

Union

FY2011-2012

County of
Union
North Carolina

Annual Report



A Look Back While
Focusing on the Future

Mission Statement

The County of Union will respect, value and respond to the dynamic needs of our residents, businesses and visitors. Working in partnership with our community, Union County will become the county of choice as people elect to live, work and do business in our safe, healthy and vital neighborhoods.

Core Values

Union County's mission is accomplished through five paramount values representing the core of what we stand for as an organization:

**Customer Service
Ethics & Integrity
Job Knowledge & Skills
Professionalism
Self-Management**

Message from the County Manager

Thank you for your interest in the accomplishments of Union County during the previous year. Although we still have many significant challenges, I am confident that we are helping to build a brighter future for the residents of Union County.

The previous fiscal year saw a stagnant local economy and an increased cost of providing basic services to the public. Despite a bleak national economic forecast, Union County continued to improve service delivery to the public and even managed to replace numerous positions that were eliminated during previous budget years. The Board of Commissioners continued this effort during a complex budget process, resulting in a Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget that does not require additional property taxes from the public.

In November 2011, Union County signed a long-term lease with our hospital partners, Carolinas Medical Center-Union, for the long-term management and development of our county hospital. Rest assured that Union County will see enhanced medical services added to the already growing array of health services available to the public.

While the current economy remains challenging and our demand for services continues to climb, I join the leadership of Union County in assuring that our future remains bright. Speaking on behalf of our employees, we are committed to seeing that bright future become a reality.



Cindy Coto

County Manager

Board of Commissioners



Jerry Simpson
Chairman



Todd Johnson
Vice-Chairman



Tracy Kuehler
Commissioner



Kim Rogers
Commissioner



Jonathan Thomas
Commissioner

The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative and governing body of Union County. The five-member commission is responsible for establishing policies to protect the health, safety and general welfare of Union County residents.

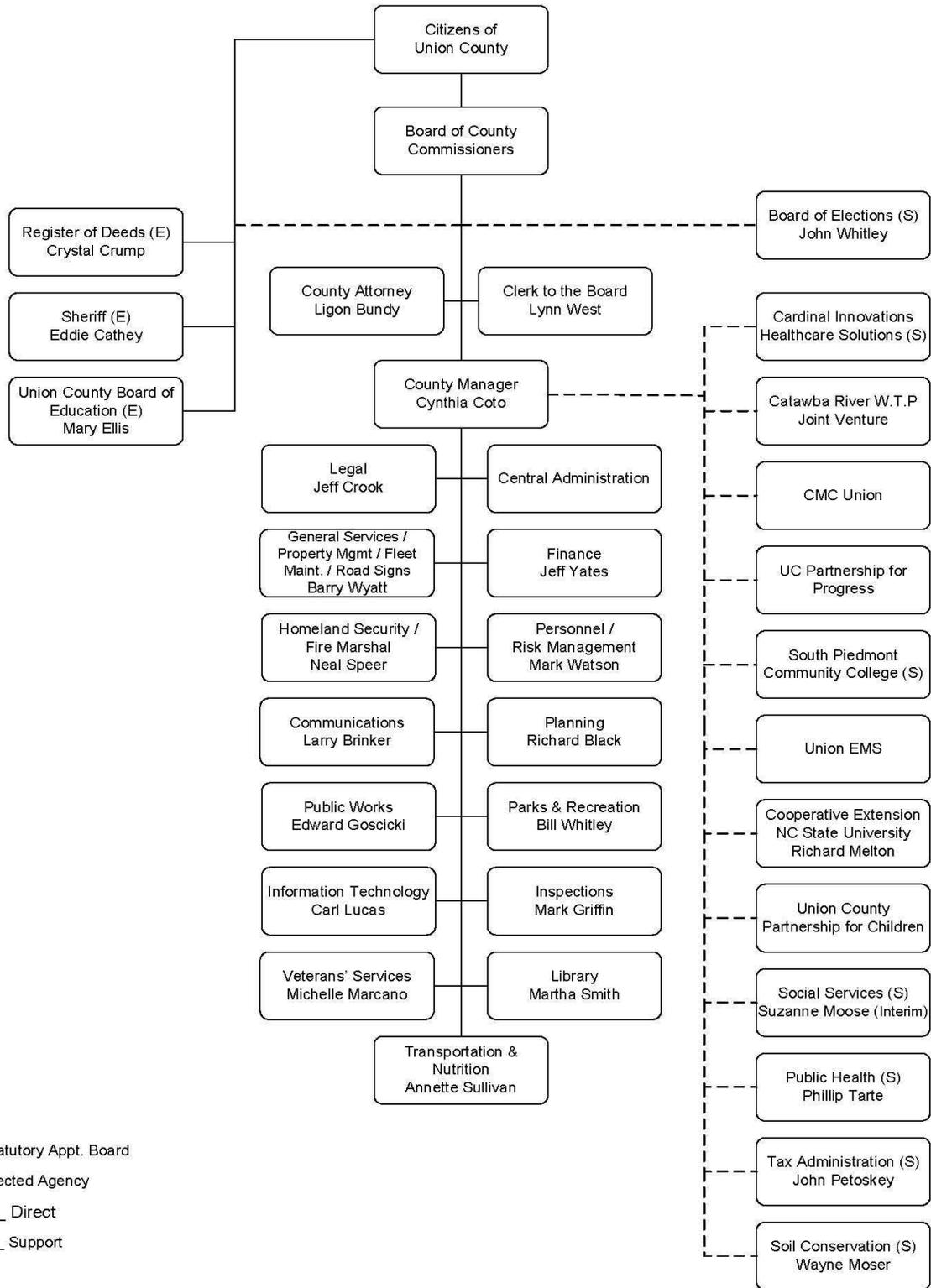
Commissioners are elected to serve four-year staggered terms. All five commissioners are elected at-large. Commissioners take office four weeks after they are elected in general elections held every two years on the first Tuesday in November. At its first meeting in December, the Board of Commissioners selects a chairman to preside over the County Commission and vice chairman to assume those duties in the absence of the chairman.

