



UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

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Council Meeting

Jan 25, Feb 22 & Mar 22 - 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Jan 21, Feb 18 & Mar 18 - 6:30 p.m.

Council Work Session

Jan 11, Feb 8 & Mar 8 - 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Committee info, contact

Jim Rowe 410-775-9939 or

buffersburg@verizon.net

Web Page

www.carr.org/~unionbr

E-mail

unionbr@carr.org

ARTICLES FOR THE
APRIL/MAY/JUNE
NEWSLETTER
ARE DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE BY
MARCH 15, 2021

OFFICE CLOSED

New Year's Day
January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18th

President's Day
February 15th

**Note: Daylight Savings begins
on March 14th 2021.**

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The Town is still preparing to annex the Buckey Farm at the south side of town to put up solar panels. The Town has always wanted the land annexed so that we could benefit from the taxes. It takes time to put a project of that size together. I hope to see panels by late spring-early summer.

I am also working with county on a storm water pond to be created on Locust Street.

The Army Corps of Engineers is still working on a plan to remove the big tree out of the stream near George Street. It is in federal waters and we have been working with the federal government for over five years. It is a very slow process and COVID-19 has slowed things down even more.

Please remember when shoveling snow to keep fire hydrants open and sidewalks cleared.

Also, shopping and spending your money locally helps keep our town's businesses open. Take time and walk through the Town with friends and relatives and see what Union Bridge has to offer.

Happy New Year to all! Let's get past 2020 and I hope 2021 will be great.

*Perry L. Jones, Jr.,
Mayor*

GRANT PROJECT UPDATE Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for Emergency Generator

The Town has been awarded a grant from FEMA to install an emergency generator. The

generator will run the Water Treatment Plant in the event of an emergency. The Town has selected a contractor and is working to complete the project by February 2021.

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 will be completed in the spring.

Town Hall Security Updates

We have added 24-hour surveillance to all public areas inside and outside of the Town Office. These enhancements were made possible through a grant provided by Carroll County Government.

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

*Mike Reynolds,
Circuit Rider*

DRIVING 101

It's that time of year again where the days are getting shorter and the cold weather is moving in, which means winter is upon us. As we know, with winter comes the possibility of ice, snow, and cold weather.

According to the Farmer's Almanac for the 2020 / 2021 winter season, we are in store for a seasonably cold, wet, and white season here in the northeast. Not

only that, but the writers referenced a major snow event which will strike us in February, which could produce two feet of snow.

With that said, I thought this would be a great time to remind everyone of some safety tips before hitting the roads this winter season. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drivers should follow these recommendations before driving:

- *Know your vehicle's safety features.*
 - Read the owner's manual to familiarize yourself with the safety features installed on your vehicle. Examples of these features are antilock brakes and electronic stability control.
- *Service your vehicle and check for recalls.*
 - Visit your trusted mechanic to complete a tune-up on your vehicle.
- *Make sure you have fuel or that your battery it is fully charged if it is a hybrid – electric vehicle.*
- *Stock your vehicle with emergency items in case you get stuck.*
 - Snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
 - Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter.
 - Jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices such as flares or emergency markers.
 - Blankets for protection from the cold.
 - A cell phone with a charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly-populated areas).

Now that you have the above checklist completed, it's time to hit

the road. According to the NHTSA you should remember the following while traveling in the winter wonderland:

- *STAY HOME and only go out if necessary.*
- *Always buckle your seatbelt.*
- *SLOW DOWN*
 - It is harder to stop or control your vehicle on slick or snow-covered roads.
- *Allow safe distances between you and other vehicles in case you lose traction.*
- *Don't crowd a snowplow or drive beside it.*
 - Remember snowplows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the roads frequently.
 - Keep in mind that if you are behind an active snowplow, the roadway will be safer to travel on.

If you find yourself in a winter emergency, like being stopped or stalled in wintry weather, the NHTSA recommends the following:

- *Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.*
- *Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light turned on.*
- *Avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide poisoning by not running your vehicle for long periods of time with the windows up.*
 - If you must run your vehicle, clear the exhaust pipe of any snow.
 - Run it sporadically only long enough to stay warm.
- Call for assistance

Hopefully, these helpful tips will help you this winter season. As always, be kind, stay calm, stay healthy and stay safe out there.

*Master Deputy
Brian Colussy*

DREAM BIG UNION BRIDGE

Dream Big Union Bridge would like to thank the community for all of their support and for patronizing the Union Bridge Gift Shop run solely by volunteers of Dream Big Union Bridge. The store has definitely brought traffic into the Town of Union Bridge, as we have had shoppers from all over the county, state and surrounding states. The winter store hours starting Jan 2, 2021 will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 11-5 and Sunday 11-3. Visit us on Facebook (Union Bridge Gift Shop).

The "Pumpkin People & Scarecrow Cousins" decorating contest was a great success. The winners were: Business Category - Flood Zone, Non-Profit Category - Dream Big Union Bridge and Family Category – The Keen Family. A special thank you to the judges Commissioner Eric Bouchat, Commissioner Steve Wantz, Sheriff Jim Dewees, and States Attorney Brian DeLeonardo. The winners each won a \$25 gift certificate and (Flood Zone & Dream Big combined their winnings and gave a gift certificate from Dollar General to a needy family in Union Bridge). Everyone enjoyed the decorations.

