



### Mayor

Mike Livengood • 583-8257

### Board of Aldermen

#### Ward I

Robert Schmuke • 583-8639

Jim Albrecht • 583-4992

#### Ward II

Vicki Jo Hooper • 583-8640

Dale Schmuke • 583-2099

#### Ward III

Paul Arand • 636-262-7953

Dustin Bailey • 636-484-2937

#### Ward IV

David Pope • 583-7813

Karen Erwin • 314-378-0958



Publication of the City of Union, Missouri

Winter 2016 | Volume XVII, Issue 1

# talk of the town

## from the mayor

I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays surrounded by family and friends. On behalf of the City, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays coming to a close, the City is looking forward to another great year as we move forward on a number of ongoing projects. Work continues on Veterans Memorial Park. The construction work is on schedule and, more importantly, on budget. Construction will be completed later this year and the park will officially open in the spring of 2017.

In the fall, the new front entry to City Hall was completed, providing a much needed improvement for access to the building. The first phase of Prairie Dell Road, the new roundabout by East Central College, and several sidewalk projects were completed. In 2016 there are several road projects slated for construction, including the Judith Spring Road bridge and Prairie Dell Phase 2. Our Public Works personnel are second to none; please be respectful and aware when travelling through work zones.

The next several months promise to be busy ones as the weather improves and the construction season begins.



*Mike Livengood*

## 2015 Officer of the Year Award



Congratulations to Det. Sgt. John Biser, 2015 Officer of the Year.

Biser has been with the Union Police Department for 15 years. He began as a Patrolman and after 5 years made Detective. In 2010 Biser advanced in rank to Sergeant. He has been involved in many high profile cases during his tenure and also has had many duties over the years: Custodian

of Evidence, IT manager, CVSA (lie detector) examiner, Drug Recognition Expert, Active Shooter Instructor, Less Lethal Force Instructor, Vehicle Stop Instructor as well as many others.

Biser is quickly becoming a valued member of the department's decision making process. He is an integral part of the police department and is a great asset for the community.

## Fundraising Campaign Aims to Build Disabled Veterans Memorial

Missouri Pathfinders, a not-for-profit organization, hopes to raise necessary funds to construct a memorial at the new Veterans Memorial Park honoring all Disabled Veterans. The construction cost is estimated at \$125,000. To-date, approximately \$50,000 has been pledged. If you are interested in donating, or would like more information, please contact Mark Vincent at 314-623-3542.





# IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 8	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Feb 13	Valentine's Comedy Show
Feb 15	President's Day City Hall Closed
Mar 14	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Mar 25	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt 9:00am
Mar 25	Good Friday City Offices Close at Noon
Apr 11	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm



## City of Union Urban Forestry Council

On Friday, November 20th, volunteers from the Union Urban Forestry Council hosted the 2015 Annual Arbor Day Event in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Conservation and personnel from the City of Union Parks Department. This year's event focused on removing bush and Japanese honeysuckle along with other invasive species from the forested area of Veterans Memorial Park. The natural area has several tree species native to Missouri and will provide a great place to learn more about Missouri's natural forest habitat for visitors to the park. The Union Urban Forestry Council is planning similar events which will be held annually to help manage the City's natural forest areas. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer at a future event please contact James Schmieder at City Hall, 636-583-3600.

## Valentine's Comedy Show

This year's Valentine's Comedy Show will be held on February 13, 2016 at Union City Auditorium. Have you purchased your tickets yet?

There will be 3 comedians to tickle your funny bone:

**Mike Marvell** is a hilarious entertainer that is able to make people laugh without offending them. His comedy is based on his family, wife and kids, football, hunting and fishing.

**Danny Browning** finds humor in situations that everyone can relate to, and blends it with the perfect balance of improv.

**Headliner Mike Toomey** has a sharp delivery, quick wit, and unique style. He's been a favorite at comedy clubs and special events since 1982. Mike has appeared in concert with such names as Wayne Newton, Crosby, Stills & Nash, and Reba McIntyre. The Chicago Tribune calls Mike, "One of the funniest and most talented performers to ever work in Chicago."



\$40.00 per person includes the comedy show, steak dinner and dancing after the show. There will be a cash bar. Contact the Union Parks Department at 636-583-8471 to purchase tickets.

