



talk of the town



Mayor

Rodney J. Tappe • 636-584-5173

Board of Aldermen

Ward I

Robert Schmuke • 314-808-3056

Brian Pickard • 636-667-9790

Ward II

Robert Marquart • 636-583-8880

Barbara E. Laberer • 636-584-9631

Ward III

Paul Arand • 636-262-7953

Dennis Soetebier • 636-584-9309

Ward IV

Tom Strubberg • 636-675-3838

Karen Erwin • 314-378-0958

from the mayor

Hello citizens of Union,

If you are like most of us, you were pleased to see 2020 come to a close. It certainly was a difficult year for many of the businesses and members of our community. As we look ahead to the new year and hopefully putting COVID-19 behind us, I would like us to focus on the little things we had come accustomed to taking for granted.

The dinner with family or friends, being able to visit with someone in person, grab a bite to eat, or simply breathe without a mask or face covering on. Little things that before 2020 had gone without notice. I'm looking forward to getting back to the little things. The little things that matter, like supporting the businesses that have supported us. The jobs, team sponsorships, gathering places, and social places. Maybe it was a trip to the theater to catch a new movie or a family night skating or bowling. Or maybe it was something as simple as a dinner out or grabbing a cup of coffee with an old friend. As we move forward into 2021, take a look around, find the little things, and get back to them.

As always, if there is anything on your mind, please do not hesitate to call City Hall 636-583-3600, or my cell 636-584-5173.

Respectfully,

Mayor Rod Tappe



120 deaths in Franklin County attributed to Covid-19 as of 1/27/2021.

120 *real* people — *real* friends, *real* family, *real* community members, *real* loss.

We stand with those left behind and remember the loved ones we have lost due to COVID-19.



“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.”

— Thomas Jefferson

CITY OF UNION *Calendar*

Feb 13	Valentine's Comedy Show
Feb 15	Presidents' Day (City Hall Closed)
Mar 6	Rummage Sale
Mar 8	Board of Aldermen Meeting
Mar 28-29	Pickleball Tournament
Apr 1	Park Bathrooms/Fountains Open
Apr 2	Good Friday (City Hall Closes 12pm)
Apr 2	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Apr 10	Kite Fest 1-4pm (Rain Date Apr 11)
Apr 12	Board of Aldermen Meeting
Apr 30	Electronics Recycling Event
May 7	Concert in the Park
May 10	Board of Aldermen Meeting
May 21	Lawn Chair Movie Night
May 29	Splash-n-Swimplex Open
May 31	Memorial Day (City Hall Closed)
Jun 4	Concert in the Park
Jun 5	Annual Founder's Day
Jun 14	Board of Aldermen Meeting
Jun 18	Lawn Chair Movie Night
Jul 3	Union Fireworks Festivities
Jul 5	Independence Day Observed (City Hall Closed)
Jul 12	Board of Aldermen Meeting
Jul 16	Lawn Chair Movie Night



Kite Fest Returns!

In 2019, the Franklin County Bicentennial Year, we were all about the kites. There were beautiful kite sculptures hung throughout the county. Playing on the kite theme, the Union Parks and Recreation Department (UPRD) teamed up with the Gateway Kite Club to hold it's first ever Kite Fest. It was such a big hit, it was decided to make Kite Fest an annual event. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic forced us to cancel the 2020 event. But good news! The Kite Fest is back for 2021.

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Kite Fest on Saturday, April 10, 1:00pm-4:00pm at Veterans Memorial Park. We're hoping for blue skies, but just in case, the rain date is April 11th.

The Gateway Kite Club will be demonstrating on the Champion Ball Field. UPRD will be handing out free kite kits while supplies last. Unlike the event in 2019, volunteers will not be able to assist in building and decorating the kites due to social distancing restrictions.

Visitors are welcome to fly their own kites. Relive those childhood memories and make some new ones. It's a great family activity for the young and old, novice or expert.

For more information contact UPRD at 636-583-8471.

CITY BEGINS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS *To Seek Input from Community*

The City of Union has retained the services of H3 Studio to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. A comprehensive plan is a document used by city officials and staff as they make decisions, plan and create policy. This plan will be an update of the previous comprehensive plan, completed in 2011.

Over the course of the next year, the City will seek input from community members on what they want Union to be like in 2030, including what they value and want to retain, and what they want to change to improve the community. Multiple opportunities for input will be available to Union residents and stakeholders. Community input is vital to the completion of a well-rounded comprehensive plan.

If you are interested in receiving updates on future opportunities to participate in the planning process, please subscribe to our email list at www.unionmissouri.org/2021CP or call the Community Development Department at 636-583-3600.



JD Kelley City Engineer

The City of Union is pleased to have JD Kelley join the team as our new Engineer, replacing Jonathan Zimmermann, who was promoted to City Administrator last year.

