

F A L L 2 0 1 2

The City of Union

Newsletter



Fall Spirit of Union Winners!

Janet and Dennis O'Dell of 197 Woburn Farm Road are the recipients of this fall's Spirit of Union Award!

The O'Dells have lived in the home for 33 years, a quiet cul-de-sac with very little traffic, Mrs. O'Dell said. "More than half of the neighbors on the street have been here for 10 to 40 years too."

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Welcome to a New Newsletter!

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the new look of our newsletter! We hope you like the new design and format. We thought it was time for an update.

This is your newsletter and we want to feature information that's relevant to you. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact us at City Hall at 937-836-8624.

Sincerely, Mayor Michael O'Callaghan

Save the Date!

Leaf Pickup
Starts the week of
Oct. 15 and runs
through the week
of Nov. 19

Beggars' Night
Tuesday, Oct. 30
From 6 p.m. to 8
p.m. Turn on your
porch light if you
plan to participate!

Tree Lighting
Sunday, Nov. 25
Starting at 6 p.m.
Details are on Page
4 of this newsletter!



*Union Mayor Michael O'Callaghan
with Janet and Dennis O'Dell of 197
Woburn Farm Road.*



The O'Dells, with help from their son Zach, Janet's dad and a neighbor friend, totally redid their front yard in 2010 and 2011.

What They Love About Union

The O'Dells love the City of Union's small-town atmosphere. "And yet, we're not that far away from shopping, restaurants, numerous parks, fishing and access to the interstate," Mrs. O'Dell said. Fall is the family's favorite time of year in Union.

They raised their son Zach here; he is a graduate of Northmont High School and the Miami Valley Career and Technology Center.

Spirit of Union Award

"Their property has been consistently very well-maintained over the years and adds to the value of the neighborhood."

– Mayor Michael O'Callaghan

Regular Maintenance

Continued From Front Page

The O'Dells' secret to a great-looking property is regular maintenance. "If you keep up on yard work and home improvements, it doesn't become a major chore," Mrs. O'Dell said.

The couple plants annuals and a small garden every year and works on maintaining the yard's flowers and shrubs. Mrs. O'Dell especially loves her hydrangeas and a lilac bush.

They've done most of the home improvement themselves, starting five years ago by pouring a concrete driveway.

Extreme Makeover

In 2010, the O'Dells tore out existing plants and a wood retaining wall in the front yard and started over – putting in a new block wall, new shrubs and flowers, and replacing the garage, entry and storm doors. They completed the brick-paver patio area the following spring, adding furniture and flowers. The couple's son Zach, Janet's dad and a neighbor friend helped with the makeover.

Her favorite thing about their home?

"It's cozy!" she said. "We love spending time with family here!"



From This ... to THIS!

Concord Farms West Picnic Shelter gets a major makeover. The City of Union completed a major upgrade of the picnic shelter at Concord Farms West. A Recycling Incentive Grant from the Montgomery County Solid Waste District funded 68 percent of the recycled aluminum shelter roof, which city crews installed. Fifty percent of the cost of the recycled-content picnic tables was funded by the same grant. A similar project was completed earlier at the Community Park Shelter on Phillipsburg-Union Road. The City received \$22,000 in grant funds for these park upgrades. City income tax dollars funded the City's portion of the costs.

Union residents are asked to help name the Concord Farms West Shelter!

Send suggestions to Jhamilton@ci.union.oh.us or drop off or mail your suggestion to City Hall by Nov. 19. Include your name, address and daytime phone. The Park Board will select the winning name. The winner will have a photo taken at the shelter, which will be submitted to the local newspaper. The winner will get to use the shelter at no charge for a gathering and receive a \$25 gift card.

Beggars' Night/Halloween Is Oct. 30

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Please turn on your porch light if you plan to participate!



Public Safety Tips for Beggars' Night

Children should wear light-colored clothing that is short enough to prevent tripping. Carry a flashlight if possible. Adding reflective tape to clothing/costumes can help. Motorists should use extra caution on Beggars' Night!

