

The

S P R I N G 2 0 1 8

# City of Union

Newsletter

## Two Important Levies on May 8 Ballot

### Dear City of Union Citizens:

Two equally important safety-services issues are on the May 8 ballot: a Police Levy and a Fire/EMS Levy. It's been 14 years since Police and Fire/EMS levies were approved by voters. Community safety needs have increased since 2004. As a City Council, we've worked to ensure that our levy promises have been kept. We will continue working to ensure that your tax dollars are used wisely to effectively support the operations of the Police and Fire & Rescue departments for many years to come.

As we did with the 2004 levies, we commit that if the levies are approved, we will not ask residents for another Police or Fire/EMS levy increase for a minimum period of five years. Please exercise your rights as a citizen to vote on these important community issues. You can be proud of what your tax dollars support. Please take a moment to read about the levies on the ballot, and be sure to vote on May 8. - Sincerely, Union City Council



### Police Levy

Funding for our Police Department comes solely from property taxes. A Police levy was last approved by voters in 2004. However, the total property tax millage rate of 8.33 mills has never increased since approved by voters in 1985, over 33 years ago. Unfortunately, our Police Department can no longer operate on this limited amount of revenue. During the past two years, the City has transferred \$72,000 to the Police fund (*article continues on page 2*)

### Fire/EMS Levy

The City of Union launched its Fire & Rescue Department operations in 1998. In 2004, voters approved a 2.5 mill Fire/EMS levy to fund improvements to the fire station and to purchase a new engine and ambulance. If you've not had the opportunity to visit the city's fire station at 109 West Martindale Road, we encourage you to visit! You can be proud of the station, the fire and rescue (*article continues on page 3*)

**Voting precincts / polls are open May 8, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. See the back page of this newsletter for voting locations!**

## Police Levy *continued from front page*

to balance its budget needs. The department needs an additional 2.5 mills to continue its quality coverage of our community's public safety-service needs.

Since 2004, the number of police service calls has increased dramatically, from 4,681 calls to over 18,000 calls in 2017.

Our Police Department today, more than ever, needs the support of the community. The Police Department needs to hire an additional full-time officer to continue manning a 24/7 schedule with a minimum of two officers per shift. Additionally, the wage rates for our part-time officers need to increase. The department relies on part-time police officers to provide additional coverage in the City when necessary. Part-time police officers are becoming harder to find, and we need to increase their wage rates to remain competitive with other area police departments.

Please help us serve you with top-quality police officers and solid training. Put community safety first and vote on Tuesday, May 8.

## Police Levy Facts

- 2.5 mills additional – the first millage-rate increase since 1985
- The levy would cost the owner of an \$80,000 property \$70 annually – about 19 cents per day
- The levy will generate \$258,000 annually
- The levy will provide for hiring an additional full-time police officer, bringing the full-time staff to eight officers
  - The levy will support the daily operations of the Police Department
  - The levy will bring wages for part-time police officers in line with other area police departments



*This photo of City of Union Police Officer Clinel Jones with Union Elementary School student Kayden Smith was taken during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week 2017.*

## Fire/EMS Levy *continued from front page*

equipment, and the personnel that your tax dollars support. The department's personnel are dedicated to serving the community, manning the station and two ambulances on a 24/7 schedule.

It's been 14 years since a Fire/EMS levy was passed by voters. During that time period, emergency calls have more than doubled, from 400 to about 1,000 calls annually. For the past few years, we've had to make additional transfers from the General fund to balance the Fire/EMS fund. The 2017 transfer from the General fund was \$179,500. The part-time personnel that serve the community have gone five years without a pay increase; their average wage is just \$14.07 per hour. Operational costs and departmental training requirements continue to increase while the annual revenues collected from the levy have not increased significantly. The current levy and EMS reimbursements are no longer enough to cover the operational costs of the department. We are now faced with asking our citizens to support a new 2.5 mill levy to enable the department to continue providing residents with quality services and fast response times.

As your City Council, we will continue working to ensure that your tax dollars are used wisely to effectively support the operations of the Fire & Rescue Department for many years to come. As we did with the 2004 levy, we commit that if the levy is approved, we will not ask residents for another Fire/EMS levy increase for a minimum period of five years. Please exercise your rights as a citizen to vote on this important community issue on May 8!



