

CITY OF UNION

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



2023 Spirit of Union Award

Bob and Carol Schneider reside at 108 Shoemaker Lane in the City of Union's Stoney Crest subdivision, located on the east side of the Stillwater River.

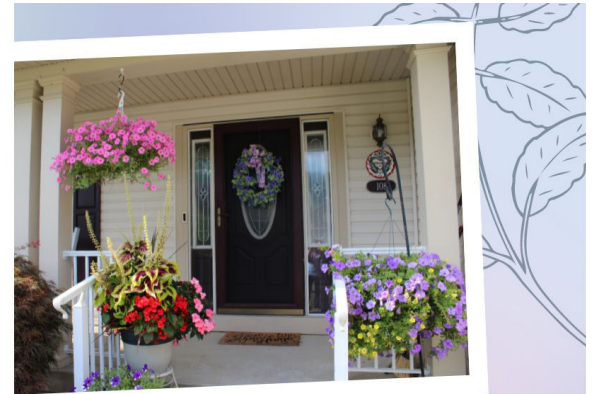
The couple both grew up in New Jersey, became high school sweethearts, and were married in 1972. They moved to the Northmont area in 1980. Bob served as a Captain in the U.S. Army. He's now enjoying retirement from Wright Patterson Airforce Base. Carol works at Katie's Hallmark in Vandalia. They're parents to three daughters and a son, all who graduated from Northmont High School.

In 2007, they moved into their newly built home on Shoemaker Lane. The property where the subdivision was developed was formerly known as the Stoney Crest Farm. The farm was notable for its horse racetrack and was home to many horses. The Schneider's enjoyed driving by the farm and seeing the horses standing under the shade of a large grove of trees. After the subdivision was developed, they chose their building lot knowing and appreciating that it was the very shady spot where the horses chose to rest. A huge Honey Locust tree still stands in the corner of their backyard. All the streets in the Stoney Crest Subdivision have been named after horse racetracks and famous racehorses of days gone by.

When not busy working in their yard the Schneiders enjoy their quiet, friendly neighborhood. They, along with their Silver Labrador Stella, love visits from their children and seven grandchildren.

The Schneider's home is off the beaten path and doesn't get much vehicular traffic. It's well worth your effort to drive by their home on Shoemaker Lane to admire the colorful flowers that brighten up the front of their property. You might also want to check out their Christmas light display in December.

Thanks Bob and Carol for helping to make Union a great place to live!



*Bob and Carol Schneider
& Mayor O'Callaghan*





COMING SOON – More payment options at your fingertips!

We know paying utility bills isn't your favorite thing to do, so we're making it as easy as possible for you to make a payment.

In October, the City of Union will be launching a new user-friendly, electronic payment system hosted by **InvoiceCloud®**

You can look forward to being able to:

- Pay your utility bill anytime 24/7 via an easy-to-use online portal
- Manage your account and view up to two years of payment history
- Receive email reminders when your bill is ready, when a scheduled payment is pending and a confirmation after making a payment
- Make a one-time payment or register to gain access to all features
- You choose when to pay – simply schedule a payment for any future date (before the due date)
- Set it and forget it with AutoPay...save time and avoid late or missed payments
- On the go? Use Pay by Text to get text notifications about your bill and have the option to pay through text message with your default payment method

Also in the works, NEWLY FORMATTED UTILITY BILLS - Residents will be receiving full page bills mailed in envelopes instead of the postcard format.

Circumvent Mail Delivery Delays

The U.S. Postal Service recently announced mail delivery delays affecting first-class mail. These delays will likely impact when you receive your City of Union utility bill from us and when we receive your payment. To ensure we receive your payment promptly, we encourage all customers to enroll in paperless billing and pay bills online.

Utility Bill - Due Date Change

To better assist our utility customers the City will be extending the due date of our utility bills to the 15th of each month. If the 15th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the bills will be due the following business day.



INDUSTRIAL PARK UPDATES

The City of Union's Industrial Airpark that's adjacent to the Dayton International Airport and near the Crossroads of America, I-70/I-75 interchange is growing! Procter and Gamble set the stage as the first company to locate in Union's 2,000-acre industrial park. More recently, the following businesses have chosen to call Union their home: Legrand North America, Mattress Firm, Xpress Global Systems, and Amazon. Amazon's 3.2 million sq. ft. facility is set to begin operations on August 21st. TJX, which includes Marshalls and Home Goods, will occupy their 1 million sq. ft. distribution facility later this year. Panattoni Development has completed construction of a 524,000 sq. ft. building that is being marketed for sale/lease.

