



UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

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Council Meeting

Oct 26, Nov 23 & Dec 21 – 7 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Oct 15, Nov 19 & Dec 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Council Work Session

Oct 19, Nov 9 & Dec 14 - 6:30 p.m.

Heritage Committee info, contact:

Jim Rowe - President: 410-775-2901 or
email: jimandfrank@verizon.net

Web Page

www.townofub.org

E-mail

unionbr@carr.org

ARTICLES FOR THE JANUARY - MARCH 2027 NEWSLETTER

ARE DUE IN THE TOWN OFFICE BY
December 15, 2026

OFFICE CLOSURES

October

12th – Columbus Day

November

11th - Veterans Day

26th & 27th – Thanksgiving

December

24th – Closing at noon

25th – Closed for Christmas

Dec 31st – Closing at noon

Jan 1st (2027)– New Year's
Day– Closed

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Yes, the school year has started once again. Please take the time to ride around town and find out where the bus stops are located. There are a lot of children on the streets, so always watch out for them at bus stops and while traveling up and down the streets.

This fall offers many opportunities to enjoy events in and around Town. Try something new, meet your neighbors, and experience what the community has to offer.

On Sunday, October 18, from 1-3 p.m., I will be grilling hot dogs at the Walking Trail. We will be at the far end toward the railroad bridge. Bring the kids and fishing rods and have a fun afternoon. This is a FREE event. A donation box for anyone who may want to donate toward the trail maintenance will be available. Mowing is done regularly for visibility and safety for those who use the trail. Believe it or not, it uses less fuel to keep it mowed than letting it grow up.

Trick-or-treating will be on Saturday, October 31, Halloween Night, from 6-8 p.m. Bring everyone out and have fun!

Let's not forget November 7th for the Marine Corps Birthday at Flood Zone. November 11th is Veterans Day, so be sure to thank the veterans for the service they gave for the freedom we enjoy every day. Thank all those who

have served and are still serving our country. God bless you all.

*Perry L. Jones, Jr.,
Mayor*

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR PROJECT UPDATE

Community Center Park Tennis Court Improvements

The Town received Program Open Space funding for improvements to the Community Center Park tennis courts and lighting. Updated cost estimates show that additional funding is needed to complete the work properly, so the project is temporarily on hold. The Town will provide another update when more information is available.

Community Center Tot Lot – Phase One

The Town received funding from Carroll County Recreation and Parks and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to improve the Community Center tot lot with new equipment and a permanent safety surface. Because of the playground's size, the work will be completed in phases, beginning with the front portion. Following a request for proposals, the Town selected a contractor to replace the large play structure and the mulch surface. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2027, with completion targeted for May 31, 2027.

Town Wastewater Treatment Plant and I&I Efforts

The Town is assessing the requirements for upgrading the

wastewater treatment plant. Working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Town will evaluate several options and develop a plan to address the study's findings. A grant funded the study, and the Town has also received \$5 million from the State of Maryland to assist with improvements after a project plan is approved. The Town's engineering firm has completed a draft of the study and is working with MDE to advance the next phase.

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. Investigations have been completed, and the Town will be seeking funding opportunities to implement the recommended course of action.

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
Town Administrator*

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

The Town has recently made some needed upgrades to the Community Center thanks to a Project Open Space grant providing funding from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Carroll County, and the Town.

Upgrades include:

- Flooring improvements
- Kitchen enhancements
- Installing a fireplace insert
- New tables and chairs
- Installation of chandeliers
- Upgraded Heating and A/C

We hope that everyone enjoys the new enhancements that we have made. To help offset some of the costs, we have updated the rental prices as follows:

Rental Cost:

- In-town Residents: \$150.00/day.
- Out-of-town Residents: \$300.00/day.
- Security Deposit: \$200.00 (refunded if no damage is assessed).
- Kitchen Usage: \$50.00
- Janitorial Service: \$75.00 (Optional)

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

*Mike Reynolds
Town Administrator*

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2026

On June 22, 2026, the Union Bridge Town Council adopted the April 2026 "Water Resources Element: Carroll County, Freedom, Hampstead, Manchester, Mount Airy, New Windsor, Sykesville, Taneytown, Union Bridge, Westminster," including its referenced components. The adoption excludes the individual municipal-system sections in the "Overview by Municipal System" other than the Union Bridge section. The Council also directed that a copy of the adopted Plan element be filed with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

UNION BRIDGE LIONS CLUB

Upcoming Events

October 27th - Annual Halloween Party - Free to the public.

Place: Union Bridge Fire Department.

Time: 6-8 pm. Costume Parade, refreshments, and cash prizes.