We are again this year holding our Annual Holiday Decorating Contest and will be posting the winners on our Facebook Page. (Dream Big Union Bridge). The "Dream Big Union Bridge" elves have been out decorating places throughout town. Be sure to check out the Big Tree at the square in Union Bridge (which we hope to be able to hold a lighting ceremony at in years to come), the little tree at the square in Union Bridge, the

Union Bridge Gift Shop, Union Bridge Pharmacy and Esquire Liquors, just to name a few. You never know where those elves will show up!

Dream Big Union Bridge meets the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church on Benedum Street in Union Bridge. ALL ARE WELCOME to attend, and we welcome any new volunteers. The money we raise goes back to our community to help wherever needed. Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events.

For additional information please call: Co-Founder, Cheri Thompson @ 443-340-6305.

HUGHES TRASH REMOVAL 2021 HOLIDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE

New Year's Day week trash will be picked up on schedule.

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://ccgoverment.carr.org/ccg/npdes/>

WATER CONSERVATION INDOOR TIPS

1. **Scrape instead of pre-rinsing.** Save yourself up to 20 gallons of water by scraping food off your dishes instead of pre-rinsing them.
2. **Install high efficiency aerators.** Installing an aerator on your bathroom or kitchen faucet and save about one gallon per minute each time you run them. An aerator reduces the flow from the faucet, and uses air to maintain good water pressure.

3. **Wash only full loads.** Clothes & dish washers use about the same amount of energy and water regardless of the number of clothes or dishes inside, so run full loads whenever possible.
4. **Let your dishwasher do the work.** The average dishwasher uses about ten gallons or less per load. Many kitchen faucets use the same amount of water by running for just four minutes.
5. **Use the microwave,** a bowl of water, or place frozen food in fridge overnight instead of running the tap to thaw it out. You'll save about two gallons of water for each minute the faucet does not run.
6. **Replace older toilets** with a WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilet. Older toilets can use up to four times more water per flush.
7. **Regularly check for & repair water leaks.** Even small leaks can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons of water a month. Many water leaks can be fixed by a do-it-yourself plumber, and repair parts are relatively inexpensive to purchase (\$5-20).
8. **Take shorter showers.** Each minute you shave off your shower time saves up to 2.5 gallons of water.
9. **Select an Energy Star-approved appliances.** They use 15-20 less gallons of water per load, and you will see savings on your energy costs too.
10. **Know where your master shutoff valve is located.** This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

WINTER SEASON REMINDERS

UNION BRIDGE CODE CHAPTER 130, SEC.4 (B2)

Owners or occupants of premises fronting on any street

with paved sidewalks shall remove any snow or ice from the travelled portions of the sidewalk, to a width of at least 30", within 24 hours after snow or ice ceases to fall.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

Please be advised that Maryland Transportation Article 21-1119 authorizes law enforcement officers to ticket and tow vehicles parked in snow emergency routes when a snow emergency is declared. Violators of this transportation article could be fined \$70. Violators will also be responsible for the tow bill, if the vehicle is towed.

When a snow emergency is declared by the State Highway Administration, the Town of Union Bridge will post the declaration on the Town's website. Please remember to stay educated during snow events. Whenever you hear the weatherman call for snow, play it safe and just remove your vehicle from the street so you are not burdened later with cost associated with violations.

WINTER MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PATTERN SIDEWALKS

1. Sand or kitty litter may be used for traction.
2. Snow removal equipment should have a rubber edged blade.
3. We do not recommend the use of salt or snow melting product containing sodium chloride. In event that these products must be used, wash any residue from the concrete surface.
4. Avoid the use of ice picks or anything that may chip or damage the concrete surface.

SNOW

Main Street is a snow emergency route, NO PARKING is allowed when the snow emergency plan is in effect.

NO PARKING

On East Broadway from Lightner Street up to Bellevue and on Thomas Street when the emergency plan is in effect.

SNOW MAINTENANCE AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS

If you have a fire hydrant near your house, please keep it clear of snow so the fire department can quickly access it during an emergency.

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Center is currently closed until further notice. Please check with the Town Office in February for updated information on when the facility may re-open.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TO THE CITIZENS OF UNION
BRIDGE:**

THREE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

LOCATION: TOWN HALL 104 WEST LOCUST STREET

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TOWN ELECTIONS:

Voter Registration: It is necessary to be registered in order to vote in Town elections. If you are already registered with the County to vote in County, State and Federal elections, you are automatically registered to vote in Town elections. If you wish to vote in only the Town election, you may register at the Town Hall during regular hours, 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. **Registration will close on Sunday, April 11, 2021.**

Qualification of voters:

1. You must be a citizen of the United States.
2. You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on or before Election Day.
3. You must have resided within the corporate limits at least thirty (30) days prior to the election.
4. You must be registered to vote.

Qualification of Candidates for Town Council:

1. You must have resided within the corporate limits for at least one (1) year.
2. You must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
3. You must be a qualified voter of the Town.

Terms of office are for four (4) years

A candidate for office must file a "Certificate of Nomination" with the Town Clerk, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please call the Town Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at 410-775-2711.



2021

This Painting Needs a Home

Do you know the child in this painting? We have this painting in the Town Office and have been looking to find the family of this child to give it to the rightful owner. Please contact the Town Office at 410-775-2711, if you know who this child or their family so we can pass along this painting.

