



talk of the town

Winter 2011
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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

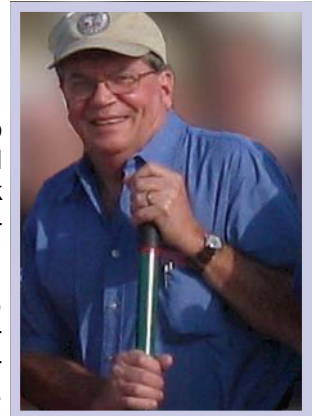
Karen Erwin • 583-5398

from the mayor

The changing of the calendar is always a good time to reflect on the past year. The City of Union accomplished a lot in 2010; from starting an expansion of the Denmark Road Sewage Treatment Facility to completing the widening of Highway 50.

Currently, the Denmark Sewage Treatment Facility, which serves the eastern portion of Union from East Central College east, is under construction to expand the facility from 300,000 gallons a day to 800,000 gallons a day. This approximately \$4.5 million project was graciously funded by the citizens of Union by passing the 1/4-cent sales tax a few years ago. This expansion was necessary due to the new homes and development in the eastern portion of Union. Along with the expansion, the City of Union is taking the La-Chateau treatment facility lagoon offline and is constructing a lift station to transport waste to the Union Treatment Facility located behind Dickey Bub. The new lift station will open up development areas along south Highway 47. These projects are scheduled to be complete in mid-2011.

In the coming months, the City will enhance Main Street from Highway 47 west to Old Highway 50 with new sidewalks, curbing and landscaped bump outs in the downtown area providing a safer pedestrian experience. This project will begin in early 2011 and will be completed by the end of 2011.



The widening of Highway 50 is complete and what a difference it makes. The project was a cooperative effort between the City of Union, Franklin County Government and the Missouri Department of Transportation. With the widening came a complete overhaul of the Prairie Dell Road and Highway 50 intersection resulting in less congestion at East Central College's entrance/exit and smoother traffic flow as a whole. I'd like to stress that this project finished within budget and on-time. As long as I'm your Mayor, I will continue to work with regional and state officials to continue this project to Interstate 44.

As always, I encourage our citizens to partake in local government by attending public hearings, Board of Aldermen and committee meetings. Many men and women have sacrificed to allow you the privilege of democracy. Contact information for the Aldermen and Mayor is located on this page; please call if you have a question or concern.



Senior Advantage Trash Collection Discount

In this economy, we are all looking for ways to pinch a few pennies. While it may not be much in the whole scheme of things, qualified seniors can save a bit on their trash bill. The City of Union offers residents who are 60 years of age

or older and the head of household a reduced rate for residential trash collection. Currently, the senior rate is \$14.22 per month (a discount of \$1.02 off the regular rate). Billing is monthly and included with the water and sewer bill. To apply for the senior discount, you must complete an application available at City Hall, 500 E. Locust Street in Union, Missouri or call (636) 583-3600 for more information.



1/2-cent Park Sales Tax

Ballot Issue – April 5, 2011

The proposed sales tax would be dedicated solely to expand the parks system and maintenance of the City's Parks and Recreations system. City officials urge residents to familiarize themselves with the facts surrounding the issue and then go to the polls and vote April 5th. Additional information about the proposed sales tax is on the City's Web site at www.unionmissouri.org. Residents can also call the Parks and Recreation office at (636) 583-8471 or the City Administrator office at (636) 583-3600.

Q What is it and why is it needed?

A It is a Parks-specific, 1/2-of-one-percent sales tax that would be added to purchases made in Union. The tax will *not* apply to purchases of prescription drugs or gasoline. It would cost residents and nonresidents for example; 10 cents for every \$20. It is needed to expand the parks system to meet the needs for additional active and passive recreational amenities for the City of Union.

Q Why a sales tax?

A A sales tax allows all who enjoy activities in the parks, residents and non-residents alike, to share in the support of the parks system.

Q How will the money be used and can it later be used for anything other than parks?

A 100% of the money from this tax must always be used for the City's Parks system – either for land acquisitions, improvements, facility construction, operations, or maintenance.

Q How long would it apply?

A Passage of the Parks Sales Tax would enable the City to immediately finance improvements to the Parks system. *Once all such financing has been repaid, the Park Sales Tax would drop to 1/4 of one percent and remain at that level to support the maintenance need of the parks and potentially fund additional capital improvements to the parks.*

Q How are parks currently funded and why isn't that sufficient to expand the Parks system?

A Funding for the City's Parks system currently comes from the City's General Fund, Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes, Grants and User Fees. Over the past 15 years, the City has allocated for the Parks system an average of 15% annually from its General Fund sales tax revenues. As the City grows and increased funding for things like streets and police are needed, it will become more difficult to increase the percentage going to expand the Parks system.

Q Once new parks and facilities are built; can user fees cover the cost of maintaining them?

A The City will continue to charge user fees to help offset the cost of maintenance and operations of its Parks and Recreations programs, but it is impossible to cover all maintenance and operational expenses through user fees without putting the program costs out of reach of most families. Once all such financing have been repaid, the tax will drop to 1/4-of-one-percent and remain at that level.

Q Will it create jobs?

A Yes. Development of parklands and the addition of amenities will add construction work for area companies initially and ongoing grounds maintenance and Parks positions once the new amenities are established.

Q Why is it being proposed now?

