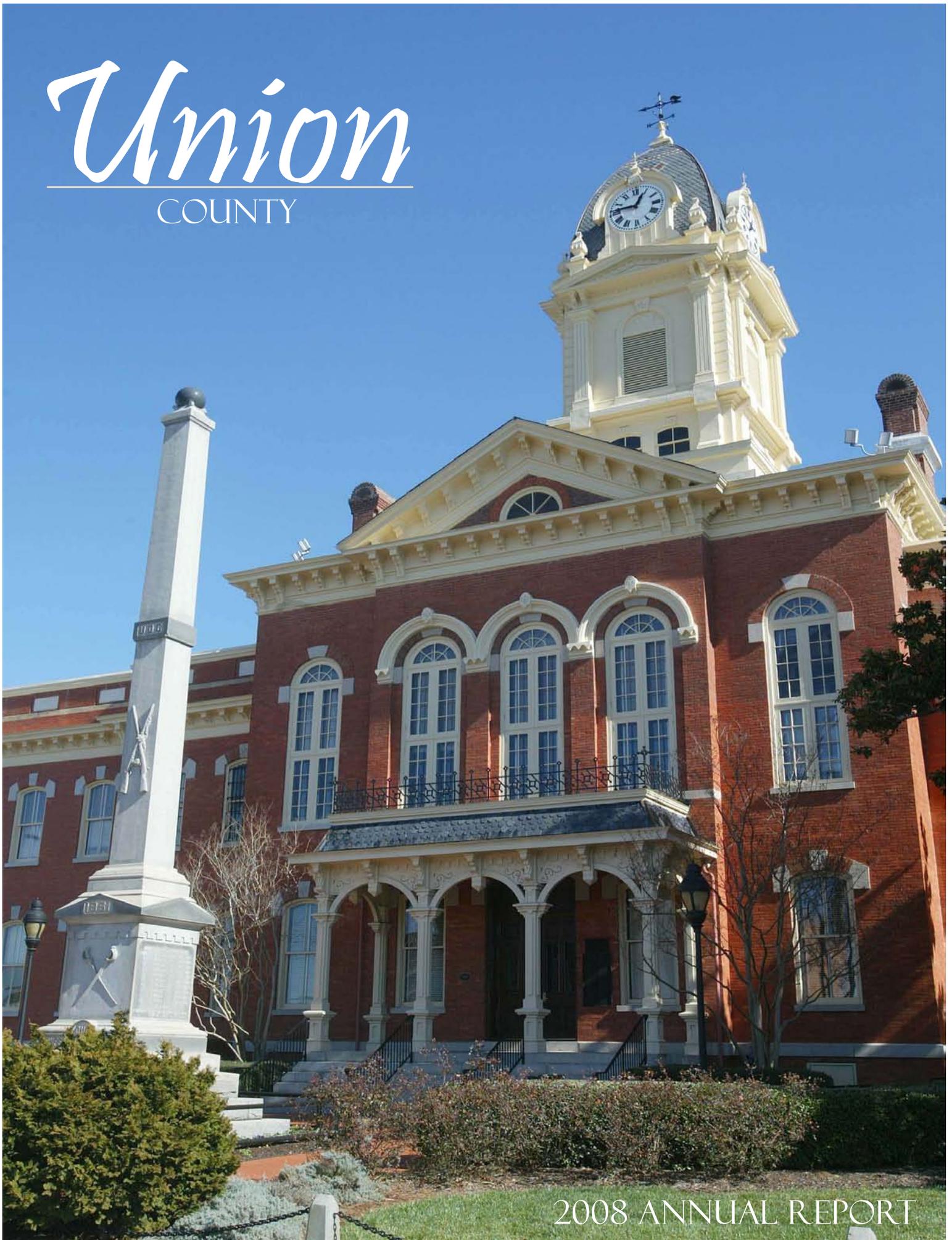


Union

COUNTY



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



On the Cover: The Union County Courthouse was constructed in 1886 by local contractor J.T. Hart. Architect Thomas J. Holt was chosen to provide the design for the second county courthouse. In keeping with his firm's promise that their "architecture and building will be latest style of the art," Holt combined elements from a variety of popular styles to create a building that was everything the first courthouse was not and was everything the Board of Commissioners hoped it would be. Commissioners wanted a courthouse that visually expressed all they hoped the county would become - a progressive, prosperous, New South center of trade, rail transportation and industry.

