we're delighted to announce that the long-anticipated day has arrived! Pavilion reservations for your special events, gatherings, and celebrations are officially open as of January 1st, 2024. Now is the perfect time to secure those prime dates and make the most of our beautiful outdoor spaces for memorable occasions.



In addition to pavilion reservations, we're gearing up for the reopening of our aquatic facilities. Get ready to dive into summer fun by marking March 1st, 2024, on your calendars, as this is when aquatic facility reservations will become available. Whether you're planning a pool party, organizing swim lessons, or aiming for some refreshing aquatic fitness, reserving your spot early ensures you get the dates that suit your plans.

While winter may be settling in, our commitment to providing exceptional recreational opportunities for our community remains steadfast. We're also thrilled to announce that the Parks and Recreation Department is in the early planning stages for the 45th Annual Founder's Day Festival! This iconic community event has been a cherished tradition for decades, and we want your input to make it even more special. Share your thoughts and preferences by participating in a brief survey, accessible through the link provided below. Your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping this milestone celebration, ensuring it reflects the desires and interests of our vibrant community. Join us in making the 45th Annual Founder's Day Festival a truly memorable and inclusive experience for everyone.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024_Founders_Day

Your insights matter, and we look forward to hearing from you as we work together to create an unforgettable Founder's Day Festival for our community. Stay tuned for more updates and details about this exciting event!



Indulge in an evening of non-stop laughter and delicious dining at the Union Parks 22nd Annual Comedy Show and Dinner featuring the hilarious Christine Stedman and Comedy Rock Impressionist, KIER!

Due to the auditorium renovation, this year's event will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish on February 10, 2024.

Get your tickets now! Prices are \$45 per person (6 per table). Tickets can be purchased from Union Parks and Recreation Office, currently located at Union City Hall, 10 E. Locust Street. You must be 21 or older to enter, no outside beverages allowed!





WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM UNION FIRE DEPARTMENT



ICE SAFETY

You can't judge ice conditions just by appearance or thickness. Many other factors, including water depth, size of water body, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather combine to determine its strength. Ice

seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

If someone needs help during a fall through the ice event, remember these five steps: **PREACH**-Call 911 if you have a cell phone. Shout to the victim to encourage them to fight to survive and reassure them that help is on the way. **REACH**-If you can safely reach the victim from shore, extend an object such as a rope, ladder or jumper cables to the victim. If the person starts to pull you in, release your grip on the object and start over. Don't run to the edge of the hole, this will likely lead to two victims in the water. **THROW**-From shore, toss one end of a rope or something that will float to the victim. Have them tie the rope around themselves before they are too weakened by the cold to grasp it. **ROW**-Find a lightweight boat to push across the ice ahead of you. Wear a life jacket and bring a throwable flotation device. Attach rope to the boat so others can help pull you and the victim to safety. Push the boat to the edge of the hole, get into the boat and pull the victim in over the bow. **DON'T GO**- A nonprofessional should not go out on the ice to perform a rescue without means to self-rescue.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Did you know?



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is often called "the invisible killer."

Another concern that increases with cold weather is carbon monoxide (CO). Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and tasteless but dangerous gas. Carbon monoxide is produced when fuels such as gasoline, natural gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal are burned. Breathing CO reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen. It can reach dangerous levels indoors or outdoors.

Sources include:

- Gas appliances (furnaces, ranges, ovens, water heaters, clothes dryers, etc.)
- Fireplaces, wood stoves
- Coal or oil furnaces
- Space heaters or oil or kerosene heaters
- Charcoal grills, camp stoves
- Gas-powered lawn mowers and power tools
- Automobile exhaust fumes

Symptoms of breathing too much CO include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, confusion, disorientation, sleepiness, anxiety, vomiting, and impaired vision.



POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS to Sergeant Scott Horn who was selected by his fellow officers to receive the Officer of the Year Award for 2023!

