

# CITY OF UNION



## FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

**PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 ON ISSUE #27**  
**A ½% (CREDIT) INCOME TAX TO FUND STREET RESURFACING IN UNION**

### WHY IS OUR CITY PROPOSING AN ADDITIONAL 1/2% INCOME TAX?

- In May of this year, with only a 15% registered voter turnout, the City of Union's 1% income tax proposal for street improvements was defeated by voters.
- After the levy defeat the city moved forward to preserve and maintain the most deteriorated streets in our city by utilizing a cost effective seal coating process called chip and seal. This measure had to be taken before the winter road salt and plowing created further damage and potholes. We realize this is a less aesthetically pleasing repair method versus street repaving. However, this cost effective technique is proven to seal existing pavement surfaces. By sealing the street, water is prevented from infiltrating the pavement, which is the leading cause of asphalt decay. The streets that received this treatment will be preserved from deterioration for many years to come.
- The city would obviously like to repave its streets rather than chip sealing them. However, the street levy property tax rate has not been increased since 1976 and only generates \$258,000 annually. With over 34 miles of streets in our City this property tax rate is not sufficient to cover escalating paving costs.
- Rather than requesting an increase in property tax rates, Union City Council has decided to place a reduced income tax proposal before voters on the November Ballot. Voters will be given the opportunity to decide if they want to approve a ½% income tax rate increase that will generate \$400,000 annually and will be utilized for street resurfacing.
- We request that before you vote "No" on the income tax proposal that you please consider if you are one of the majority of Union residents that will **NOT** have to pay a dime of the proposed income tax increase! Please read Who Will **NOT** pay the 1.5% (Credit) Income Tax on page 2. If you need help determining if you will be affected by the 1/2% income tax, please feel free to call the City offices at 937-836-8624 to discuss.

### 2019 SPIRIT OF UNION WINNERS

Linda and Michael Hardman are the recipients of the 2019 Spirit of Union Award. The Hardmans have lived in Union for 19 years. Read their story on page 3 of this newsletter.



### SAVE THE DATE

#### LEAF PICKUP

Starts the week of **Oct. 21** and runs through the week of **Nov. 27**. More details can be found in this newsletter on page 4.

#### BEGGARS' NIGHT

**Thursday, Oct. 31, 6-8 p.m.** Turn on your porch light if you plan to participate!

#### SANTA & CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

**Sunday, December 1.** Arrive **before** 6 p.m. because Santa will be arriving at the station on a fire truck at that time. For more details see page 5.

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- If the city is not able to generate additional revenue for street resurfacing we will be forced to continue the current chip and seal street program instead of installing new pavement. The following streets had this application applied this summer in order to prevent further damage: Applegate, Carol, Charles, Edgemoor, Faircourt, Hargrove, Keller, Laurelgrove, Lexington, Lutz, McCraw, Merrymaid, Rupel, and San Bernardino.
- A few Union residents have asked why Martindale Road has recently been resurfaced. This was due to water main replacement projects that required tearing up the existing road surface. These improvements were funded by the State Issue II Infrastructure Grant Program.

## WHO WILL PAY THE 1.5% (CREDIT) INCOME TAX?

- People who work in Union will pay the tax.
- Most of Union's current income tax revenue is collected from people who work in our city. Approximately 50% of the income tax revenue comes from the employees of the P&G Distribution Center.
- Most of the people who work at businesses in the City of Union are NON-Residents. During Tax Year 2017—78% of the wages earned at Union businesses were earned by individuals who live outside of Union but work in Union and pay taxes to Union.
- Union residents who work in a Township or City that does not have an income tax will pay 1.5% to Union.

## WHO WILL NOT PAY THE 1.5% (CREDIT) INCOME TAX?

- Union Residents who work in a City with an Income tax of 1.5% or greater. (If you earn wages in any of the cities listed below you will NOT pay any additional tax to Union).

Anna | Brookville | Carlisle | Centerville | Clayton | Covington | Dayton | Eaton | Englewood | Fairborn | Fairfield | Franklin  
Greenville | Hamilton | Huber Heights | Kettering | Miamisburg | Middletown | Moraine | New Carlisle | Oakwood | Piqua  
Sidney | Springfield | St. Mary's | Tipp City | Trotwood | Vandalia | West Carrollton | West Milton | Xenia | Yellow Springs

## Why? Union's income tax allows Full Credit for taxes paid where you work.

- If you earn wages in any of the Cities listed above, whose tax rates are all 1.5% or greater, 100% of the income tax dollars you pay stay in the city where you work. Union receives zero income tax dollars from these cities and that will remain the same with the proposed ½% increase in the Union Income Tax Rate. Based on 2017 tax return information, approximately 80% of Union residents work outside the City of Union.
- Union residents will NOT pay income tax on retirement, social security, disability or unemployment income. Interest and dividends are also NOT taxed.
- Union residents under 18 years of age will NOT have to pay the income tax.