In 1926, Charlotte architect Charles Christian Hook designed the flanking three-bay wings and planned the renovation of the interior and dome. George M. Tucker, a gifted local contractor, carried out the renovations and new construction. Hook's wings were carefully and sensitively designed to blend perfectly with Holt's original vision for the courthouse.

The grounds of the courthouse square, continually improved with curbs, brick sidewalks and landscaping since the construction of the 1886 building, once held a public fountain. The Board of Commissioners, with help and support of the Daughters of the Confederacy, began a campaign in 1907 to make the courthouse square a ceremonial space. By 1910, they had raised the funds to erect an impressive monument to the Union County soldiers who died in the Civil War. Located on the west side of the courthouse, the monument is an impressive part of the landscape as well as a reminder of the movement across the south during this period to commemorate the Confederate dead.

Since the 1982 renovation of the former Union County Courthouse, which houses the Union County Heritage Room, the grounds have been refurbished with landscaping, street furniture and decorative lighting. Its restoration and reuse is the most important preservation project undertaken in Union County and the courthouse remains the single most significant property representing the history and development of Union County.

Message from the County Manager

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Union County employees, we are pleased to present the Union County Annual Report for 2008. This report reflects on the major accomplishments of Union County government and the change that occurred within the organization in 2008.

The year began with a Visioning Conference where commissioners and key staff set goals and priorities for the year. The year concluded with two new commissioners coming on board and an economic challenge that the County will continue to address for many months to come. In-between that time, the County experienced much success and change:

- Several long-time department heads retired.
- The County won its lawsuit with Wesley Chapel regarding the village's efforts to gain extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) over surrounding property.
- Commissioners temporarily suspended the issuance of new residential water supply "agreeable to serve letters."
- The Tax Assessor mailed more than 90,000 revaluation notices.
- Amendments were made to the County's water conservation ordinance.
- The County began providing reclaimed wastewater at two of its wastewater treatment plants.
- Several departments received grants to assist with providing services and programs.
- Commissioners adopted a 2008-2009 budget of \$237.4 million.
- The Tax Assessor and Register of Deeds moved into the Government Center.
- Water conservation rates were revised.
- Commissioners imposed a hiring freeze and curtailed spending to combat the growing economic crises.
- A water allocation policy was adopted.

These accomplishments and many others presented in this Annual Report are a tribute to the vision and commitment of the Board of Commissioners and Union County employees. I hope you find the information in this report informative and interesting.

Al Greene

County Manager



Board of Commissioners



Roger Lane, Lanny Openshaw, Parker Mills, Kevin Pressley - Vice Chairman, Allan Baucom - Chairman



Kuehler



Rogers

Tracy Kuehler and Kim Rogers were elected to the Union County Board of Commissioners in November 2008. They assumed their responsibilities as commissioners on December 1, replacing out-going commissioners Roger Lane and Kevin Pressley. Lanny Openshaw was elected chairman, and Kim Rogers was elected vice chairwoman at the first meeting in December.

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:

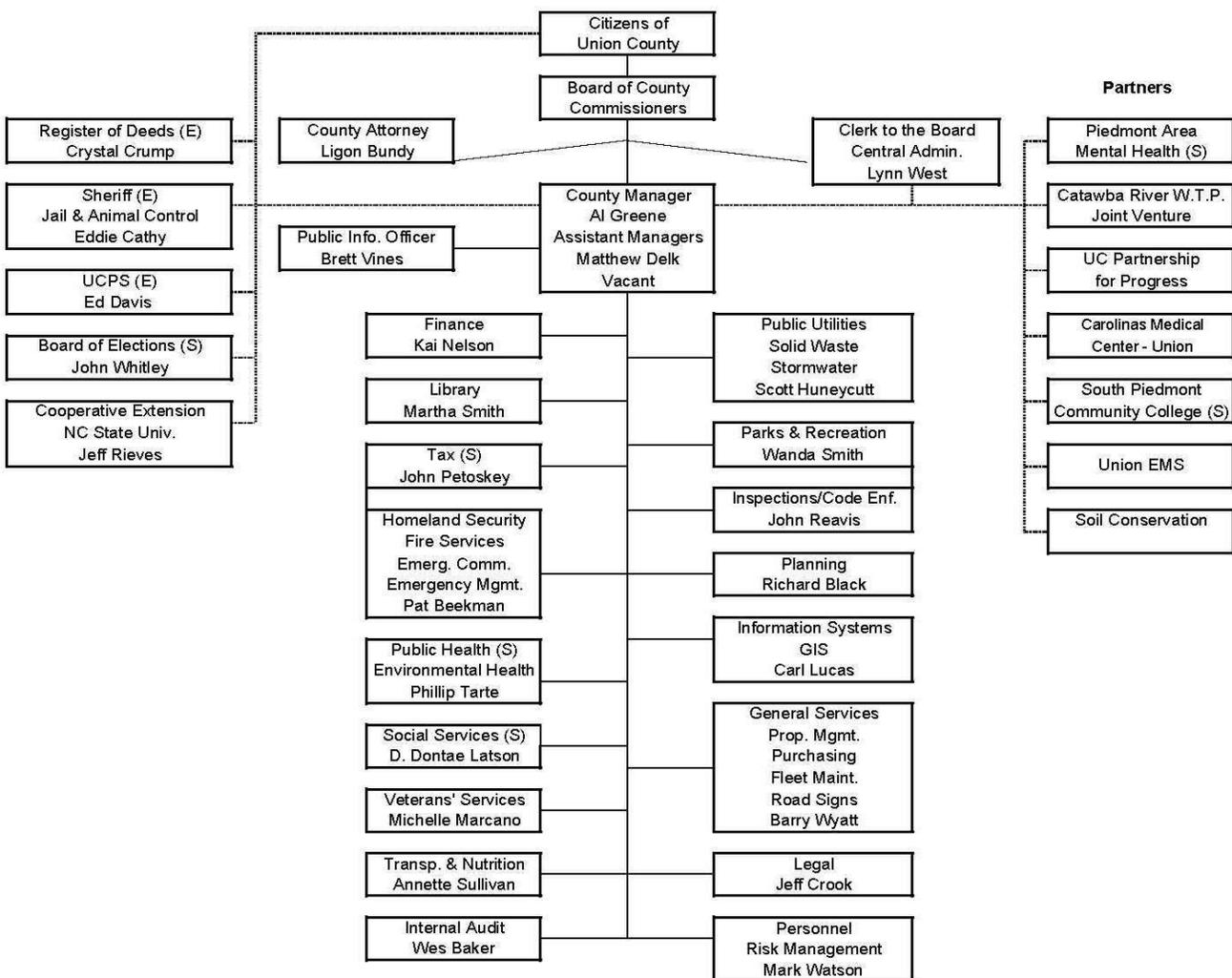
Unless otherwise specified, Board of Commissioner meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the first floor Board Room of the Union County Government Center, 500 N. Main Street in Monroe. Meetings are broadcast on a tape-delay basis on Time Warner Cable Channel 16 (UCTV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



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.

Union County, North Carolina Organizational Chart



(S) Statutory Appt. Board
(E) Elected Agency

Profile of Union County



Municipalities:

- Fairview
- Hemby Bridge
- Indian Trail
- Lake Park
- Marshville
- Marvin
- Mineral Springs
- Monroe
- New Salem
- 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 184,675. 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 15 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-acres trophy 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 nearly 40,000 students in 40 schools. South Piedmont Community College and Wingate University are located within Union County.