December 16th - 1st Annual Community Christmas Party. Special appearance by Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Place: Union Bridge Community Center

Time: 6-8 pm. Games, prizes, and refreshments

UNION BRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ladies Auxiliary Upcoming Events

October 25th: Slippery Chicken Pot Pie. \$8.00 per quart. Pre-orders only, please. Pick up from 1- 3 p.m. on October 25, 2026.

Contact: Missi Green at 443-340-9462

**Orders must be placed by
October 19, 2026.**

**Saturday, November 28th:
2026 Christmas Mart.**

Over 30 vendors, free admission and parking. Homemade food and refreshments.

Time: 9 am – 2 pm.

Contact: Missi Greene at 443-340-9462.

UNION BRIDGE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Union Bridge Business Association is being reestablished to renew a shared voice for local businesses, entrepreneurs, property owners, and community partners. Joe Conaway, owner of Conaway Consultants, a member of the reestablishment committee, will serve as Interim President while the organization takes its first steps toward rebuilding an active, member-led association. The former President, Judy Jones, will serve as consultant to the group as it reorganizes, helping provide continuity and guidance during the transition.

A Town Shaped by Business and Innovation

Union Bridge has long been defined by its businesses. Originally known as Buttersburg, the town grew rapidly after the Western Maryland Railroad arrived in 1862, turning it into a regional market and transportation hub. By the early 1900s, Union Bridge supported hotels, boarding houses, schools, dry goods and grocery stores, a hardware store, a

drug store, and many skilled trades.

The Union Bridge Banking and Trust Company was founded in 1899 on Main Street, and the Union Bridge Hardware Company opened in 1900, evolving from blacksmith and farm supplies to a full-line hardware and housewares store. Stauffer's Drug Store opened in 1900, and Myers' Super-Thrift followed in 1965, reflecting decades of local retail growth. Industry also left a deep mark: the Tidewater Portland Cement Company arrived in 1909 (later Lehigh Hanson/Heidelberg Materials) and became the town's leading employer for generations.

Union Bridge was also an early adopter of technology, becoming the first small municipality in Maryland—and among the first in the nation—to install electric streetlights. In 1811, Jacob R. Thomas invented and first used the world's first reaping machine in Union Bridge, transforming regional agriculture.

The Impact of Business on Union Bridge

Today's business community continues that tradition with family-owned and locally operated establishments such as Tucks Service Station, Hartler's Funeral Home, Esquire Liquors, Original Pizza, 7- 11, Linbeau's Railway Pub, Hair and Now, Save Point Arcade, and newer ventures like Flood Zone Marketplace & Brewery, Seize the Spray, & Tequila y Mezcal.

Today, businesses like the pharmacy, medical center, dental office, gift shop, and museum continue to shape Union Bridge's welfare, character, and economy. The business entity registrations (from MDSDAT) state there are 98 businesses in Union Bridge employing over 800 people. Businesses have been the backbone of Union Bridge's identity and resilience. They provide jobs, sustain local services, attract visitors through heritage tourism and events like Depot Days, and contribute to the

town's small-town charm and sense of place.

The Union Bridge Business Association has historically played a role in supporting this ecosystem by promoting local commerce, organizing community events, and advocating with town leadership for issues important to merchants and property owners. But, like so many things, it went dormant during COVID. But it is time for a comeback.

Rebuilding the Association

The reestablished association will build on that tradition by creating opportunities for local businesses and interested residents to share ideas, identify priorities, and develop practical initiatives that benefit the entire community. Possible areas of focus may include business promotion, community beautification, local events, tourism and heritage awareness, communication among merchants, and advocacy for issues important to the Union Bridge area.

The first organizational meeting is planned for October, with the specific date to be announced on the UBBA Facebook page. Interested people are encouraged to attend and help shape the association's direction. The meeting will provide an opportunity to collect ideas, discuss the organization's goals and structure, plan for formal elections, and begin getting the Union Bridge Business Association up and running as intended.

To stay connected, visit the Union Bridge Business Association - UBBA Facebook page. Look for the "UBBA" in the title for the official page.
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1F9E9A3yWn/>

Business owners, prospective entrepreneurs, property owners, residents, and community supporters are all welcome to participate. If you want to help, make Union Bridge a great small town and support its continued

growth and prosperity, come join us.

HUGHES TRASH REMOVAL 2026 HOLIDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving week –

Normal pickup.

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve–

Normal pickup.

YARD WASTE

Please note that yard waste pickup for the year has ended. We will begin again in the spring of 2027.

LEAF PICKUP

The Town will collect leaves from October through December. Leaves may be placed in any type of bag, provided each bag is light enough for one person to lift and dispose of safely. To schedule a pickup, call Town Hall at 410-775-2711.