## City Programs Benefit Food Pantry

There were two events held in the fall to receive donations on behalf of the Union Food Pantry. The 7th Annual Business Expo was held in October and brought in \$232 and 4 large bins of food. The second event was at the Electronics Recycling Event held in November, which brought in \$638 and 3 large bins of food. The City appreciates your continued support for this important charity.

The Union Food Pantry is located at 115 W. Locust St. and is open Mondays and Thursdays 2:00-4:00 PM.

Pictured at left: Kristin Straatmann, City of Union; Carol Thurmond, Food Pantry Volunteer and Wanda Parsons, City of Union



## Sidewalk Replacements

Whether you walk with a walk that is measured and slow, or pick up the pace to win your own race, you are sure to appreciate a safe and smooth sidewalk beneath your feet. Each year the City of Union Street Department inspects and repairs the curbs and sidewalks in accordance with the City's evaluation system and funding constraints.

While many cities have a special sidewalk maintenance assessment fee or cost sharing program, Union residents are not assessed for standard sidewalk maintenance. Repairs are completely done in-house by the City of Union Street Department under the direction of Public Works Director, Harold Lampkin. The current budget for sidewalk and curb maintenance is \$40,000 per year.

This year the street department repaired or replaced over 2,300 feet of sidewalks. To put that in perspective that's more than the length of six football fields! Hoover Avenue, between West Springfield Avenue and U.S. Highway 50 was by far the biggest project to be completed in 2015.

The Street Department regularly inspects and evaluates the condition of 121,984 feet of sidewalks and 579,611 feet of curbs/gutters and prioritizes repairs accordingly. Sidewalks considered dangerous to pedestrian traffic are always a top



priority. To report an unsafe sidewalk, call City Hall at 636-583-3600, contact your alderman, or use the Report a Concern form on the city's website at [www.unionmissouri.org](http://www.unionmissouri.org).



Front row, from left, are Alderman Vicki Jo Hooper, Amanda Koch, Sherry Schneider, DSFC day services coordinator; Mayor Mike Livengood, Richard Jeffress, Mike Wirt and Cory Emily, DSFC behavior intervention technician. Back row, from left, are Jim Schmieder, assistant city administrator; Gary Tayon, Cody Dunn and Tom Sinclair, DSFC executive director. The day service program is called Life Ops.

## Plaque of Appreciation *Presented to DSFC*

On October 30th the City presented a plaque of appreciation to Developmental Services of Franklin County (DSFC) for their continued service to the community. Volunteers from DSFC have been maintaining the planters around the Old Courthouse over the past year. To recognize their hard work and dedication, the volunteers were presented with a plaque commemorating their work and thanking them on behalf of the City and our residents.

DSFC provides employment opportunities, educational, recreation and developmental programs to those with developmental disabilities. For more information about Developmental Services of Franklin County call 636-583-5801 or visit their website, [www.dsfranklin.org](http://www.dsfranklin.org)

The City is grateful for their service; they are truly an asset to Franklin County.



# talk of the town

Union City Hall

500 E. Locust Street - Union, MO 63084

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

## city elected officials

Municipal Judge ..... A. David Arand

City Collector ..... Terry Copeland

## departmental listing

City Administrator ..... Russell Rost

Assistant City Administrator ..... James Schmieder

City Clerk ..... Jonita Copeland

Chief of Police ..... Norman Brune

City Engineer ..... Jonathan Zimmermann

Finance Director ..... Heather Keith

Parks and Recreation Director ..... Kevin Arand

Public Works Director ..... Harold Lampkin

## web site

[www.unionmissouri.org](http://www.unionmissouri.org)

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

## cable access

Charter Cable Channel 117.3 or

Digital 993 — Union City Access Channel

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 20  
Union, MO  
63084



## CLIP AND SAVE

### 2016 Yard Waste Pickup Dates

Pickup Days are Wednesdays

January 13

February 10

March 9

April 6, 13, 20, 27

May 4, 11, 18, 25

June 1, 8, 15, 22

July 13, 27

August 10, 24

September 14, 28

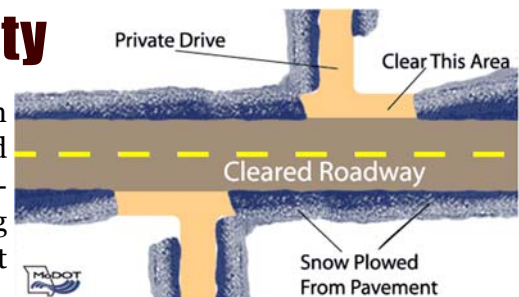
October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16, 23

December 14, 28

## Winter Safety

The City of Union would like to remind you to take extra precautions while driving in and shoveling out from under the snow.



