

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

The

City of Union

Newsletter



Brenda Hutzel's Home in Lindeman Commons Receives Spirit of Union Award

Brenda Hutzel is an early riser who appreciates her east-facing home in the City of Union. But she likes that directional location for reasons in addition to beautiful sunrises: "With an east-facing entry, you have less wind gusts and snow at your front door in the wintertime!" She's truly made the front walk and entrance a special place to welcome visitors. Here, she's added extra plantings and
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Fall Citywide Garage Sale!

The fall citywide garage sale event is Sept. 10-11-12.

No permit is required to participate. Please call the City of Union at 836-8624 by Sept. 9 to let us know if you will be participating.

We'll have a list of the participating addresses and maps available at City Hall. The garage sale is a great way to do some fall cleaning and earn some extra cash!

Save the Date!

Leaf Pickup
Starts the week of
Oct. 19 and runs
through the week
of **Nov. 16**. More
details on page 3.

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

CPR, First Aid
Second Tuesdays
See the last page of
this newsletter for
info on life-saving
courses.



Spirit of Union Award

“I’d heard a lot of great things about Union from my sister and son.”

– Union resident Brenda Hutzel

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potted flowers to enhance the walkway and beautiful arched entry. Mature trees offer stately shade in the front yard.

Brenda is the recipient of this year’s Spirit of Union Award. Her home, which she’s lived in for three years now, is located at 100 Magdalena Drive just off Sweet Potato Ridge Road in the Lindeman Commons subdivision. Having an east-facing house was one criterion for Brenda when she began searching for her new home. She also wanted city water and sewer services, and sidewalks (for 30 years, she had lived out in the country, in Darke County).

Her sister and her son both live in Union and had encouraged her to check out the city when she was deciding to relocate in 2012. “I had heard a lot of great things about Union from my sister and my son. I was impressed with the city and everything they’ve done to keep growing – including the new P&G facility near the airport, which is a big benefit to all of us. So when this house came on the market and it met all of my criteria, I took a look and it and knew this was the place for me,” Brenda said. The light-brown-brick ranch is accented with light fixtures and a picket fence that Brenda painted a dark-chocolate brown. She likes a mix of perennials and annuals to bring a balance of foliage and color to the property. “I don’t have a lot of flowers compared to some of the past Spirit of Union winners, but I love to garden. I pulled some evergreens to start new flowerbeds and plant some ornamental grasses.” She’s also added a few new trees. She has planted flowers along the north side of the subdivision’s landscape mound, which abuts her property. Her green thumb started when she was a young girl in 4-H. Her first project was to plant zinnias. “It was neat to watch the flowers grow from seed, to see what they would turn into,” she said. Her love for “all things green” grew from there. “Gardening and beautiful yards are contagious. If more cities participated in beautification awards, I think it would help to promote beautiful neighborhoods,” she said. “I’m really honored to receive the Spirit Award.”

The Park Board established the Spirit of Union Award in 1997 to encourage exterior enhancements of residential and business properties. More information about the City’s Spirit of Union Award can be found on the City’s website at www.ci.union.oh.us.

Compliance with Storm Water Mandates

In previous newsletters, we've discussed the City of Union's commitment to good storm water management and our need for compliance with new state and federal regulations. This effort is intended to protect water quality and reduce flooding. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has defined six "Minimum Control Measures" for good 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.**

The City of Union has an excellent record in this effort to produce only clean storm water. This and previous newsletter articles about storm water management help to educate the public about the need to keep the storm runoff clean by keeping excess fertilizer, pesticides, grass clippings and leaves out of the street and off driveways and sidewalks. City staff members encourage people to call the City (836-8624) if they note abuses in this area so City staff can investigate and work to correct. City staff members also keep an eye out for any such abuses to our storm sewers and waterways. No one should be carelessly changing oil in the street, for example, where spills might be flushed into the storm sewers.

The City has modified its City Service Center on Shaw Road so none of the maintenance materials are located "out in the weather" where they could be washed into the storm sewers. All materials are stored under roof. So are vehicle washing bays, fueling tanks and other equipment. Plus, the entire maintenance yard has been paved so dust is controlled and cannot wash off into the creeks. City staff monitor construction projects to be sure that soil is not being washed into the streets and down the storm sewers. These are just some of the ways that the City is meeting the mandates for clean storm water.

