

UNION BRIDGE NEWSLETTER

January/February 2004

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Council Meetings	Jan 26*** & Feb 23 – 7 pm.
Funding Committee Meetings	Jan 14 & Feb 11 – 7pm.
Planning & Zoning Meetings	Jan 15 & Feb 19 - 6:30 pm.
Council Work Sessions	Jan 12 & Feb 9 - 6:30 pm.

OFFICE CLOSED January 1 & 19, 2004

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE IN CITY OFFICE Feb 16, 2003

Web Page www.carr.org/~unionbr

E-mail unionbr@ccpl.carr.org

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Wow, another year gone! A lot has happened this past year and 2004 looks to be no less busy. Shepherd's Mill Road should be finished any time now and Main Street hopefully will be completed by this time next year. The construction on our new water filtration plant is moving ahead, with completion sometime in late spring or early summer. We will continue to work toward improving our water and waste water systems and services in the coming year.

Beginning in January we will be addressing public safety issues, with a special focus on landlord responsibilities. We wish to work with the landlords in their efforts to reduce the occurrence of criminal activities on their properties. This has become a drain on the Sheriff's Department as well as the State Police. Too much time is being spent returning to the same addresses for similar offenses. Whatever is decided upon to try to solve these problems will not be limited to rental properties only. Everyone should be held responsible, legally and monetarily for his or her own actions.

I was contacted by the Health Department recently about our position on the fluoridation of our drinking water. This practice is widely done and has been proven effective in preventing dental caries. We have the ability to provide this service to the residents, but I personally would like this decision to be made by everyone. The question could be decided upon at the next election. This will give everyone time to research the practice of adding fluoride to drinking water. Please feel free to contact the Council or myself on this or any other issue.

Thank you for your continued patience with all that is taking place and have a safe and happy Holiday.

Bret Grossnickle

UNION BRIDGE RESIDENT DEPUTY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Have a safe and happy Holiday Season from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy 1st Class

R. C. Cromwell

Carroll County Sheriff's Office

Non-emergency 410-386-2900

EMERGENCY 911

Tips hotline 1-888-399-TIPS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Water Treatment Plant

A contract was approved with Conewago Enterprises from Hanover PA for construction of the new Water Treatment Plant on West Locust Street. The facility will cost approximately \$1.26 M. Project construction is approximately 10% complete.

Main Street (Rt. 75) Revitalization Work

Ross Construction Inc. began work on Main Street in early September. Project construction is approximately 15% complete. The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) will fund a \$2.5 M improvement project for Main Street, from the bridge over Little Pipe Creek to the town limits near the Brethren Church. SHA-funded work includes storm drainage, inlets, sidewalks, curb, gutter, pedestrian lighting, traffic control and signalization at Main and Broadway, resurfacing Main Street, signage, landscaping, and other improvements.

COMMUNITY MEETING NOTICE

A community meeting will be held on Friday, January 16, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., in the Union Bridge town office to review the Main Street improvement project. All business managers, property owners, and town residents are welcome to attend and ask questions of the contractor and SHA project engineer.

The project will be coordinated with the town's CDBG program, a \$220,000 grant from the Maryland Dept. of Housing and Community Development. The town's grant will cover other

improvements not funded by SHA including upgrades to town side-streets, new parking meters, burying overhead utility lines at Main and Broadway, (electric and cable wires), and a parking area at the entrance into the Little Pipe Creek Park and trail (next to the car wash). The town has hired Stambaugh's Inc. to complete the parking lot improvements.

In addition, the town will be installing an 8" water line at this time. This is a continuation of the town's comprehensive water improvements program partially funded through the Rural Utilities Program, USDA.

The above mentioned improvements are major in nature and will take almost a year to complete. Please consider what impact the construction activities along Main Street will have on your home or business. The first work item will be to install the storm drainpipes and the new 8" water line (including work at the RR crossing). This will be done for the full length of the roadway. After the underground infrastructure is installed, the contractor will then work block-by-block to install the new patterned sidewalk, curb, gutter, streetlights, etc.

*** Please contact the SHA District 7 Engineer with questions or complaints. Or, contact the town office and we will try to address your concerns with the State.

Fair Housing

As part of the town's receipt of grant funds from the Maryland Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, we promote fair housing practices in the Town of Union Bridge. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability. For more information about fair housing and the Fair Housing Act, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing, or contact HUD's Mid-Atlantic office at: Fair Housing Hub, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107-9344, or call 1-888-799-2085.

Section 3 Employment and Business Opportunities

The Town of Union Bridge has received program funding from the Maryland CDBG program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Union Bridge will comply with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requiring that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for employment and development will be given to lower-income residents of the project area and contracts in connection with the project be awarded to eligible businesses concerns which are located in, or owned by, persons residing within the Town of Union Bridge.

If any town resident is looking for employment or business opportunities, please contact the town for a list of contractors working in the town on federally funded projects for possible employment and business opportunities. Call the town office at 410-775-2711 for more information.

FUNDING BREAKFAST

Jan. 18th & Feb. 15th

HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

You may have noticed a car traveling very slowly through all the streets of Union Bridge on Friday evening December 12th. The judges for the Holiday decoration contest were carefully viewing all of the festive decorations and lighting displays. After much deliberation the following winners were selected. Thank you to Lehigh Cement for donating the prize money. Prizes awarded –First Place \$25.00, Second Place \$15.00, & Third Place \$10.00 in each category. Your friends and neighbors appreciated everyone’s efforts in celebrating the Spirit of Christmas.

Lighting:

1st place – Mary Garber

2nd place – Bud Zimmerman

3rd place – Anna Mae Roloson

Traditional:

1st place – Jeff Stambaugh

2nd place – Ruth Zile

3rd place – Margaret Reese

Most Original:

1st place – Mike Tarr

2nd place – Tonya Dower

3rd place – Kathy Nail

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

The Union Bridge Church of the Brethren has a special Tuesday evening program for kids in grades K-5. It is called “Faith Weaver Friends Club”. Games, crafts, snacks, music are all a part of each activity-packed session. “Faith Weaver Friends Club” is fun and it’s free. But children will get a lot more than fun out of “Faith Weaver Friends Club”. Working with their weekly journal will reinforce language and writing skills they are learning in school. Group activities will develop important

social skills. This winter session begins January 20 and ends March 9. New members are always welcome at “Faith Weaver Friends Club”. Sessions begin at 6 p.m. and end at 7:30. We can even help with transportation.

To get your child involved, contact the Church of the Brethren, 124 S. Main St., Box 518 or call Pastor Jim or Pastor Anna at 410-775-2717 or call Kaye Horr, Director, at 410-635-2877.

PATRICIA STONESIFER, COUNCIL MEMBER IN CHARGE OF WATER AND SEWER HAS A PAGER # FOR YOU TO CALL.

****410-899-1200****

To page Tricia, call her pager #, then key in the # you are calling from and press pound button (the # key on your phone) and hang up. Tricia will call you back and do what she can to take care of the problem.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HOLDS A BREAKFAST THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.

SNOW

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

ORDINANCE #263 B-2

Owners or occupants of premises fronting on any street with paved sidewalks shall remove any snow and 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.

*****The County Commissioners will be at the January 26, 2004 Council meeting. Please plan to attend.**