Exercising their legislative powers, the County Commission adopts ordinances and resolutions to establish policies and programs and to provide public services and facilities primarily for the unincorporated areas of Union County. The County Commission considers major problems facing county government and guides the growth and development of the county in a manner consistent with public interest.

Board of Commissioner Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, Board of Commissioner meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the first floor Board Room of the Union County Government Center, 500 N. Main Street in Monroe. Meetings are streamed lived on Union County's website at www.co.union.nc.us. Meetings are broadcast on a tape-delay basis on Time Warner Cable Channel 16 (UCTV 16) daily at 2 a.m., 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Professional Leaders Serving Union County



Profile of Union County



Municipalities:

Fairview
Hemby Bridge
Indian Trail
Lake Park
Marshville
Marvin
Mineral Springs
Monroe
Stallings
Unionville
Waxhaw
Weddington
Wesley Chapel
Wingate

Union County was formed in 1842 from parts of Anson County and Mecklenburg County. Its name was a compromise between Whigs, who wanted to name the new county for Henry Clay, and Democrats, who wanted to name it for Andrew Jackson. Both names were subsequently used for new counties in the extreme southwestern part of the state.

Union County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state of North Carolina with a population of 201,292. It encompasses approximately 643 square miles of land. Union County is geographically located in the south central Piedmont area of North Carolina within close proximity to the city limits of Charlotte and is considered an integral part of the Charlotte Metro area. The county is strategically located in proximity to three interstate highways, I-485, I-85 and I-77. U.S. Highway 74 passes through Union County as do state highways 200, 205, 218, 75 and 84.

Union County is in the 8th and 9th U.S. Congressional districts, 35th State Senatorial District and the 68th and 69th State House districts.

The county is divided into nine townships : Goose Creek, Jackson, Marshville, Monroe, New Salem, Vance , Buford, Lanes Creek and Sandy Ridge. Union County consists of 14 municipalities, each with its own distinctive character. It provides a unique blend of rural and metropolitan lifestyles. While having vast areas of nature untouched by development, it also has areas flourishing in suburban and industrial growth. The primary factors contributing to Union's economic growth are agriculture, business and industry.

Recreational activities abound in Union County. Athletic organizations throughout the county offer activities for children and adults alike. With three public courses, six semi-private golf clubs and two private country clubs, golfers have plenty of choices of courses to practice their skills. The county's largest recreational facility is Cane Creek Park with 1,050 acres of land surrounding a 350-acre bass lake.

