



talk of the town

Winter 2013
Volume XIV, Issue 1

www.unionmissouri.org



Mayor and Aldermen

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 • 583-5489

Dustin Bailey • 636-484-2937

Ward IV

David Pope • 583-7813

Karen Erwin • 583-5398

from the mayor →

With each January issue of "Talk of the Town" I like to use this opportunity to review the projects the City of Union embarked on in the previous year and what projects our citizens can expect in the coming year.

Over this past year, the City of Union began several large construction projects, the largest being our Main Street project. Of course, this project included Franklin County's second roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and Independence Drive. Although the installation of the roundabout was a bit controversial, the Board of Aldermen and I believe the roundabout has helped with congestion especially when Union High School dismisses.

Due to the growth that has occurred on the eastern portion of Union over the past several years, the City recently acquired property to install a new well and the City is considering constructing a water tower in 2013. The new water tower will be north of Old Highway 50 near Strawberry Fields subdivision. The size of the new tower has not been determined.

In the spring of 2013, the City of Union will once again begin construction of a roundabout at another congested intersection, Highway A and Independence Drive. This project will also include the installation of sidewalks along Independence Drive from Hwy A east to Church Street, providing access to sidewalks from W. Springfield Avenue to Church Street along Independence.



The Board of Aldermen and I hope to continue with street overlays in 2013, as well as, sidewalk replacement, where necessary.

Finally, as I am writing this letter, the Sandy Hook, Connecticut elementary school shooting is still fresh in my mind. Like many of you, I am a father and a grandparent and the horrific events of December 14th reminded me how fortunate my family has been and how fragile a child's life is. I ask you to hug your kids a little tighter tonight and tell them they are loved.

Mike Livengood

2012 Officer of the Year



L to R: Mayor Mike Livengood, Eileen Wade, Don Wade and Chief Norman Brune

Congratulations to Patrolman Don Wade who was chosen by the supervisors within the Union Police Department to receive the Officer of the Year Award for 2012.

Patrolman Wade has been an employee of the Police Department since August of 1985. Don has worked diligently throughout his career and is currently assigned to the traffic division, devoting much of his time to traffic enforcement and crash investigations. His work ethic in assisting other officers and diligence in maintaining fleet vehicles and equipment has been outstanding over the last year. This award was just one way to say thank you to Officer Wade for great service to the department and our community.



Recycling Trailer

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, the City of Union, through a grant received from East Central Missouri Solid Waste Management District, purchased a recycling trailer to benefit the citizens of Union and the surrounding area.

The trailer will be parked on the south side of City of Union Municipal Auditorium and will accept cardboard, paper products, glass and plastic, all at no charge. Once the bins are full, a City employee will deliver the recyclables to the East Central Missouri Recycling Center located at 24448 South Highway 47, south of Warrenton.

While residents can still take advantage of curbside service, this additional recycling drop off location is available free of charge even to those residents outside the city limits.

For those with additional recycling needs, the East Central Missouri Recycling Center accepts large appliances, batteries, used oil and electronics (\$10 fee may apply) and many other products. For more information and list of accepted products, please visit the following web site: boonslick.org/recycling-center/.



Union, Missouri Recycling Fact

The City of Union has participated in three electronic recycling events in the past three years, removing approximately 54 tons of waste from area landfills and has raised over \$1,500 in cash and several truckloads of food for the Union Food Pantry.

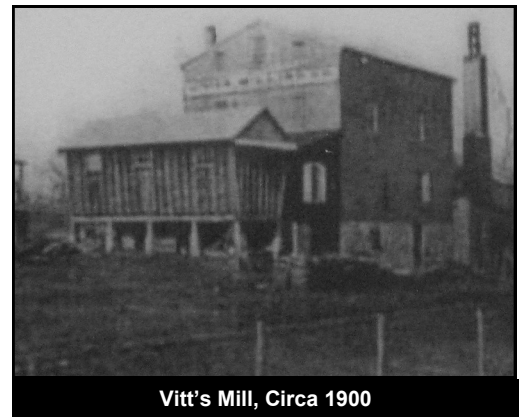


Vitt's Mill Civil War Site

Many people are not aware that several Civil War skirmishes occurred throughout Franklin County, including a skirmish that left approximately 100 captured, wounded or dead (according to Confederate reports) at Vitt's Mill in Union. The battle in Union occurred October 1, 1864. For those not familiar, Vitt's Mill is now the home of Crystal Ice located near the intersection of Highway 47 and Main Street.

To attract Civil War enthusiasts and to educate the public about these skirmishes, the City of Union, in conjunction with the Missouri Civil War Heritage Foundation, has purchased a plaque describing the Vitt's Mill skirmish and an in-depth look at several of the key players, including David Murphy, a local school teacher who assembled a group of 50 local men for the Union Army on April 20, 1861, just eight days after secessionists fired upon Fort Sumter in South Carolina. These men signed up to serve the Union Army at Vitt's Mill.

On October 1, 1864 Confederate troops confronted Union forces with cannon fire and attack on Vitt's Mill. The Union Army



Vitt's Mill, Circa 1900

fled and the mill was used for several days to mill flour for the Confederate troops.