- When a significant snowfall is present, the City will begin plowing the snow routes first to allow access for major roadways and emergency vehicles.
- As you face the street, shovel snow on the left of your driveway. This will ensure that the amount of snow that is pushed back into your driveway by the snow plows is minimal.
- Avoid parking any vehicles on the street, so the Public Works Department can effectively clear the streets.
- Remember to slowly accelerate and decelerate. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best way to avoid skidding and regain traction on slippery roads.

# FLOOD NEWS

On January 21, 2016, the federal government issued a disaster declaration for the State of Missouri, in response to the aftermath of the historic flooding in late December 2015.

Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance by registering online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Additional information is posted at [www.unionmissouri.org](http://www.unionmissouri.org), and on our facebook page. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at 636-583-3600.

The City would like to thank Franklin County Government, the Union Fire Protection District, all of the volunteers, residents, and staff who assisted with the flood recovery efforts. While there is still a long road ahead, the load is lightened by the number of people working together to help those who were impacted.



Highway 50 East at Birch Creek



East Main & State Street



Highway 50 at Bourbeuse River Bridge

## After the Flood: *Need Help Coping?*

When disaster strikes, often people react with increased anxiety, worry and anger. With support from community and family, most of us bounce back. However, "Some may need extra assistance to cope with unfolding events and uncertainties," said U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Administrator Pamela S. Hyde, J.D.

The **Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH)** is a toll-free, multilingual, crisis support service available 24/7 via telephone (1-800-985-5990) and SMS (text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746) to residents experiencing emotional distress related to natural or man-made disasters.

Helpline staff provides counseling and support, including information on common stress reactions and healthy coping, as well as referrals to local disaster-related resources for follow-up care and support. Visit the SAMHSA website at <http://www.samhsa.gov/disaster/> for additional information and resources related to disaster behavioral health.



# Avoiding Scams & Fraud

Homeowners should be cautious when hiring contractors for home repairs. Scammers, known as “storm chasers,” often head to an area hard-hit by a disaster. These criminals go door-to-door offering quick fixes to consumers who appear to be in urgent need of repairs or supplies. Before you hire anyone to assist you with repairs to your home, check them out.

The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) lists these warning signs:

- Be wary of any contractor offering repairs for a low cost, but requiring a full payment upfront.
- Be suspicious of contractors driving vehicles that are unmarked or that have out of state plates
- Contractors without a physical address.
- Contractors that use a high-pressure sales technique.
- Contractors that refuse to show an identification card.

Tips to avoid a home repair scam:

- Always get a least two estimates from different companies.
- Get all agreements in writing.
- Make a full payment only when the terms of the contract are met.
- Confirm they have a City of Union business license by calling City Hall at 636-583-3600 or the Union Police Department at 636-583-3700.
- Are they listed with the Better Business Bureau?

If you are unsure of the people you are dealing with, call the City of Union Business License office at 636-583-3600 or the Union Police Department at 636-583-3700 and we will help you check them out.



Church Street

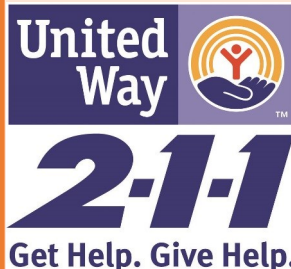
## Other tips to help you spot fraudulent activity:

- FEMA does not charge fees to apply for assistance or to receive it.
- Neither FEMA nor the SBA charges for property damage inspections.
- FEMA does not ask for your Social Security number, bank account number or other sensitive information.
- Government workers will never ask you for a fee or payment of any kind. Be wary of anyone who says he represents a governmental agency and asks for money.

If you're unsure about the authenticity of a FEMA or SBA representative, call the FEMA hotline at 800-621-FEMA (3362).



Businesses impacted by the flood are eligible to apply for low interest loans through the Small Business Administration. Contact your bank for details. Impacted businesses should also register at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).



2-1-1 is a fast, free and confidential way to give or get help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 2-1-1 call centers operate under national standards and are staffed by trained specialists who quickly assess the callers' needs and refer them to the help they seek. Information is available on a broad range of services, including food banks, affordable housing, health resources, child care, after-school programs, elderly care, financial literacy, and job training programs. Those with cell phones only should call 800-427-4626.