## Fire/EMS Levy Facts

- 2.5 mills additional – the first increase since 2004
- The levy would cost the owner of an \$80,000 property \$70 annually – about 19 cents per day
- The levy will generate \$258,000 annually
- The levy will support the daily operations of the Fire & Rescue Department and allow for:
  - Purchasing a new ambulance to replace the 2005 medic vehicle
  - Meeting required departmental training needs
  - Purchasing new fire and EMS gear (fire turnout gear costs more than \$5,000 per employee)
  - Bringing wages for our part-time personnel in line with other area rescue department wages

*This photo of Public*

*Safety Director Michael Blackwell, Fire Captain Zachary Marvin and Assistant Fire Chief Christopher Snider was taken last fall. The Union Fire Department had been awarded a grant from the Firehouse Subs Foundation to purchase a LifePak 15.*

## 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 7-8-9. Please call the City of Union at 937-836-8624 by

May 30 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. Having a garage sale is a great way to do some spring cleaning and earn some extra cash!



## Water Quality Report

The City of Union's 2017 Consumer Confidence Report for water is available on the City of Union's website at <http://www.unionoh.org/index.php/departments/detail/consumer-confidence-report/> (shorter link: <http://bit.ly/2FBPaea>). 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/). Call City Hall at 937-836-8624 to nominate a property.



## Annual Egg Hunt!

The Easter Bunny comes to town on a City of Union fire truck on Saturday, March 24, at 10 a.m. at 3280 Phillipsburg-Union Road Community Park! The annual Egg Hunt then starts at 10:30 a.m. and will feature 4,000 eggs for ages 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8, plus 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.



## Pet Owner Responsibilities in the City of Union

Dogs and cats must be secured on the property of the owner, either by way of leash, fence, or contained inside the home. Dogs and cats are not allowed to run loose. While on walks, dogs should be tethered on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Also, owners should take measures to prevent a dog's prolonged howling or barking. Vicious animals, including vicious dogs, are prohibited in the City of Union. Vicious animals are those that bite or have a propensity to cause harm to humans or animals. Residents are required to limit the number of dogs and cats to no more than two of each per household. Owners should take care to clean up after pets. When it rains, bacteria from pet waste can run into our streets and storm drains, polluting our rivers and streams. By City Ordinance, pet owners must immediately pick up after their pets on walks and also routinely take care to keep their property clean of pet waste. Please call the City at 937-836-8624 if you have questions or need to complain about a nuisance.



## Help for Completing your 2017 Union Municipal Income Tax Return

There are several ways to complete your 2017 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.

**ONLINE.** 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. Call 1-800-223-6317 or 1-216-664-2070.

**WALK-IN SERVICE, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.** CCA staff will be available in the area on the following dates and times. You may visit any of these locations for assistance. Walk-in service is first come, first served.

Saturday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	City of Union – Council Chambers
Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	City of West Milton – Council Chambers

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY – NO WALK-INS.** Call 937-227-1359 to schedule – scheduling is on a first-to-call basis.

Monday, March 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of Clayton – Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of Union – Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of Clayton – Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of Union – Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of West Milton – Council Chambers
Thursday, March 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.	City of West Milton – Council Chambers

**NEED EVEN 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.

## 2017 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 18 addresses that had outstanding lights and decorations for the 2017 holiday season. To view the list, please visit <http://bit.ly/2HKGin7>. Congratulations to the winners!

# The City of Union Newsletter



118 North Main Street  
Union, Ohio 45322  
(937) 836-8624  
[www.unionoh.org](http://www.unionoh.org)

**Mayor Michael O'Callaghan**  
836-0177  
**Vice Mayor John Bruns**  
832-0912  
**Councilwoman Colette Huggins**  
846-6261  
**Councilman David Blackwell**  
470-6695  
**Councilwoman Jean Kyle**  
832-2811  
**Councilwoman Helen Oberer**  
832-3269  
**Councilwoman Robin Perkins**  
832-3902

## Public Safety Levies on May 8 Ballot! Please Vote!

Please support the community and vote on May 8. Two important public safety issues are on the ballot, which directly impact the City of Union's ability to provide police, fire, and EMS services. Voting is a right, a duty, and a privilege.

**Voting precincts / polls are open May 8, from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. Locations:**

*If you are a Union resident and live in Montgomery County, here is where you would go to vote:*

**For Precincts A and B:**

Englewood Assembly of God  
415 North Main Street  
Englewood, Ohio 45322

**For Precincts C and D:**

Union United Methodist Church  
222 Shaw Road  
Union, Ohio 45322

*If you are a Union resident and live in Miami County, here is where you would go to vote:*

Community Grace Brethren Church  
2261 South Miami Street  
West Milton, Ohio 45383

*If you want to obtain an Ohio Absentee Ballot*, you can contact the Secretary of State at 1-877-767-6446 or at [www.ohioSecretaryofState.gov](http://www.ohioSecretaryofState.gov). To call the Montgomery County Board of Elections, the number is 937-225-5656. To call the Miami County Board of Elections, the number is 927-330-2900.