



U N I O N

Newsletter Published for Union Residents

In This Issue

Officer Kern retires.....2
 Storm water update.....4-5
 Recycling.....4-5
 Water/sewer survey.....back

City Council and Meetings

A list of City of Union Councilmembers can be found by going to our Home page at www.ci.union.oh.us and clicking on City Council at the bottom of the page, or at <http://bit.ly/sj1A04>. Meetings can be found via the Home page as well, on the right side, by clicking on the Upcoming Events calendar, or go to the quick link at <http://bit.ly/swwNnk>.



Christmas tree lighting ceremony

The City of Union will hold the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 27, at the City of Union Fire Station (corner of Montgomery Street and Martindale Road).

Union residents, their families and friends are invited to this event to enjoy the beginning of the holiday season.

Come 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

continued on page 7

Spirit of Union winners announced!

Mr. and Mrs. Perry and Pamela Linker of 168 Marrett Farm Road are the recipients of this year's Spirit of Union Award.

"I am very proud of the work my husband does in our yard. He takes great pride and considers the yard an extension of himself; he wants to project well to the neighborhood," Mrs. Linker said.

She added: "He served as a Marine and they are very meticulous!"

The Linkers have lived in Union since 1986.

"We moved here because we got more house for the money - and it's a really good place to raise children," she said.

The family moved from their first home in Union, a one-and-a-half story house on Applegate Drive, to the one-level home on Marrett Farm, which they bought new in 2004.

"We plan for this to be our retirement home," Mrs. Linker said.

Mr. Linker starts the planting season with a visit to Fellers Farm/Market where he buys geranium seedling plants that grow well for three seasons with his green thumb.

Mrs. Linker's weekend spring through fall usually starts with a visit to the Farmers'



Market at Shiloh Church on North Main Street where she often picks up the cast-offs - spindly plants that look like they're beyond hope.

"I will get things on sale, on their last leg, and Perry will bring them back from the brink," Mrs. Linker said.

Over the years, he has adorned the yard with such flowers as irises, bleeding hearts, ferns, and "hens and chickens" (a term for small succulent plants). These flowers and

continued on page 7



Pamela Linker and granddaughter Toni Burton with Vice-Mayor / Park Board President Michael O'Callaghan.

Officer Kevin Kern retires

Officer Kevin Kern is retiring after 21 years of service with the City of Union Police Department. Kevin was sworn in as a full-time police officer on Feb. 2, 1990.

Throughout Kevin's career with the department, he has taken on many roles and responsibilities including property and evidence room manager, evidence technician, department armorer and D.A.R.E. officer.

Since Officer Kern graduated from Northmont High School, he has been serving this community with pride and dedication.

He was a member of the former Randolph Township Fire & Police departments

and the City of Englewood's Fire and Rescue Department. His service will be missed not only in the City of Union but also throughout the entire Northmont Community. We sincerely wish Kevin the best in his retirement! - *Public Safety Director Mike Blackwell*



City of Union Police Officer Kevin Kern

New ambulance now in service

Medic 81 is a new ambulance purchased in January through the State of Ohio Procurement Department's "State Term Schedule" contract. The Horton Emergency Vehicle Corporation in Columbus, Ohio, was

the successful vendor. The medic went into service in July. The ambulance body is designed for Advanced Life Support (ALS) with the safety of the occupants in mind. The patient compartment is equipped with enhanced crash protection, roll-over protection, three-point seatbelt harnesses and airbag supplemental restraints. A new cot-and-restraint system is installed for patient comfort. The patient area is designed with drawers to organize the many medical supplies carried on board. The on-board oxygen system is designed for easy filling without removing containers from the vehicle, which is much safer for emergency personnel.

The warning lights and sirens are the most modern available to keep the occupants and other motorists safe. All lights are new low-energy consumption LEDs that are notably brighter and more visible. The siren systems include a "Howler" that actually creates a low rumble when entering crowded intersec-

The City of Union's new ambulance



tions. The medic was painted "Union Fire Department Red" at the manufacturing facility in Columbus. The medic was then striped and lettered to match Engine 81 by Yipe's Stripes in Englewood.

This medic replaces the 2005 Horton ambulance that currently has more than 100,000 miles on it. The 2005 medic has become Medic 82. It has served our citizens well and will continue to serve as our second-out medic.