Access to quality healthcare is not an issue for Union County residents as more than 120 healthcare providers practice in the county. Carolinas Medical Center-Union is the largest healthcare provider in the county. CMC-Union is affiliated with Carolinas HealthCare System, the largest healthcare system in North and South Carolina and one of the largest public systems in the nation.

The Union County Public School system is one of the largest in the state, providing educational services to more than 40,000 students in 53 schools. South Piedmont Community College and Wingate University are located within Union County.

As Union County continues to grow in population, the County is making water and sewer available to residents and businesses. The county's future will be greatly impacted by the eventual construction of the Monroe Bypass and an expanding healthcare sector.

With all it has to offer, Union County provides an exceptional environment in which to live, work and raise a family.

What We Accomplished

Financial Highlights for 2011-2012

Union County Budget Summary

The Union County Board of Commissioners adopted a 2012-2013 budget of \$228.35 million. The budget is \$9.15 million more than last year's original adopted budget of \$219.1 million.

The budget contains a decrease in the county tax rate from 66.5 cents to 66.0 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

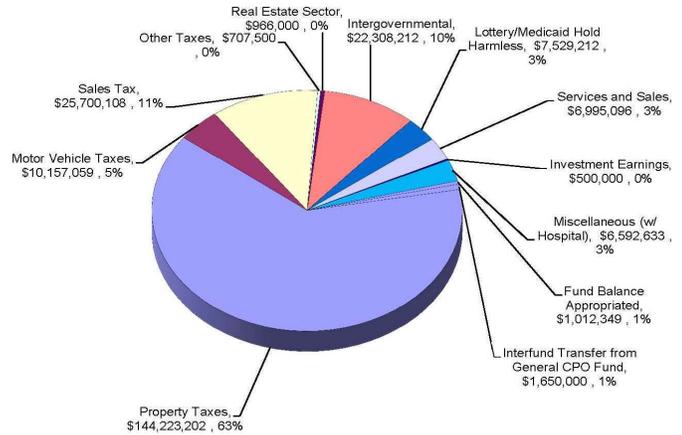
The budget includes \$87.15 million in funding for Union County Public Schools, an increase of \$3.85 million from the previous year. This increase will provide \$1.7 million to pay for an increase in local teacher supplements and benefits, as well as an additional \$0.5 million increase in operating costs. The budget also contains \$5.267 million for capital funding. The capital funds will pay for technology and technology infrastructure (\$1.7 million), maintenance capital (\$3.3 million) and new school buses (\$267,000).

The \$87.15 million in school funding includes \$1.65 million to assist funding teacher assistant positions. Additional money coming from the state, which will fund 295 teaching assistant positions, combined with the County's appropriation of \$1.65 million, will allow the school system to rehire the total compliment of teacher assistant positions employed before the budget shortfall. This appropriation is for this year only.

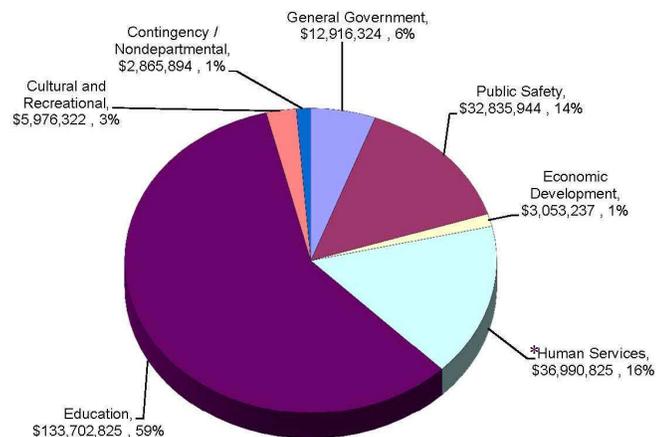
Union County Receives Superior Audit Report

The audit firm of Potter & Company provided Union County with an unqualified or clean opinion on its 2011 financial statements, and for the fifth consecutive year the external auditors found no instances of material non-compliance or questioned costs in connection with applicable laws and regulations.

Where Money Comes From



Where County Tax Dollars are Spent



*Human Services consists of the Union County Health Department, Department of Social Services, Transportation and Nutrition and Veterans Services.