JD is an East Central College alumni and earned his bachelors degree in civil engineering from Mizzou. For the past 8 years he worked at Cochran and prior to that he was the Senior Construction Inspector for MoDOT. JD is a Union native and currently lives in Washington with his wife Melissa, and daughters Giuliana (10) and Francesca (4). The Kelley family also have a six-year-old pug/Jack Russell terrier mix named Gracie. They adopted her from the Franklin County Humane Society.

You can contact JD at 636-583-1805, by email to engineer@unionmissouri.org or drop by the Building Department at Union City Hall, 10 E. Locust Street, Union, MO 63084.



1. Favorite Movie: *Spies Like Us*
2. Favorite TV Show: *The Three Stooges*
3. Favorite Actor: *Gene Wilder*
4. Last show you binge watched: *Mr. Robot*
5. What music do you listen to? *Classic Rock, Standards, Jazz, Rock, Pop, House, Rap*
"Sinatra at the Sands" is the album of choice if stranded on a deserted island.
6. Favorite Book: *Fox in Socks—Dr. Seuss* JD added "I have yet to make it through the book without a mistake."
7. Favorite Food: *Chorizo and Eggs*
8. Favorite Vacation Spot: *Cinnamon Bay at St. John Island*
9. Favorite Quote: *I asked an engineer, "What's two plus two?" They said, "Four. But to be safe, let's call it five."*
10. Hobbies: *Coaching sports, Biking, Bread Making, Cooking, Weightlifting, Softball, Video Games*



OFFICER of the YEAR

Congratulations to Officer Dylan Callaway, recipient of the 2020 Officer of the Year Award. Each year an Officer is recognized for their dedication in serving the citizens of Union and who shines in their performance of their duties.

Officer Callaway has been with the Union Police Department since November 2016. During the past year, while the average initial reports taken by road patrol and resource officers was 101, Officer Callaway alone filed 294 initial reports. Callaway is recognized for his willingness to step up when needed, whether it's covering shifts when someone is sick or coming in on his day off to assist in investigations. His positive attitude, infectious smile and willingness to help, is evident in his interactions with coworkers and the citizens he serves.

Pictured: Chief Andrew Parker and Officer Dylan Callaway

CITY SEES GROWTH DESPITE CHALLENGES

There is no doubt 2020 had it's challenges, and we are still facing uncertainty going into 2021 ... but Union continues to grow despite those challenges. For instance ..

Prairie Dell Elementary School opened. The new City Hall was completed. Volpi Foods is adding a 2nd building to their Union location. American Welding Academy opened. 75 new single family dwelling permits were issued.

We welcome these new retail businesses: Rock Island Express Wash, Cotton's Ace Hardware, Reviv'd, Goddess Gowns and Better U Nutrition. (-> p4)

Prairie Dell Elementary
Photo Credit: Wanda Parsons



talk of the town

Union City Hall

10 E. Locust Street • Union, MO 63084

Phone: 636-583-3600 • Fax: 636-583-4091

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63084

CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Municipal Judge..... A. David Arand

City Collector Eric Schmuke

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

City Administrator Jonathan Zimmermann

Assistant City Administrator..... James Schmieder

City Clerk Jonita Copeland

Chief of Police Andrew Parker

City Engineer..... JD Kelley


Finance Director Heather Keith

Parks and Recreation Director Chad Pohlmann

Public Works Director Vacant

ONLINE

www.unionmissouri.org

 [Facebook.com/CityofUnionMo](https://www.facebook.com/CityofUnionMo)

COVER PHOTO

City Lake Winter Fishing

By Wanda Parsons

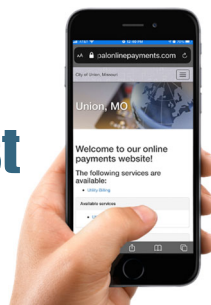
YARDWASTE PICKUPS

Place yard waste at
the curb by 6:00 a.m.

All pickup dates are
Wednesdays, except **June 3**
and **September 2**, which are
Thursdays.

Jan 13
Feb 10
Mar 10
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
May 5, 12, 19, 26
June 3, 9, 16, 23
Jul 7, 21
Aug 4, 18
Sep 2, 15
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27
Nov 3, 10, 17, 24
Dec 8, 22

Paying Your Utility Bill Just Got Easier!



Payment Options:

*By phone: **877-812-3501**

*Online:

municipalonlinepayments.com/unionmo

*\$1.25 Transaction Fee Applied

Never miss a payment:

Signup for e-mail, phone or text alerts at
municipalonlinepayments.com, or call City
Hall at 636-583-3600.

City Sees Growth (<- p3)

While we love new businesses, we
can't neglect the restaurants, spas,
gyms, salons, Great 8 Cinema, Oasis
Lanes, Nothing Fancy Rink and the
many other small businesses in Un-
ion we've come to love.

You can help by shopping local.

A SUCCESSFUL UNION

New for 2021: Follow us on
facebook and our website
unionmissouri.org for regular posts
on "A Successful Union" spotlighting
our community's good news and
success stories.

Interested in a feature?

Contact the Community
Development Department
for more info at
636-583-3600.