

**VILLAGE OF UNIONVILLE  
NEWSLETTER  
2008**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUR COUNCIL** and their respective committees.

DAVID DUKE: VILLAGE PRESIDENT

DEAN HARTMAN: PRESIDENT PRO-TEM (Park, Zoning Officer & Budget Committee) Chairperson of Fire Board

KATHY HARE: TRUSTEE (Park, Budget Committee & Fire Board Member)

THOMAS LENHARD: TRUSTEE (Street & Sidewalk, Building & Equipment Committee)

TOM YOUNG: TRUSTEE (Utility, Wages & Insurance Committee)

MIKE GREMEL: TRUSTEE (Utility, Insurance & Zoning Committee)

EARL BAILEY: TRUSTEE (Street & Sidewalk, Building & Equipment, Wages, Sanitary Committee)

CAROLE GANGLER: CLERK

LAURA LEE LESKOWICH: DEPUTY CLERK

LEILA RISH: TREASURER

DPW: DAVID YODER: (Supervisor)

BRENT VERMEERSCH: (Assistant)

POLICE DEPT: PAUL STRASZ (Chief)

LYNN POKORSKI (Officer)

DEREK JOY (Officer)

FIRE DEPT: EARL BAILEY (Chief)

RAY STRIETER (Assistant Chief)

**LOSS OF A BELOVED COUNCIL MEMBER:** During the past year the Village of Unionville sadly lost council member Arnold Ortner. Arnie took his job as a civil servant very seriously. He was honest, hard working, and always conscientious. When he said he was going to do something, it was as good as done. Many times he was not feeling well but never complained, just did what had to be done. Rarely do you find an individual with as much passion and dedication. Arnie is deeply missed by all village employees as well as his fellow council members.

**PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Mike Gremel (Chairperson), Kathy Hare (Secretary), Jeff Anker and Brent Vermeersch. This committee is seeking two additional members. If you are a resident and are interested in being a part of this committee, please call the village office at 674-2244.

**STREET AND SIDEWALK COMMITTEE:** reports that 200ft. of sidewalk along the north side of Bay St. in the downtown area will be replaced. One block on Merry St. from Cass St. to Church St. and one block on Phelps St. from Center St. to Marvin St. are scheduled for repair this year.

**TREE REMOVAL:** Trees along Bay St. in the downtown area will be removed before the new sidewalk is replaced. The street and sidewalk committee along with the DPW Supervisor inspects streets and sidewalks yearly. Please report to the village office any tree that you feel is a danger to the public.

**PARK PATH: AGAIN NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED ON THE PATH** with the exception of vehicles used by the DPW personnel doing routine maintenance or disabled persons using an Amigo.

**VANDALISM IN VILLAGE PARKS:** Each year the village has had to deal with vandalism in the park at a tremendous cost to village tax payers. Parents are responsible for the actions of their children and should be aware of the penalty involved. The fine for vandalism is \$1,000 plus restitution for the cost of any damage done.

**VILLAGE CURFEW:** Village Ordinance-Sec. 14-241 states it shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 years to loiter or remain in or upon any streets, alleys or public places in the village between the hours of 11pm of any day and 6am of the day following. Article 14-243 further states that it is unlawful for any parent, guardian, or other person having the legal care and custody of any minor under the age of 18 years to allow said minor to remain on streets during this time. (PARENTS, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?)

**LITTLE LEAGUE:** reports that fencing has been installed at the new little league ball diamond and a new score board has been donated by Meijers to be installed in the near future. Memorial bricks continue to be sold for the memorial path in the park. Fencing was donated by Lapeer Metal Stamping and has been installed at the new softball diamond. The Village of Unionville is grateful for the many donations received for our park and for dedicated people like Jeff Anker who is constantly seeking donations and spends endless hours improving the Little League ball diamonds.

**EVENTS:** A Farmer's Market was held in the downtown area this year. The event was a huge success and the attendance was overwhelming. The village hoped for at least a small crowd, but the attendance was close to 2000, which was beyond our expectations.

**STORM SEWERS:** DPW reports that storm sewers are being cleaned on a regular basis and the majority will be cleaned by the end of the summer. The village requests that you be careful not to obstruct manhole covers with any debris such as leaves, brush etc.