What We Accomplished

General Government Highlights for 2011-2012

County Administration

- The Union County Board of Commissioners approved an amended long-term lease with Carolinas Healthcare System (CHS) fulfilling the goal of a long-term lease to improve the provision of hospital, medical and healthcare for residents of Union County by encouraging further investment in the county. The lease allows CMC-Union to continue to deliver high-quality health services such as the Cancer Center and Wound Care Center, and provide access to some of the most advanced diagnostic treatments and technologies into the future.

The hospital facility is owned by Union County and leased by the County to CMC-Union. The amended lease with CHS began on Jan. 1, 2012 and will remain in effect until Dec. 31, 2061, unless terminated, extended or renewed before that date. Upon completion of the lease, CHS has an option to extend or renew the lease for an additional 25 years.

Tax Administration

- Implemented a new land records system that interfaces with the appraisal system to improve efficiency and effectiveness in passing data between software systems as Tax Administration prepares for the 2016 revaluation of property in Union County.
- Reduced the amount of delinquent taxes and achieved a higher collection rate through increased compliance efforts.
- Improved the sales verification process to help the Appraisal division better track the actual market by sorting out "non-arms length transactions" such as fraudulent sales.
- Tax Administrator John Petoskey was elected vice-president of the North Carolina Tax Collectors Association.

Elections

- Implemented redistricting changes approved on July 27 and 28, 2011 by the North Carolina General Assembly. Union County registered voters were reassigned to their proper legislative and congressional districts. Also implemented Union County Board of Education 2011 redistricting changes.
- Oversaw the handling of a General Assembly of North Carolina act to require specified local pending involuntary annexations (Village of Marvin) be subject to a Petition to Deny Annexation by property owners of at least 60 percent of the parcels located in the area.

Register of Deeds

- Crystal Crump was elected second vice-president of the North Carolina Association of Registers of Deeds and re-elected as district chair of District III for the state's Registers of Deeds Association.
- Installed the new Minimum Standards for Indexing Real Property Instruments.
- Implemented a scanning program that allows Register of Deeds office to return original documents once they are recorded.
- Participating in a pilot program for electronic recording of land records that digitizes and makes multiple copies of data that are maintained on numerous servers both in Union County and remotely offsite. If the office had a complete disaster such as a fire, the records could be copied and made available to the office in 24 to 48 hours.

General Services

- Reduced energy costs by as much as 60 percent by replacing the old lighting fixtures at the Union County Law Enforcement Center with new energy efficient fixtures; installing energy efficient lighting systems at the Union County Judicial Center and replacing outdoor lighting fixtures with induction lighting at Government Center, Judicial Center, Union Village, Main Library, Union West Library, Law Enforcement Center, Animal Shelter, Patton Avenue office, Agricultural and Conference Center, Marshville Library and Historic Courthouse.
- Began construction of Phase 8 of Government Center renovations.
- Provided property management services for 19 buildings encompassing 567,615 square feet.



Judicial Center

Personnel

- Received a N.C. Department of Labor Gold Award for the fifth consecutive year. The goal of the Safety Award Program is to recognize companies that go the extra mile to promote safety and health in the workplace. The award is presented annually by the Labor Commissioner to employers who have had no fatalities and have maintained an incidence rate at least 50 percent below the average for its industry group.



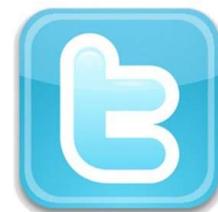
Risk Manager Keith Richards displays the County's Gold Award

Information Technology

- Unveiled new website (www.co.union.nc.us) that features new and improved tools designed to help visitors quickly locate information and services they need. The homepage is easy to navigate and includes links to highly visited pages such as GIS mapping, online bill payment, County news, meeting and event announcements and employment information. Some other enhanced features include a slideshow of rotating photos of Union County sites and attractions, quick links to frequently visited pages, an RSS feed, links to social networking sites, podcasts, a department directory and a robust search site.

Public Information

- Expanded the County's social media network by launching a Twitter site to update citizens of news and events occurring within County government.
- For the third straight year, the Union County View newsletter won first-place in the Electronic Employee Newsletter category in the annual NC3C Excellence in Communications Awards.
- For the first time, the Union Update won first-place in the Electronic External Newsletter category in the annual NC3C Excellence in Communications Awards.
- Filmed and broadcast more than 40 meetings and work sessions of the Union County Board of Commissioners, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Fire Commission.
- Produced approximately 30 original programs for Union County's government channel, UCTV 16 which provides citizens access to Union County government news and events. UCTV 16 airs on Time Warner Cable Channel 16.



