

# The City of Union

S P R I N G 2 0 1 6

Newsletter

## 3-Mill Street Levy on March 15 Ballot – No Increase in Taxes!

An existing 3-mill street levy is on the March 15 ballot, and it's important to vote. **There will be zero increase in taxes with this levy.** The levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$82/year. The current street levy expires on Dec. 31, 2016. The levy on the ballot (Issue 4) will replace the expired levy and would take effect this year. Collections would begin in 2017 because property taxes are collected in arrears. Union voters have approved the levy every five years since its original passage in 1976. The levy has never exceeded the original 3 mills. The levy will generate \$244,751 annually for street improvements and repairs. It will help pay for such work as the resurfacing of Martindale Road between Montgomery Street and Draper/Jodean Lane (part of a water main replacement project) -- work on this particular project is expected to be done by Aug. 31. Note: P&G street improvements are paid for by the TIF District (not by Union tax payers). **Support your community and vote March 15.** Polls are open 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, please call the City at 937-836-8624.



## Bunny Comes to Town!

The Easter Bunny comes to town on Saturday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Arrive early at 3280 Phillipsburg-Union Road Community Park so you don't miss Bunny arriving on a Union fire truck! Bunny's annual Egg Hunt features 4,000 eggs for ages 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8, and punch and cookies. Bring your camera to get pictures taken with the Bunny. Consider bringing non-perishable food items for donation to the FISH food pantry.

### In This Newsletter

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Read about helpful tips to use less water when you garden.

#### Tax Prep Help Page 3

Learn how you can get help with your Union Municipal Income Tax return.

#### Save Butterflies Page 4

The City of Union is helping to save the monarch butterflies.

## Union Turns 200 Years!

**Our community turns 200 this year! A committee has begun working on some celebration ideas. See page 5 for some fun info!**

## Water-Wise Yard and Garden Maintenance Tips

Lawn care and landscaping can be one of the biggest users of water. There are a number of ways to save on water and still maintain a beautiful yard and garden. Here are some popular ideas:

1. Consider using less grass and more low-maintenance perennials or groundcovers. Choose water-thrifty perennials that are native to Ohio.
2. Group plants into high, moderate and low water-using zones to take advantage of the natural characteristics of your yard.
3. Use organic or inert mulches to reduce water evaporation, erosion and weed growth while enhancing your garden aesthetics.
4. Mow high. Set your mower blade at 3 inches or higher. Tall grass helps prevent weed growth. You might want to do one close “shaving” with the mower in the spring (at maybe 2 inches) and then raise the blade for the rest of the year. This helps to turn weeds and leaves from the winter months into useful mulch for the newly blossoming grass.
5. Mow more frequently to allow the shorter cuttings to fall into the lawn where they can add to the healthy humus layer and not need collecting.
6. If you need to rake a bit off the lawn at some point, put it under a bush in your yard instead of sending it off to the landfill with the garbage; it’ll be good for the bush.
7. Direct home downspouts toward the lawn or a rain barrel, not the pavement. Rainwater is free; it is not chlorinated and is usually better for plants.
8. Rain barrels are popular. They come with lids and screens to prevent mosquitoes, and are easy to use. They are available at most of the handyman supply stores.
9. You might even try “drip irrigation” to apply water directly to plant roots. Drip irrigation helps maintain healthy plants and waters mostly the plant, not surrounding weeds, as sprinklers do. Some area handyman and garden stores carry new drip irrigation products.
10. Water before 10 a.m. or in the late evening for less evaporation during the heat of the day.
11. Minimize the addition of fertilizers and pesticides. Extra fertilizer increases water consumption.
12. Mow up your leaves in the fall and spread them on the lawn; such organic matter improves soil texture and composition over the long term and enhances the water-holding capacity of the lawn. Put some of the leaves under your bushes.
13. Leaf and grass clippings contain phosphorous, which the lawn needs. Most lawn fertilizers contain no phosphorous these days. Scotts, the Ohio-based national lawn fertilizer producer, recommends getting your lawn phosphorous from grass and leaf clippings, not from fertilizer.

