



talk of the town

Winter 2007
Volume XII, Issue 2

www.ci.union.mo.us
www.unionmoed.com



Mayor and Aldermen

Mayor

Glenn Van Leer • 636-583-3619

Board of Aldermen

Ward 1

Paul Arand • 636-583-5489
Michele Schroeder • 636-583-4066

Ward II

Bill Isgriggs • 636-583-3634
Dale Schmuke • 636-583-2099

Ward III

Don Viehland • 636-583-3140
Robert Schmuke • 636-583-8639

Ward IV

Karen Erwin • 636-583-5398
Terry Copeland • 636-583-8156

Calendar of Events

www.ci.union.mo.us

Have you visited the City of Union website lately? A comprehensive city-wide calendar of events has recently been added. It's the place to go to see what's happening in Union. Included are events sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Union, as well as local businesses, schools and other organizations.

To have an event posted on our website, send an email to:

events@ci.union.mo.us

or call the City of Union
Community Development Dept.
636-583-3600

from the mayor

The continued growth of Union continues to astound me, but doesn't surprise me. As you drive along Highway 50, one can see the enormous amount of commercial development that is occurring in our community. QT is under construction, Arby's & IMO's Pizza will be opening soon, and there are many other commercial projects to be announced shortly.

We are also fortunate that several of our industries are expanding and are doing well. Union takes pride in servicing the needs of existing industries.

Many of you already know I will not be seeking reelection for Mayor this April. With over 30 years of local government experience, I have decided to retire and enjoy retirement with my wife Dixie and family. I have spent the previous 22 years as Mayor of Union and 8 years as Alderman, and it has been a pleasure and honor to serve the citizens of Union. I've had the privilege of being Mayor of Union in the worst of times, the flood of Flat Creek 2000; and in the best of times: opening of Independence Drive, the rapid growth of Union and the expansion and upgrade of the infrastructure of our community. The good has far outweighed the bad and this is due to the great people of Union. I have found the people of Union to be kind, generous and welcoming.



Open House
Sunday, March 25, 2007
1 pm—4 pm
City Hall
500 E. Locust, Union

*The public is invited to join us
as we celebrate Mayor Van
Leer's 30 years of service to
Union and wish him well in his
retirement.*

The accomplishments of the City are the product of hard work and long hours by the employees of the City of Union and I want to thank them with all my heart. A thank you also goes out to the current and former Aldermen whom I've had the privilege of serving with.

In conclusion, I wish all the luck to the next Mayor to be elected April 3rd.

Thank you for the honor of serving you,

Mayor Glenn Van Leer

Town Hall Meeting – March 7th, 7:00 pm.

On March 7th at 7:00 pm in the Union Board of Aldermen chambers a special evening with Board members will be held for the citizens of Union to discuss their views and concerns about the community.

Your opinions are very important to your Aldermen and many will be in attendance on the 7th to listen and gather information.

As always, monthly Board of Aldermen meetings (2nd Monday of every month, 6:30 pm) and Committee meetings (date varies) are open to the general public. The Mayor, Board of Aldermen and city staff are always pleased to have citizen participation.

Union Through Photos



Get To Know ...

Russell Rost

City Administrator



Birthplace: Springfield, Missouri
Favorite Movie: "Band of Brothers"
Favorite TV Show: "Law and Order"
Favorite Musical Artist: John Fogerty
Favorite Food: Tutti Mari or Pasta Con Pesce
Pepsi or Coke? Pepsi
Hobbies: Fishing, reading, gardening
Number of Children, Grandchildren: 4 Children, 3 Grandchildren
Favorite Place to Vacation: East Coast United States

Ever play a musical instrument? Yes ... drums.

Favorite Quote: "The heart has its reasons which reason knows not of." *Blaise Pascal*

What are some of your first memories about Union? Over the years I've participated in a variety of sports including: Founders Day Run, softball league, pick-up basketball at Central Elementary & Clark-Vitt, sandlot football with the Franklin County Junior Bar Association.

Show Pride in Union ... Don't Litter

A cleaner community increases civic pride and makes Union a healthier, safer place to live, work and play.

Littering is a growing problem, not only in Union, but everywhere. It's time we do something about it. Please place litter in proper receptacles. To put the magnitude of the problem in perspective, nearly a ton of litter is thrown onto each mile of our U.S. interstates each year... one piece at a time.

Remember, the best way to keep our city clean, is to not get it dirty in the first place.

Severe Weather Season is Approaching

Union has several sirens scattered throughout the city to warn citizens of approaching severe weather. Familiarize yourself with the following:

- One long blast (3 minutes) — There is severe weather in the area.
- Short blast (20 seconds) — All clear

For more information, contact the Union Police Department at 636-583-3700.

Municipal Elections April 3rd, 2007

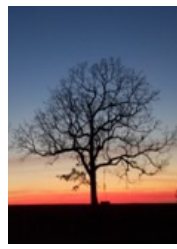
It's that time of year again...election time. As voters, this is your opportunity to shape Union for years to come.

This year several positions will be up for election, they include:

Mayor (4-year term), Municipal Judge (2-year term), Ward One Alderman (2-year term),
Ward Two Alderman (2-year term), Ward Three Alderman (2-year term) and
Ward Four Alderman (2-year term.)