**EQUIPMENT:** The street sweeper has given up the ghost. We find that it is beyond repair and the village does not have the necessary funds to replace it. Therefore, we ask that residents be tolerant of the situation.

**SEWER:** Sludge test at the lagoons was completed by Michigan Rural Water and results found to be satisfactory.

**THE WATER DEPARTMENT:** Several leaks were discovered in the water tower. Therefore, it was necessary to have the tower drained and repaired this year. Water rates have been a major issue in recent months along with the rates at the water vendor. For the last few years Rural Development has highly recommended a rate increase. The village now has no other choice but to raise rates. The water committee is in the process of working out a solution. The village is well aware of the poor economy and will do everything in their power to avoid putting undue stress on its residents.

**LEAF BUNKER:** PLEASE DO NOT PUT BRUSH IN THE LEAF BUNKER!! This was built for leaves only. Brush has a tendency to create a foul odor and also plugs the tail of the dump truck when leaves are hauled. Brush can and should be placed at the curb for chipping.

**LEAVES:** You are responsible for the leaves in your yard. If you leave your home in the fall for the winter months, the village requests that you make the necessary arrangements for leaf cleanup. Leaves continue to fall while you are gone and this should not be your neighbor's responsibility.

**CHIPPING** of brush is done between April 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. during the first week of each month or as the need arises.

**WEB SITE:** You can access the village web site at [www.unionvillemi.com](http://www.unionvillemi.com). You will find village minutes and coming events along with names of council members and their committees posted on this web site.

**FIRE HYDRANTS:** The hydrants were not flushed this spring due to repair on the water tower. The hydrants are scheduled for flushing during the week of Sept. 08, 2008. Residents are again cautioned that rust may appear in their water.

**UNIONVILLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:** Their board of directors consists of Judy Remar, President; Leon Stecker, Vice President; Ann Kalis, Treasurer; Sherry Libracki, Secretary; Kay Reames, Bill Burrows and April Gremel, Board Members. This committee has been very busy with plans for beautification of the downtown area. Their recent project is the Kemp Memorial Park. They have been busy raising money by selling memorial bricks and 50-50 raffle tickets for redesigning the veteran's memorial. The next step is to install a clock in the park. They will continue to raise money with the idea of installing new light fixtures along the sidewalk in the downtown area. MDOT has Bay Street and Center Street scheduled for repair in 2013. Hopefully, enough money will have been raised to continue their lighting project at that time. The association has also agreed to take over the Farmers' Market next year. They will change the name to Unionville Summer Days. The committee has set the annual town wide garage sales for the fourth weekend of July. Volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested, you may call Judy Remar at (989) 551-0107.

**WHISTLE STOP USA:** Due to the hurricanes, the economy and this being an election year, the Whistle Stop will remain closed until spring.

**THE ICE RINK:** The ice rink will be in use again this year, WEATHER PERMITTING! When there is a heavy snow fall, the ice rink will only be cleared after all streets have been cleared. Volunteers to clean the ice rink are most welcome.

**PETS:** If you own a pet, you are responsible for any disturbance they may cause your neighbor. Be aware that complaints for excessive barking could result in a fine. Do not allow your pet to leave feces in or on your neighbor's property. This also includes the village parks, especially the walking path. Neither village employees nor your neighbor should have to clean up feces left by your pets.

**TRASH COLLECTION:** Waste Management's contract will expire on December 31, 2008. Due to rising gas prices, trash and recycle collection cost is expected to escalate.

**VILLAGE COUNCIL MINUTES:** Each month the minutes will be put on file at the Columbia Township Library, posted at the Unionville Post Office, posted outside of the Village Clerk's office, and also published on the village web site. The council meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are open to the public.

**NEW WATER RATES: NEW WATER RATES WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 01, 2008. THE NEW RATES WILL BE \$9.00 MAINTENANCE FEE PER MONTH AND \$4.00 PER THOUSAND GALLONS USED.**

**WATER VENDOR: NEW RATES FOR WATER VENDOR WILL BE \$6.00 PER THOUSAND.**