

CITY OF UNION



NOVEMBER 3, 2020 IS ELECTION DAY!
FOR VOTING QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AT 937-225-5656 OR VISIT AT WWW.MCBOE.ORG



SPIRIT OF UNION
2020 AWARD WINNERS



SPIRIT OF UNION 2020 AWARD WINNERS

Terry and Dave McMenamin are the recipients of the 2020 Spirit of Union Award. To read the full article turn to **page 3** of this newsletter.

LEAF PICKUP

Starts the week of **Oct. 19** and runs through **Nov 25**.
More details can be found in this newsletter on **page 4**.

BEGGAR'S NIGHT

Saturday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m. Turn on your porch light if you plan to participate! See more on **page 5**.

CITY OF UNION TREE LIGHTING

Cancelled due to Covid-19. For more info see **page 5**.

Street Renewal Levy on **NOV. 3 2020 BALLOT**

The city's 3 mill street levy is up for renewal by voters as issue #8 on the November 3 ballot.

The 3 mill levy has remained the same rate since 1976. If passed, the 5 year renewal levy will become effective in 2021. Since property taxes are paid in arrears, property owners will begin paying the tax in 2022.

This is a 5-year renewal levy with **no increase in the tax rate**. The levy will cost \$92 per year for the owner of a \$100,000 dollar home and will generate approximately \$275,000 per year for road maintenance and repair.

REPORT STREET LIGHT OUTAGES

If you notice that a street light is out, you can call in the pole number and closest address to the City of Union, at 937-836-8624 or contact us through our website, www.unionoh.org. We will notify Miami Valley Lighting to make the repairs.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



What does that mean: “Stormwater Management”?

Well, it has meant different things at different times. Until about the 1960’s, it meant installing better drainage; getting stormwater away from homes and businesses and off of roadways as quickly as possible. But then it gradually became noticeable that such quick drainage was actually causing flooding downstream. Rain that would largely have been kept on wild lands and forests was now being rushed into ditches and streams. The resultant flooding was called shock flooding because it happened almost instantly.

Making this even worse was roofing and paving which keeps the rain from soaking into the ground. Water that lands on roofs and concrete and asphalt paving runs off and downhill very fast compared to rain that falls on grass and open land.



Wellfield Park on River Road in Union is another good example of a stormwater feature.

[As a side note, in many places, sanitary sewage was actually piped into the same ditches and streams as “stormwater.” It was not until the 1960’s that communities began to require the separation of sanitary sewage and stormwater. The author of this article can recall when the resort towns where his family spent their summer vacations began to build their first sanitary sewage plant to clean up the sewage water before it drained into the bucolic lake in their midst!]



The Falls at Phillipsburg-Union Rd. and Main St. was once a homely storm ditch with maintenance problems.

At this point, most of the cities in Ohio (including the City of Union for many years) have regulations in place that require any property development greater than about one half acre include an engineering study and design to retard the instant flow of stormwater as it flows off into the storm sewers and streams.

The City of Union has in fact moved beyond that point of regulation and has developed some of its stormwater “ditches” into nice looking, park like features.

The City is doing all it can to turn “ditches” into attractive features of our communities, something you see many days while you go about your business. We have another stormwater feature that has been turned into one of our most popular City Parks.

These features like all our other stormwater ditches and drains take a certain amount of maintenance. City staff keeps an eye on these features, keeping the outlets clear of debris, removing trash, stopping erosion, and otherwise maintaining proper drainage through facilities is the major focus of maintenance. If you see any trash blowing into these facilities feel free to remove it and dispose of it properly, and if you see any bigger problems, don’t hesitate to call City Hall and report the problem.

Terry & Dave McMenamain are the recipients of the 2020 SPIRIT OF UNION AWARD



When Terry McMenamain got the call that she and her husband Dave were the 26th recipients of the City of Union's Spirit of Union Award, they were both delighted and surprised.

"We have no idea who nominated us for the award, but we are so honored to receive this recognition," Terry said. "There's such a strong sense of community here, and we feel blessed."

The couple bought their home at 107 Peggy's Path in Union's Lindeman Commons neighborhood three and a half years ago. Terry's parents had moved to Union several years before, and they all fell in love with the area.

The McMenamains' colonial-style home was built in 2005. The neighborhood was platted in the 1990s and today is well established, although a few lots still are available for new construction.

"We love how quiet the neighborhood is, and all of the walking paths," Terry said. The McMenamains appreciate how well the previous owners cared for the property. Since moving in, they've been adding even more to the landscape.