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 can save about one (1) gallon per minute each time you run it. An aerator reduces the flow from the faucet, and uses air to maintain good water pressure.
3. **Wash only full loads.** Washing machines and dishwashers 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 the 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 short showers.** Each minute you shave off your shower time saves up to 2.5 gallons of water.
9. **Select ENERGY STAR-certified appliances.** Efficient models can reduce water and energy use, helping lower household utility costs.
10. **Know where your master shutoff valve is located.** This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

EYE ON WATER

EyeOnWater gives Union Bridge water and sewer customers direct access to their water-consumption data and tools for managing water use. Download the free EyeOnWater app from Google Play or Apple's App Store or visit <https://eyeonwater.com/signin> on a computer.

Customers can quickly view recent water usage with a two-week comparison, and view detailed water usage history by the hour, day, week, month and year!

Have a recent water bill available because you will need your account number to register.

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.carr.org/ccg/npdes/>.

WINTER MONTHS

Remember that the winter months will soon be upon us. Be sure to drain all outdoor water hoses and temporary water lines.

Check all outdoor faucets to make sure they are turned off and are not leaking.

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 inches, within 24 hours after snow or ice ceases to fall.

WINTER MAINTENANCE & CARE OF PATTERNED 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 products containing sodium chloride. If 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 REMINDER

On East Broadway from Lightner Street up to Bellevue and on Thomas Street when the snow 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.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Emergency responders need a clearly visible house number to locate you quickly. Make sure your number can be seen from the street in daylight and at night, and use numbers large enough to read from a passing emergency vehicle. A missing or poorly displayed number can delay assistance when every minute matters.

IMPORTANT

If you witness water being taken from a fire hydrant without authorization, call 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
Bret Grossnickle
410-274-2860**

THE 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.

***Please Have a
Safe & Happy
Holiday Season***



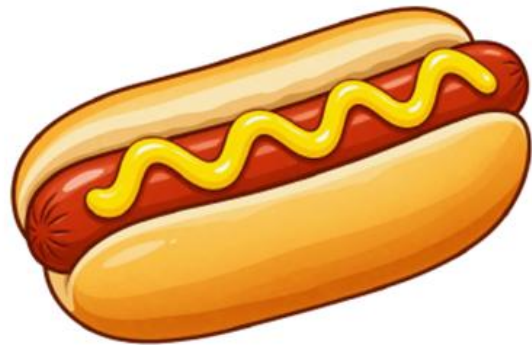
Hotdogs in the Park

{Little Pipe Creek Park along the Donald D. Wilson Walking Trail}

Sunday, October 18, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by The Town of Union Bridge



Donations will be accepted for park maintenance.



ARE **YOU** A
salt-savvy
NEIGHBOR?

As temperatures drop and winter weather moves in, neighbors rely on each other to keep their public walkways clear from ice and snow. Sometimes, road salt is necessary to prevent icy pavement. Are you a salt-savvy neighbor? Take the quiz below...

- ☐ I clear the snow from my walk as soon as possible
- ☐ I wait until after all the snow is removed to apply road salt

Did you know?

12 ounces of salt is the perfect amount for 10 sidewalk squares or a 20 foot driveway. Any more than that is ineffective, and unnecessarily harmful to humans, pets, plants, wildlife, and infrastructure.



- ☐ I only use salt when absolutely necessary
- ☐ I use only the amount of salt that is needed
- ☐ I spread salt evenly so that the granules are 1-2 inches apart



For more information and resources, visit us at <https://bit.ly/MDEsaltsmart> or scan the QR code

**IF YOU CHECKED
EVERY BOX, THEN
YOU'RE A WINTER
PRO**

WINTER SALT:

The Do's and Don'ts



Maryland
Department of
the Environment



There are many misconceptions among winter salt users that lead them to incorrectly apply this de-icer, causing unnecessary harm to humans, pets, infrastructure and local waters.

DO



Salt smart!



- Shovel before ice has the chance to form
- Salt after snow is removed, while pavement is wet
- Salt only where needed
 - Shady, ice-prone areas
- Use the right amount (12 ounces = 10 sidewalk squares)
- Spread salt evenly (1-2 inches apart)



12 oz. mug =
10 sidewalk squares



Sprinkle salt on top of snow, or on dry pavement before a storm

Salt will not be able to melt the snow, and could even cause refreezing.



DON'T



Over- salt

Using excessive amounts prevents the salt from melting ice, creates skidding hazards, corrodes infrastructure and harms human and environmental health.



Salt unevenly

Salt must have an even spread to melt ice effectively. No clumps/piles!



Leave behind spills

Salt spills are pollution. Sweep them up before they wash away.



For more resources on winter safety and effective road salt use, visit us at <https://bit.ly/MDEsaltsmart> or scan the QR code