Snow ordinance

A note from Public Safety Director Mike Blackwell:

Winter is approaching, so I would like to remind residents of the City's Snow Emergency Ordinance.

If we receive 2 inches of snow or more, all vehicles must be removed from City streets. If the forecast calls for a heavy snow, I would recommend moving your vehicles ahead of time.

By taking your vehicles off the street, it's safer for Union's Maintenance Department to remove the snow and for you to get to work on time and get the children to school.

I would also ask that you not push or blow snow back into the street, as this could be a traffic hazard. See our website for more information at www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/departments/

detail/snow-removal or use this quick link: <http://bit.ly/uDWqR9>

View, pay utility bills 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

... or pay your bills at the drop box!

Instead of paying your utility bill online or via mail, you also can drop your payment in the drop box, which has been relocated toward the back of City Hall, near the water tower. See the photo below for where to go!



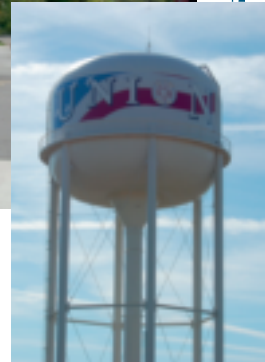
City Hall or call us at 836-8624.

You may also put your utility bill payment in the drop box behind City Hall (see the photo above for details).

Water rate increase in 2012

The City of Union's water rates will increase by approximately \$14 annually, starting with the usage

billing that residents receive in January. The flat-rate bills will remain at the same rate. It has been six years since the last water rate increase. The increase is needed to pay off debt for repainting of the Shaw Road water tower. The 136-foot-tall tank holds 500,000 gallons of water.



Habitat for Humanity Home built in Union

The City of Union will welcome a new Habitat for Humanity Home in the near future. The home, under construction on Lang Court, is near completion. The home is 1,400 square feet and includes a two-car garage.

Water tower being repainted

The Shaw Road water tower is being repainted with a specialized coating paint, manufactured by Tnemec Company Inc. The paint is designed to last at least 25 years. The City was awarded a zero-interest loan through the Ohio Public Works Commission to repaint the tower. The \$321,000 painting project should be completed soon. Additionally, the older tower behind City Hall is planned to be removed.

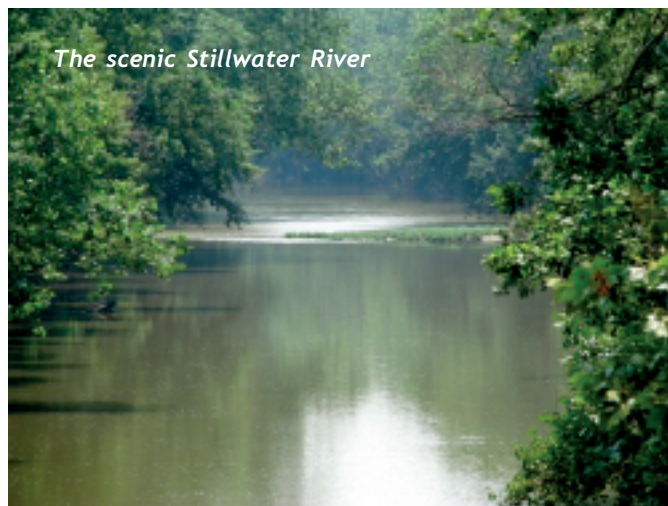
Union residents: highest increase in recycling!

The City of Union increased recycling volume by 17.24 percent from 2009 to 2010, the highest percentage increase among Montgomery County communities recycling with Rumpke, the

trash hauler and recycling company.

In honor of Earth Day this year, Rumpke representatives presented the City of Union with a Clean & Green Community Award to recognize the City's commitment to reducing landfill space and conserving natural resources.

"This year, recycling continues to grow as the community has recycled more than 213 tons of material through August. This is a significant increase over the monthly average tonnage in 2010," a Rumpke spokesperson said. "Union residents can be proud of the fact that their community was one of the first in the Miami Valley to initiate curbside recycling nearly 20 years ago and continues to lead by example in environmental stewardship."



The scenic Stillwater River

What happens to recyclables

Rumpke Recycling trucks empty bins in the City of Union every Tuesday and deliver the recyclables to the company's material recovery facility (MRF) in Dayton.

Every day, the facility processes about 100 tons of recyclables collected

through residential curbside, drop-off box and commercial recycling programs.