A The City's Parks and Recreation Department and local private recreation organizations have identified a need and desire for additional athletic fields to meet the demand of youth sports leagues and create a destination tournament complex. Interest and construction rates are lower now than they have been in decades, but they will begin climbing as the economy recovers from the recession. If the City can take advantage of low construction cost and current low rates, it can realize substantial savings in the cost of meeting the needs.

Q If it passes, how soon would I see park improvements?

A If the city can secure a steady funding source through passage of the sales tax, it can immediately finance improvements and grants will be sought; which if can be secured, will shorten the tax years. Residents could see construction begin as early as a year after passage of the tax.

Q What happens if the Parks sales tax issue fails?

A Without a dedicated revenue stream, the City can not develop parkland it already owns and make needed improvements to its Parks system. Also, if the voters reject the sales tax proposal, it will be at least another year before the proposal can be put on the ballot again.



Ideaman Inc. & American Expedition

You've heard the saying, "you need to watch out for the quiet ones?" Ideaman, Inc. may be the "quiet one." Sitting quietly in the North Loop Industrial Park on the north side of Union, Ideaman, Inc. is THE industry leader in the 3D magnet industry and has been creating a new brand, "American Expedition" to expand their dominance in the tourism and gift industry.

The company began in 1992 in the old Villa Ridge Post Office with a one person shop. At that time, Ideaman concentrated on design and distribution of magnets and contracted out the manufacturing to another facility. In 1994, having outgrown their original location, they moved for a short time to a facility on Clearview Road and then finally in 1997, Ideaman relocated to Union's North Loop Industrial Park and with the purchase of some injection molding equipment, Ideaman was able to produce their 3D magnets from design, through manufacturing, and distribution. With the exception of producing the template, all aspects of production of magnets are done in-house.

Ninety to ninety-five percent of the magnets are sold to tourism destinations, such as the Grand Canyon, Beale Street (Memphis), etc. Occasionally they produce advertising magnets for companies, including one recently for Benito's in Union.

Due to the "ups and downs" of the tourism industry, in 2001, Ideaman decided to diversify with the addition of the "American Expedition" concept. American Expedition is focused on the wildlife enthusiast and those who appreciate nature. From picturesque wall clocks to coffee mugs, if you love the outdoors, American Expedition has a product for you. Though most of the products are not made in Union, all the artwork is done here, as well as, the marketing, sales and distribution. This product has grown to the point that the American Expedition products account for 75% of sales at Ideaman. Plans are to continue expanding the American Expedition line with the possible addition of recreational/outdoor equipment in the future.



"American Expedition" products were used in an episode of NBC's "Parks and Recreation"

Ideaman
of Employees
 32
 —●—
Size of Facility
 18,000 square feet
 —●—
Market
 North America and all
 "Modern Day Explorers"
 —●—
Located to Union
 1997
 —●—
Website
 americanexpedition.us
 —●—
Contact
 Ted Swoboda, Owner
 #7 Cedar Court
 Union, MO 63084
 info@ideaman-inc.com
 (636) 583-1145

Made in

UNION
MISSOURI



Seiverling Receives Police Officer of the Year Award

Union Chief of Police, Norman Brune, awarded Officer Nick Seiverling the Police Officer of the Year Award at the annual City of Union Holiday Party.



Every year an officer is chosen by the Police Department's supervision staff as having exemplary qualities, such as daily work habits, special duty assignments, work ethics and self-initiated activities.

Seiverling has been with the Police Department for just over 2 years. He leads the department in DWI arrests, and has been an asset to the department.

talk of the town

Union City Hall

500 E. Locust Street - Union, MO 63084

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

city elected officials

Municipal Judge **A. David Arand**

City Collector **Terry Copeland**

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

 [Facebook.com/CityofUnionMo](https://www.facebook.com/CityofUnionMo)

cable access

Charter Cable Channel 117.3 or

Digital 993 — Union City Access Channel

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

Franklin County Historical Society



Interested in learning about Franklin County's history? Or perhaps you are interested in genealogy and the role your family may have played in Franklin County's history? If you've answered "yes" to either, you should make time to stop by the Franklin County Historical Society located at 15 North Oak Street in Union, Missouri.

The brick home, known as the "Hansen Building", at 15 North Oak Street is owned by Bob Hansen and was built around 1840. Bob Hansen, a life member of the society, donated the use of the building to the Historical

Society. In the mid-90's the home was featured in "*Better Homes and Gardens*". The article focused on the well-manicured gardens and the reflecting pool. Though the brick home has sat empty for the last several years, the Historical Society is hard at work trying to recapture the history and ambiance of 15 North Oak Street by cleaning the gardens and recently relocating a "slave stone" to the property, also donated by Bob Hansen. The stone was once used to auction slaves to slaveholders. Though certainly not a proud part of Franklin County history, it is, nonetheless, historically significant.

Once renovations are complete, the Society hopes to have historical photos and artifacts from around Franklin County. The Society also wants to complement the Franklin County Hall of Honor when it opens in early 2011 in the historic Franklin County Court House. "We hope visitors who pay tribute to our heroic vet-

erans at the Hall of Honor will then walk half a block to pay tribute to the founders of our great county," said Board Member Steve Claggett.

The goal of the Franklin County Historical Society is to promote the county's history and historic locations and also to preserve Franklin County history. There are currently 50 members of the Society and they are always on the lookout for Franklin County citizens with a love for history. The Society meets every 2nd Monday of the month at 15 North Oak. If you are interested in getting more information, please contact Steve Claggett or Carole Howell at 636-583-FCHS (3247). An official web site will be arriving soon.