Fall Leaf Pickup

Union's leaf pickup will start the week of Oct. 19 and conclude the week of Nov. 16. Tips for raking your leaves for leaf pickup are online at

<http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/departments/detail/leaf-collection/>



A Way to Get Important Public Safety Info



> Download the flyer at
<http://bit.ly/13jbi4f>

Get Info on Emergencies and More on Your Phone

Important community information from the City of Union is available through Nixle, a service that delivers text message notifications to email accounts and cell phones. Get info on City of Union snow emergencies, road closures, weather warnings, boil

advisories and more through this service. Register for City of Union updates and learn more at www.nixle.com. The website also offers subscribers the ability to easily determine which public organizations they want to hear from and the types of messages they will accept. If you have any questions regarding Nixle, please contact the City of Union's Director of Public Safety Mike Blackwell at 836-0912 or by email at mblackwell@ci.union.oh.us.

Opt Out of Having Salespeople Knock on Your Door

The City of Union has 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.



Important Street Levy on Nov. 3 Ballot

On Nov. 3, Union City Council is requesting voters to consider passage of its street levy. The street levy is brought before voters every five years and has been in place at the same millage rate of three mills since 1976 when it was first approved by Union voters.

This election, City Council is requesting voter approval of a three-mill street levy with one additional mill. The one-mill increase would generate \$90,000 annually in revenue and would be used to cover increased costs of materials and operations that the Street Department has encountered to maintain its 35 miles of streets throughout the community. Asphalt paving materials, road striping paint, fuel and road salt have all escalated in cost over the years. Just during the 2014-2015 winter season alone, the City expended over \$90,000 for roadway salt.

The street levy increase would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home an additional \$35.00 per year or \$2.92 more per month.

Please note that the recently constructed roadway, Union Airpark Boulevard, which is part of the City's industrial park, is being paid for through revenues generated by the increase in property values resulting from the construction of the new Procter and Gamble distribution facility. The lease owner of the facility will be making annual service payments into a 10-year TIF (Tax Increment Financing) District. Funds collected by the TIF District enable the debt incurred for the roadway and public infrastructure improvements extended to service the facility to be paid off over a 10-year period.

Residents are encouraged to go to the polls on Nov. 3 to decide this important street levy issue for our community.

Union's Combined Water/Sewer Rates Among the Lowest

Union's water and sewer rates are among the lowest in the Miami Valley! A 2015 survey conducted by the City of Oakwood of communities in the Miami Valley shows Union has one of the lowest water/sewer rates.

For water, Union has the fourth lowest rate among the 66 jurisdictions surveyed. For sewer, Union has the ninth lowest rate among the 63 jurisdictions surveyed. And for combined water/sewer, Union has the second lowest rate.

Check out the survey results at

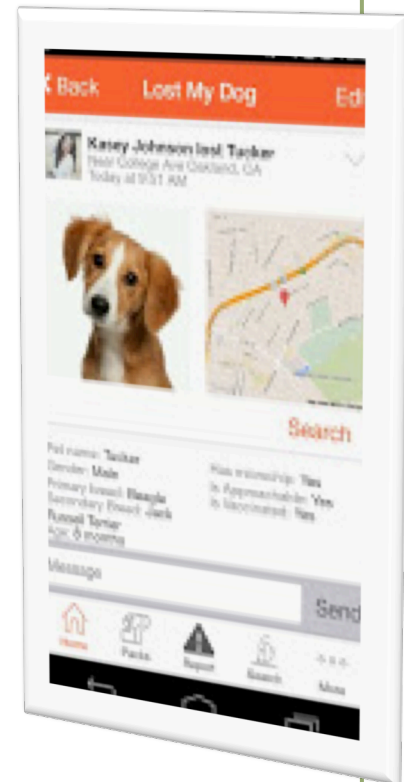
http://www.ci.union.oh.us/docs/Water_and_Sewer_Survey_2015.pdf

Montgomery County Animal Resource Center Becomes First Shelter in Ohio to Use “Finding Rover” App

The Montgomery County Animal Resource Center (ARC) is the first shelter in Ohio to offer the Finding Rover application, which offers facial recognition technology to identify lost pets. Finding Rover is a free service for identifying lost and found dogs in real-time with facial recognition technology accessible through the smartphone app and website. Now, every dog that enters the ARC system becomes registered on Finding Rover. Users of Finding Rover can search the shelter right from their smartphone or computer in efforts to find their missing dog, a neighbor's missing dog, or to search for adoptable dogs.

Every dog that leaves the ARC through a reunion or an adoption can remain protected on Finding Rover when the pet-parent completes registration with an email. If that dog ever gets lost, their record will already be in the system, allowing for easy identification. “Our agency will be the first in Ohio to implement this revolutionary technology and make it easier for us to match lost pets with their owners,” said ARC Director Mark Kumpf. “This is a great step forward in our efforts to reunite lost pets.”