The MRF uses single-stream technology to sort materials by type, which are then sent to manufacturers for use in new products. Videos of this process are available at rumpkecleanandgreen.com.

Why recycle

On average, each person in the U.S. produces about four pounds of trash every day.

Recycling is the easiest thing you can do to reduce your impact on the Earth.

Not only does recycling conserve landfill space and natural resources, it also creates jobs and saves energy.

Storm water update: help to protect our rivers

Storms sewers in the City of Union do not drain to the City's wastewater treatment facility; in fact, they drain directly into our creeks and the Stillwater River. That's why it's especially important to keep harmful materials out of



The City of Union recently was honored by the Rumpke waste and recycling company for its recycling efforts. See the article above for details. Pictured, City Manager John Applegate (center) with Rumpke Regional Sales Manager Kyle Aughe and Regional Vice President Michael Bramkamp.

these drains - materials that could cause problems in the downstream waterways. Many common things can harm fish and aquatic life, including:

- Waste oils and automobile fluids
- Paints and thinners
- Excess fertilizers on lawns and gardens
- Solids of any kind, including grass clippings and yard debris
- Open excavation without erosion control measures (like silt fences or mulch berms)

City of Union staff have attended meetings with EPA officials and participated in educational sessions to determine how best to help our community to develop a suitable storm water program. The City is in pretty good shape but needs all of its citizens to help keep storm drains and streams in good condition.

About 280 urban municipalities operate "municipal separate storm sewer systems" (MS4s) in Ohio, including Union. These MS4s include piping as well as a lot of surface waterways that only run with water during storms. These MS4s have been found to be the source of some significant pollution, which does harm water life. Only a small part of this pollution is found to be from "illicit discharges" in this part of Ohio. "Illicit discharges" are defined by the Ohio EPA as being waste materials purposely directed to storm water channels, or MS4s (such things as septic water from toilets or washing machines, or floor washings from a machine shop, or similar liquid wastes).

City of Union citizens need to consider how their

It's easy to recycle!

Recycling is easy for Union residents. If you don't have a bin, simply call the City at 836-8624. There is no additional cost for Union residents to recycle. You don't need to remove labels or separate materials.

These items are acceptable for recycling:

- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Aluminum and metal cans
- Cereal and snack food boxes
- Cardboard (flattened to 2' by 3')
- Newspaper with inserts
- Junk mail and phone books
- Empty aerosol cans (tips removed)
- Glass jars and bottles
- Magazines and catalogs
- Office and computer paper
- Cartons (juice, milk, egg substitute containers)
- Clean pizza boxes (free of food and grease)

2012 trash and recycling schedule

Weekly trash and recycling collection is on Tuesdays for City of Union residents. The schedule below includes upcoming holiday delays and delays in 2012.

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25, 2011 - No delays.

Christmas trees will be collected by Rumpke during normal trash service after the holidays. No tags required.

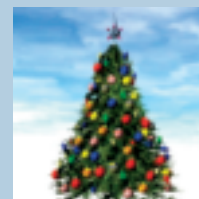
New Year's Day 2012: Sunday, January 1, 2012 - No delays.

Memorial Day: Monday, May 28, 2012 - Collection will be on Wednesday.

Labor Day: Monday, September 3, 2012 - Collection will be on Wednesday.

Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 2012 - Collection will be on Wednesday.

New Year's Day 2013: Tuesday, January 1, 2013 - Collection will be on Wednesday.



normal activities might impact the City network of storm drains. For example, if you are about to fertilize your lawn, consider how much fertilizer is really needed (the fertilizer companies are trying to sell their products, of course, so they may encourage more lawn fertilizer than is really needed). Try a little less fertilizer each year and see how it goes. Also, try to keep fertilizer from landing on sidewalks and nearby streets, where it washes directly into the storm system. Fertilizer runoff causes an ugly green growth, which chokes water/plant life and reduces the oxygen available for fish. Also, if you change your own oil, be very careful to keep it contained and off driveways and streets, because it harms water life, too. The next rain washes it right into the streams. This also applies to any other automobile fluids such as antifreeze, fuel and steering fluid.

City of Union staff perform these activities designed to keep our streams clean:

- Street sweeping and catch basin cleaning
- Mapping the storm water system
- Keeping an eye out for leaking septic systems



Fall plantings adorn the City's decorative streetscape.