UNION AWARDED \$4,683,000 STATE GRANT FOR CRITICAL WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) — The City of Union is one of 90 projects receiving state grants to address critical water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Ohio communities. In total, 64 counties will receive \$135 million.

The funding comes from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's Ohio BUILDS (Broadband, Utilities, and Infrastructure for Local Development Success) water infrastructure grant program, administered through the Ohio Department of Development. Today's award will support Union with Phase 2 expansion efforts at its wastewater treatment plant.

"From the first dollar awarded through this program to now, we've made hundreds of transformative investments in the future of our communities," said Governor DeWine. "Having a strong water infrastructure not only safeguards the health and well-being of our residents, but it makes our neighborhoods more resilient and better prepares local leaders for sustainable economic growth."

This is the fifth round awarded through the program, which opened in July 2021. In total, nearly \$500 million has been awarded to 343 critical infrastructure projects through the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program.

"This additional round of funding will help communities from one corner of the state to the next replace aging, overwhelmed infrastructure, ensuring that Ohioans have access to clean drinking water," said Lt. Governor Husted. "These projects will not only greatly improve the quality of life for residents in these areas, but they also boost economic growth related to business expansion and housing development." In total, the program received more than 1,200 grant applications requesting nearly \$1.4 billion in funding.

"Businesses that choose to set up shop in Ohio do so, in large part, because of the generational investments we've made in local infrastructure," said Director Mihalik.

"Through the vision of Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted, and the support of our state legislature, we're creating more opportunities for communities large and small to be Ohio's next great economic success story."

Funds awarded today will help reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs such as the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines, and the installation of new water mains. Grants will also fund projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.

In 2017, The City of Union issued \$3,250,000 in bonds to cover the expense of Phase 1 improvements at the wastewater treatment facility. Annually, the city makes principal and interest debt payments of approximately \$250,000 and anticipates the bonds to be paid off in 2037.

"Receiving this grant for Phase 2 improvements will set the stage for Union's wastewater treatment facility to meet operational demands for the next 20-25 years. This will enable the city to continue to have low sewer rates for its residents and have the capacity to serve future industrial park growth," explained John Applegate, City Manager.

The Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grants are a continuation of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative, which launched in 2019 to focus on ensuring plentiful, clean, and safe water for communities across the state. Ohio BUILDS focuses not only on strengthening Ohio's communities through water infrastructure upgrades, but also supports other necessary investments in targeted solutions that impact quality of life such as broadband expansion, brownfield redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more.

Additional information on the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure grant program can be found at development.ohio.gov



The City of Union Newsletter

118 North Main Street
Union, OH 45322

937-836-8624
www.unionoh.org

Mayor Michael O'Callaghan
937-836-0177

Vice Mayor John Bruns
937-832-0912

Councilman Jay Niemann
937-414-7529

Councilwoman Helen Oberer
937-832-3269

Councilman Ken Prunier
937-751-4073

Councilwoman Lynne Thomas-Roth
937-671-6613

Councilman Robert Bennett
937-307-2707

CITY OF UNION ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

The City of Union's electric aggregation program is set to begin for citizens who have been automatically enrolled in the program. These citizens will see their rates with Energy Harbor on their October bill. By now you should have received your opt-out letter from Energy Harbor informing you of the rate and term (6.57 cents/kWh through December 2025) and instructions to opt-out if you did not want to be in the program. If you did not receive an opt-out letter there could be a couple reasons why:

- If you are a PIPP (percentage income payment plan) customer with AES you would not be eligible for the program as this assistance would be greater than what you would receive from the aggregation program. You will continue to be apart of the PIPP program and there is no need to join the aggregation program.
- If you have already signed a third-party contract with another supplier for your electric generation. There are several suppliers (IGS, Constellation, Energy Harbor, etc.) and you may have shopped and signed a contract within the last year. If this is the case you would not have received an opt-out letter. **If you would like to join the aggregation program you still can but it is recommended that you check with your current supplier to make sure you do not have any early termination fees.** Some of these fees can range anywhere from \$50-200. You can join the program at any time, so if you would like to wait for your current contract to expire and join then, that is an option as well.

If you would like to join Union's electric aggregation program after checking in with your current supplier about early termination fees you simply need to call Energy Harbor at **1-866-636-3749**. Have your bill with you when you call as they will need some information from it. Tell Energy Harbor you would like to be placed in the City of Union's aggregation program. **Again the price and term for the program is 6.57 cents/kWh through December 2025.** **There is no fee to join or leave the program.**

If you have any issues, contact Phill Dysard from Palmer Energy at **419-491-1011** or email at pdysard@palmerenergy.com.