



# UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

## INSIDE

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK  
GRANT PROJECT UPDATE  
TOWN LAW ENFORCEMENT  
UPDATE  
PUBLIC NOTICE - TOWN ELECTION  
INFORMATION  
DREAM BIG UNION BRIDGE  
WATER CONSERVATION TIPS  
WINTER SEASON REMINDERS

### Council Meeting

Jan 23, Feb 27 & Mar 27 – 7 p.m.

### Planning & Zoning Meeting

Jan 19, Feb 16 & Mar 16 - 6:30 p.m.

### Council Work Session

Jan 9, Feb 13 & Mar 13 - 6:30 p.m.

### Heritage Committee info, contact

Jim Rowe 410-775-9939 or

[buffersburg@verizon.net](mailto:buffersburg@verizon.net)

### Web Page

[www.carr.org/~unionbr](http://www.carr.org/~unionbr)

### E-mail

[unionbr@carr.org](mailto:unionbr@carr.org)

## ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL/MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER

ARE DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE BY  
**MARCH 15, 2023**

## OFFICE CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday  
January 16<sup>th</sup>

President's Day  
February 20<sup>th</sup>

**Note: Daylight Savings begins  
on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Winter is here and we will most likely be getting snow. So, just a few reminders:

- Keep sidewalks clean.
- Please do not throw large piles of snow in the street.
- If you have a fire hydrant near your home, please help keep it free of snow and ice. It could be your property fire that may need the water.
- Keep storm drains clean to prevent backups and flooding.
- Remember that Main Street is a snow emergency route and parking during a snowstorm is not permitted.

Please keep an eye on the Union Bridge Fire Company website. Activities change weekly. Lots of fun things are happening.

We are always hearing the Town has nothing for the kids to do. So here is their chance with the help of their parents. The Town will be having a Soap Box Derby event this spring or early summer. Rules on how the cars are to be built will be coming very soon. The rules will be at the Town Office and the community bulletin boards along with different locations in Town. The date will be worked out with the Recreation Council to prevent conflict with any scheduled sporting events. We want as many children as possible to get involved. If you see a child that needs help building something, be a good neighbor and help them out. This could turn into a yearly event. This is not a new idea but the return of one.

The VFW held this event some years ago. What a great event! Let's help it return.

We all know that truck traffic will continue heavily until Shepherd's Mill Road is completed. Please be aware that our streets have had an increase in dirt. Lehigh always has and will continue sweeping our streets. This is taking place on Main Street at least once a week. No set time. If you hear or see them sweeping, please move your cars so that the machine can do a better job.

I would like to thank everyone in town that took the time to decorate for the different holidays. It really brightens up the Town! Please take the time to walk or ride around town to see them all.

Speaking of walking, the new edition of the Town Walking Tour brochure is out. Maps are at the Town Office and different locations around town. If you want some to hand out, please stop by or call and we will see you get some. Lots of history in town.

*Perry L. Jones, Jr.,  
Mayor*

## TOWN LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

In case you haven't heard, there is a new deputy in town. Master Deputy Kevin McGinnis has been assigned to the Union Bridge / New Windsor area and was introduced at our December 2022 council meeting.

Master Deputy McGinnis is native to Carroll County. He is an Eagle Scout and a graduate of a local high school and community

college. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Stevenson University. He has worked for the Carroll County Sheriff's Office for more than seven (7) years.

If you see Master Deputy McGinnis around, please extend a hearty Union Bridge welcome to him. We look forward to working with him.

We would also like to thank Master Deputy Brian Colussy for his service in Union Bridge. He has been reassigned within the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. We wish him success in his new duties.

*Laura Conaway,  
Councilmember*

## **GRANTS & PROJECT UPDATE**

### **Community Center Tot Lot and Walkway Roof Upgrades**

The Town has been granted funding from Carroll County Recreation and Parks and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to make improvements to the Community Center tot lot for some new equipment/safety surface and for repair to the walkway roof leading to the main entrance. As this funding is less than the total amount required, we have applied for the remaining funds through the Maryland DNR's Community Parks and Playground grant. We are currently awaiting a decision.

### **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 findings. The Town has applied for and received a grant to fund the study. The Town has been granted \$5,000,000.00 from the State of Maryland to assist with the improvements once

a project plan has been determined. We are currently awaiting the results of the study being compiled by the Town's engineering firm.

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. We have engaged our engineering firm to move forward with the investigation.

More information will be provided on both workstreams as they develop.

### **2022 Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) – Via Carroll County Various Town Water/Sewer Projects**

The Town was recently contacted by the County Administrator asking for funding requests for eligible water/sewer projects. The County has available grant funding where they can possibly fund 50% for the projects. The County approved funding of a project to replace the water main on Thomas Street & bonnet valve bolt replacements. Carroll County is contributing \$157,606.00 towards the project, which will end up costing approximately \$515,000.00 when completed. Next steps will be to prepare an RFP and select a contractor to complete the project.

### **Track Loader with Mowing Attachment**

We have applied for a grant through the USDA to purchase a track loader with mowing attachment to be able to mow areas around town where access is currently an issue for our existing equipment. If awarded, the grant would cover \$50,000.00 of the expected total cost of \$80,000.00. It is worth noting that we have applied for this grant previously and have been awarded funds to purchase our dump truck

and work truck. We are currently awaiting a decision from the USDA, which will most likely come in 2023.

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

*Mike Reynolds,  
Circuit Rider*

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

**MAYOR AND TWO (2)  
MEMBERS OF THE TOWN  
COUNCIL WILL BE ELECTED**

**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY,  
MAY 9, 2023**

**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 9, 2023.**

### **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 10, 2023.**

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.

## **DREAM BIG UNION BRIDGE**

Happy New Year to everyone! Dream Big finished 2022 off with a "Blast"!

The New Year's Eve celebration was a great success (except for the weather) and the fireworks were phenomenal.

Thank you to everyone who showed up, especially to our many sponsors. Without the sponsors this event could not happen. Want it to happen again this year. Please start volunteering with us to help come up with fundraising ideas and events. We meet the 1st Thursday of every month at St. James Lutheran Church on Benedum Street, in the Social Hall, starting promptly at 6:00 p.m. EVERYONE is welcome. The more volunteers we have, the more we can accomplish.

The Christmas tree lighting was held by Dream Big Union Bridge on December 2nd and we had a great turnout. Special thank you to Rebecca Price, who led us in Christmas carols, followed by Santa's helpers, who extended an invitation to the Union Bridge Gift Shop, which is owned and

operated by Dream Big Union Bridge. Thank you to Santa & the Dream Big Duck for visiting all of the businesses that were open that night and handing out candy canes & rubber ducks.

We have BIG ideas for 2023, but we need HELP! You give whatever time you can, and we can use some new ideas.

January, February, & March are typically slow months for our organization. Upcoming events will be the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on 4/8/23 and the Annual Rubber Duck Derby on 5/13/23. Follow us on Facebook for more details.

You can always stop by the Union Bridge Gift Shop and share your ideas or to get additional information. We post events in the kiosks on the Square, at the walking trail entrance and the wall kiosk on the side of the building of Union Bridge Gift Shop. We also post flyers in local businesses.

The Union Bridge Gift Shop had a very successful 2022. It is becoming a destination for customers. We have had customers from all over and from numerous states. We always encourage our customers to visit the other businesses in town.

## **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://ccgovernment.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**

IS AVAILABLE FOR WEDDINGS, PARTIES AND REUNIONS. CALL THE TOWN OFFICE AT 410-775-2711 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT RENTING THE CENTER FOR YOUR FUNCTION.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

**2023**

---