



UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

March/April 2001

DATES TO REMEMBER

Council Meeting Mar 26 & Apr 23 – 7p.m.
Funding Committee Meeting Mar 7 & Apr 4 – 7p.m.
Heritage Committee Meeting Mar 20 & Apr 17 – 7p.m.
Planning & Zoning Meeting Mar 15 & Apr 19 – 6:30p.m.
Council Work Session Mar 19 & Apr 16 – 6:30p.m.
ELECTION DAY MAY 8, 2001

Web Page

www.carr.org/~unionbr

E-Mail

unionbr@ccpl.carr.org

UNION BRIDGE MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE IN CITY OFFICE NOON, FRIDAY April 16, 2001

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Mayors Association invites 4th grade students throughout Maryland to participate in a statewide contest, "IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD...". Essay is not to exceed 250 words. Essays must be received no later than MARCH 3rd. Winners will be notified by MARCH 31, 2001. There is more information at Elmer Wolfe Elementary School.

With spring coming up, lets try and clean up the town as much as possible. Everyone knows how hard it is to clean with all the construction at Lehigh that is making our town dirty. It will be a challenge, but we will make it through. May is carnival time and we will do the best we can for that week.

The traffic light at Main and Broadway has created a lot of talk lately. State Highway has suggested taking the light out when we get to the revitalization of Main Street. There are a lot of mixed feelings. No final decision has been made yet.

There is also a lot of talk about Sheppards Mill Road. That will one day be our access road in and out of town during flooding, and also help to get the large trucks off Main Street.

Don't forget, town elections coming up in May. Please don't forget that every vote counts. If you think not, then ask Al Gore, or George Bush. See you at the polls!

TOWN FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE MD DEPT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEV FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO MAIN STREET

As part of the town's plan to revitalize Main Street, The Town of Union Bridge applied for \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, to construct new patterned sidewalks, install decorative streetlights, and replace parking meters. This past August, the Mayor and Council and the Main Street Revitalization Committee coordinated the completion of the Union Bridge 2000 Main Street Plan. This study recommended several improvements to Main Street to replace its deteriorated infrastructure.

Replacing the run-down looking and deteriorated infrastructure is considered one of the most important "first steps" toward revitalization. Main Street serves as the town's only central location where people, businesses, historic buildings, and public spaces are concentrated. If the town were a sick patient talking with its doctor, it would say the place where it hurts most is "my infrastructure." Much of Main Street's infrastructure dates back to the early and mid 1900's, and is badly in need of replacement.

As part of Smart Growth, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has initiated a "Neighborhood Conservation Program" to improve Main Street. However, the SHA will only fund improvements primarily within its existing right-of-way. To augment the improvements proposed by SHA, and to implement the town's revitalization plan, CDBG funds are requested for the activities listed below. It makes a lot of sense to complete all the needed improvements during the time when Main Street is "torn-up" and under construction by SHA, then to tear it up again at a later date.

SIDEWALKS. The SHA plans to install about 22,000 square feet of new sidewalk (and curb and gutter). The SHA will fund a "standard" concrete sidewalk specification only. The town feels strongly that a pressed concrete or "patterned" sidewalk finish would be much more appropriate for the downtown. At their November 2000 meeting, the Union Bridge Revitalization Committee approved a design pattern known as "Riverside slate" (see "Patterned Sidewalk"). Patterned sidewalk is not only attractive, but will establish a visual "node" for motorists, shoppers, and residents that they are "in" the downtown area. Patterned sidewalk will provide passers-by with the feeling of being separated from the street. The contrast in color (the concrete will have a color), gives a pleasant transition from the sidewalk to the road, and creates a psychological separation between pedestrian and vehicular spaces. As an added safety benefit, the patterned sidewalk comes with a slip-resistant finish.

A major benefit of new sidewalks will be the construction of handicapped ramps at intersections and other public places by SHA. There are currently no ramps for ADA accessibility.