Christmas Tree Lighting

Santa Arrives Nov. 25!

The City of Union will hold the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 25, at the City of Union Fire Station (corner of Montgomery Street and Martindale Road). Union residents, their families and friends are invited. Arrive before 6 p.m. because Santa Claus will arrive on a fire truck at that time. Parents can bring cameras and take pictures of Santa and their child against a seasonal backdrop. The City's Park Board and Union Fire & Rescue Department, the sponsors of this event, will be providing hot chocolate and cookies. Families are asked to bring a donation of nonperishable food and canned goods for the FISH organization or items can be dropped off at City Hall.



Union resident Carson Heis, 1 ½ years old at the time, meets Santa Claus at last year's Tree Lighting Ceremony.



Utility Billing Online!

Residents can view their current utility bill balance, last payment date, payment amount and water consumption history online.

To access the program, please visit the City's website at www.ci.union.oh.us where you'll find a link that says "Pay Utilities." Residents can pay bills online, for a small convenience fee, through a secure online credit card transaction. Residents can also have their utility bill automatically debited from their checking account each month. There is no charge for this service. To receive a form to sign up for auto debit, visit our website at www.ci.union.oh.us, stop by City Hall or call us at 836-8624.

Do-Not-Solicit Ordinance

On July 9, Union City Council approved a "Do-Not-Solicit" ordinance. This ordinance lets residents sign up to "opt out" of having solicitors/peddlers come to their home.

You can sign up any time and your address will be added to the list. Every five years, a new registration list will be created, and everyone will have to reconfirm that they want to be on the list.

Once a person is signed up, the address will remain on the Do-Not-Solicit list until the next time a new registration list is created (which is every five years), but you always have the option to withdraw or add your address at any time.

If you would like to be added to the Do-Not-Solicit list, please download the form online at <http://bit.ly/SGd6AD>, complete the form and return it to City Hall.

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Why It's Important to Gather Up the Leaves in the Fall

The City of Union provides leaf pickup each year for people who put their leaves by the curb. (See the back page of this newsletter for this year's leaf collection dates.)

Leaves should be placed as far as possible from storm drains, in a tight pile that won't be prone to blowing around.

One might wonder why leaves pose a problem to our storm drains and waterways. The short answer is they cause an oxygen shortage in the waterways and suffocate the fish. This happens because leaves provide food for water bacteria that multiply and suck up all the oxygen in the water.

Normally leaves fall on the ground pretty much near the tree. In fact, they add a certain amount of natural humus to the soil in the vicinity of their tree. When we rake them up into a pile, we concentrate their properties into a slug that is just too dense for nature to handle. If they get into the water, they rot, using up the dissolved



air that is needed by the fish. They might even plug up the storm drains and waterways.

The best solution, instead of raking leaves into piles, is to use the lawn mower to mulch them into pieces, which are evenly distributed around the lawn. The small leaf pieces will fall into the grass, rot around the grass roots over the winter, and add to the humus at the surface of the lawn. This humus layer on the lawn then provides an easier path for the roots to grow. The humus also assists in keeping soil from being eroded off the surface of the lawn.

A *light* application of high nitrogen fertilizer late in the winter will help the lawn to decompose these leaf bits and release nutrients into the grass root area just as the lawn begins to green up in the spring. You will be delighted at the result. And we will, too, because fewer leaf piles to collect will save the City money.





The City of Union Newsletter

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Councilwoman Robin Perkins
832-3902

Reminder: Trash
service will be delayed
to Wednesday after
Christmas Day and
New Year's Day!

THE CITY OF UNION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

Fall Leaf Pickup

The City of Union's leaf pickup will start the week of Oct. 15 and conclude the week of Nov. 19. See Page 5 to learn more about why it's important to properly pile up leaves. Tips for raking your leaves for leaf pickup are online at <http://bit.ly/rPN10S>

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>.

