

# 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)

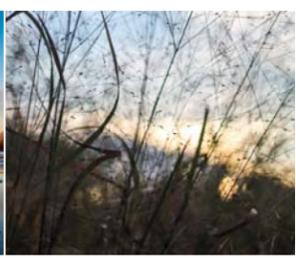
 [Facebook.com/CityofUnionMo](https://www.facebook.com/CityofUnionMo)

## cable access

Charter Cable Channel 117.3 or

Digital 993 — Union City Access Channel

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

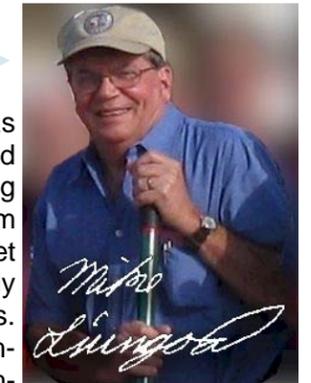


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# talk of the town

## from the mayor



2014 has come and gone, and what a year it was for the City! The City Auditorium upgrades continued with the addition of a new heating and air conditioning system and for the first time in its history the Auditorium now has air conditioning. This should be a great asset for those who want to hold wedding receptions, family reunions, and other events during the summer months. The final design work was also completed for the improvements to Prairie Dell Road and the Phase One improvements to Denmark Road were completed. The City added Well Number 7, which supports and secures our water supply for the eastern portion of the City. The City also acquired a much needed maintenance building on the east side of the City to support public works services and Veterans Memorial Park. As the year ended, the City was able to complete the financial planning for the construction of Veterans Memorial Park in 2015 without an increase in taxes.

Joey Graves, Community Development Director, decided to pursue his dreams and left the City in July of 2014. He will be missed and I wish him well. Before his departure, he completed working with Pharma-tech to complete an expansion project that will result in an expansion of business and additional job opportunities. Wanda Parsons and Russell Rost picked up the reins and were able to bring to fruition two additional projects. Epicure LLC (Volpi Foods) and Earle M. Jorgensen Company have purchased property in the Union Corporate Center. These projects will increase industrial business activity in Union and will also provide additional job opportunities in the near future. Wanda and Russell continue working on other new projects and assisting some of our existing businesses with expansion planning.

Looking forward to 2015 I don't see a let up in activity, if anything we will quicken the pace considerably. In January 2015, James Schmieder joined the City as Assistant City Administrator with Community Development responsibilities. The selection process was long and we had several good candidates that made the selection difficult. I believe James brings a great background in public service and administration that will prove to be an asset for the City. We will also see the construction of the improvements to Prairie Dell Road and the long awaited construction of Veterans Memorial Park. The next step in the improvements to City Hall and Auditorium will be the addition of a new front porch that will meet all Americans With Disabilities standards, will be designed to eliminate the chronic ice problem, and should be a nice esthetic "face lift" for the front of YOUR City Hall and Auditorium. So, come along and see the improvements that will be coming in 2015 as we move from winter into spring and summer.



### 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

### Reminder—Trash Pickups

Help keep city streets clear of trash containers. Ordinance 240.030 reads in part "solid waste containers shall not be placed until the regularly scheduled collection day by 6:00 a.m. **Following collection, the containers shall be removed to a location away from public view.**"



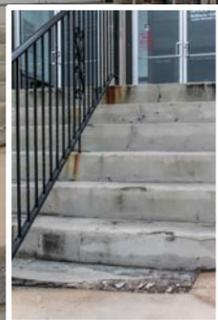
## City Hall Entrance to be Closed

The front entrance to Union City Hall will be closed for the month of March to complete necessary renovations and repairs to the front steps.

The current concrete steps are crumbling and need to be replaced. Plans include new steps, a new 5-foot-wide handicap ramp, more handrails and a "snow melt system" that will make the steps and ramps safer.

While the entrance is closed, those visiting City Hall should enter on the west side at the corner of Linden and E. Locust Street. It is 6 steps up to the main floor.