An expanse of green lawn and a profusion of color greet visitors and passersby as they approach the reddish-brown brick home with "latte" trim. Well-established shrubs, pink roses and fountain grass line part of the driveway.

Near the garage is a large area of black-eyed Susans and, nestled among them, a decorative wheelbarrow brimming with pink petunias. More shrubs anchor the front of the garage. The walkway up to the front porch features day lilies, marigolds, geraniums, lavender and Thread Leaf Tickseed coreopsis (which bursts with little yellow flowers).

"I like the contrast of the yellow Thread Leaf Tickseed coreopsis and the purple lavender against the brick," Terry says. She recently added more varieties of hostas and some different colors of day lilies, along with coralbells, "blonde" lavender, viburnum and a dwarf lilac tree.

"I love annuals for color, and I try to add a few more perennials every year," she says. "The goal is to keep the color going from season to season." Of the perennials, lavender is her favorite and can be found not only in the front but also in the backyard.

Big, leafy hostas line both sides of the step leading up to the front porch. On the porch, decorative containers spill over with salvia, coleus, dusty miller plants, alyssum and sweet potato vines. Terry designed the containers herself. Two hanging baskets boast pink New Guinea Impatiens. Throughout the property are a number of containers filled with coleus and geraniums.

Several trees out front add some shade, although Terry says this property is much sunnier than their previous home in Huber Heights. In the backyard, evergreens and a flowering cherry tree

offer additional shade and privacy. The McMenamains recently installed a wood fence around the backyard.

In the backyard, Terry tends to a "container garden" – a series of pots and tubs filled with various lettuces, cucumbers and zucchini. She's also experimenting with heirloom tomatoes. Some of the vegetables are mixed in with flowering plants.

She enjoys gardening and decorating for each season, although spring is her favorite. "I love seeing everything coming into bloom."



Pictured Left to Right:
Cynthia Bemacchi (Park Board Member), Michael O'Callaghan (Mayor of Union) and Terry & Dave McMenamain (Property Owners)

She says none of her love of gardening would be possible without her husband, Dave, who "does the heavy lifting. ... He does the mowing, the trimming. He indulges the different things that I want to try."

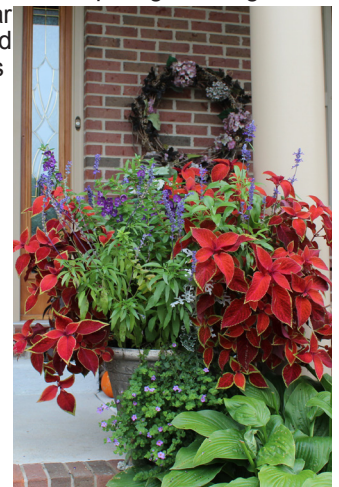
Terry's green thumb started when she was growing up on several country acres in Trotwood. Her father had been a Future Farmer of America. Her mother had taken a landscaping course at the nearby Joint Vocational School. Together, her parents did a lot of vegetable and flower gardening.

Terry participated in 4H for eight years, focusing on gardening and cooking. She started her very first bank account with \$16 from the sale of pumpkins that she had grown with her dad.

Her advice to other gardeners? "Don't be afraid to move a plant and try it in a different area," she says. She keeps a gardening journal with notes and photos from year to year, reminding her what worked and what didn't. Now that the McMenamains have lived in Union for several years, they feel all settled in.

"We've gotten to know our neighbors by walking our dog (a Labradoodle named Baxter) on the paths, and by working in our yard," she says.

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.



UNION RECEIVES RECYCLING INCENTIVE GRANT FROM *Montgomery County Solid Waste District!*

This year, the City of Union applied for and received a grant from Montgomery County for \$8,397.23. This money was utilized in the purchase of four picnic tables and twelve trash receptacles. These items were all made from recycled plastic.

The tables will be used in the new shelter (also provided from a recycling grant from Montgomery County) at Wellfield Park on River Road. In the last few years, this has become a beautiful park with a perfect view of the restored pond. In addition of being used as a fishing pond, with the new addition of the picnic tables, it is a great place to stop, cool off in the shade provided by the shelter, have a picnic and enjoy being out in nature, away from all of the traffic sounds. It has also been a great location for photographers, looking for a natural background for prom and senior photos. It is such a beautiful, wooded setting with the pond in the background.

The twelve trash receptacles have a new home at the Union Community Park on Phillipsburg-Union Road. Having a number of waste containers in the park help keep this actively used park clean for all the NABL games and other activities.

