

Learn about Union's history at Third Tuesday event

Talk is Aug. 16 at the
Little White Church

By Janet Dodson

For Go! Magazine

UNION — The Union County Museum will host their Third Tuesday event in the Little White Church on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.

The title of the presentation is "Main Street Union's History & Hopes," presented by Walt Brookshire, a retired Union pharmacist, longtime Union advocate and owner of a restored historic building on Main Street.

The presentation is open to the public and there is no admission fee.

Brookshire was a principal author for Union's Commercial Historic District, which was recognized in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. He will give a brief history of Union's Historic District and discuss how the change in architecture over time may be indicative of the commercial district's economic importance. He will provide an update on how Union's participation with the Oregon Main Street Program, through its newly created Main Street Union organization, may lead to improvements in Union's commercial area and public spaces.

The buildings on both sides of Main Street from Blue Mountain Brewery (which was demolished by Union School District) to the Union Historic Hotel will be included in his discussion. In 1997, David York, with Livable Oregon, a predecessor to Oregon Main Street, reviewed Union's 22 historic brick buildings and provided restoration plans for them. York also illustrated a historic interpretation of east and west sides of Main Street, showing historically appropriate facades. These illustrations will be used in Brookshire's presentation.

The discussion will also include Steve Wadner's presentation to Main Street Union on Main Street being part of The Old Oregon Trail Highway and efforts by Main Street Union to recognize the



Learn about Union's history during Walt Brookshire's Third Tuesday presentation for the Union County Museum. The talk is Aug. 16 at the Little White Church in Union.

Union County Museum collection/Contributed photo

historic name.

The Main Street method of downtown revitalization is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation that has been in use by many communities in Oregon and across the country for several decades. If a downtown in Oregon is attractive, historical and vibrant, it is probably a Main Street participant. Some of the longest running programs in Oregon are in La Grande, Albany and McMinnville.

Once part of the Oregon Economic Development Department, Oregon Main Street is now under the Oregon Heritage State Historic Preservation Office, which is part of Oregon Parks & Recreation Department. This office provides the support, training, expertise, and planning assistance participating communities rely on for their success.

"We can't preserve our history if we don't have a plan," Brookshire said. "Main Street Union's 'museum' will be a preserved and functioning downtown."

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Union County Museum is a

non-profit organization whose purpose is to collect, preserve and present the history of Union County, Oregon. The museum is governed and operated by volunteers with the Union County Museum Society. Find more information and join our cause at www.ucmuseumoregon.com.

The museum is open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mother's Day

through September. If you love history and would like to volunteer a few hours a month sharing that interest with museum visitors, please contact Raye Clark, volunteer coordinator, by sending an email to history@ucmuseumoregon.com, or call the museum, 541-562-6003, and leave her a message. Proposals for Third Tuesday presentations are also welcome.

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