Official filing period for these positions opened December 12, 2006 and will run through January 16, 2007. You must be registered by March 7th to be eligible to vote in the April 3rd election.

If you need more information about Union's municipal elections or have any questions regarding where to vote, how to register to vote, to request an absentee ballot or any other questions, please contact Debbie Door, Franklin County Clerk, at 636-583-6364 or franklin@sos.mo.gov.



Annual Valentine's Comedy Show ... *Funnier Every Year*

Are you searching for a special gift to give the Valentine in your life? Search no longer...the Union Park's Department will hold its fifth annual Valentines Comedy Show on Saturday evening February 10th in the City Auditorium. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the evening will continue to 1:00 am.

This year features three well-known and traveled comedians; Pete Lytle, Christine Stedman and Mike Armstrong.



Pete Lytle has been the featured comedian in Funny Bone Comedy Clubs throughout the Midwest and has performed in productions of "The Odd Couple" and "Death of a Salesman."



Christine Stedman has performed at the Valentine Comedy Show in the past and due to such great response, Christine has been invited back to share her views of the world from a mothers point of view. Christine was recently a finalist on the Nick at Nite special, "The Funniest Mom in America," and has performed at major comedy clubs from Las Vegas to Atlantic City.



The headliner for the evening, **Mike Armstrong**, is a frequent guest on the nationally syndicated radio show, Bob and Tom. Mike, a former police officer, has also appeared in Comedy Central and comedy specials on HBO. Many of Mike's peers have chosen him to be the "next big thing" in comedy.

The fun has only just begun... before the comedy show begins, you and your date or dates (you lucky thing!!!) will be treated to a steak dinner, baked potato, salad and dessert. Immediately following the comedy show, C&R Sound will break out the disco music and give everyone an opportunity to showcase their dancing prowess. A cash bar will be open and will serve drinks the entire evening.

A word of warning: this event sells out EVERY year, so you are encouraged to contact the Union Parks Department as soon as possible at 636-583-3600 to purchase tickets if still available. Tickets are priced at \$30.00 a person and can be purchased at the Union Parks Department office in the lower level of Union City Hall. The evening is only open to people 21 years and older.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit Union Parks Rejuvenation Foundation.



Union Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award

The Union Area Chamber of Commerce and the Union Jaycees are seeking nominations for the 2006 Distinguished Service Award, as well as the Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Young Man and Outstanding

Young Woman Awards. The Outstanding Young Man and Young Woman must be 40 years of age or younger on December 31, 2006.

Nominees are considered based on their achievements, leadership and service to the Union community in 2006 and prior years. Nominations must be received by January 22, 2007 at the Union Area Chamber of Commerce.

Awards will be presented at the DSA Banquet on Saturday, February 3, 2007.

For more information or to make a nomination, contact the Union Chamber of Commerce at 636-583-8979, stop by their office at 103 S. Oak Street in Union or visit their website at:

www.unionmochamber.org

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 Leneigha Downs
City Collector Ruth Dowil

departmental listing

City Administrator Russell Rost
City Clerk Nancy Kossmann
Chief of Police Don Fowler
City Engineer Jonathan Zimmermann
Community Development Director Joseph A. Graves
Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Bailey
Public Works Director Harold Lampkin

web sites

www.ci.union.mo.us — General City Information
www.unionmoed.com — Economic Development

cable access

Channel 6 — Union City Access Channel

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63084

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Detecting Leaks...How to Determine if You Have a Water Leak

If your water bill strained your pocket book last summer and you would like to try and lower your water bill, the first thing would be to check for a water leak.

There are a couple of reliable methods to determine if you have a water leak. Take an actual water meter reading. This method checks the entire internal plumbing system for water leaks. Take a reading just before going to bed, or when no one will use any water for several hours. Take another meter reading in the morning before any water is used, or after a few hours of non-usage. In theory, the two readings should be the same. If they are not, and you cannot account for use by a humidifier, ice cube maker, toilet flush, or water softener, you have a leak and further investigation is recommended.

From our experience, ninety percent of the leaks in residential plumbing systems are found at the toilet tank.

We recommend against using toilet bowl cleaning discs due to the fact that the chemicals in the discs make the rubber gaskets brittle and allow water seepage. Add food coloring to your toilet tank and if the die appears in your bowl...you have a leak. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons a day!!!

Malfunctioning water softeners and humidifiers should also be suspect if you are experiencing a water leak. We encourage you to check these devices as well.

Water leaks are costly. This information is provided as a courtesy with hopes of action on your part, which may minimize an unnecessary waste of water and, most importantly, an expense to you.

attention: Your water usage DIRECTLY affects the sewage portion of your municipal utility bill. The sewage portion of the

bill is based on your water usage. If you plan on extensively watering your lawn this coming summer, consider installing a second water meter to your home for outside water usage. By installing a second water meter would allow for only outdoor usage to be billed without sewerage included. A 1-inch water meter costs \$387.52 and a 3/4" meter is \$283.63. The cost of the meter is in addition to the cost of your installation and plumbing by a professional plumber. If you do a good amount of watering, you will recoup your investment in time.

If you are planning on installing a lawn irrigation system, you must install a backflow protection device as well. Backflow protection device MUST BE inspected annually by a licensed backflow inspector and official paperwork must be turned into City Hall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Union Water Department at 636-583-3522 or Union City Hall at 636-583-3600.