



VILLAGE VOICE

Published by the Village of Union Grove

FALL 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Hello Neighbors!

It's been a really busy summer in the Village of Union Grove. On behalf of the Village Board and Village Staff, I want to personally thank you for your ongoing communication and support. So what have we been up to? Well, a lot of what you've asked us to do!

- After listening to business owners and getting a recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce, the Administration and Planning Committees have discussed making changes to the **Downtown Sign Ordinance** with the intention of attracting and retaining business to Main St. If passed, it will let the owners in that part of town represent their brand in a way the rest of the village businesses currently enjoy and improve the way shop owners everywhere in the village can do window displays. **Read more on pg. 4 about the proposed changes and the public hearing on September 13.**
- Thanks to a concerned neighbor, we were able to get a YIELD sign replaced with a STOP sign on 9th Ave. and High St.
- We have received a lot of interest from citizens that would like to allow the possible use of **UTV/Golf Carts** on village roads. **Read more on pg. 4 about this topic and the upcoming public hearing on September 27.**
- **We have discussed the possibility of changing how we vote for our trustees by bringing back the "At Large" system** as opposed to the way it is currently conducted. The hope would be to get more people to participate in the election process.
- Mike Hawes (Village Administrator) and I attended the first public event held at the Foxconn Globe. The event was hosted by Racine County Economic Development Corp. We were able to network with some representatives from other municipalities and businesses. We also watched a presentation on how important innovation was to the future of all organizations.
- Mike Hawes (Village Administrator) and I attended the Union Grove Chamber of Commerce's ribbon cutting ceremony for Pine Acres General Store to help celebrate the opening of a great business to our Main St. I had the honor of welcoming them on behalf of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Village.



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- We are in the preliminary stage of looking at options to help drive commercial and industrial development along Hwy 11, specifically the Gorman property.
- Our DPW laborer Jeff Swantz saved the Village a considerable amount of money by doing the auto body repair on our damaged Village truck.
- We are currently in the process of looking for a new prosecutor for our court.
- We have finally started the process of looking at what a new fire station will cost. Site selection is also being discussed.
- We are at the “idea” stage and will begin discussions to gauge the interest of having a skateboard “spot” (not park) in Union Grove along with other recreational interests. A park planning workshop was held on August 19, and input will be considered in the Village’s new Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- The Village Administrator and Village Clerk brought the antiquated “Village Soda Tax” to our attention and we all agreed it should be repealed. We did it.
- We had a very well attended grand opening of Grade School Park’s “Pavilion.” Kiwanis Club president Liz Johnson and Lions Club president Jim McCormick attended and spoke at the event. County Board Supervisor Scott Maier was in attendance as well. Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave and I also gave opening remarks and acknowledged all of the great sponsors. Trustee Sasse was the MC for the event.
- Trustee Graf, Trustee Brinkman, and I attended the Racine County Fair Business Leaders and Elected Officials Dinner and had an opportunity to network with business owners and government representatives from around Racine County.
- Trustee Graf, Trustee Brinkman, Trustee Sasse, and I participated in Union Grove’s Independence Day Parade.
- I had the privilege of helping Judge the Pie Contest at the Racine County Fair along with Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. I was fortunate enough to place a winning bid on a pie at auction which was made by Union Grove’s very own Diane Skewes! Her Key Lime pie was delicious. (My kids ate most of it.)
- The proposed rail to trail conversion through downtown Union Grove is steadily moving along. Union Grove Rails to Trails, Inc. has an article further explaining the process on page 10. The Village of Union Grove plans to form a committee to work in conjunction with Union Grove Rails to Trails, Inc., Racine County, and the State of Wisconsin DNR towards possible amenities and design for the section that goes through Union Grove. Please contact us with your ideas.
- The 10th St. and York Street road project is plugging along and we are anxious to see its completion. Thank you to all who live along those stretches of road for your cooperation and patience during the construction. I know the dust and detours are frustrating, but it will be worth it when its done.
- We have discussed the possibility of installing a second RRBF crosswalk system near the high school at Main St. and 7th Ave.
- Rehabilitation of Well #4 on New St. is progressing toward completion; kudos to DPW Director Rick Piette and utility committee members Trustee Winget, Trustee Svendsen and Trustee Sasse for your involvement on this process.