The new sidewalks will extend from the Western Maryland Railroad Station and Museum, at #41 North Main Street, to about the Brethren Church, a distance of 2,500 linear feet. If the project is approved by CDBG, Union Bridge will also install approximately 1,200 square feet of new patterned sidewalks on two intersecting local streets (Broadway and Locust Street). The town is requesting \$61,000 in CDBG funds (this is the cost difference to pay the additional expense of patterned concrete).

STREETLIGHTS. When studying the issue of streetlights, it became readily apparent that to enhance Main Street, better lighting would be needed. Augmented lighting would improve pedestrian and resident safety, inhibit loitering, encourage nighttime shopping and dining, improve roadway visibility, highlight a building's architectural features, and better illuminate entrances and parking areas for historic buildings, businesses and dwellings during the nighttime hours. The existing "highway lights" attached high on utility poles, are insufficient in meeting these goals.

The town proposes to install 36 decorative streetlights along Main Street from the Western Maryland Railroad Museum to the Brethren Church, a distance of 2,500 linear feet. SHA will install all streetlight concrete footings (for the bases), and the underground conduits. Allegheny Power will deliver and install the lights, poles, fixtures, and electric meter service. The town is requesting \$77,700 in CDBG funds to purchase and install the 36 decorative streetlights.

PARKING METERS: The revitalization plan calls for the removal of the current 48 deteriorated parking meters, and the installation of 24 new double-headed meters. Parking meters will be installed on the West Side of Main Street from about 35 N. Main to about 8 S. Main. SHA will design for the meter connection near the curb line at their expense. The estimated cost is \$700 per double-headed meter. The town is requesting CDBG funds for the purchase and installation cost of \$18,700.

WATER LINE AND METERS. Following the completion of preliminary engineering reports, it was recommended that a new 8" water line be installed in Main Street. This would involve the installation of a minimum 2,150 linear feet of a new water main, water meters, and service lines, also from about the Western Maryland Railroad Station & Museum to near the Brethren Church.

Obviously, the town and State would like to complete the water line in conjunction with the SHA and town revitalization street improvements, so the street will not have to be torn up again in the future. The cost of this program is estimated to be about \$275,000. No CDBG funds are being requested. The town has been approved for a low interest rate loan from the Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

SEWER LINE EXTENSION. To provide public sewer service to about 32 homes along N. Main Street, Union bridge Road, and Honeysuckle Lane, the town plan's to install about 2,320 feet of 8" sewer main to this community. The area has been annexed into the town limits. Existing private disposal units are about 35 years old and in poor condition. Failing septic systems may be contaminating ground water supplies. Almost all the systems are on small lots that do not have sufficient septic drainage replacement areas, even if suitable soils were present. Since this area is directly contingent to the town's existing sewer line in N. Main Street (near the elementary school), public sewer can be reasonably and economically extended. The town's wastewater treatment plant has the capacity to treat the additional sewage. The Maryland Dept. of the Environment concurs with the project, and has approved the use of grant funds and a low interest rate loan to assist the town. The town is requesting \$277,000 from CDBG to provide the remaining funds needed for this project.

OTHER MAIN STREET PROJECTS. No CDBG funds are requested for the projects listed below. They were included in the application because they confirm the investment and commitment of others who are part of the Main Street revitalization effort.

1. Shepherd's Mill Road Truck Bypass. This joint State and Carroll County project will likely divert almost all the heavy truck traffic away from the downtown area. Currently, hundreds of Lehigh Cement Company's large trucks travel directly on Main Street each week to points north and east. Reducing most of the truck traffic will greatly diminish noise, dust, vibration, road damage, maintenance, and traffic volume. Road funding, design and specifications are approved. The project has been advertised for bids.

2. Western Maryland Railroad Station and Museum Building Improvements. The Western Maryland Railroad Historic Society is currently restoring the historic railroad station and museum at 41 North Main Street. Society members serve on the Revitalization Committee and have approved the idea of using their building as a town visitor center.

