

UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

January/February 2014

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Council Meetings Jan 27 & Feb 16 – 7 pm.
- Planning & Zoning Meetings Jan 16 & Feb 20 – 6:30 pm.
- Council Work Sessions Jan 13 & Feb 10 – 6:30 pm.
- Heritage Committee information, contact Jim Rowe 410-775-9939 or buttersburg@verizon.net
- Town Office will be CLOSED:
 - January 20th (Martin Luther King Day)
 - February 14th (Presidents Day)
- Articles for the March/April Newsletter are DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE February 15, 2014

website www.carr.org/~unionbr email unionbr@carr.org

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Winter has started out with a big bang. Snow has hit the town and a lot of people were caught off guard. We all know that snow may fall as early as October, like last year, but we are never ready for it. Thanks to Stambaugh's Excavating for being prepared to plow and salt our streets. With the multiple snows we have already had this year, Council member Donald Wilson's budget is being depleted. Highway User Fund has not been restored by the state yet and it may take a few more years before the municipalities get these funds restored 100%.

We could use your help with snow removal, when you are shoveling your sidewalks and driveways take time to remove any snow around any fire hydrants near your home. A hydrant that is snow covered could cause big delays in getting water to a fire. If you have a bus stop near your home, take time to make sure snow and ice is removed for the children to have a safe place to stand and wait for their bus and a clear path way for them to enter their bus. Union Bridge does not have full time Public Works crews, so we appreciate your help.

Don't forget that Main Street is a snow emergency route, therefore if the snow emergency plan is in effect you are not allowed to park on Main Street. Main Street is a State Highway and all cars must be off the road so that the state can clean the roadway. You will be ticketed if you are on Main Street when the snow emergency plan is in effect and your vehicle could possibly be towed.

If you need someone to help shovel snow, call the Town Hall and talk to Dawn. She has a couple of high school students that want to earn some money to purchase their first cars and to help pay car insurance. Remember they are still in school so they will have to schedule work after school hours.

The Mayor and Council will be starting to prepare the budget in January. The County, as of yet, has no plan of how to implement the "Rain Tax". I have been going to meetings at least once a month for a year concerning this tax. Legislation will be introduced sometime in January to repeal the law. All we can do is just wait and see what

happens.

Remember Council meetings are the fourth Monday of the month at 7PM in the back room of the Town Hall. Everyone gets a chance to be heard. Check the cable TV listing to see when the meetings will be aired, come out and be a star.

Perry L. Jones, Jr., Mayor

GRANT PROJECTS UPDATE

CDBG West Broadway Reconstruction Phase Two Application-

The Town of Union Bridge was awarded a \$138,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for phase two to the West Broadway Street project. Phase two will include work from Whyte Street to the dead-end.

Wetlands Park Trail Extension

The Town of Union Bridge completed grant applications to the State for the planned final phase of the trail system in the town's Wetlands Park located off of Rt. 75. Once complete, the trail will "loop" around the park for a distance of approximately one mile.

USDA Rural Development Municipal Truck Purchase

Union Bridge recently completed an application to the Department of Agriculture for a grant to purchase an all-purpose, one-ton vehicle for various town needs including hauling, plowing, towing, road work, park maintenance, emergencies, etc.

Maryland Energy Administration

The Town is currently working on a grant application for smart energy communities. This grant will help the town implement projects to reduce energy use and save money. Once approved, the Mayor and Town Council will decide what projects will provide the most savings and greatest energy efficiency.

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

Jared Schumacher, Town Consultant

WEST CARROLL REC

West Carroll serves Union Bridge, New Windsor and the surrounding areas. Anyone interested in Rec Council programs or events is welcome to attend our meetings, which are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Old New Windsor School/County Government Offices/Library Administration Offices in New Windsor. Next meeting dates: January 13th and February 10th.

For general information about West Carroll programs, contact Community Coordinator, Penny Rockwood at 410-775-1506. See our website: www.gowcrc.com or like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gowcrc>

Another source to check for upcoming sports registrations is "RecZone" found in the back of the Sports section of the Carroll County Times on Sundays.

Basketball

Contact: Troy Staub webaseball123@verizon.net 410-775-9935/410-596-6658

Lacrosse

Contact: Ted LaPierre fsklax2010@gmail.com 443-677-1583

High School Rugby

Contact: Brad Rockwood rockhead01@verizon.net 410-775-1506

IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD.....Essay Contest

This year's essay theme is "Engaging My Community." If you were mayor, what project or event would you use to involve your community?

1. Why is this project or event important to you?
2. How would you encourage your fellow town officials, businesses and residents to participate in the project/event?
3. How would you spread the word about it? Describe one or two examples. Be creative.

The essay contest is open to all Maryland 4th grade students enrolled during the 2013-2014 school year. Eleven winners will be invited (one from each MML district) to participate in the Contest Awards Ceremony. Each will also receive \$100. The original essays must be submitted to MML by March 31, 2014. All entries must have a completed official contest entry form attached. Entry forms can be picked up at your local Elementary School or at the Union Bridge Town Hall.

If you have questions, call 1-800-492-7121 or email sharone@mdmunicipal.org

UNION BRIDGE FIRE COMPANY

Monthly Bingo -- second Monday of every month

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Games begin at 7:00 pm

Any questions call: 410-775-7891

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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 PAGE AMY KALIN 1-410-899-1200

ATTENTION

The newsletter is posted six times per year: January, March, May, July, September, and November and may be viewed on the town's Web site at www.carr.org/~unionbr Also, upon request, paper copies may be picked up at the Town Hall (410-775-2711) or at any local business.

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 or on private property.

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 the event that these products must be used wash any residue from the concrete surface when feasible.
4. Avoid the use of ice picks or anything that may chip or damage the concrete surface.

REMINDER: 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 traveled portions of the sidewalk, to a width of at least 30", within 24 hours after snow or ice ceases to fall.

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 up to Bellevue when the snow emergency plan is in effect.

POST OFFICE

Union Bridge Post Office prohibits skateboarding, scooters and playing on their property. It is a very dangerous spot for children due to traffic.

UNION BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER

Is available for weddings, parties and reunions. Call the town office at 410-775-2711 to inquire about renting the center for your function.

MD STATE POLICE DRUG TIPS HOTLINE 410-875-0936

THEY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!!

PLEASE RECYCLE

*IT'S STATE LAW.

*IT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY SMART.

*IT SAVES THE TOWN MONEY (YOUR TAXES).

*THE MORE YOU RECYCLE THE LESS TRASH YOU PUT INTO LANDFILLS.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!