Steve Wicklund
Village President

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- A façade grant application was approved for Top Paws to replace their existing awnings. Congratulations to Top Paws, and we welcome applicants from other downtown businesses to participate in the façade grant program.
- Village auditors presented the annual audit on July 26, issuing a “clean bill of health” of the Village’s finances. Committees and the Village Board will be collaborating on the 2022 Budget process in the coming months.
- New public mapping tools have been rolled out on the Village website (uniongrove.net and click on “Mapping Hub”). Utilities staff will begin using GIS mapping to more effectively track maintenance activities.

That is the short list!

It looks like we have a lot to do this fall. Like many of you, the only time I like surprises is from my friends and family at Christmas and my birthday, not from the Village Board. As your Village President, I don’t want you to be surprised by anything that your Village Board is doing. My goal is to have the trustees and committee members have discussions with you and your neighbors to better serve the community in the process of visioning and problem solving. I don’t need or want rubber stamps, I need active participants with ideas and opinions. Please feel free to call any of us with questions and concerns. I would also like to see you in the seats at our meetings. This is your Village, lets make it better together.

See you soon!
Steve Wicklund
Village President

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PUBLIC MEETING—DOWNTOWN SIGN CODE

We Want to Hear from You!

The Union Grove Village Board and Plan Commission are requesting input from community members at the upcoming public hearing.

Sign Code Revisions

On **Monday, September 13 at 5 p.m.** the Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on an ordinance that would revise the Village's sign codes with the intent of helping attract and retain businesses. The proposed ordinance would eliminate the downtown-specific sign requirements that were established to maintain a certain style and character in the downtown area by limiting light, colors, size and location of signs. The downtown requirements prohibit signs that are electronically lit from within "unless it can be proven historically accurate to the style of the building." Under the downtown design requirements, any new or replacement signs require a design review by the Community Development Authority. By removing the downtown design requirements, downtown businesses will be subject to the regulations that currently apply to the rest of the Village, which are generally less restrictive and do not involve a review by the Community Development Authority.

The proposed ordinance was recommended by the Administration Committee which received feedback from the Chamber of Commerce requesting the sign regulations to be more business-friendly. The Committee also discussed the regulations with Village staff and the building inspector.

The proposed ordinance would also revise the Village-wide sign code in the following ways:

- The code currently limits the size of ground signs to 25 square feet per face of the sign if is located on the property line and it allows the size of the sign to increase one square foot for each foot it is set back from the property line (up to a maximum of 150 square feet). The proposed ordinance will increase the sign area at the lot line to 32 square feet and will allow a maximum size of 40 square feet when the sign is five feet or more from the property line; any sign over 40 square feet would require approval from the Plan Commission.
- Window signs are currently limited to 25% of the glass area of the window. The proposed ordinance will allow window signs to take up 50% of the glass area; it will also allow perforated window decals to take up to 100% of the glass area.
- The proposed ordinance would remove the fee requirement for temporary banners requiring a permit.

PUBLIC MEETING—ATV/UTV/GOLF CART PUBLIC ROAD ACCESS

We Want to Hear from You!

The Union Grove Village Board and Plan Commission are requesting input from community members at the upcoming public hearing.

ATV's, UTV's and Golf Carts on Public Roads

Several residents have expressed interest in the Village adopting an ordinance that would allow ATV's, UTV's and/or golf carts on Village roads. **The Village Board will have a public hearing on this topic on Monday, September 27 at 6 p.m.** to gain more feedback from the community. Residents and property owners are encouraged to participate.

Wisconsin state law allows municipalities to adopt an ordinance that authorizes the operation of ATV's on local roads that have a speed limit of 35 MPH or less. This does not include state trunk highways (like Hwy. 11) or connecting highways (like S. Colony Rd. and Main St.) which are under the authority of the Wisconsin

Department of Transportation. There are several examples of municipalities across the state that have adopted ordinances allowing ATVs and UTVs. Many of them include regulations relating to things like lighting, licensing, insurance, noise, hours of operation and allowed routes. State law also allows municipalities to adopt ordinances allowing golf carts on roads that have a speed limit of 25 MPH or less.

After collecting additional feedback from the community, the Village Board will decide whether to proceed with having an ordinance drafted on this topic. Look for updates in the Village's Monthly E-News e-mail newsletter (available at uniongrove.net/newsletter).

UNION GROVE—YORKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the time of writing this, the County fair just ended, summer is coming to an end quickly, and parents and kids are gearing up to go back to school.

