



talk of the town

Winter 2010
Volume XI, Issue 1

www.unionmissouri.org

from the mayor



Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor

Mike Livengood • 583-8257

Board of Aldermen

Ward I

Robert Schmuke • 583-8639
Jim Albrecht • 583-4992

Ward II

Bill Isgriggs • 583-3634
Dale Schmuke • 583-2099

Ward III

Paul Arand • 583-5489
Tammy Stowe • 583-2784

Ward IV

David Pope • 583-7813
Don Wurdack • 583-1426



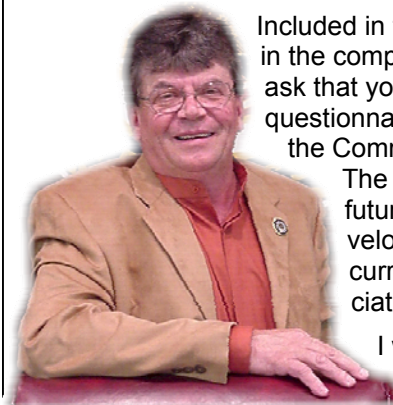
Join the 700+ other fans of the City of Union, MO Facebook page. The Community Development Department posts event info, photos and more ... Check Us Out!

Is it just me or do the years seem to pass quicker as one gets older?
As most know, 2009 was a tough economic year for many individuals, but also for local government(s), but the City of Union has weathered the storm by City officials being fiscally responsible and keeping a check on unnecessary expenses.

In 2009 the City of Union completed the resurfacing and realignment of Church Street, which also included new sidewalks in various places and also a new bridge over Flat Creek. The inclusion of the bridge was important to the overall project due to the age and condition of the old bridge.

2009 has ended and the City of Union has several projects lined up for 2010. In addition to capital improvement projects, the City will also be developing the City's Comprehensive Plan.

What will be the most visible project is the widening of Highway 50. The relocation of utilities impacted by the widening occurred in 2009, but the construction will happen in 2010. The orange construction barrels should make an appearance in early 2010 and construction, weather cooperating, should end late 2010. The project will widen Highway 50 from Highway 47 South east to 500 east of Progress Drive. Included in the project will be the reconstruction of the Highway 50 and Prairie Dell Road intersection which should alleviate a great deal of congestion at that intersection.



Included in this newsletter is a questionnaire that will assist in the completion of the City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan. I ask that you please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and drop in the mail to City Hall or drop off in the Community Development Department in City Hall.

The development of this plan will enable current and future City leaders/City staff to plan on the future development of the City of Union and YOUR input as current and future citizens of Union is greatly appreciated.

I wish each and every one of you a safe and happy 2010.
Mayor Mike Livengood

2010 Yard Waste Schedule

JAN 13
FEB 10
MAR 10
APR 7, 14, 21, 28
MAY 5, 12, 19, 28
JUN 2, 9, 16, 23
JUL 14, 28
AUG 11, 25
SEP 8, 22
OCT 6, 13, 20, 27
NOV 3, 10, 17, 24
DEC 8



In late 2009, the City of Union signed a trash service contract with IESI – Missouri to continue the services of trash/yard waste/recycling pick up for the citizens of Union. With this new contract, there were some changes on number of pickups of yard waste per month, based on the season. See Yard Waste schedule at left.

To view a complete trash/yard waste/recycling schedule, please visit the City's website at www.unionmissouri.org or contact your City Hall at 636-583-3600.

Union *through* Photos



New Location for Founder's Day

FOUNDER'S DAY 2010

After several years of being held on the Courthouse Square in downtown Union, Founder's Day will return to Union City Park in 2010. The event will be held June 5th, 2010 in and around the historic Union pavilion.

Moving the event to a more open space will enable the Union Parks Department to host more events and separate genres of entertainment. Included this year in the Pavilion will be **Meñachi**, an all-instrumental Latin influenced band and an 18-piece orchestra, **Starlighters**, will perform Saturday evening. A blues band, **Michael Terry Group**, will play in a beer tent in the fairground area.

New activities this year will include; 3-on-3 basketball tournament, sand volleyball tournament and a large area of arts and crafts. Founder's Day favorites; arm wrestling and NASCAR track racing will also return.



If you need more information, please contact Kevin or Angie in the Union Parks Department at **636-583-8471**.



Get to know ... **Roy Graham Waterman**

How Long Employed by the City of Union? 2 years, 9 months

What Positions Have You Held? Waterman 1

Birthplace: St. Louis, MO

Favorite Movie: "Blindside"

Favorite TV Show: Monday Night Football

Favorite Musical Artist: Randy Travis

Favorite Food: Steak

Pepsi or Coke? Pepsi

Hobbies: Coaching football, X-Box Live and playing with my three-week old son

Number of Children: 1 (Colte)

Favorite Place to Vacation: South Padre Island

Ever play a musical instrument? Trombone

What are your favorite things about Union? Bowling at Oasis Lanes



The grass may be a faded brownish color. The limbs of every tree may be bare. The sky may be spitting white flakes, but it's never too early to think spring and freshly picked fruit and vegetables at Union's Farmers Market.

