

FALL 2022
TOWN UPDATE

It has been quite some time since I have done a newsletter, so it is time to get caught up on things.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING:

- 1: Not new but we are very fortunate to have Steel-Pro Inc. purchase property in Town, they are a premier company with excellent management. They will bring in a new multi-million-dollar building, 60 plus employees, groundbreaking will be announced but will probably be a couple of years.
- 2: In relation to above, Steel-Pro will be helping the Town of Union and Parks and Recreation develop the remaining property to an all-purpose recreational property. With little cost to the Town when it is finished.
- 3: Again, speaking of recreation, yes, we have attempted to get the tennis and basketball courts resurfaced. Due to labor and COVID, it is only now that companies have begun responding to us. It may be beneficial financially to replace the tennis courts instead of trying to repair them, but we will know soon.

SCHOOL AND COUNTY BUDGETS:

MSAD #40 and Knox County budgets are being worked on now, if you have a concern on their budgets, I strongly urge you to get involved. You can find information on each of their websites.

The Town of Union will begin its budget process starting after the first of the year, all meetings are available on Town Line Streams, or you can come into a live meeting.

NO TOWN MEETING:

Last June you all voted to go to a referendum/paper ballot instead of the open town meeting. This is a major change for us and will have a little bit of a learning curve.

One of the new things with this format is running for the Budget Committee and Pullen Committee, we usually do this from the floor of the open meeting, but now candidates will need to take out nomination papers and be on a paper ballot.

In June you will vote on all budget items and candidates, it will be important to become informed on the warrant articles relating to the budget. Our plan is to do an extensive public engagement to explain the new process and each budget item. BUT you need to participate to become informed, our website, Facebook and mailings will be available. Please take time to digest them.

WINTER:

We just had a little bit of snow this week, but it is not too late to repair those mailboxes that are hanging on by one nail or the post that is leaning towards Sawyers. Wet snow, and we seem to get that all the time now, will wipe out a mailbox in a flash and the plow will never touch it.

THOMPSON COMMUNITY BUILDING.

As many of you know this has been a contentious issue for years and seems to take up most all of the SB meetings and quite a bit of staff time every week.

We are working with Mid Coast Council of Governments, MCOG, to come up with an RFP to possibly, and I say possibly, come up with a solution to this long-standing issue. We hope to have this issue before you on the June ballot. One item of discussion is to sever the yellow portion to a developer and use the fund to keep the brick recreational section going, including the thrift shop. Other ideas may come of the task force, stay tuned for more information as it develops.

In the meantime, the non-profit TMA is working to keep events such as pickle ball, the thrift shop and other activities going in part of the building.

UNION ASSISTANCE FUND

The Union Assistance Fund was set up to help Union residents with heating, food, and other issues they may have. If you would like to donate, please send your funds to The Town of Union, checks payable to Union Assistance Fund.

Don't forget the Union Tree Lighting on December 4th from 6-8 PM