Those unable to use the stairs should enter through the basement on the east side of the building, just off the parking lot. City staff will be available in the lower level to assist with water bill payments, however, anyone needing help accessing the building is encouraged to call City Hall at 636-583-3600 to make arrangements for assistance.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 14	Yard Waste Pickup
Feb 9	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Feb 11	Yard Waste Pickup
Feb 16	City Offices Closed
Mar 9	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Mar 11	Yard Waste Pickup
April	Yard Waste Pickups 1, 8, 15, 22
Apr 3	Breakfast with Easter Bunny
Apr 3	City Offices Close at noon
Apr 13	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
May	Yard Waste Pickups 6, 13, 20, 27
May 1	Family Night Concert
May 9	Children's Fishing Derby
May 11	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
May 15	Lawn Chair Movie "Maleficent"
May 16	Electronics Recycling
May 25	City Offices Closed
June	Yard Waste Pickups 3, 10, 17, 24
June 5	Family Night Concert
Jun 6	Founder's Day
Jun 8	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Jun 19	Lawn Chair Movie "Rio 2"
July	Yard Waste Pickups 8, 22
Jul 3	Family Night Concert
Jul 3	Jaycee's Fireworks Show
Jul 3	City Offices Closed
Jul 9-12	Franklin County Fair
Jul 13	Board of Aldermen, 6:30pm
Jul 17	Lawn Chair Movie "The Nut Job"

## Prairie Dell Road Improvements

Construction will begin in March along Prairie Dell Road. The design includes widening of Prairie Dell Road from Denmark Road to Prairie Dell Plaza Drive to incorporate landscape islands, 8' concrete sidewalks and new street lights along the roadway. Improvements will also include the City's third roundabout at the entrance to East Central College.

During construction, southbound Prairie Dell Road traffic will remain open, however the Denmark Road entrance will be closed. Northbound Prairie Dell Road traffic will also be closed. Progress Parkway can be used to access US Highway 50 and the businesses located on Denmark Road.



## GET TO KNOW JAMES SCHMIEDER Assistant City Administrator

In January 2015, James Schmieder was hired as the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Union and is responsible for Community and Economic Development services. James comes to us with over 13 years' experience as the Director of Building and Planning for the City of Ladue, Missouri. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Truman State University. He currently resides in High Ridge with his wife, Karen, their two children, Lily and Eli. They plan to relocate to Union in the near future, but in the meantime are excited to spend their free time in Union getting to know the community.

James enjoys serving as Youth Minister with his church, Assistant Den Leader with the boy scouts, swing dancing, and playing tennis.

Here are just a few more tidbits to help you get to know him.

Birthplace: St. Louis, MO

Favorite Movie: Field of Dreams

Favorite TV Show: Star Trek the Next Generation

Favorite Musical Artist: Neil Diamond

Favorite Food: Mexican

Hobbies: Hiking, Bicycling, Tennis, Camping

Favorite Place to Vacation: Pensacola, Florida

Ever play a musical instrument? The piano, very poorly

James welcomes you to come by his office on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of City Hall and say hello anytime.

## Electronic Recycling & Food Pantry Collection

In a continuing effort to reduce the amount of solid waste from entering landfills and to provide our community with opportunities to participate in recycling, the City of Union is happy to announce its next electronic recycling event. The next event will be on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm at the Street Department Shed, 202 West Brown Street.

- WHAT CAN YOU BRING?** Computers, Printers, Keyboards, Laptops, Hard Drives, Cell Phones, Pagers, Radios, Scanners, Speakers, VCR's, DVD's, Fax Machines, Answering Machines, Stereos, Furnaces, Water Heaters, Air Conditioners, Microwaves, Power Tools, Kitchen Appliances. There is no charge for these items. If you have an unusual electronic item, please call City Hall at 636-583-3600 and we will determine if Midwest Recycling will take the item.
- WHAT ELSE WILL THEY TAKE?** At no charge - Lawn and garden equipment, but must have gas and oil removed **AND** flat panel TVs (plasma, LCD, LED). There is a \$20 fee per CRT TV 27" or smaller, or \$40 fee for console, rear projection and CRT TVs larger than 27". This is a necessary change due to the loss of a grant that was in affect at past events.
- WHAT WON'T BE ACCEPTED?** Smoke detectors, glass lamps, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes.
- DO I HAVE TO BE A UNION RESIDENT?** No, everyone is welcome to participate.
- DO I HAVE TO BRING HELP TO UNLOAD?** No, Midwest Recycling will have employees unload your vehicle for you.
- HOW CAN I HELP WITH THIS EVENT?** Although there are no charges for most of the items, the City has used these events to collect non-perishable items and cash for the Union Food Pantry to help with their great cause. To date, the seven previous events have raised a total of \$4,093.61 for the food pantry, as well as many trailer loads of food items. So please bring a food item, check made payable to the Union Food Pantry, or cash to donate. This is not required to participate in the electronic recycling event.
- HOW HAS THESE EVENTS IMPACTED OUR ENVIRONMENT?** The seven past events have diverted 203,767 pounds of materials from the waste stream for recycling. Also, these events provide work for the employees at the Midwest Recycling Center in the St. Louis region.