What We Accomplished

Cultural and Recreational Highlights for 2011-2012

Public Library

The Union County Public Library system consists of four libraries - Monroe (316 E. Windsor St.), Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial (414 Hasty St. in Marshville), Waxhaw (509 S. Providence St.) and Union West Regional (123 Unionville-Indian Trail Rd. in Indian Trail). In addition to these facilities, customers can now access many library services electronically. Each library provides county residents the opportunity to experience new ideas, explore great minds, and experience great art, while at the same time providing a sense of place for gathering.



- Introduced eBooks in January 2012. More than 10,118 eBooks were checked out between January and June.
- Launched online book clubs in June.
- Began offering the “Book a Librarian” service to job seekers. By appointment, the Reference staff at the Main Library in Monroe provides individual assistance to citizens who need help finding job listings, creating a résumé or completing an online application.
- Upgraded public computers to Office 2010 and began offering free computer classes on Office 2010.
- Implemented CASSIE, a time management and print management system to monitor public Internet computers to equally distribute time and ensure payment is being received for printed copies.
- Began accepting driver’s licenses to checkout materials and started accepting library cards uploaded to Smart Phones.
- Began offering patrons courtesy notices three days before their items are due for return to library.
- Stopped mailing overdue notices and started sending only via email and text.
- Installed DSL lines in branches to increase Internet speed of public access computers.
- Partnered with the Employment Security Commission to publicize the library’s services for job seekers.
- Offered free SAT preparation courses for teens using NC LIVE’s Learning Express Library and the Sylvan Learning Center.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation owns and operates three parks - Cane Creek Park, Fred Kirby Park and Jesse Helms Park.

Cane Creek Park in Waxhaw is a family oriented, water-based recreation facility encompassing 1,050 acres including a 350-acre lake. Cane Creek’s Day Use Area offers fishing, boating, hiking, picnic areas, mountain bike and horse trails, canoe and rowboat rentals, ball fields and playgrounds. Additionally, Cane Creek Park has a 108-site family campground, and also offers nine wilderness sites, 11 group camping sites, five camping with horses sites and six rustic six-person cabins.



Cane Creek Park Lake

Fred Kirby Park is located in the western part of Union County in the Lake Park Community. This park is a small athletic complex with two baseball fields, one full-size soccer field, two-small gazebo-style shelters, playground, paved walking trail and restroom facilities.

Jesse Helms Park, located just outside the city limits of east Monroe, has six full-size soccer fields, a covered picnic shelter with picnic tables, four individual 12-person concrete picnic sites, a playground, paved walking track, restroom facilities and a six-station workout area.

- Hosted three major physical challenge competitions in the Cane Creek Park Festival Area.
- Held 2nd Annual “Take-a-Kid Fishing” Day and the first “Colors of Fall” event.
- 20 organizations , representing approximately 470 participants, used the fields at Fred Kirby Park, generating approximately \$15,500 in revenues.
- Jesse Helms Park hosted Wingate University’s summer soccer camps and training sessions attended by approximately 300 youth.
- Approved Athletic Council grants totaling more than \$50,000 to four county athletic associations in support of county youth sport activities.
- Worked with Parkwood High School representative to develop a pre-paid admission program for public and private schools that provides a recreational platform for youth clubs, thereby assisting in providing healthy activities.
- Soccer field at Fred Kirby Park were converted into multi-purpose field to allow for more use by county residents.



What We Accomplished

Human Services Highlights for 2011-2012

Health Department

- Union County Health Director Phillip Tarte was awarded the Reynolds Award by the N.C. Public Health Association for his contributions to public health in North Carolina.
- The N.C. Immunization Branch presented the Samuel L. Katz, M.D. award to the Health Department for its progressive School Employee Immunization Initiative.
- Partnered with the Master Gardeners and the Boys and Girls clubs of Union County to create a community garden at Monroe Middle School.
- Board of Health successfully submitted federal documentation and created a 501(c)(3) to establish a public health foundation for Union County.