In this edition, I wanted to keep you up-to-date with what has been going on with your fire department. We recently sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to several architectural firms to start looking at a Needs Analysis for a new fire station. This process will include a space analysis, site analysis, and a conceptual schematic. Our current station was built in 1974 and does not meet the demands of the department. We are looking and planning ahead to make sure we meet the needs presently and into the future, and ways to improve our services to both Villages.

January 2021 saw the addition of **three** paid, daytime staff members who are at the station for 8 hours, 7:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. We are a volunteer department and our members are very proud of that. We work extremely hard to maintain and provide you with the highest level of service,



however the large majority of our members work at their other jobs outside of the Village and are not available to respond to calls. We are looking to add additional staff next year for more coverage to better respond to our calls. Speaking of calls, we are on pace to set the highest call volume the department has ever seen. We anticipate our call volume to exceed 1000 for 2021!

In planning for the future, we will also be looking to you for help and input. **We will be sending out a survey in the near future and ask you to answer some questions so we can better understand what you expect from your fire department.** We appreciate and need your input.

On behalf of the Union Grove-Yorkville Fire Department, please be safe and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Tim Allen
Department Chief

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The cooler pleasant weather of fall is upon us and hopefully you are relaxing and taking in the colorful scene that is all around the Village during this time of year.

Please review the following to help to make sure that Union Grove is always an inviting place to live and a tremendous location to have a place of business:

- Swimming pools cannot be drained into sanitary sewers, roadside ditches, or on to neighboring properties.
- **Village ordinance requires sump pump discharges to be a minimum of 15 feet back from the edge of your property line, approximately 25 feet from road face of curb.** Side yard discharge is not allowed. Sump discharges not in compliance cause slippery conditions on sidewalks and streets when temperatures fall below freezing. PLEASE relocate your discharge if you are not compliant.
- **Check your mailboxes for compliance with USPS guidelines.** The front face of your box should be 6 inches to 8 inches back from road face of curb, 41 inches to 45 inches to bottom of box and support posts should be embedded minimum 2 feet 6 inches into the ground. **If your mailbox does not meet these requirements and is damaged during snow removal operations repair/replacement will be at your cost.**
- **Brush pickup will end the week of October 26th and will start again next April.** Please do not place any brush in the gutters or on the road. The Village will pick up Christmas trees during the month of January.
- **Leaf pickup will start in October and, weather permitting, the last pickup will be the week of November 19th.** October and November are the ONLY time that leaves (NO YARD WASTE) can be placed in the gutters. The Village does not pickup yard waste, PLEASE bag it for pickup by John's.
- **Snow and/or ice must be cleared from your sidewalk within 24 hours from the end of a snow/ice storm.** Throwing or pushing snow into the street is in violation of Village Ordinances and causes safety issues for everyone.

- **Winter parking goes into effect on November 15th and runs through March 15th.** During this time, overnight parking is permitted from 2:00 a.m.—6:00 a.m. on the even numbered side of street during even numbered days and on the odd numbered side of street during odd numbered days. No vehicle can be parked in Village Parking Lots in excess of 24 consecutive hours.



Richard L. Piette
Director of Public Works

*From the Department of Public Works,
enjoy those last few days of Summer and look forward to
those bright colorful fall days!*

Richard L. Piette
Director of Public Works

2021 Fall Construction Projects

- Reconstruction of Industrial Dr, York St. and 10th Ave is expected to be complete by the end of November.
- Installation of the new pump in Well #4 is anticipated in the last quarter of 2021 or first quarter of 2022.
- Repaving of the Village Hall parking lot and Lift Station at 67th Dr and Hwy 11.
- Asphalt patching on 9th Ave., 11th Ave., and Center Street due to water main breaks.
- Asphalt patching on 11th Ave., 13th Ave., 14th Ave., and New Street due to localized pavement deterioration.

There will be a significant amount of construction around the Village this fall, combined with school being back in session. **Please make safety a priority to see ensure everyone makes it home safe at the end of the day.**

LIBRARY CORNER

Graham Public Library will be closed:

Labor Day–Monday, September 6th
Thanksgiving–Thursday, November 25th

Books may be returned to the main entrance book drop.

We're your friendly source for faxing, black & white and color printing & photocopies, and free Wi-Fi.

The Library is now lending mobile Wi-Fi hotspots!

