

F A L L 2 0 1 7

The

City of Union

Newsletter



Pictured left: Union resident Mildred McReynolds Atchison, recipient of this year's Spirit of Union Award, with Union Mayor Michael O'Callaghan.

Mildred McReynolds Atchison Is the 2017 Spirit of Union Recipient

Mildred McReynolds Atchison is the recipient of the 2017 Spirit of Union Award.

Mildred has lived in the beautifully maintained red-brick ranch at 306 Carol Lane since 1974.

"Union is a quiet and peaceful town. My neighbors have been here almost as long as I have. I raised my two sons here," she said. "This is truly home." *(continued, page 2)*

Save the Date!

Leaf Pickup
Starts the week of **Oct. 16** and runs through the week of **Nov. 20**. More details can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Beggars' Night Tuesday, Oct. 31

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



Santa Arrives for Tree-Lighting on Nov. 26!

The City of Union holds the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 26, 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 the Union Fire & Rescue Department will provide hot chocolate and cookies. Families are welcome to bring a donation of nonperishable food and canned goods for the FISH organization or items can be dropped off at City Hall.

Spirit of Union Award

“I love gardening. It’s my hobby, my pastime, a labor of love.” – Mildred McReynolds Atchison

(continued from front page)

Over the years, she’s added onto the home and continually improved the yard with new plantings.

When she first moved in, the inside of the house was configured differently. In adding a room addition, she took out some walls and opened up the layout.

As beautiful as the inside of the home is, it’s the outside of the property that caught the attention of the City of Union’s Park Board.

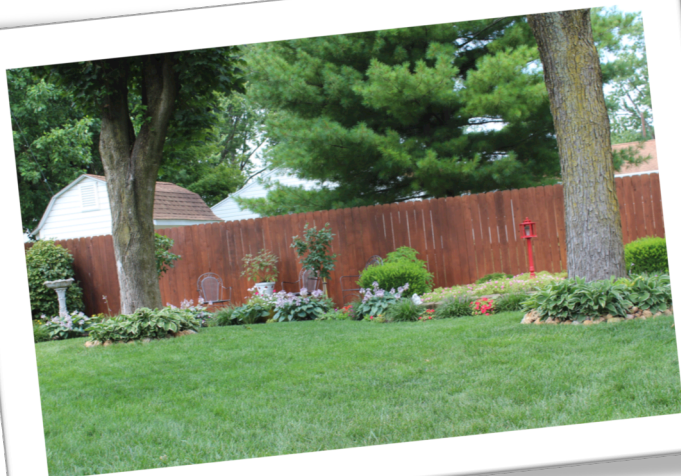
Mildred’s love of gardening shows in her beautifully landscaped yard. Now retired, she spends the equivalent of several days a week planning, planting, and pruning her outdoor space.

The first thing one notices when approaching the home is the expanse of green lawn with sculpted borders that include varying kinds of hostas and shrubs. Ornamental trees and bushes also adorn the front yard. The backyard is fenced, creating a private oasis. Mildred added a deck-like patio area to the back of the house, extending the living space outdoors. There, large umbrellas shade wicker furniture and a wrought-iron dining set.



“I’m really pleased to receive the Spirit of Union Award,” Mildred said.

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.unionoh.org.



With Stormwater Management, Non-Exposure Is Good

The goal of “Stormwater Management” is to cut down on trash, sediments, chemicals, oils, and other unnatural things getting into our waterways, rivers, creeks, streams, etc. None of these things are good for fish and other aquatic life.

When the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) started reviewing the stream pollution problem, they first focused on industrial facilities because the EPA thought that these types of facilities probably contributed the most amount of pollution. But that wasn't necessarily so. Municipalities also have facilities that are quite “industrial” from various perspectives.

The City of Union has three such “industrial” operations:

- Water supply plant (*top photo*)
- Wastewater treatment plant (*middle photo shows a wastewater screening operation enclosure*)
- City yard (where all of our heavy equipment for snowplowing, sewer maintenance, and grounds maintenance are kept) (*bottom photo shows fueling station tanks and valves under cover*)

So, how are we doing with regard to stormwater at these three City facilities? We have achieved certified “non-exposure” status for all three.