Department of Social Services

- Chosen by the N.C. Division of Health and Human Services as one of eight counties in the state to pilot their new initiative, Reaching Excellence and Accountability in Practice.
- Union County was one of nine counties involved with rolling out a “trama informed” approach to child welfare and systems of care in the community called Project Broadcast.
- The Christmas Bureau provided gifts to more than 8,000 adults and children. For more information about sponsoring families, gift trees or filling stockings for children, call 704-291-9041.
- Implemented a document imaging program that converts medical records to electronic documents which assists DSS in meeting federal and state performance standards, improve customer service and reduce operating costs.
- Launched North Carolina Families Accessing Services through Technology (NC FAST) that provides new tools and functions that enables staff to spend less time performing administrative tasks.

Transportation and Nutrition

Transportation services are available to residents of Union County through limited NCDOT funded grant programs or through sponsorship of a local human service agency.

Nutrition services are provided to Union County residents through three programs - Senior Dining Sites, Home Delivered Meals and Supplemental Nutrition Products.

- Participated in the North Carolina Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program and provided 96 Nutrition Congregate participants with \$21 each in vouchers for the purchase of North Carolina grown fresh fruits and vegetables.



Veterans Services

Union County Veterans Services provides veterans access to federal, state and county benefits and entitlements based on their service in the United States Armed Forces and auxiliary services.

- Relocated to newly renovated 6th floor suite which allows for improved services in the form of a more comfortable waiting room, increased privacy for confidential appointments and a secure filing system.
- Presented JROTC Patriot Awards to six high school students - Micah Shelton (Forest Hills), Felicia Polk (Monroe), Joshua Harold (Parkwood), Amber Clyburn (Piedmont), Bradley Hinson (Porter Ridge) and Hannah Luke (Sun Valley).
- Hired part-time service officer to assist with the continually increasing number of veterans requiring services.



Patriot Award presentation

What We Accomplished

Public Works Highlights for 2011-2012

Union County Public Works provides water, wastewater and solid waste services to residents of Union County.

- Completed the Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Master Plan and received Board of Commissioner approval of a \$500 million dollar capital improvement plan to meet the infrastructure needs for the 20-year planning horizon.
- Secured an additional 3 million gallons per day of water capacity in the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant to meet short-term water supply needs.
- Adopted a new Water and Wastewater Extension Ordinance to provide a framework for orderly development of growth in Union County and ensure that infrastructure will be designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of county residents.
- Adopted a Short Line Extension policy that allows Public Works to offer funding assistance for short water line extensions to a limited number of residential and non-residential properties in Union County.
- Completed the Dodge City water line extension project that provides much needed potable water service to approximately 20 residents of the area.



A resident of Dodge City enjoys clean drinking water

- Initiated construction of eastside sewer improvements, a \$6 million project that will increase system reliability in the Marshville-Wingate area of the county and increase available capacity for new development.
- Completed a comprehensive water and sewer rate study that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners in February 2012. The study established the fiscal plan for implementation of our long-term capital program and implemented a new rate schedule for the next three years.

What We Accomplished

Economic and Physical Development Highlights for 2011-2012

Cooperative Extension

Union County Cooperative Extension provides county residents easy access to the resources and expertise of N.C. State University and N.C. A&T State University. Through educational programs, publications and events, Cooperative Extension agents deliver unbiased, research-based information to Union County residents.

- More than 300 producers increased their knowledge of best management practices that increase net farm incomes. Impacts from these programs show field crop producers added \$132,625 to net income by implementing Cooperative Extension recommended production practices.
- Through Cooperative Extension programming efforts, 20,364 individuals gained knowledge or acquired skills related to vegetable production. 175 Union County teachers utilized 4-H Science Technology and Math curriculum to help 850 youth gain knowledge in those areas.

Soil and Water Conservation District

The Union County Soil and Water Conservation District promotes sound principles of conservation for soil, water and natural resources. Programs are operated by a local board of supervisors and district staff in cooperation with farmers, landowners and local, state and federal agencies.

- UCSWCD received approximately \$72,532 in cost-share allocation from the N.C. Agriculture Cost-Share Program, Community Conservation Assistance Program, Drought Assistance, and AgWRAP programs that assisted 12 county farmers install conservation practices which decrease the amount of sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemical and other pollutants in their surface and ground water. The funds also provided water wells for confined poultry, goats, horses and cow animal operations and high tunnel nursery operations.