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

Financial Highlights for 2008

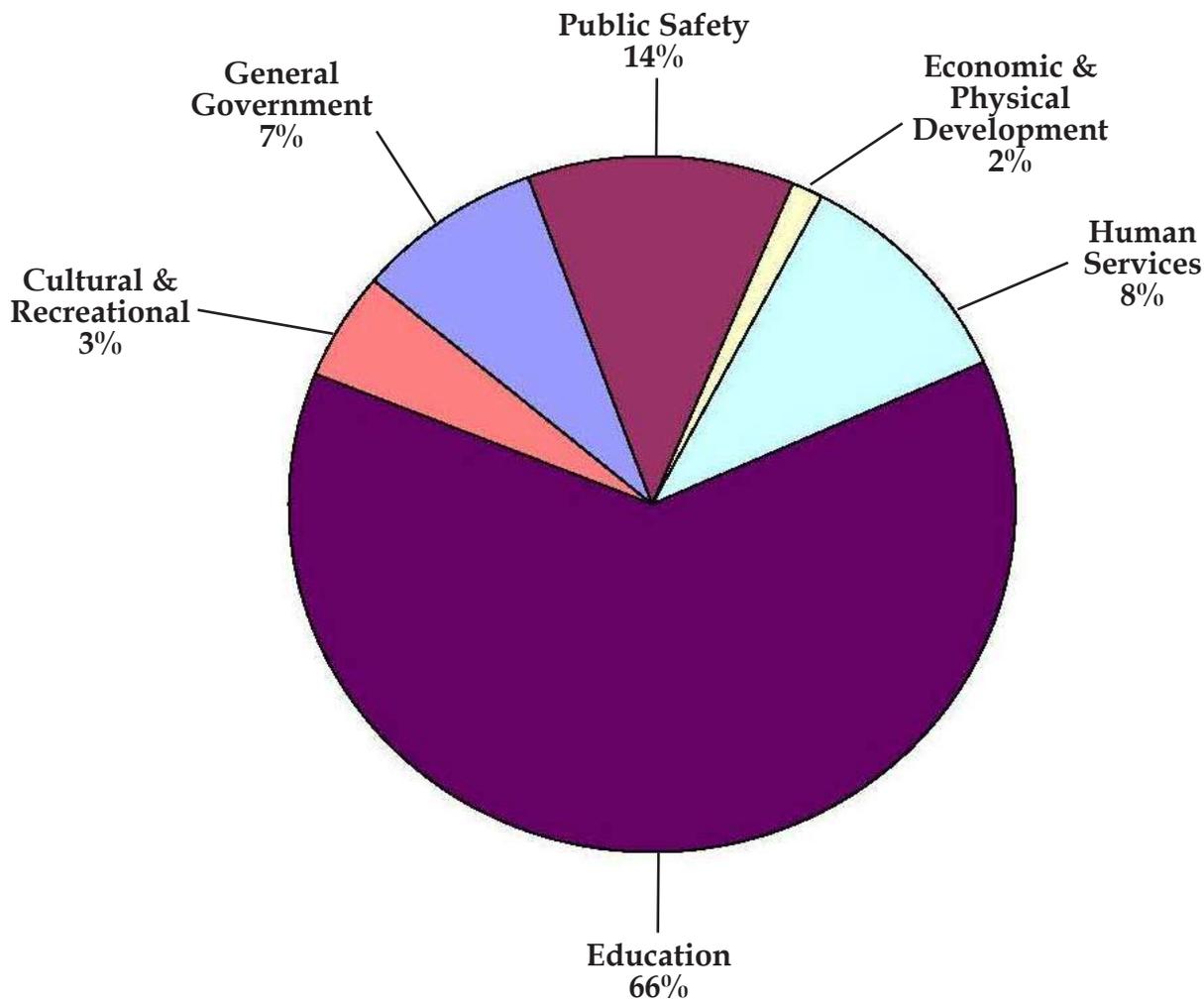
Union County Maintains Strong Credit Position

In the midst of the nation's worst financial and economic crisis in a generation, three of the nation's most respected bond rating agencies, Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings, in December 2008, affirmed the excellent credit ratings of Aa2/AA/AA to the County's \$433.1 million of outstanding general obligation (GO) bonds.

Union County Receives Superior Report

The audit firm of Potter & Company provided the County with an unqualified or clean opinion on its 2008 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 Your County Property Taxes are Spent



County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

January

Fees Changed on January 1

Several Solid Waste and Parks and Recreation user fees increased on January 1, 2008.

Construction and demolition waste disposal increased from \$24 to \$34 per ton. Parks and Recreation fee changes can be viewed on the Union County Web site at www.co.union.nc.us.

Health Department Receives Grant to Promote Nutrition and Exercise

The Union County Health Department was awarded a \$185,856 grant by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust of Winston-Salem to be used toward implementing nutrition and exercise intervention at Rock Rest, Walter Bickett and East elementary schools.

Board Recommends Traffic Signal on 601 South

The Union County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to the N.C. Department of Transportation recommending a traffic signal be installed at the intersection of U.S. 601 South and Lansford Road.



Lansford Road is an important crossing point for fire trucks, first responders, and slow moving agricultural vehicles. Vehicles on Lansford Road are often at risk as they cross or merge into the path of high-speed traffic on 601 South. It is anticipated that a traffic signal will allow for safer crossing and merging of vehicles from Lansford Road.

Funds Approved for Museum

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved allocating \$50,000 to assist the Museum of the Waxhaws to complete an outdoor exhibit of the life and times of former U.S. President Andrew Jackson. The funds were taken from Parks and Recreation cultural and recreational fees.

Government Channel Awarded Grant

Union County's Government Channel, UCTV 16, was awarded \$13,756 in grant funding for capital expenditures from the e-NC Authority. The Union County Board of Commissioners matched the funding which allowed the County to purchase a camcorder, film and video editing equipment and wireless microphones.