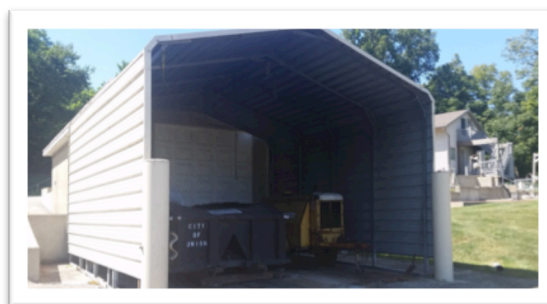
Here's how non-exposure status is defined by the EPA:

A “non-exposure” facility has absolutely nothing stored outdoors that might pollute – not even construction equipment, which might have a drip of oil or grease that could wash into the stormwater system.

Everything is indoors, including materials like fertilizer and salt, oil barrels, pesticides and herbicides, maintenance processes, and paint. There is literally nothing stored outdoors exposed to rainfall that could contribute pollutants to stormwater.

A “non-exposure certification” isn't a permit but rather a means of officially declaring that there is nothing that could contribute to pollution through stormwater at a facility. Each facility is registered with the EPA permitting branch by a State-registered engineer as a “non-exposure facility” and no permit is needed.

In the City of Union, the City Water Plant first achieved this status in about 1999 when the water processes and standby power generator were first totally enclosed and certified for “non-exposure” status with the Ohio EPA. Next the Wastewater Plant achieved “non-exposure” status after all of its processes and storage items were completely enclosed or roofed over. And finally, the City Yard achieved “non-exposure” status after all of its equipment, maintenance processes, and stored materials were enclosed or roofed over.



The City of Union Has Great Parks to Enjoy!

The City of Union has a number of parks that offer a variety of activities. The largest park is Union Community Park at 3280 Phillipsburg-Union Road, which has five ball diamonds and is used for Northmont Amateur Baseball League (NABL) games. Two of the diamonds have lights for evening games. There is also a large shelter and concession stand for use during the games. Children's playground



Westrock Park shelter

equipment and game tables are featured at the West Martindale

Road Park, 211 West

Martindale Road. The surface

of the playground is made with

shredded recycled tires. There are also two tennis courts.

This park is great for children 12 years old and under but

also included are shaded areas for their parents to sit while their children enjoy the playground. At 124 Parkgrove

behind City Hall is a basketball court, volleyball court, and

cornhole court. This park is designed for teenagers and is used by surrounding neighborhoods or any other group of people who enjoys playing games. These three parks are all connected by sidewalks so people can safely visit all of the parks and enjoy walking to the different areas.

Within the last couple of years, the City has renovated the Union pond area at 300 River Road off of East Martindale Road. Now referred to as Wellfield Park, the pond has been restored, and picnic tables and benches added, making a great place to picnic, go fishing, simply to relax and enjoy the peaceful setting, or take a hike on the surrounding walking paths. Improvements also have recently been made at the Concord Farms West Park. The shelter house has been restored, and since this has mostly been a walk-



Wellfield Park



Westrock Park walking path

in park, the City of Union recently purchased a vacant lot in Irongate Estates, which eventually will be a parking area for access to this community park.



Parkgrove Park

Over the years, the City of Union has been very active in obtaining grants to fund the shelter houses, picnic tables, and benches made from recycled products. Most of the areas, in addition to benches and tables, have children's swings, slides, and other playground equipment. Fall is a great time to take a look at these parks and see all that the Union Parks have to offer.

City of Union Receives Several Grants

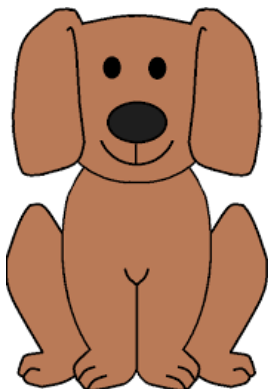
The City of Union recently received a **\$23,000 Recycling Incentive Grant** through the Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District. The grant funded 70 percent of costs to install a new recycled aluminum roof on the sanctuary area of the former Methodist church building at 201 West Martindale Road. Once renovations of the facility are complete, the former sanctuary portion of the building will be used as a public meeting space, and the remainder of the facility's west wing area will be used by the City's police department. A **\$70,000 Community Development Block Grant** was also awarded to the City to help fund accessibility improvements needed at the facility. Work will take place in 2018.

The Union Fire Department was awarded a **\$24,000 grant from the Firehouse Subs Foundation** to purchase a LifePak 15 with ETCO2 and CO monitoring capabilities. This unit is a state-of-the-art defibrillator with the capability to run a 12-lead EKG and also transmit the EKG to the receiving hospital. The new LifePak 15 will replace the department's older monitoring unit.

