



Jeremy Ramage  
Commissioner

## **An Update from Commissioner Jeremy Ramage on the City of Union**

Fellow Citizens of Union,

As current chair to the Union Economic Development Committee, I wanted to provide you with a few updates on current and future development within our community.

The Mt. Zion Road project will begin the bidding process in October, with work to begin in 2017.

The Kroger Marketplace project is progressing well. With the favorable weather we've had this summer, the excavation and concrete work has gone well. The slab is completed and the wall structures will start going up soon. The project is still on target for completion mid to late 2017. The Kroger project management team will provide quarterly updates to the EDC, and we will post those updates on the city website.

You'll also notice other projects underway in the Union area. St. Timothy's School is well underway, the Affinity apartments have one building almost completed, and new homes continue to go in Westbrook and Triple Crown.

We are very excited about all of these projects that are underway and we ask that you please visit the website at [www.cityofunionky.org](http://www.cityofunionky.org) for more details and updates.

Citizen Questions:

### **What's going on with the Union Town Center Plan and what is the city doing to help get the project underway?**

Over the past year, the EDC has continued working on a strategy to get the Union Town Center jump-started. The Union Town Center Plan was developed almost 16 year ago, and serves as a vision of what a more modern downtown could be. It depicts shops and amenities that promote a sense of community, a place to eat, shop, work, live and play. When the plan was developed, the sky was the limit and no one could have foreseen that a short eight years later we'd experience a drastic economic downturn. That downturn resulted in the housing market crashing, and along with it, most of the development in the private and government sectors. Since 2008, I think everyone would agree that growth has been much more calculated and cautious, especially in retail/commercial.

Here in Union, we are fortunate and proud to have the new Kroger Marketplace underway. This project not only brings increased square footage, but larger parking facilities to accommodate our growing population. With new conveniences like grocery pick-up, an expanded deli serving healthy grab-and-go meals, and other non-grocery essentials, our citizens are excited to see this projects completion. Let's not forget that this project also brings the opportunity for new jobs and increased choices in dining and retail via the out lots. Kroger has been a part of our community for many years, and we are proud to partner with them on their new investment.

The Kroger Marketplace project, as well as the Mt Zion Road Project, bring with them positive change for the citizens of Union. A change that we are confident has started to attract the right partners and developers that share our vision and understand what is unique about Union.

The EDC and Boone County Planning Commission have visited with the City of Fairfield (OH) about their Fairfield Village Green as well as the developer of the Liberty Town Center project in Ohio. We have gathered valuable information regarding the positives and negative outcomes of these projects, and we look to learn from those as we move forward with our Union Town Center project.

The EDC plans to have several developer meetings before the end of 2016 to showcase Union, to show what makes us special, and to show them what vision we have.

For more information on the Union Town Center, please visit [www.uniontowncenterky.org](http://www.uniontowncenterky.org).



I hope all of you come out to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and I ask that you remember the local government matters too. Your elected officials are focused on making our community a great place to live, work and play. So please make sure you put some thought into who best represents you and our community.

Thank you,

*Jeremy M Ramage*

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