Planning

- Began development of U.S. 74 Corridor Revitalization Plan, a coordinated land-use, urban design, economic development and multi-modal transportation plan to be implemented by the local governments and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The plan will integrate existing and projected land-use patterns with strategic regional transportation needs for the existing US-74 corridor. It will reflect and support the development objectives of the corridor's individual communities and will include implementation strategies and performance criteria. Participating jurisdictions are Union County, Stallings, Indian Trail, Monroe, Mecklenburg/Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) and NCDOT.



U.S. 74 in Monroe

- Started rewrite of Union County's Unified Development Ordinance. The ordinance will produce development regulations that address contemporary development and zoning practices that are easily understood by administrators, the public and the development community; modernize regulations to reflect current design principles and practices; address identified regulatory deficiencies and needs such as mixed-use zoning districts and implement land use goals and policies in the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.
- Designed a Small Area Plan that involves the community in developing a long-range vision for the area; addresses how the area should be maintained or changed in the future; identifies future land uses in an overall county-wide context; recommends future infrastructure improvements and provides implementation guidance to the private and public investment and strategies that should be pursued to realize the vision of the area.

What We Accomplished

Public Safety Highlights for 2011-2012

Sheriff's Office

The Union County Sheriff's Office (www.sheriff.union.ns.us) is a full-service law enforcement agency providing law enforcement services including Patrol, Jail, Civil Process, Criminal Investigation, Court Security and Animal Services.

- The Sheriff's Office and Union County Crime Stoppers joined forces to offer a new online mapping service called MapNimbus that helps keep residents informed of criminal activity in their communities. The website, www.mapnimbus.com, is an easy-to-use Google Maps-based interface that allows the public to view information in a variety of categories, including crime activity and sex offender data. It offers dynamic reporting tools so users can quickly analyze events that have occurred within a particular time frame.
- Chief Deputy Ben Bailey completed instructor training offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction training facility in the nation.
- Opened and occupied new annex field office in the new Wesley Chapel Volunteer Fire Department building.
- Purchased new software models for agency to include Crime Analysis, K-9 management and Internal Affairs software.



Sheriff
Eddie Cathey

Emergency Management

Emergency Management is responsible for receiving annual reports on hazardous materials used, manufactured or stored within Union County. Response plans are developed based on the materials reported. These reports are required by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA): Title III, Right-To-Know and are called Tier II reports. Any incident or release involving hazardous materials must be reported to Emergency Management to make sure that proper response has taken place and to make sure that the citizens are in no danger as a result of the incident.

- Provided resources and coordinated efforts of responders at the Pilgrim's Pride ammonia release in Marshville.

Emergency Communications

Emergency Communications serves as the warning point for Union County, receiving all requests for assistance in emergency situations and dispatching the proper agency. Communications dispatches for the Sheriff's Office, Police, Ambulance, Fire/First Responders and Emergency Management. Emergency Communications is also the after hours contact for the American Red Cross, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Hospice, Animal Control and Public Works. Emergency Communications operates 24 hours a day with certified operators on duty.

- In August, 2011, the Communications Center was moved to the two-story, 80-foot-long mobile public safety answering point Tactical Homeland Operational Response (THOR). For two weeks, Union County deployed THOR to receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch appropriate agencies while the County's 9-1-1 center was temporarily out of service for remodeling. This was the first time that THOR had been utilized as a full-service communications center.
- Began using CodeRed high-speed notification system to quickly deliver emergency messages to targeted areas or the entire county. During the past year, the system was used to notify residents of certain areas of the county about emergencies including several missing children and adults.



THOR

Building Inspections

Building Inspections provides for the health, general welfare and public safety of Union County residents through enforcement of the North Carolina State Building Code.

- Implemented new service that allows contractors to manage their construction projects online. Upon completing a registration process, the contractor can access information for any of their active permits allowing them to request inspections as well as check the status of a scheduled inspection. They even receive an email notifying them of the results of an inspection as soon as it's performed. This reduces the need for multiple calls to the Building Inspections Department for scheduling purposes or to determine the outcome of a scheduled inspection. Each vehicle is equipped with a laptop and printer allowing the inspector to access his work schedule and print the necessary documents directly from the field. This mobile office eliminates the need for inspectors to report to the office each morning in order to receive their inspection schedules for the day. This allows each inspector to go directly to their first assigned inspection, which greatly increases productivity.