Following these practices will help promote clean storm water in the City of Union.

## Help for Completing your 2015 Union Municipal Income Tax Return

There are several ways to complete your 2015 Union Municipal Income Tax return and to get assistance should you need it. A reminder: On Oct. 1, 2015, the Central Collection Agency (CCA) Division of Taxation (City of Cleveland) began providing full administrative services for municipal income tax collection for the City of Union 1 percent income tax.

Visit the CCA website at [www.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.ccatax.ci.cleveland.oh.us) to download forms, complete fillable PDF forms online, or to use CCA's online service for completing your return and submitting payment.

The CCA Customer Service Call Center can help with tax questions, or help with completing your return online by calling: 1-800-223-6317 or 1-216-664-2070.

CCA staff will be available in the area on the following dates and times. You may visit any of these locations for assistance:

Monday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	City of Union – Council Chambers
Monday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	City of Clayton – Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	City of West Milton – Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 30 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	City of West Milton – Council Chambers
Thursday, March 31 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.	City of Union – Council Chambers
Saturday, April 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	City of Clayton – Council Chambers

Need more personalized assistance? You can schedule an appointment with CCA staff in the Dayton branch office by calling 1-937-227-1359. Taxpayer assistance and return preparation is by appointment only at this location.

## 2015 Holiday Decorating Winners

The Union Park Board and staff appreciate the efforts of citizens participating in decorating for the holidays! The Park Board members chose these addresses that had outstanding lights and decorations for the 2015 holiday season:

204 Applegate	110 Krug Drive	135 Springhouse
104 Ewing Court	125 Krug Drive	108 Union Ridge
112 Ewing Court	204 Riesling	100 Vanessa
19 Greycliff	425 San Bernardino Trail	100 Waldwick
104 Irongate Drive	110 Settlers Trail	154 Westrock Farm
108 Krug Drive	108 Shoemaker Lane	
109 Krug Drive	625 Skyles	Congratulations, all!

## Help to Save the Monarch Butterfly



Mayors and other local government chief executives across the country are taking action to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose populations have declined by 90 percent in the last 20 years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, cities and municipalities are committing to create habitat and educate citizens about how they can make a difference at home. For more information visit:

<http://blog.nwf.org/2016/02/collaborating-to-save-the-monarch-migration/> and <http://monarchwatch.org/bring-back-the-monarchs/>.

### ***City of Union Mayor Michael O'Callaghan's Monarch Pledge***

*The migration of monarch butterflies happens every year. The monarch butterfly population has declined drastically in recent years. Monarch butterflies are pollinators, moving pollen from plant to plant, and making it possible for the plants to produce food to feed people and wildlife.*

*Mayors in the area and across the nation are taking measures to help improve monarch habitats. The City of Union in collaboration with Aullwood Audubon Center will be over-seeding some rural areas with milkweed plants to create a habitat for monarch butterflies.*

*We encourage our citizens to create small areas in their landscape to do the same. If you have any questions about planting seeds, or locating an ideal area for seeds, please contact Aullwood for details.*

*We as a city are committed to helping restore habitat for the monarch so these magnificent butterflies will once again flourish across the continent.*