We're very excited to offer this service to the community. Maybe you're wondering "What's a mobile hotspot?" It's a device that turns a cellular data connection into a Wi-Fi connection; which allows you to connect your smartphone, computer, or tablet to a Wi-Fi network. The Library's mobile hotspots run on the T-Mobile Sprint cellular service, therefore, the connection depends on the T-Mobile Sprint coverage area.

Why use a mobile hotspot?

- You do not have Wi-Fi at home
- Your at-home Wi-Fi or broadband connection is unreliable or slow
- You want to access Wi-Fi while traveling (while still within the T-Mobile Sprint coverage area)
- You are in a remote location without Wi-Fi (but are still within the T-Mobile Sprint coverage area)
- Your phone's data is limited

For more information about our hotspot lending, please visit our website or stop in the library.

In-Person Youth Events

Storytime begins on September 7 at 10:00 am. Join us each Tuesday morning in the library for songs, stories, and fun activities. All young children accompanied by their caregivers are welcome. No registration is needed.

Homeschool STEAM Group begins Wednesday, September 8 at 1:00 pm. Meet inside the library. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to explore a different STEAM topic each week. No registration is needed.

Children's Make at Home kits

Our project kits were so popular this summer that we've decided to continue offering them! A new kit will be available each Friday. Stop by the library to pick up a kit (one per child), and while you're here, why not check out some books, too?

Monthly Adult Book Discussions

We will be meeting in-person at the library at 1:00 pm. To register: please call, stop in the library, or email uniongrovelibrary@uniongrove.lib.wi.us. We will have the selected books ready for check out one month in advance of our meeting date.

- Sept 30** Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts
Oct 28 Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce
Nov 18 Long Bright River by Liz Moore



Graham Public Library

1215 Main Street, Union Grove • 262-878-2910
uniongrovelibrary@uniongrove.lib.wi.us

Find us on Facebook or on
our website www.uniongrove.lib.wi.us

Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

UNION GROVE KIWANIS CLUB

Danner Memorial Dedication

Saturday, September 25th



School Yard Park
1365 State St., Union Grove
3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.
Open to the Public

Please join us as you are cordially invited to a Memorial Dedication with music and refreshments to Honor and Recognize the Devotion and Commitment of

David P. Danner

who sparked an appreciation of music in Students as the Union Grove Elementary Band Director and Teacher from August 1973 until June 2013

Actual dedication and unveiling of memorial will occur at 3:45 pm with music before and after, along with light refreshments. Rain or Shine

Sponsored by Union Grove Kiwanis Club

A colorful poster for a Kiwanis Golf Outing. The text reads: "Join us for the Kiwanis GOLF OUTING at RIVERMOOR GOLF CLUB Waterford Wisconsin SEPTEMBER 26th 12:00 NOON \$100 per player, Includes: 18 holes with cart, and great food. RAFFLES - PRIZES - GUN HOLE PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO THE GO FRANKGO FOUNDATION". The poster features a logo for Rivermoor Golf Club and a photo of a woman and a child.

Union Grove Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale

Downtown Union Grove at Village Square Park

Friday, November 26, 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 27, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 28, 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 2, 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
(unless sold out earlier)

Enjoy our selection of quality trees!

All proceeds go back to the community through our many donations!

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UNION GROVE RAILS TO TRAILS

Thank you for your patience. This project has definitely been a test of **our** patience, as we have been working on this process for over six years now!

We are pleased to share that the purchase of the corridor is almost complete! The State of Wisconsin and Racine County are currently working on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), which will define their rolls in the development and maintenance of the future trail. With that in mind, we anticipate that we will be holding Listening Sessions with the State, County, and local municipalities along the corridor very soon. The public will be encouraged to share input towards the design and usage of the future trail at these sessions. We will be sure to share information for these events on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/uniongroverailstotrails



Thank you all for your continued support during this trying process. Without your words of encouragement, it would have been a much more difficult project for us. We look forward to being able to use this trail in the near future!

UNION GROVE PUBLIC MARKET

Union Grove Public Market is OPEN!

The Market has been a great summer success. We are located in the NE parking lot at Piggly Wiggly **every Tuesday from 3 pm—7 pm through September 28th**. We offer local honey, produce and beautiful work from local artisans.

We are pleased to announce that A&A Café will be joining us in September with wraps, salads, Panini's and soups. All items are made with local produce.

