



UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

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Council Meeting

Jul 26, Aug 23 & Sep 27 - 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Jul 15, Aug 19 & Sep 16 - 6:30 p.m.

Council Work Session

Jul 12, Aug 9 & Sep 13 - 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Committee info, contact

Jim Rowe 410-775-9939 or

buffersburg@verizon.net

Web Page

www.townofub.org

E-mail

unionbr@carr.org

ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

ARE DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE BY

September 15, 2021

OFFICE CLOSED

July 5th 2021

Independence Day

(Observed)

&

September 6th, 2021

Labor Day

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

It is hard to believe that half of 2021 is already over and that on July 1, 2020, I started my one-year elected office of President of the Maryland Municipal League. Most people don't even know what that is. So, here is the short version.

Being elected President of MML is one of the greatest honors in municipal government. There are 157 cities and towns in the state of Maryland. You must first be elected to the Board of Directors, 10 at large in the state. Elections are held at the Summer Conference in Ocean City every June. It takes years to work your way up to be elected to President of the state. There are roughly 1.5 million people that live in the cities and towns we represent. Yes, you get to know a lot of people and gain their trust, travel the state of Maryland and represent Maryland at the National League of Cities, which represents the entire United States. Union Bridge has been well represented over my 31 years of elected office, but my year of President of MML is over on June 29. It has been a wonderful experience.

During this past year with the pandemic, the eight Carroll County mayors were having Zoom meetings every week until about November. Then we started meeting every two weeks just to keep informed about happenings in our towns. The Governor's office also had weekly conferences with elected officials every Friday, until recently. They are now also bi-weekly.

This has been a rough year for local businesses and especially the Union Bridge Volunteer Fire Company. So as events start again, we must all remember to support them.

Town elections were in May. Three Council seats were up for election. Laura Conaway and Amy Kalin were re-elected. Cheri Thompson won Ellen Cutsail's seat. We thank Ellen for all of her years of dedicated service to the Town of Union Bridge and to MML. Please be sure to visit the Town website (www.townofub.org) to meet each Council member and read about their duties. Each Council person has a role to play. That is the person you call when you have a problem that they are in charge of. All phone numbers are posted along with their responsibilities.

Don't forget Flood Zone's Mini Boat Parade on July 14. All proceeds will benefit Union Bridge and New Windsor fire companies.

Stop by a new business in town, "Save Point," a video game store. You can play most of the arcade games for free. They are located at 17 N Main St.

This next project isn't just for Union Bridge but for all of Carroll County and our Veterans. Carroll County Veterans Independence Project now has a one-stop shop for veterans. They are located at the Veterans Service Center, 95 Carroll Street in Westminster. They hope to help all veterans of Carroll County. If you see a vet, thank them for their service. Remember, that should go for Police Officers and Emergency Responders also. They are all

people you call when you need help.

*Perry L. Jones, Jr.
Mayor*

NEW CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

I am excited to announce that the Town has purchased new Christmas decorations for Main Street. We were able to order ten five-foot, lighted snowflakes in February, while the company was holding its annual sale. Because we did not have the funds in the current budget, we were able to defer payment for the lights until July 1, 2021, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year.

We chose three different snowflake designs. One reason we chose snowflakes is because all snowflakes are different and, if the company discontinues a style, we won't have to worry about matching the decorations in the future.

We also plan to buy Christmas banners for Main Street in the FY 21/22 budget. I have received quotes for the banners and will be ordering them this fall.

*Laura A. Conaway
Council Member*

GRANTS & PROJECT UPDATE

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for Emergency Generator

The Town has been awarded a grant for funding from FEMA to install an emergency generator. The generator will run the Water Treatment Plant and Town Office in the event of an emergency. The generator has been installed and we are working to close out the project.

Program Open Space (POS) Grant - Community Center Parking Upgrades

The Town received approval from Carroll County and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to move forward with paving the parking lot areas at the Community Center. Paving and lighting have been completed. Striping of the parking spaces is being completed at this time.

Town Waste Water Treatment Plant and I&I Efforts

The Town is currently working to assess efforts and requirements for updating our wastewater treatment. Several options will be considered as we work with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to discover our needs and develop a plan to address any finding.

We are also working on a separate workstream to investigate and remediate any inflow & infiltration (I&I) concerns that may be found within our sewerage flows. More information will be provided on both workstreams as they develop.

For questions on these or any other Town projects, call the Town Office at 410-775-2711.

*Mike Reynolds
Circuit Rider & Zoning Administrator*

DRIVING 101

Enjoying and celebrating the summer months is a good thing. We should all agree that everyone needs to take a break to unwind. With the longer days of summer, backyard barbeques, sporting events, concerts, and vacations all create ample opportunities for people to consume alcohol. However, we should never relax on the dangers of drunk driving.