What We Plan to Accomplish

General Government

- The Board of Election will complete the transition to electronic poll books for the November 2012 election.
- The Register of Deeds office will begin scanning recorded documents when received. This will allow staff to immediately return original documents to the clients or attorneys eliminating the need to return documents by mail.

Human Services

- The Veterans Service Office will continue to focus on increasing marketing to the community by providing briefings and presentations in both public and private sectors to ensure that all veterans and family members are aware of benefits that are eligible to receive.

Economic and Physical Development

- Cooperative Extension will provide educational and training programs for producers of agricultural, horticultural and forest products and services which will enhance their ability to achieve financial and lifestyle goals and enhance economic development locally, regionally and statewide.
- Cooperative Extension will assist farmers increase their capacity to supply product for local food sales through market planning efforts, producer and consumer education, beginning farmer training programs and local market infrastructure development.
- Union County Partnership for Progress and Monroe Economic Development will merge to create a joint non-profit economic development organization that will recruit new businesses to Union County and assist existing businesses expand their operations.

Cultural and Recreational

- The Public Library will begin offering electronic magazines. Once activated, patrons will be able to establish an account with their library card number, check out the latest issue of popular magazine titles and download them to their phones, tablets or e-book readers.
- In November 2012, the Library expects to migrate to a new system for its online catalog, circulation and acquisitions functions. The new system will allow staff to take the Library beyond its walls to sign up for library cards. Through the new online catalog, users will be able to discover, not only all the titles owned by the Library, but also the holdings of other libraries.
- Parks and Recreation will create an educational trail at Cane Creek Park to better serve school groups, day camps and the general public. Guided tours by park rangers will be provided during the school year.
- The bridge and road that connects the Union County Agricultural and Conference Center parking lot to the Jesse Helms Park Passive Area will be paved to allow access to the area which will be used for festivals and other activities.

Public Safety

- The Union County Fire Commission is developing a five-year plan that identifies major volunteer fire department funding needs and detailed funding strategies for issues that impact multiple departments. During the FY 2013 budget development process there were essentially four “Horizon Needs” that were identified and sent to the Fire Commission for recommendations. The four strategies are: (1) Department staffing, (2) District Funding Options, (3) Rescue Operations, and (4) ISO Rating Improvements.
- The Sheriff's Office is currently working on plans for a new firing range facility north of Wingate. At this time, the agency does not have a firearms training facility, and must rely on booking training time on other ranges owned by other law enforcement facilities in the region. The new facility will be located on property sufficient in area to accommodate two full-sized pistol ranges, a rifle range, shotgun range and a special "shoot-house" designed for 360-degree firing in scenario-based training. Long-term plans include a classroom building with restrooms and a range control building from which firearms training activities will be supervised and directed. The agency intends to begin construction on the first phase of the facility in early 2013. The site is large enough to also accommodate an emergency driving training pad for use by Union County emergency services agencies, as well as room for a law enforcement training building that will house additional classrooms for state mandated in-service training and the computer training simulators already in use by the agency. The new facility will enable officers to practice shooting more frequently in order to maintain their firearms proficiency, thereby assuring that they are better prepared to protect the community and themselves.

Stay Connected with Union County

Union County Main Number	704-283-3500
Animal Services	704-283-8303
Board of Elections	704-283-3809
Cooperative Extension	704-283-3801
Emergency Communications	704-289-1591
Board of Commissioners	704-283-3810
Clerk to the Board/County Mgr.	704-283-3810
Emergency Management	704-283-3524
Environmental Health	704-283-3553
Finance	704-283-3813
Fire Services	704-283-3524
General Services	704-283-3872
Health Department	704-296-4800
Information Systems	704-283-3568
Inspections	704-283-3816
Legal	704-283-3673
Library	704-283-8184
Parks and Recreation	704-843-3919
Personnel	704-283-3818
Planning	704-283-3565
Public Information	704-283-3546
Public Works	704-296-4210
Register of Deeds	704-283-3727
Risk Management	704-283-3663
Sheriff's Office	704-283-3789
Social Services	704-296-4300
Soil and Water Conservation District	704-233-1621, ext. 3
Stormwater	704-283-3520
Tax Administration	704-283-3746
Transportation and Nutrition	704-283-3713
Veterans Services	704-283-3771/3744/3807

ESTABLISHED 1842

UNION COUNTY GOVERNMENT

NORTH CAROLINA