For more information please call Cindy Ryan, Market Manager, at 262-617-9922.

CHURCH NEWS

Union Grove Congregational United Church of Christ

1106 – 11th Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182
262-878-1690

ugcongregational.org • [facebook.com/ugcongucc](https://www.facebook.com/ugcongucc)

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*

Worship Service weekly on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. In-Person Worship on Sunday, while still providing ZOOM service at the same time. Please email us at ugcongucc@sbcglobal.net if you would like information on our worship service.

Free Community Meal: Once a month our church hosts a Free Community Meal, open to anyone wishing to enjoy a hot meal, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Help us spread the word. Everyone is welcome. Bring your neighbors, friends or family to enjoy a good, homecooked meal. A free-will offering basket is available. Donations accepted but not required. Fall dates include September 28th hosted by Union Grove Congregational, October 26th hosted by Eastern Star and November 23rd we are looking for a host. If you have interest in providing or serving a community meal, please let us know at 262-878-1690 or ugcongucc@sbcglobal.net. If you can offer assistance in other ways, or if you have any questions, please contact us.

Chair Yoga with Pastor Kelsey: All are welcome to join us for our Fellowship program in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m.

World Communion Sunday: We welcome the community to join us on October 3rd for Worldwide Communion Sunday at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to attend our worship service.

Soup and Salad Luncheon: Wednesday, October 13th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our menu includes a selection of homemade soups and fresh salad plus desserts and beverages. Phone in your to-go order by calling the church from 8:00-10:30 a.m. at 262-878-1690 on the day of the luncheon.

Church Bake Sale at the Holiday Craft Fair: December 4th We will have a variety of homemade goodies. More details to follow.

Be sure to patronize our local businesses who support and pay for this newsletter with their advertising dollars!

WESTOSHA SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

Welcome back! WSCC is anxious to reconnect friends back at the Center. Familiar programs and new favorites await.

In addition to Ceramics and Crafters classes, get creative in our NEW art classes! Our Monday **painting class** has expanded to offer watercolor, acrylic, oil, or other media of choice. Draw or paint under the guidance of our accomplished new instructors. Come back on Thursdays to delve into **sculpting with clay**. Another new art teacher coaches as seniors explore **3-dimensional art** at each one's own pace and level.

All our healthy choices are back, too. With Tai Chi, Line Dancing and Weight Loss Buddies, Chair Fitness or Chair Yoga, get fit the best way, with friends. Plus, the Fitness Center with its nine workout machines is open when we are, 9 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Don't forget about the best bet for fabulous fresh vegetables, the **WSCC Healing Garden's Market** on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., through October. Or, feel free to self-serve Monday to Friday. Also, we accept Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency Veggie Vouchers. Fresh herbs, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, green beans, carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and sweet corn, vegetables from the one-acre lush garden pack the garden refrigerators. Squash and pumpkins highlight fall harvest.

We have **new ventilation systems** to guarantee the safest air quality possible; Energy Recovery Ventilation for continuously circulating fresh outdoor air, plus UV and plasma filtration systems to both HVAC systems.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 9 Craft Fair, Silent Auction, Bake Sale. Pizza from wood-burning oven or Hot Dog Lunch

Saturday, December 4 Holiday Celebration & Paddock Lake Lions Club Books & More Sale

See a full schedule of activities on our website
WestoshaSeniorCenter.com

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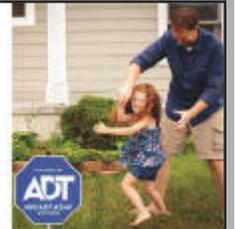
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the Village of
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P: 262-878-1818
F: 262-878-3782
WEB: www.uniongrove.net
Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Village of Union Grove

Union Grove, Wisconsin 53182

Permit #11



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Save the Date...

Monday, September 13th • 5:00 p.m.

Village of Union Grove Public Hearing re: Downtown Sign Code
Union Grove Village Hall, 925 15th Ave.

Monday, September 27th • 6:00 p.m.

Village of Union Grove Public Hearing re: ATV/UTV/Golf Cart Usage on Village Streets
Union Grove Village Hall, 925 15th Ave.

Saturday, December 4th

The 9th Annual Union Grove Holiday Craft Fair

Held at: Union Grove Elementary School, 1745 Mildrum St., Union Grove
For Vendor & Event Info. Contact: 262-864-4083 or ugholidaycraftfair@gmail.com