## Car Thefts on the Rise

The Union Police Department is reporting a major increase in motor vehicle thefts. In almost every case, the keys were left in the vehicle and the vehicle was unlocked. Theft is a crime of opportunity. Here's a few reminders:

- ✓ Never leave your keys in your vehicle
- ✓ Never leave your car running unattended, not even for a minute
- ✓ Don't leave a duplicate key on the outside of your vehicle
- ✓ Be aware of your surroundings
- ✓ Do not leave valuables in your vehicle
- ✓ Completely close all your windows and lock your doors every time
- ✓ Use an anti-theft device



## Officer of the Year



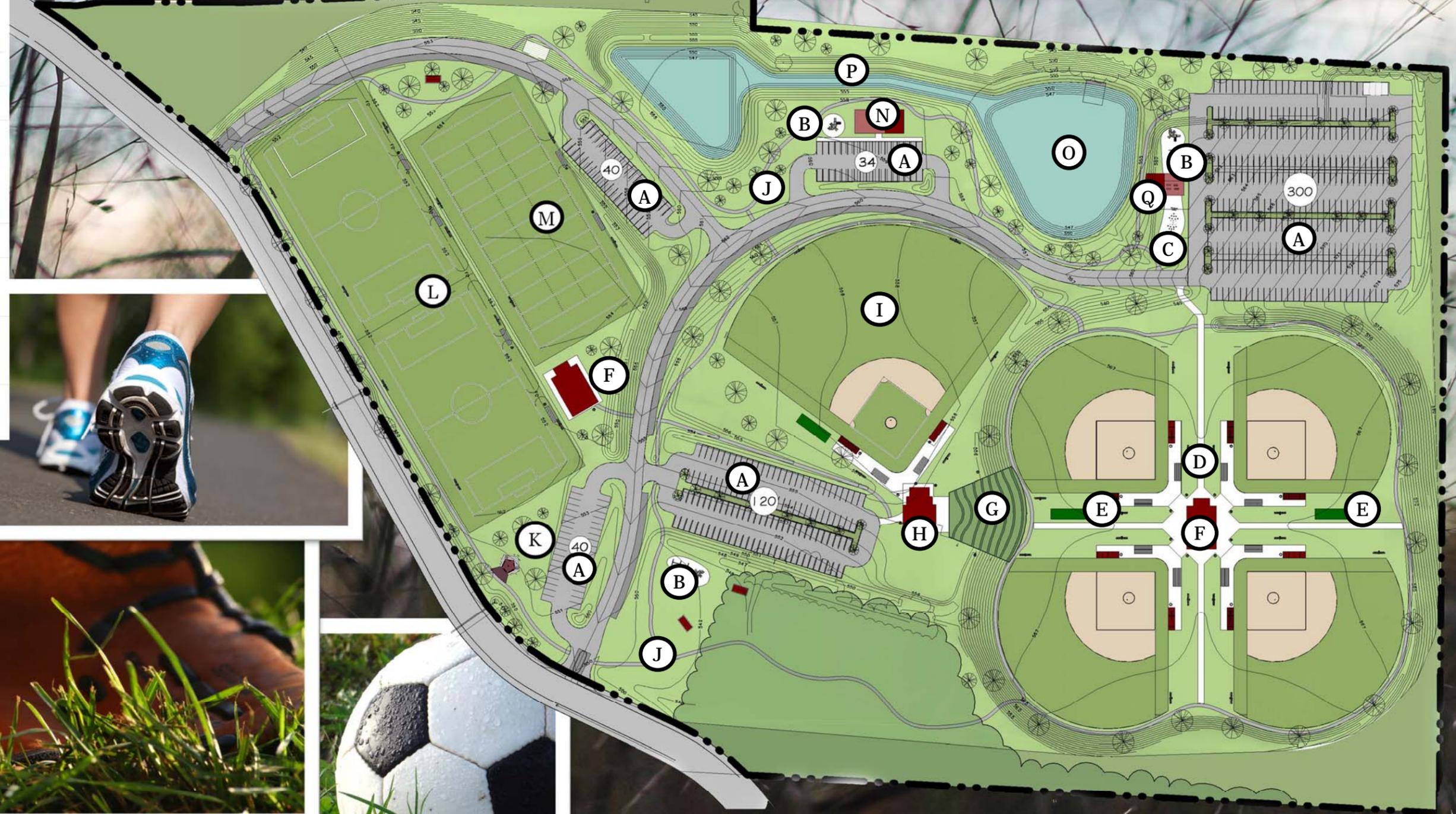
The Union Police Department supervisors selected Patrolman John Monroe as the 2014 Officer of the Year.

Monroe, a 28 year veteran of the Department, represents the best of the Union Police Department. His most noticeable attribute is the respect that he gives to everyone.

Congratulations to Patrolman Monroe.