As we know, drinking and driving is dangerous and could even result in death. Yet it continues to happen across our nation's roadways. Statistics from the National Highway

Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that in 2019 alone, 10,142 people died because of a drunk driving accident within the United States. In that year, every 52 minutes a person died as a result, making it a staggering 28 deaths per day. All these deaths were preventable, which is the worst part.

You may ask, how much alcohol is too much before getting behind the wheel? It is difficult to assess how much alcohol puts you above the legal limit of .08. Factors such as medication, weight, gender, body type, and food intake can all affect your ability to safely drive a vehicle. So, if you're wondering how many drinks you can have and legally drive, the best and safest answer is always ZERO.

You may wonder, how the legal limit of .08 was determined? A person's alcohol level is measured by the weight of alcohol in a certain volume of blood. According to the NHTSA website, at a Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC of .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter (g/dL) of blood, crash risk increases drastically. Because of this risk, it's illegal in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah where the BAC limit is .05.

Can you be arrested for a BAC lower than .08? Absolutely, since alcohol reduces the function of the brain, impairing thinking, reasoning, and muscle coordination, which are all essential to operating a motor vehicle safely. According to a 2018 statistic from NHTSA, there were 1,878 people killed in alcohol-related crashes where drivers had alcohol levels of .01 to .07.

Please drink responsibly by following these helpful tips.

- Plan for a safe ride home by choosing a designated driver, calling a taxi, ride-hailing service, or a sober friend.
- If someone you know has been drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. Take

their keys and help them arrange a sober ride home.

- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact local law enforcement. Your actions could help save someone's life.

If you still decide to drive while under the influence of alcohol in Maryland, then you could be facing the following charges for first time offenders:

- 21-902(a1i) – Driving / Attempting to drive vehicle while under the influence of alcohol – 12 points, 1-year imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both
- 21-902(b1i) – Driving / Attempting to drive vehicle while impaired by alcohol – 8 points, 2-month imprisonment or fine not exceeding \$500 fine or both
- 21-902(a1ii) – Driving / Attempting to drive vehicle while under the influence of alcohol per se – 12 points, 1-year imprisonment or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both

In addition to the above, you could also lose your driving privilege up to 270 days. On average, expenses for first-time offenses, could range in upwards to \$10,000 for court cost, fines, and legal fees. Obviously that is only the legal side of driving drunk, you could also become one of the staggering statistics mentioned above.

So, please drink responsibly and remember that, when you drink, DO NOT DRIVE. It's that simple. As always, be kind, stay healthy and be safe out there.

*Master Deputy Brian Colussy
Carroll County Sheriff's
Office*

DREAM BIG UNION BRIDGE

The **Annual Duck Derby** was held on May 22nd with the first launch being SOLD OUT, which prompted us to have a second launch that evening. Thank you to

everyone for your support and attendance. A very special thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers. This year's event raised just over \$5,000.00 and the proceeds were split between Suicide Prevention (In Loving Memory of Perry Jones, III), Community Foundation of Carroll County, and Dream Big Union Bridge. The ducks have been washed and are resting up for next year's event.

Union Bridge Gift Shop, which is ran by Dream Big Union Bridge will be celebrating our one-year anniversary on July 10 & 11. We will have light refreshments, door prizes and more.

Congratulations to one of our volunteers, Eric Holniker on opening **Save Point**, a video/arcade shop on Main Street. This will give kids of all ages something to do. We wish him much success.

We are planning to hold a **Bulk Trash Day** on October 2, 2021, and are encouraging residents to dispose of the items that cannot go in the regular trash pickup. **Look for flyers posted in local businesses and in the kiosk at the town square and the walking trail or for more information contact: Cheri Thompson 443-340-6305**

Community Cookout FREE to all Union Bridge residents will be held on 8/29/21 (4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) at the square on East Broadway Street. Soda, chips, hot dogs, burgers and sides will be available. Come out and enjoy some good old-fashioned fellowship. **Look for flyers posted in local businesses and in the kiosk at the town square and the walking trail.**

New Year's Eve Celebration is in the planning stages, stay tuned for more information

We meet the 1st Monday of every month starting promptly at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are always looking for new volunteers.

*Cheri Thompson
Dream Big Union Bridge*

HUGHES TRASH REMOVAL

For the weeks of Independence Day and Labor Day, trash pickup will be one day behind, so please place your trash out Wednesday evening instead of Tuesday.