## OFFICIAL QUESTIONS & ISSUES BALLOT

GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2019  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### PROPOSED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX CITY OF UNION

**A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.**

Shall the Ordinance providing for a 0.5% levy increase on income for the purpose of general municipal operations; maintenance of equipment; acquisition of new equipment; extension, enlargement, and improvement of municipal services and facilities; and capital improvements, including debt services charged thereon beginning on January 1, 2020, be passed?

☐ FOR THE INCOME TAX

☐ AGAINST THE INCOME TAX



# *Linda & Michael Hardman are the recipients of the* **2019 SPIRIT OF UNION AWARD**

The Hardmans had lived all over the United States and even abroad when Michael was in the Air Force, but when it was time to retire from active duty, their thoughts for where to settle down turned to home – Ohio.

Linda had grown up in Greenville and Michael in Bellefontaine – they found their perfect slice of heaven kind of in between, in the City of Union. They've made their home here since 2010 at 109 Irongate Drive in Union's Irongate Estates neighborhood. Here, they've raised two sons and planted deep roots.

Their gifted green thumb for gardening has earned them this year's Spirit of Union Award.

Hostas, day lilies, irises, climbing clematis and peonies are just some of the flowers one finds throughout the yard in color schemes of purple, pink and white – with bits of red and yellow for “pop.”

Snowball bushes, a lace elderberry bush, a magnolia and two lilac trees also adorn the property.

The Hardmans spend many an evening on their long front porch, which features seating and numerous potted plants and hanging baskets.

“I have many house plants all over the porch – they're happy there,” Linda says.

But even more than relaxing on the front porch, the Hardmans often are out back where they enjoy a tiered deck with a pergola that covers an outdoor dining area and another section for sunning.

A walkway from the deck lined with calla lilies leads to a hot tub. The Hardmans also added a fire pit with gorgeous stone work and landscaping that includes hostas and ferns.

An arbor with a climbing clematis, a storage shed and a play area are also part of the backyard. Rose of Sharon bushes, hibiscus and hydrangea plants, a Bradford pear tree and crab apple trees provide color and shade.

Linda learned to love gardening from her mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law.

“During the summertime, gardening is what I'm doing,” she says. “The only thing I don't do is weed whack. I will tear down a building with a weed eater. It takes a certain finesse, and my husband Mike handles that!”

Linda and Mike are very involved in the Irongate Estates homeowner's association. Linda says it's been great for getting to know neighbors.

Linda added that she has two large hibiscus plants in pots, which, come the end of this season, she plans to give away as they have become too big to move into the house for the winter.

“If anyone wants them, let me know!” she said.

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](http://www.unionoh.org).



*Pictured Left to Right:*  
Cynthia Bemacchi (Park Board Member)  
Michael O'Callaghan (Mayor of Union) and  
Linda & Michael Hardman (Property Owners)

“Living in Union is great – it's such a beautiful community and everyone is so nice,” Linda says. “The Northmont school system is wonderful. And even though we feel like we're out in the country, it's just a hop, skip and a jump to shopping and restaurants. Life here is nice and easy.”

The Hardmans' brick-and-sided tri-level home, built in 1997, offers curb appeal from the get-go. The front yard boasts a sweet gum tree and a royal king maple, a lush lawn and a bevy of flower beds. Linda jokes that one of the flower beds is shaped like the famed Pocono race track in Pennsylvania.

“We actually refer to that flower bed as “The Pocono’ – we crack up laughing about that,” she says. The pride and joy of her front yard is an arbor with a swinging seat. A beautiful wisteria vine climbs over the arbor, providing shade.

There's also a flower bed anchoring the mailbox near the street.





# Union Leaf Pickup for 2019

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21 - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

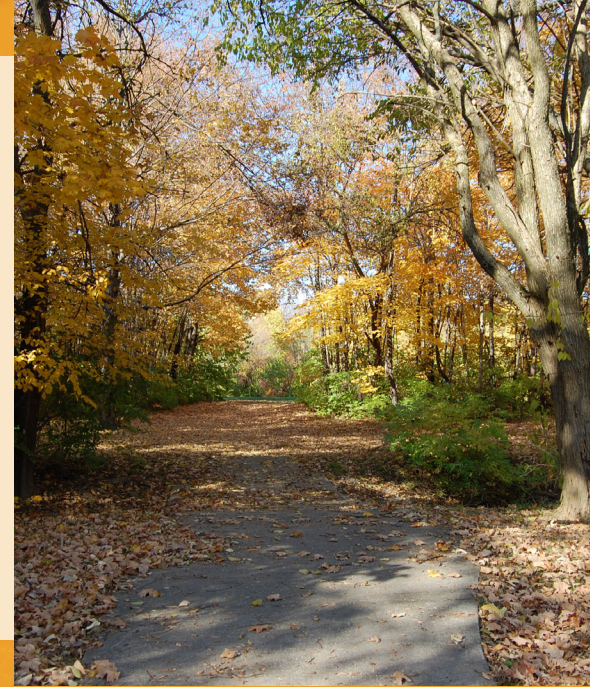
To see complete information about Union's leaf pick up program, check out the website here:

<http://www.ci.union.oh.us/index.php/departments/detail/leaf-collection/>

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.