- A. PARKING LOT
- B. PLAYGROUND
- C. SPRINKLER PARK
- D. BALLFIELD COMPLEX
- E. BATTING CAGES
- F. CONCESSIONS / RESTROOMS / STORAGE BUILDING
- G. AMPHITHEATER
- H. AMPHITHEATER BUILDING
- I. BASEBALL FIELD
- J. WALKING TRAILS
- K. VETERANS MEMORIAL
- L. SOCCER FIELDS
- M. FOOTBALL FIELD
- N. LARGE LAKE PAVILION W/RESTROOMS
- O. FISHING POND
- P. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- Q. SPRINKLER PARK / RESTROOM BUILDING

# City of Union Veterans Memorial Park



# City of Union Veterans Memorial Park



Above: Google Maps Aerial. Veteran's Memorial Park is located approximately 1/2 mile south of Hwy 50 on Progress Parkway. Initial grading has been completed on the new Veterans Memorial Park.

We at the City of Union are excited about the addition of the Veterans Memorial Park to our park system. The planning and design of the park has been in the works for years, and finally, ground has been broken, initial grading completed and construction of the amenities is scheduled to begin in June 2015.

Parks are a vital component of a vibrant community, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Not only do they add to the physical quality of communities with the aesthetic and environmental value they provide, they offer

residents a place to gather, and they play a vital role in promoting the recreational health of a community.

Veterans Memorial Park is an approximately 43.8 acre park, located on the east side of Union, approximately 1/2 mile south of Highway 50 along Progress Parkway. The site is large enough to accommodate several sports fields, as well as natural green space and playgrounds.

This new park will have many uses and amenities and serve residents and visi-

tors of all ages and varied interests.

For the sports enthusiasts, it will entail at least 5 baseball/softball fields and 3 soccer/football fields. Restrooms and concession stands are conveniently located to the fields.

For the young, and young at heart, a splashpad with ground sprays and other water features is planned. An exciting new feature is the amphitheater with seating for 200-300 people. The amphitheater will be a perfect place for family concerts, movies under the stars and a venue for other outdoor entertainment. In addition, there is a plan for a concession stand, restrooms, and a meeting room to accommodate 20-30 people.

A one-mile walking path with strategically placed exercise stations will meander around the park, allowing users to build strength and flexibility, while working on their cardio. The park also offers plenty of space for relaxing and enjoying nature, with two fishing ponds and a natural eco-friendly landscape design, retaining much of the area's woodlands and meadows.

The park will include 3 large pavilions that may be rented for special events, as well as smaller casual shelters for family style picnics. Additionally, plans include 3 playgrounds strategically placed throughout the park. These playgrounds will feature the latest in design and fitness.

Veteran's Memorial Park, with all of its' features and amenities, will in no way replace our current use of ball fields and our other parks and amenities. Union is the fastest growing City in Franklin County, and this new park will support that growth.

### IT'S A GOOD THING.

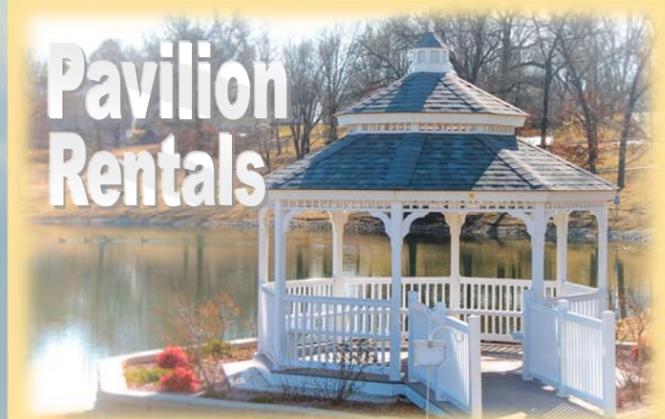
We welcome you to come out to the new park when construction begins and watch the park come alive in front of your eyes.

## New Year, New You!

Let this be the year you get in shape. Sign up for one or more of the wellness classes offered by the Union Parks and Recreation Department and Liferforce Fitness.



Classes are held in the lower level of City Hall, 500 E. Locust Street in Union. Fee is \$45.00 for a 6 week session. Choose from Yoga, Cardio Fitness and the heart pumping, body rockin' Cardio Dance Party. For session dates and to pre-register, contact the Parks Department at 636-583-8471.



Now is the time to reserve a pavilion or gazebo for your summer celebrations. The City of Union's park system now has a total of 8 pavilions and 2 gazebos available to rent. Photos and rental prices are available on the City's website at [www.unionmissouri.org](http://www.unionmissouri.org) or call the Parks Department at 636-583-8471.

