

F A L L 2 0 1 6

The

City of Union

Newsletter



Pictured: Union residents Linda and Gary Sonner, recipients of this year's Spirit of Union Award, with Union Mayor Michael O'Callaghan.

Linda and Gary Sonner Receive This Year's Spirit of Union Award

Linda and Gary Sonner have lived at 32 Laurelgrove Drive in Union since 1981 – for more than 35 years. They have raised two sons here where they have seen their family and neighborhood grow, mature and prosper. Their grown sons now have families of their own and also live here in Union. Instead of downsizing or moving on, the Sonners have evolved with their community and lifestyle. Several years ago, they designed a new look for the front of their ranch-style home: a welcoming entry that blends architectural elements of America's prairie past. *(continued, page 2)*

Celebrating 200 Years in Union!

This year, our community celebrates 200 years. You've probably seen the bicentennial banners located along Main Street. Union residents can purchase, on a first-come, first-served basis, the banners for \$10 each. They will be available starting Nov. 21 at City Hall.

Utility Bill e-Option

Union now has the ability to email residents / property owners their utility bill. The bill would be emailed directly to your email inbox and would include all the information that has always appeared on your utility bill. Check for additional details and a signup form on our website, at www.ci.union.oh.us, or stop by City Hall to fill out a form.

Save the Date!

Leaf Pickup
Started the week of Oct. 17 and runs through the week of Nov. 14. More details on the back page.

Beggars' Night
Monday, Oct. 31
From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Turn on your porch light if you plan to participate!

Tree Lighting
Sunday, Nov. 27
Starting at 6 p.m. when Santa arrives at the Union Fire Station.

Spirit of Union Award

“We’ve always enjoyed living here and have great neighbors.” – Linda Sonner

(continued from front page)



Their front and back yards also are nods to many landscape aesthetics and plantings indigenous to the region: trees, shrubs and flowers that blend beautifully into a southwest Ohio landscape.

The backyard has been transformed into a retreat, complete with a covered patio, tall grass plantings for privacy and a serene goldfish pond with water lilies.

“Working in our yard and on our home is our retreat,” Mrs. Sonner said. “We like to try different things.”

Mr. Sonner enjoys wood-working; he made the trellis, birdhouse, butterfly house, storage shed and patio cover that are now part of the property.

Mrs. Sonner’s love of flowers was inherited from her mother, she said.

“I like all kinds of flowers: purple and yellow cone flowers, phlox, daisies, hydrangeas,” she said.

Many of the plantings also include such wild flowers as bee balm and prairie dock as the couple loves to attract birds and butterflies to their yard. The colors for these plantings peak in July. She also favors hostas, lilac bushes and Rose of Sharon shrubs.



The Sonners located in Union because of the Northmont School District and they thought Union would be a nice place to raise their sons.

“We’ve always enjoyed living here and have great neighbors,” she said.

Compliance with Storm Water Mandates

Past newsletter articles have discussed efforts that the City of Union has made to comply with national storm water standards. We've talked about Union's commitment to good storm water management and the importance of complying with state and federal regulations. The City of Union has an excellent record in the effort of shedding only clean storm water in order to protect water quality and to reduce flooding. As a reminder, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has defined six "Minimum Control Measures" for Storm Water Management: **1) Public Education, 2) Public Involvement, 3) Illicit Discharge Elimination, 4) Construction Site Runoff Control, 5) Post-Construction Storm Water Management, and 6) Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.**

As part of complying with these measures, Union has done public education via newsletter articles like this one, as well as posted information on its website and signage at public parks. We ask the public to keep storm runoff clean by minimizing the use of fertilizer and pesticides. It's also important to keep grass clippings and leaves out of the street and off driveways and sidewalks where they could be flushed into the storm sewers and then into creeks and rivers. Illicit Discharge Elimination means to ensure that all "dirty water sewers" are connected properly to our City sewage treatment plant. City workers check for improper connections to the storm water sewer system. We ask that the public report any illicit / dirty water that they think is going into the storm sewers to City Hall at 836-8624 so we can check it out. No one should be changing oil in the street, for example, where spills would be flushed into the storm sewers.

The City of Union will continue to keep the storm runoff as clean as possible, and we appreciate the residents of Union helping to keep our waters clean. Please do your part to help the City meet the mandates for clean storm water!

Wellfield Park and Pond Makeover

The City of Union Wellfield Park (and pond) on River Road had a makeover this year! The City applied for and received a recycling grant for the three-acre park, which includes a one-acre pond. A Montgomery County Recycling Incentive Grant was awarded to fund a new park sign, benches, picnic tables and trash receptacles at the park. The items are made with recycled materials and were selected for their durability.

Over the years, the pond had gradually filled in with algae and sediment. A team was assembled to restore the pond to a fishing pond and the park to a recreational area. City crews began by clearing out the brush from around the pond. This work is ongoing, with an area of approximately 200 feet being cleared from the pond's edge. A sediment removal company was hired and removed about six feet of sediment from the bottom of the pond.

Divers entered the pond with suction tubes to suck the muck and debris from the bottom of the pond with the help of large pumps placed on the bank of the pond. This method of cleaning the pond was chosen over dredging in order to protect the pond's fish and aquatic life.

Another company has been treating the pond to remove the algae. The water in the pond is now clear, so an abundance of fish, frogs and turtles can be seen and enjoyed.

The area has become a scenic area for fisherman and has room for families to enjoy picnics, or for hikers to rest awhile from exploring the walking paths that connect to Five Rivers Metro Parks and the scenic Stillwater River Valley.

If you haven't been to Union's Wellfield Park on River Road, stop by and enjoy the new look, thanks to the Montgomery County Recycling Incentive Grant and the hard work and planning of the City of Union maintenance department!





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FALL 2016

Fall Leaf Pickup

Union's leaf pickup began the week of Oct. 17 and concludes the week of Nov. 14. Tips for raking your leaves for leaf pickup are online at <http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/departments/detail/leaf-collection/>

Snow Emergencies

During snow emergencies or heavy snow, vehicles must be removed from the street for at least 24 hours to allow crews to remove snow. Heavy snow means a snowfall with an average depth of 2 inches or more; drifting conditions are also considered heavy snow. Vehicles interfering with snow removal operations may be ticketed by police. Go online to find ways you can help City crews when the snow falls: <http://bit.ly/uDWqR9>.