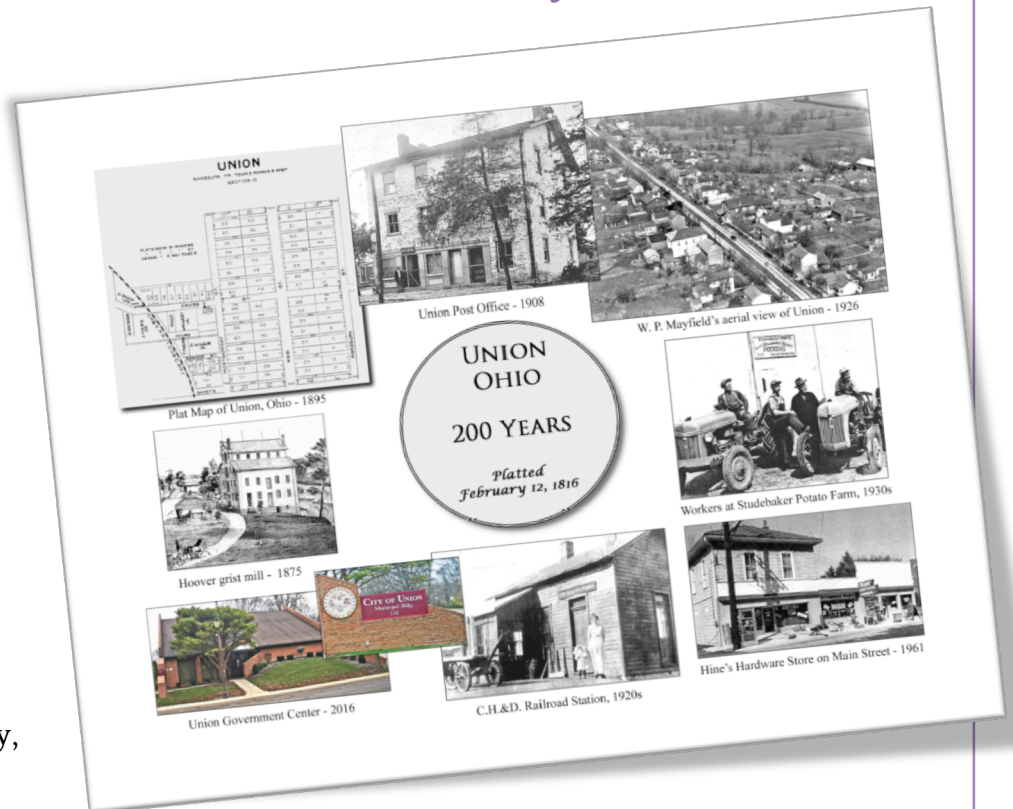
## Celebrating 200 Years as a Community!

This year, our community celebrates 200 years. As part of marking this milestone, the City of Union is featured in the 2016 Commemorative History Calendar, "A Banner Year," created by the Randolph Township Historical Society.

Calendars are available for \$12 each. You may purchase them at the Randolph Township Historical Society located at 114 Valleyview Drive, Englewood, on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Union's history, visit

<http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/government/history/>.



## A Reminder For When We Have Snow Emergencies in Our Community

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. More info is available at <http://bit.ly/uDWqR9>.

## Opt Out of Salespeople Knocking on Your Door

Union has a Do-Not-Solicit ordinance, so if residents want to opt out of having peddlers and salespeople knocking at their door, they can fill out a form and be put on the "Do-Not-Solicit" list. The form can be found online at <http://bit.ly/SGd6AD>. Please download the form, fill it out and return it to the City. All peddlers going door to door selling their products to residents must have a peddler's permit issued from the City of Union, and the peddlers are provided with a list of addresses that they have to avoid. If you have questions, please call City Hall at 937-836-8624.

# The City of Union Newsletter



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**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**  
836-3269  
**Councilwoman Robin Perkins**  
832-3902

## Citywide Garage Sale

The citywide garage sale in Union is a seasonal favorite! No permit is required to participate in the upcoming citywide garage sale this June 9-10-11.

Please call

the City of Union at 937-836-8624 by May 31 to let us know if you will be participating, and we'll include your address in our garage sale ad in the local newspaper. We'll also have a list of the participating addresses and maps available at City Hall.



## Water Quality Report

The City of Union's 2015 Consumer Confidence Report for water is available on the City of Union's website at <http://www.ci.union.oh.us/images/uploads/City-of-Union-CCR-for-Testing-Year-2015-FINAL.pdf>. If a paper copy is preferred, it can be obtained by calling 937-836-8624. This report includes important information about water quality in our community. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

## Spirit of Union Award

The Park Board is accepting nominees for both residential and business properties that have enhanced their appearance. To see past winners of the Spirit of Union Award going back to 1997, check out the City of Union website link at

[http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/spirit\\_awards/](http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/spirit_awards/). To nominate an outstanding property in town, call City Hall at 937-836-8624.