TE-CO Manufacturing, LLC, located in the City of Union's Quinter Farm Industrial Park, received a **\$200,000 Economic Development Incentive Grant (ED/GE Grant)**. The award assisted the company with construction of a new 57,000 square-foot facility at 100 Quinter Farm Road. TE-CO has been in business in the City of Union since 1981. The company manufactures work-holding devices, fasteners, and lifting devices used by the military, aerospace, and medical fields. TE-CO moved into its new building in April of this year. The ED/GE Grant that was awarded to TE-CO through the Montgomery County Department of Community and Economic Development also helps by retaining 55 jobs in Union. TE-CO has also committed to creating 38 new jobs. TE-CO is currently the fourth largest employer in the City of Union, and the City is pleased that the business is growing and that they have decided to construct their new building in our community.



How Many Pets Can One Have in 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.

Jerry Dale to Retire

Longtime City of Union employee Jerry Dale retires Nov. 30 after 29 years of service. Jerry started working for the City of Union in 1988 where he performed a variety of duties with the service department and the wastewater treatment plant. He also served as a volunteer fireman.

In 2002, Jerry started reading the water meters, replacing water meters, and gathering water samples. Jerry also is one of the dedicated employees who has been out there in the worst winter weather to plow snow.

Jerry grew up in Union. He and his wife, Lois, have two children, and will remain in the area. His parents still reside in Union. At this time, Jerry tells us he has no definite plans for his retirement, but we are sure his family will keep him busy – especially since they recently welcomed a new grandchild!

Sign Up to Receive Your Utility Bill Via Email

Residents and property owners can receive their utility bill via email. The bill would be emailed directly to your inbox and will 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.unionoh.org. Or, complete this form.

EMAIL MONTHLY WATER BILLS

The City of Union will email your monthly utility bill after you complete and return this form:



I am a resident/property owner of the City of Union and wish to have my account set up for my utility bill to be e-mailed to me monthly. (This is not available for rental properties)

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Email Address:

Phone No:

Account No. or
Property Address

**Terms
of Use:**

By agreeing to these terms, you understand that your utility bill will be emailed directly to your inbox. With this new option, you will no longer receive a physical bill in the mail. Please be advised that it is the customer's responsibility to keep the City of Union updated if there is a change to your email address.

Bills are sent out every month. Failure to receive a bill does not negate your responsibility to pay the bill.

☐

I agree to these terms.

Signature:

Opt Out of Salespeople Knocking on Your Door

In August 2012, the City of Union passed an ordinance regarding peddlers and started a Do-Not-Solicit list for residents who didn't want salespeople or peddlers to come to their doors. The list needs to be updated in its entirety every five years, so this August, the City started over with a new list. Even if you've signed up any time within the past five years, to remain on the list, you'll need to sign up again. If you'd like to sign up (or re-sign up), please complete the form below and return it to the City of Union. Extra forms are available at City Hall. If you sign up now, your name will remain on the list for the next five years. For more information, please call the City of Union office at 937-836-8624.

Note: It has been five years and everyone needs to sign up again!

Please add my address to the Do-Not-Solicit List!

Only your **ADDRESS** will be on the list provided to solicitors. (no names)

Signature: _____

Please print information below:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ **(will appear on the Do-Not-Solicit List)**



Mail this registration to:

City of Union
Attn: Do-Not-Solicit List
118 North Main Street
Union, Ohio 45322

Drop in the Water Bill Payment Box:

Located behind the City Building
OR 118 North Main Street
Union, Ohio 45322

Register online at:

www.unionoh.org



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 re-confirm that they want on the list. Once a person is signed up, your 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.



The City of Union Newsletter

118 North Main Street
Union, Ohio 45322
(937) 836-8624
www.unionoh.org

Mayor Michael O'Callaghan

836-0177

Vice Mayor John Bruns

832-0912

Councilwoman Colette Huggins

846-6261

Councilman David Blackwell

832-8332

Councilwoman Jean Kyle

832-2811

Councilwoman Helen Oberer

832-3269

Councilwoman Robin Perkins

832-3902

Waste Collection Reminders!

Christmas Day: Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

Collection will be on Wednesday.

New Year's Day: Monday, Jan. 1, 2018

Collection will be on Wednesday.

THE CITY OF UNION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2017

Fall Leaf Pickup

Union's leaf pickup will start the week of Oct. 16 and conclude the week of Nov. 20. Important info for raking your leaves for leaf pickup are 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>.