BUDGET ORDINANCE 316-A

On April 26, 2021, the Union Bridge Town Council approved Budget Ordinance 316-A for FY21/22, with expenditures and revenues of \$1,014,008.00. The town tax rate shall remain \$.35 per \$100.00 of full value assessment of property in The Town of Union Bridge. The town personal property tax rate shall remain \$.75 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

RESOLUTION 01-21

On February 22, 2021, the Union Bridge Town Council approved the FY22 Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years FY22 - FY27, introduced by the Union Bridge Planning Commission. Changes are effective as of July 1, 2021.

Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. (HSP)

Are you having challenges making payments for utility services? Are you in danger of being evicted due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic? If so, Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc. (HSP), may be able to help. Each year, HSP helps thousands of Carroll County residents prevent and fix emergencies by utilizing community funding to assist people in crisis. To find out more information on all of their programs, call them at 410-857-2999 or visit <https://staging.hspinc.org/>

WATER/SEWER USER RATES

Per the Town Code, the annual Water and Sewer user rates increase of 3% will be effective beginning July 1, 2021.

The new Water User Rate will be \$6.58 per 1000 gallons and the new Sewer User Rate will be \$4.78 per 1,000 gallons.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The annual Water Quality Report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

You can view the report at <https://unionbridgewaterqualityreport.webs.com> or you can pick up a copy up at the Town Office.

WATER CONSERVATION OUTDOOR TIPS

1. Water your yard and outdoor plants early or late in the day to reduce evaporation.
2. Mulch around plants to hold water in the soil.
3. Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose.
4. Use plants that require less water.
5. Use a broom, not a hose to clean driveways and walkways.
6. Avoid leaving sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out 600 gallons or more in only a few hours.
7. Collect rainwater to reuse in the garden whenever possible.
8. Use leftover water from cooking pasta or vegetables to water indoor/outdoor plants.
9. Limit car washing or visit a commercial car wash that recycles water.
10. Keep outside faucets in good repair.

PROTECTING CARROLL COUNTY WATERS

Stormwater in Union Bridge is regulated by law under Phase 1 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer

(MS4) permits under EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) administered through the Maryland Department of the Environment. For more information go to: <http://ccgovernments.org/ccg/npdes/>.

TOWN CURFEW

Please keep in mind that curfews for children under the age of 18 years are as follows:
12:01 am – Saturday & Sunday
10:00 pm – Sunday - Thursday

YARD WASTE PICKUP

Bags for yard waste must be purchased at Town Hall for \$1.25 each. This charge helps to defray the cost of the pickup.

BRUSH REMOVAL SERVICE

The Town will provide hauling services for brush removal (limbs/branches) by appointment. Note that you will need to load the brush onto the truck. Call 410-775-2711 to schedule a pickup.

GRASS & WEEDS

Owners and occupants of occupied premises and owners and persons in charge of unoccupied premises, including vacant lots, are hereby charged with the duty of maintaining any grass on such premises at a height of not more than six (6) inches; and further duty of maintaining, such premises free of noxious weeds and dense under brush.

PET OWNERS

The town is getting calls about residents not picking up after their pets. Please consider those who come after you on your walk. Put yourself in their shoes – literally. Please be a good neighbor and pick up your animal droppings. Union Bridge Code, Chapter 10, the owner of every animal shall be responsible for the removal of any

excreta deposited by his animal(s) on public property, including sidewalks, recreation areas.

IMPORTANT

If anyone notices anyone stealing water from hydrants or any unauthorized appropriation of water, please call the Town Hall at 410-775-2711.

SEWER LINE BLOCKAGES

RESIDENTS: If your sewer line becomes blocked, please contact the Town Hall at 410-775-2711 before calling a plumber.

FOR WATER AND SEWER EMERGENCIES PLEASE CALL AMY KALIN 1-410-775-0687

THE COMMUNITY CENTER

We are happy to announce that the Community Center will be re-opening for rental as of July 1st. It is available for weddings, parties and reunions. Call the Town Office at 410-775-2711 to inquire about renting the center for your function.

Have a Happy and Safe 4th of July & Labor Day!!!





POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THE TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2021

AUGUST 3, 2021 6-9PM

THE TOWN SQUARE
(MAIN AT EAST BROADWAY)
UNION BRIDGE, MD

A stylized illustration of a town at night, featuring several houses with glowing windows, a crescent moon, and stars in the sky. A car is visible in the lower right corner.

TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING COMMUNITIES
SAFER, MORE CARING PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK

COMMUNITY COOK OUT

(FREE TO ALL UNION BRIDGE RESIDENTS)



AUGUST 29, 2021

4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

East Broadway Street (next to the Municipal Parking Lot)

- **Hot Dogs**
- **Burgers**
- **Sides**
- **Sodas/Water**

“A Taste of Union Bridge”

Come out and enjoy some games and good old-fashioned fellowship

For additional information call Michelle 443-465-4366



COMPLIMENTS OF:

Dream Big Union Bridge