New walkways were installed in the Concord Farms North neighborhood, replacing walks that had deteriorated.



- Performing routine inspections on construction sites

- Helping the Ohio EPA with public education about this issue

Additionally, the City of Union offers free oil recycling containers to Union households while supplies last. Used oil can be brought to the City of Union's maintenance facility at 216 Shaw Road. Residents also can use their own containers. Oil recycling containers can be dropped off at any time at the facility. Place the containers in the red storage box outside the fence. If you

have questions, please contact City Hall at 836-8624.

Sewer backups?

Please check with us first if your sewer backs up. Sometimes a sewer backup is within the sewer main line, which is Union's responsibility to repair. Sewer backups in the lateral pipe leading from the home to the sewer main line are the homeowner's responsibility. Please call us Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 836-8624. After hours and weekends, call 836-2678.

Sidewalk projects

The City of Union improved walkability and accessibility this summer with a Handicapped Accessibility Curb Ramp Improvement Project. More than 66 locations were improved

with new curb ramps. The City received \$55,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds in order to complete the project; the balance was



New curb ramps were installed throughout the City this year.

paid for by \$43,000 in City income tax funds.

Additionally, the City of Union improved several stretches of walkways in the Concord Farms North neighborhood, a total of 3,170 lineal feet of 5-foot-wide walks. The walks had deteriorated over the years. City income tax dollars paid for the project.

More improvements to greenspace walking paths are planned for 2012.

Spirit Award continued from front

plants are from his mother and sister - he has created memory gardens in their honor.

"He gets his green thumb from his mother," Mrs. Linker said. "It's a gift."

Trees included on the sides of the house are lilac, weeping cherry blossom and red bud. There are pear trees in the back, and white flowering/fruit ornamental trees in front.

"The best season is the spring when everything comes to life," Mrs. Linker said.

She also loves summer for the bright pops of red from the property's abundant geraniums.

"I may not have his gift, but I like to decorate for the holiday seasons and bring fresh-cut flowers into the house," she said.

Despite Mrs. Linker's self-deprecation when it comes to gardening, she is



The Linker home, recipient of the 2011 Spirit of Union Award

a healer by profession: She has worked for years as a nurse at Kettering Medical Center and she teaches nursing at Sinclair Community College.

Mr. Linker is a manager at AutoZone.

The Linker family, in

addition to Mr. and Mrs. Linker, includes their three grown children and Mr. Linker's father, as well as six grandchildren.

The Park Board established the Spirit of Union Award in 1997 to encourage exterior enhancements of

residential and business properties. Be thinking about the Spirit of Union Award for 2012 - perhaps you know someone whose property should be nominated - perhaps it's your own property! More information about the City's Spirit of Union Award can be found on our website at www.ci.union.oh.us.

Tree lighting continued from front

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.



Fall leaf collection

This fall is the 21st year in a row Union will offer curbside leaf pickup. Service began in October and runs Mondays through Nov. 28. For details go to this quick link: <http://bit.ly/rPN10S>



City of Union • 118 N. Main St. • Union, Ohio 45322
937/836-8624 • www.ci.union.oh.us

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3
UNION, OH

Fun Fact! Census 2010

Union's population is now 6,419
according to the latest U.S.
Census.

City of Union water/sewer rates are lowest

Once again, the City of Union has the lowest combined water and sewer rate out of 63 jurisdictions in the Miami Valley. The City of Oakwood conducts the survey annually. Rates are based on 22,500 gallons of water in a three-month period. Here's a quick glance at some of the respondents' survey results (below). Full results are at: <http://bit.ly/sdZsrQ>

	\$129.20 Union
	\$136.36 Englewood
	\$156.21 Dayton
	\$170.67 Vandalia
	\$180.05 Brookville
	\$185.36 Tipp City
	\$229.10 Clayton
	\$244.34 Trotwood
	\$281.57 West Milton
	\$336.96 Troy



Northmont FISH holiday food drive

The City of Union office at 118 North Main Street has again offered to collect food for the Northmont FISH program. A basket will be placed in the lobby of Union City Hall to help out families with their Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Please consider donating a few canned-good items or other nonperishable foods. The FISH Program (Friends in Service to Humanity) is based at the Earl Heck Center in Englewood and serves the entire Northmont area including Union.