3. Little Pipe Creek Park. This truly beautiful park system has been a very successful partnership between the town and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Department of the Environment. The stream banks have been restored, wetlands created, and a trail with footbridge are ready for bid advertisement. The area will be full with wild flowers and trees (over 5,000 trees and flowering bushes will be planted). A wildlife area will also be preserved. The entrance to the new park is on Main Street, just a few feet north of the historic Western Maryland Railroad Station & Museum.

If you have any questions regarding the CDBG application or the Main Street program, please contact the town office at 410-775-2711.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast will be served at the Community Center on Sunday, March 18th, 2001. In April, we will serve you breakfast the Sunday AFTER Easter – April 22nd, 2001. Come and enjoy: pancakes, bacon, chipped beef gravy, home fried potatoes, and eggs cooked to order. You can always take something home from our delicious bake table for an afternoon treat. Volunteers are needed. If you are able to help for a few hours, please call Kathy Kreimer at 410-775-7400.

UNION BRIDGE REC COUNCIL

The Union Bridge Area Recreation Council announces the two winners of the Sony Play Station 2 raffle. The winners are Bruce Gravel and Jennifer Conner.

The Union Bridge Recreation Council is currently planning spring programs including softball, baseball, and lacrosse. Volunteers are also needed. The Council meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Union Bridge Town Hall. For more information concerning sponsorships or volunteer opportunities, call Community Coordinator, Anita Staley at 301-898-9451.

FSK MUSIC BOOSTERS BASKET BINGO

On Saturday, March 10, 2001, the FSK Music Boosters will be hosting Basket Bingo at the FSK Cafeteria. Doors open at 5:30p.m. with the games starting at 7:00p.m. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes one set of cards for 20 games of Bingo. Prizes will include the 2001 Easter Baskets, the 2001 Inaugural Basket and the retired 1999 Lots of Luck Basket!!! Platters, sandwiches, desserts and other refreshments will be available.

This is a fund-raising event for the music program at FSK, which supports the marching and concert bands as well as the winter indoor guard. Your attendance will help benefit all the students participating in the FSK music program. Please join us for a night of fun and fantastic prizes!!!

For information or tickets, please call 410-751-9425 or 410-775-7420.

Please be advised that York Waste Disposal observes the following **six** major holidays: NEW YEAR'S DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, LABOR DAY, THANKSGIVING DAY and CHRISTMAS DAY.

If any of these observed holidays falls **ON OR BEFORE** your regularly scheduled collection day, your trash and recyclables will be collected **one day later that week.**

Mr. Neil Parrott and Mr. John Concannon from SHA will be at the March 26, 2001 council meeting to answer any questions residents may have concerning the proposed removal of the traffic signal on the corner of Broadway and Main Street.

MML SCHOLARSHIP: The Carroll County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League is offer five (5) scholarships of \$250.00 each to residents of Carroll County. The deadline to enter is April 20, 2001. Applications may be obtained from the guidance office at Francis Scott Key or any City in Carroll County.

SEWER LINE BLOCKAGES

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

WATER & SEWER AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY (PAGER #) 410-307-5128

Dial number – enter number you are calling from, then press the pound key (#) and hang up

ANYONE WHO WISHES MAY BORROW THE MOVIE, "**HEROIN KILLS**" FROM THE TOWN HALL TO RESERVE THE MOVIE CALL 410-775-2711

NEW!! FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE A "**MONEY DROP**" HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE TOWN HALL.

Students that need community service hours may contact the town office at (410) 775-2711

COMMUNITY CENTER

AVAILABLE FOR WEDDINGS, PARTIES, AND REUNIONS.

CALL THE TOWN OFFICE TO INQUIRE ABOUT RENTING THE COMMUNITY CENTER FOR YOUR FUNCTION