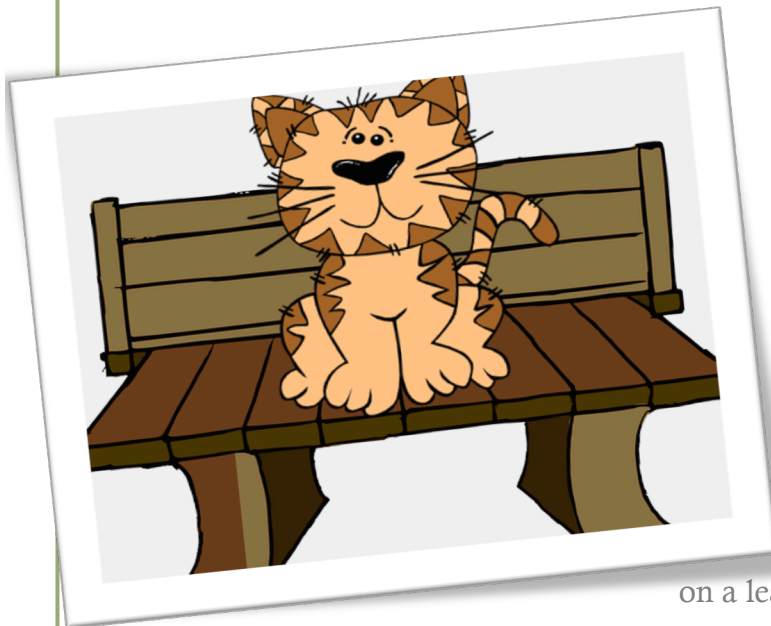
Residents can also call the City of Union at 836-8624 about lost pets. More on the app at <http://www.findingrover.com/>



How Many Pets Can One Have in the City of Union?

In the City of Union, in all areas zoned Residential, there is a limit to the kinds of pets and number allowed. Residents are allowed to have up to TWO dogs and TWO cats per residence. There are no exceptions.

The regulations also specify that pets are not allowed off of the resident's property unless they are on a leash. Other animals such as ducks, chickens, geese, goats and pigs are classified as livestock and are not permitted in residential areas.



New Tax Administration Provider for Union

Effective Oct. 1, 2015, the Central Collection Agency (CCA) Division of Taxation (City of Cleveland) will begin providing full administrative services for municipal income tax collection for the City of Union 1 percent income tax. The City of Vandalia, which had been handling this service for Union, will no longer be processing payments, returns or other documents after this date.

CCA is available to answer questions that you might have regarding the transition and to provide assistance regarding your municipal income tax matters. With offices and staff in both Cleveland and Dayton, and a call center to provide support, residents and businesses will have multiple ways to get assistance. Please visit CCA's website at www.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us to see the types of services and information available. The website provides links for online payments and filing, links to tax forms, a listing of tax rates and more.



During tax season, CCA will provide taxpayer support help at the City of Union. Dates and times will be posted on CCA's website and can also be obtained by contacting the City of Union after Jan. 1, 2016. If you would like to schedule an appointment for assistance at the Dayton office, you may call one of the numbers listed below to schedule a time for confidential and personalized service. If you are mailing payments, returns or other documents to CCA, you may use the Cleveland address provided on the CCA form that you are remitting. If you need assistance in determining what address to use, please contact CCA.

CCA DAYTON OFFICE:

371 W. Second St., Suite 110, Dayton OH 45402

Office hours are by appointment. 1-937-227-1359 or 1-937-227-1363

Michelle Jordan, Dayton Branch Manager

michellejordan.cca@gmail.com

(for your protection, please do not send confidential information via email)

CCA CLEVELAND OFFICE:

1-216-664-2070 (Call Center)

1-800-223-6317 (Call Center Toll-Free Number)

Mike Ryba, Chief of Audit

Direct number: 1-216-664-4416



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118 North Main Street
Union, Ohio 45322
(937) 836-8624
www.ci.union.oh.us

Mayor Michael O'Callaghan

836-0177

Vice Mayor John Bruns

836-9248

Councilwoman Colette Tremain

846-6261

Councilman David Blackwell

832-8332

Councilwoman Jean Kyle

832-2811

Councilwoman Helen Oberer

832-3269

Councilwoman Robin Perkins

832-3902

THE CITY OF UNION NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

Consider Taking These Important Life-Saving Classes

The City of Union Fire Department offers CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) and First Aid classes to citizens and businesses on the second Tuesday of each month. Classes are held at the City of Union Fire Department located at 109 West Martindale and begin at 7 p.m. and usually go until about 9 p.m. After successful completion, a certification card will be provided that's valid for two years.

Classes are **free** for all Union and Englewood residents.

There is a \$10 fee for nonresidents. One or both classes can be taken. To attend both classes, the cost would be \$20 for nonresidents. To register to attend a class or if you have additional questions, please call 937-836-8624. If you're a nonresident, please send payment to the Union City Building at 118 N. Main Street, Union, Ohio, prior to class. Please make checks out to the "City of Union."