When erected, the plaque will describe the history of Vitt's Mill in much more detail, including historic photos of the building. The plaque honoring this battle will be erected in spring 2013.

Washington, Pacific and an area near New Haven also experienced battles. We encourage you to learn more by visiting www.mocivilwar.org.

Dog Gone Fun!

Thanks to the generosity of local resident and business owner, Peggy Swisher, canines and their human companions now have a safe and fun place to run, socialize and lounge. Franklin County's first dog park is located off of North Christina Avenue, across from the tennis courts and adjacent to the sand volleyball courts. It includes two separate fenced areas, one for large dogs (over 25lbs) and another for small dogs. Each park has it's own set of agility equipment, including an A-frame ramp, a teeter totter, a balance beam and a platform with stairs. In addition, water spigots, drinking buckets and dog waste stations have been installed. Rules for using the dog park are posted on the premises.



The donation also was used to purchase children's playground equipment which is located in the new play area next to the sand volleyball courts and the dog park. Swisher enjoyed picking out the playground equipment, which includes a swing set, a crawl tunnel sized just right for young adventurers, and a few more unique pieces including a seated spinner, a monkey-bar type spinner and bongo drums for the musically inclined.

Swisher, originally, from Kirkwood, Missouri, has many a passion, but none stronger than her passion for animals and for children. When she moved to the area and opened Nothing Fancy Cafe in August of 2011, she knew she wanted to invest in the community. The park, located behind her restaurant, was a great place to start. At the time, the land was vacant except for the sand volleyball court. With the additions, the park is now used year-round.

"I'm glad I have the means to do something like this for the community," adding that more residents should get involved, be it through cash donations, or donating their time to improve the parks system. "Parks are important and there is only so much land, they're not making any more of it." added Peggy.



Mayor Livengood presents Peggy Swisher with a Proclamation for Community Stewardship Commendation.

Union Parks & Recreation has established a donation program to encourage individuals, businesses, and community organizations to participate in enhancing Union's parks, programs and open space by making a tax-deductible gift that will last a lifetime. Contact Kevin Arand, Union Parks & Recreation Director at 636-583-8471 for more information on how you can get involved.

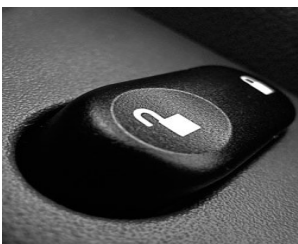


Onyx, a young whippet, is especially fond of running. Her human companions took advantage of an unseasonably warm December day to let her run wild in a safe fenced area. Shadow and his owner joined in on the fun, taking turns at the agility equipment.



In addition to the generous cash donation for the dog park and playground, Swisher also donated two bronze turtles who are now permanent residents at the playground. Myrtles turtles, so named after Swisher's mother and the designer, are two of only 15 or 16 ever cast. The turtles have been unofficially named, Tori and Ryan, after two of Peggy's grandchildren.

Crime Stopper Tip



Keep Car Doors Locked!

Thefts from vehicles increase around the holiday season and this past year has been no different. Residents of Union have had thefts occur on parking lots, in driveways, and on the streets. Items stolen include billfolds, purses, guns, loose

change, check books, credit cards, and gifts, etc. Almost all of these thefts have occurred from unlocked motor vehicles. If you have purchased gifts, or need to keep valuables in your vehicle, the Union Police Department suggests keeping items in the trunk and out of sight from potential thieves. The Union Police Department would also like to remind all citizens to lock their vehicles at all times and help prevent these types of thefts.

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

City Clerk.....Jonita Copeland

Chief of Police.....Norman Brune

City Engineer.....Jonathan Zimmermann

Community Development Director.....Joseph A. Graves

Finance Director.....Heather Keith

Parks and Recreation Director.....Kevin Arand

Public Works Director.....Harold Lampkin

web site

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

Utility Billing Direct Pay Option

Do you have trouble remembering to pay the monthly utility bill and find yourself scrambling to avoid shut-off? The City of Union does offer a free and convenient way for you to pay your bill without setting foot in City Hall or using a postage stamp; it's called Direct Pay. No more worries.

With Direct Pay your utility bill amount will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. You will continue to receive a paper copy of your bill with the amount charged and usage information.

It is very easy to enroll in Direct Pay. Just complete a Direct Pay Authorization form, available at City Hall, include a voided check from the account you will be using for your Direct Pay, or in the case of a savings account, a deposit slip, and drop in the drop box outside City Hall.

Certain terms and conditions do apply to use Direct Pay. Please contact City Hall at 636-583-3600 for more information.

Collector Position

In April, the citizens of Union will be asked to vote on a proposition to eliminate the current elected position of City Collector and replace with a position which would be appointed by the Board of Aldermen.

The Proposition on the April ballot will read as follows:

Proposition No. 1

Shall the Board of Alderman of the City of Union, Missouri appoint by city ordinance a person to the position of Collector to serve at the Board's discretion as provided for in Section 79.050 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (2007) instead of the current elected position?

- ♦ Vote "YES" if you would like to eliminate the elected position
- ♦ Vote "NO" if you would like to keep the elected position

Beginning in 2010, the City of Union contracted with Franklin County Government to collect City real estate and personal property taxes. According to City Officials, the arrangement with Franklin County Government has performed well the past two years.