Taking advantage of these recycling grants offered by the Montgomery County Solid Waste District has helped Union add to the community parks. City employees do most of the installation of the tables and trash receptacles and all of the funds received go to the purchase of durable, planet-friendly equipment. Next time you stop by one of our parks, look for these new additions to our growing park areas.



Union Leaf Pickup for 2020

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

The City of Union will start picking up leaves on Monday, October 19 this year. Leaf pickup will continue until the week of Thanksgiving, stopping on Wednesday, November 25.

Leaves can be raked in rows and go onto the street, in front of the curb. Rows should not be higher than four feet or wider than six feet. The important thing to remember is that only leaves should go out for pickup on the street. Please make sure there are no branches, rocks, or other debris in leaf piles as that could potentially damage the equipment.

If cars are parked on the street, the leaf pickup truck will not be able to get your leaves and they will come back the following week.

For all residents, it is not necessary to call the city if you did not get your leaves out in time or a vehicle was in the way. The truck will not retrace their route or go back, but instead will get them the following week.

Also, the trash hauler will take leaves if they are bagged and put out for trash.

VACANCY ON PLANNING COMMISSION

The City of Union is accepting applications for a Planning Commission member. Any Union resident may pick up an application at the City Building at 118 North Main Street, Union, Ohio.

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A letter to the Mayor stating why you wish to serve on the planning commission must be submitted with your application.

The Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Please submit applications at the City Building by Nov. 16, 2020.

CITY OF UNION *Tree Lighting*

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

The City of Union, along with a few other communities, has decided that they will not be having a community gathering for the holiday season this year. The annual tree lighting ceremony usually held the weekend after the Thanksgiving holiday will be cancelled in the City of Union.

It has been a popular event for many years but in the interest of keeping all the Union citizens and especially the children safe, the tree lighting has been cancelled for 2020. The holiday lighting of the pear trees along Main Street will still be completed for the holidays and the City of Union park board will still drive around and choose the best decorated homes in the community.

ALERT SYSTEM Hyper-Reach

The City of Union has an alerting system, Hyper-Reach, for city residents! This system allows you to be alerted to road closures, boil water advisories, criminal activity, etc. Also, this great service is tied directly to the National Weather Service to automatically alert you when there is a serious weather hazard such as a Tornado Warning or Tornado Imminent Threat. Sign up today. It's easy and only takes a minute!

EMERGENCY ALERT SIGN UP

4 WAYS TO SIGN UP:

1. Scan QR Code
2. Go to: <http://bit.ly/2PEYqnL>
3. Call: 937.526.2718
4. Text "alerts" to 937.526.2718



BEGGAR'S NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCT. 31 | 6-8 P.M.

If you want to participate, please put your porch light on. Please follow all the new safety and health regulations, with social distancing and wearing masks.

Check out our City of Union website at www.unionoh.org. Any new details or publications from the health department will be posted there.



The City of Union Newsletter

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937-836-0177

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937-832-0912

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Councilwoman Jean Kyle
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Councilwoman Robin Perkins
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Voting Polls open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. For more info on where to vote please visit www.mcboe.org or call 937-225-5656.



UPDATE ON NEW WATER METERS

The City is replacing residential water meters with a new style meter. Each new meter installed has an electronic radio on the outside of the house. These radios will tolerate rain and moisture but we have discovered that with the power washing of a house, sometimes too much water is forced into the radio. So if you are power washing the exterior of your home, please avoid directly spraying the radio located under the eaves.

With these new meters, we have been able to detect some properties with higher than normal usage. So please bear with us if we give you a friendly phone call, and notify you that you have had a jump in your usage. We are trying to stop any unexpected leaks. If you have any questions about your water usage, you can email us through the contact page in the website or contact mwright@unionoh.org or jhamilton@unionoh.org.

Snow Emergencies IN THE CITY OF UNION!

In a snow emergency, the City of Union's maintenance crew plows Union's streets from curb to curb. All vehicles need to be off the street at this time.

A "snow emergency" is anytime the city receives a snow fall of two inches or more. Also, if a snow storm has drifting conditions that would also be considered as a snow emergency.

To get the streets cleared of snow and to ensure safe conditions on the road, any vehicles on the street during a snow emergency may be ticketed and towed.

If a heavy snow fall is in the forecast for the next day, please move all cars off the street the night before to make it easier for everyone. Safe roadways, cleared of all snow is the priority!

**No delays in trash pick-up
for the rest of 2020 and through
the month of January, 2021.**