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, there is no need 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 will get them the following week. Also, the trash hauler will take leaves if they are bagged and put out for trash.



## Tips for a Frugal Yard & Garden

Savvy gardeners know ways to save on the water bill and still maintain a beautiful yard and garden. Use more Stormwater and less City Water. "Clean Wisconsin," an environmental advocacy group and the "Biodiversity Project," a national nonprofit environmental communications group, offer the following tips to conserve and beautify:

1. Direct downspouts toward the lawn, not the pavement. You can just let the water disperse onto your grass lawn, or you can even make a shallow dip in the lawn someplace to hold some of the heavier rainfalls. Put some plants that love having "wet feet" occasionally and call the dip a "rain Garden." Some Wild Flowers prefer it.
2. Direct downspouts toward a rain barrel, not the pavement. Rain barrels have become more popular in recent years; your local big box stores have with lids and screens to prevent mosquitoes. Not only is rainwater free, it is unchlorinated. Plants prefer it. Water your flowers from the rain barrel with a sprinkling can.
3. Apply mulch. Use of organic or inert mulches reduces water evaporation, erosion and weed growth, while enhancing the aesthetics of your garden, bushes, and lawn.
4. Water before 10 a.m. Daytime watering means more evaporation during the heat of the day.
5. Consider the best type of groundcover for your yard. Consider using less grass and more low-maintenance perennials or groundcovers. For a labor saving benefit, choose water-thrifty perennials that come up year after year on their own. You can just weed and mulch them.
6. Mow high. Set your mower blade at three inches or higher. Taller grass helps prevent weed growth. It also shades itself, keeping the soil cooler, which thereby reduces water evaporation loss from the lawn.
7. Chop up your leaves and twigs and leave them on the lawn instead of raking them to the curb in the Fall. Even Scotts Fertilizer Company (one of Ohio's best known industries) agrees. The chopped up leaves and twigs are your best and most natural source of phosphorous for the lawn. [Scotts doesn't even put phosphorous in their normal lawn fertilizers these days; they say you get that fraction of the fertilizer from your own chopped lawn debris.] After the fall chopping process add a little high nitrogen fertilizer for the winter, and by spring your lawn will be ready and able to "Pop!"
8. Plant a few trees. During Ohio's very hot summer days, the lawn does much better when it has partial shade. Partial shade keeps the soil cooler, which reduces water evaporation loss from the lawn.
9. Aerate your lawn once in a while. Aerating is a simple process that removes cores of soil to stimulate grass root growth, enhances oxygen levels in soil and loosens compact soil to increase the absorption of rain water and nutrients. Aerators can be rented at lawn and hardware stores.





THE CITY HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE  
IMPROVEMENTS AT  
*Martindale Road Park*

This year a new overlay material called Flexipave was installed around the fountain and shelter areas. The product is made from 100% recycled shredded car tires that are mixed with small stones and bound with an adhesive product. Nearly 7,000 tires were recycled on this project.

A Montgomery County Solid Waste District Recycling Incentive Grant helped fund the resurfacing project. The Solid Waste District works to promote Waste Reduction, Litter Prevention and Clean Up, Composting and End Use Markets for Recycled Materials. Reduction of the solid waste stream and the use of recycled products play an important role in protecting our planet's environment.

# SANTA ARRIVES & *Tree Lighting*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1  
6 P.M.

The City of Union will hold their annual tree lighting ceremony at the corner of Montgomery Street and Martindale Road at the City of Union Fire Station.

People should be there before 6 p.m. because Santa Claus will be arriving at the station on a fire truck at that time. Parents can bring cameras and take pictures of Santa and their children against a seasonal backdrop that will make a great keepsake for the holiday.

The City of Union Park Board and Union Fire and 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 Union's city hall.

## *BEGGARS' NIGHT*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, FROM 6-8 P.M.

If citizens want to participate in this "trick or treat" event, leave your porch light on. Residents who are out on the road during that time, please be extra vigilant and watch for children walking at the side of the road or crossing the streets. They are more focused on what treats they will receive at the next house and not aware of traffic.





## The City of Union Newsletter

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

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470-6695

**Councilwoman Jean Kyle**

832-2811

**Councilwoman Helen Oberer**

832-3269

**Councilwoman Robin Perkins**

832-3902

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE AT THE UPCOMING NOVEMBER 5TH ELECTION

Voting Polls open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. For more information on where to vote please visit  
[www.mcboe.org](http://www.mcboe.org) or call 937-225-5656.

## SNOW EMERGENCIES

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 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!