Coming off a successful 2009 season and with renewed enthusiasm, the Union Farmer's Market will be better than ever in 2010.

The City of Union Farmer's Market will be starting in April and will run every Saturday until October in the parking lot directly north of Union Municipal Auditorium.

To achieve a more consistent, professional atmosphere, the City of Union's Community Development Department will be ordering display tents for those selling their products. The Community Development Department also hopes to have a database of those farmers who participate online. In addition, new signs will be ordered to guide buyers to the market from Highway 50.

If you would like to register (it's free) or have questions regarding the Farmer's Market 2010 season, please contact the Community Development Department at 636-583-3600 or jgraves@unionmissouri.org.



Made in



Did you know?

Toys manufactured here at The Children's Factory were seen in Disney's "Santa Buddies: The Legend of Santa Paws" released on DVD in November, 2009.

The Children's Factory

World Leader in Soft Play

One of Union's best kept secrets is located on South McKinley quietly tucked away in a mostly residential neighborhood. Comfy, cozy and colorful are a few of the words used to describe the products manufactured by The Children's Factory. The Children's Factory started as a dream to create soft play environments in which children could safely romp and play. Production began in the attic of the Richter home in Kirkwood, Missouri in 1982. As business grew, so did the need for more people to help sew the vinyl play pieces and a sewing circle began meeting in the back room of a Kirkwood tavern. Eventually as demand increased, The Children's Factory opened a manufacturing facility in New Haven, and ultimately relocated to Union, Missouri in 1992, purchasing the former Brown Shoe Factory.

Today, their business has expanded through acquisitions and partnerships to better serve the early childhood market. While the soft play vinyl line of products is primarily manufactured in Union, MO, the company also offers a complete product line including molded plastics, trikes, costumes and dolls. While The Children's Factory does not sell directly to consumers, you can find their products through hundreds of distributors throughout the US and the world. The Children's Factory products are primarily used in daycares and preschools and have even been seen on a Disney DVD movie just released November 25, 2009.

With such wide-reaching distribution, location is key. Diane Frick, Production Manager, explained "Union's central US location is a huge advantage when shipping to distributors, daycare and preschools all over the country."

The Children's Factory manufactures their vinyl line of products in a technologically advanced plant that encompasses over 100,000 square feet. Currently they employ 110 people, hiring as many as 60 additional workers in the summer months. Their employees enjoy a friendly, safe and comfortable work environment, working four 10-hour days a week. Mary Brucher, Human Resource Manager says "Our employees are our greatest attribute. They are hometown employees, and want the business to succeed."

All of their products meet or exceed current safety standards. Quality control is a byproduct of computer cutting and rigid inspection procedures. The Children's Factory is also environmentally conscience, utilizing scrap foam for filling in pillows with leftovers being used in carpet padding. Very little is wasted.

"Play is a child's most important work." The Children's Factory is dedicated to their role as the World Leader in Soft Play for children. The future looks bright too, as they dream of expanding to markets other than children's. And we all know dreams can come true.

CHILDREN'S FACTORY

of Employees
110

Size of Facility
100,000 SF

Global Market
Exports to Australia, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Spain and more!

Located to Union
1992

Website
www.childrensfactory.com



talk of the town

Union City Hall

500 E. Locust Street - Union, MO 63084

Phone: 636-583-3600 - Fax: 636-583-4091

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 20
Union, MO
63084

city elected officials

Municipal Judge **Dan Leslie**

City Collector **Ruth Dowil**

departmental listing

City Administrator **Russell Rost**

City Clerk **Jonita Copeland**

Chief of Police **Norman Brune**

City Engineer **Jonathan Zimmermann**

Community Development Director **Joseph A. Graves**

Finance Director **Heather Keith**

Parks and Recreation Director **Kevin Arand**

Public Works Director **Harold Lampkin**

web site

www.unionmissouri.org

cable access

**Charter Cable Channel 117.3 or
Digital 993 — Union City Access Channel**



Your Participation Counts!

A community's comprehensive plan, in order to be effective, must represent all constituencies. As such, public participation is a crucial part to the comprehensive planning process.

SO TAKE PART AND LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Comprehensive Planning Process Begins

The City of Union has begun the year-long process of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a legal document required by State Statute (RSMO 89) to guide decisions regarding future zoning and development decisions.

The objective is to create a Comprehensive Plan that reflects the goals and aspirations of the community, while preserving and protecting critical resources and the quality of life for Union's future generations.

Community Survey. Public participation is essential to the planning process. In order to capture issues, concerns, and ideas from as many members of the community as possible, the City of Union Community Development Department has in-

cluded a Community Survey within this issue of "Talk of the Town". We ask that you please return your completed survey in order for your voice to be heard.

Mail or Deliver to City Hall:

City of Union

Community Development Dept
500 E. Locust Street
Union, MO 63084

Complete online survey at:

www.unionmissouri.org

Questions?

Contact Joseph A. Graves
Director of Community Development
(636) 583-3600
jgraves@unionmissouri.org