Union County Wins Lawsuit

Union County won its lawsuit with Wesley Chapel regarding the village's efforts to gain extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) over surrounding property. Superior Court Judge Kimberly Taylor on January 25 granted summary judgment to Union County and property owners in the ETJ area, concluding, as a matter of law, that the Union County Board of Commissioners did have the right to withdraw consent to the ETJ where the village had taken no action to implement ETJ before the Board withdrew its consent.

In rendering her decision, the Judge also concluded that there were defects in the notices that Wesley Chapel mailed and published. For example, Judge Taylor mentioned that notices included language that the Union County Board of Commissioners had consented to ETJ but failed to state that the Board's consent had been withdrawn, which was misleading to the public and property owners.

As a result of Judge Taylor's ruling, Wesley Chapel's attempt to exercise ETJ was invalid.

Commissioners Set Priorities for '08 During Visioning Conference

The Union County Board of Commissioners held a Visioning Conference in January at the Rizzo Conference Center at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School in Chapel Hill. During the conference, commissioners identified a list of projects and initiatives they would focus on during 2008.



Nine County staff members and the five commissioners attended the conference

Following is a list of the issues and their rank of significance as identified by commissioners:

1. Water Supply: sources; allocation effectiveness
2. School Funding: operating and CIP; revenue sources
3. Wastewater Collection and Treatment: pump station policy; system capacity
4. Growth Management: APFO effectiveness; building moratorium
5. Water Conservation: Purple Pipe; irrigation wells
6. Utility Extension: Self-Help program; rural water service
7. Radio communication system and dispatch
- 8 (tie). High Quality Industrial Park
- 8 (tie). VFD Rural Fire Protection and Financing
10. Board Governance: policies and ordinances; updates and development
11. Law enforcement facility
- 12 (tie). Tax Rate: revenue neutral; lower
12. (tie). Relationships between elected officials, legislature, municipalities and neighboring counties.
14. Succession Planning: staff and management
- 15 (tie). Library Master Plan: Super regional vs. regional; financing
15. (tie). High Speed Internet access to rural areas
17. Parks and Recreation Master Plan: bonds and financing
18. Storm Water Utilities: education, construction and clearing

Board Supports Optimization of Water Supply from Anson County

County commissioners on January 22 authorized the interim county manager to approve an HDR Engineering contract to design and conduct an environmental assessment for a project that will optimize the water capacity currently available from Anson County.

A Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) completed for Union County Public Works identified the most viable and cost-effective way to transport up to 4 million gallons a day (MGD) of potable water from Anson County to Union County's eastern water system. As identified in the PER, the recommended option to transport water includes the construction of the following:

1. A new 4 MGD booster pumping station along Highway 74 near the Union and Anson County line.
2. A new 2 MGD booster pumping station near Olive Branch Road at the Union County Landfill site.
3. Approximately 40,000 linear feet of 16-inch water transmission main.
4. Minor water main loop closures at the eastern/western distribution system boundary.



County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

February

Board Temporarily Suspends Water Commitments

The Union County Board of Commissioners on February 4 unanimously passed a motion to temporarily suspend the issuance of new residential water supply "agreeable to serve letters" in Union County for a period of six months. The suspensions did not affect requests for minor subdivisions of five or less residential water connections. The Board in 2009 will be considering several water policies.

Purple Pipe Resolution



Commissioners passed a "Purple Pipe" resolution requesting state legislative and administrative action to facilitate and encourage the use of reclaimed water systems in order to alleviate the strain on potable water supplies.

Purple is the universal color for recycled water, and cities and counties all over the country are installing purple pipes that carry reclaimed water to irrigate golf courses, parks, nurseries, pastures, common areas in homeowner communities, and even street and highway medians and other landscaped areas.

PWAB Suspended

The Union County Board of Commissioners on February 18 suspended the Public Works Advisory Board.

The motion to suspend the PWAB was brought forth by Commissioner Lanny Openshaw and the motion passed unanimously. "I'm not taking disbanding off the table," Openshaw added at the time.

The guidelines for the PWAB were adopted on December 18, 2006. The PWAB was established to advise commissioners on issues and County policies related to Public Works.

Roy Young Retires

Roy Young, director of the Union County Department of Social Services for the past 12 years, retired on February 29.

Young came to Union County from Stokes County where he served as DSS director for almost 13 years. He also worked for Forsyth County DSS and Rockingham County DSS.



Following a stint in the U.S. Army, Young received a bachelor's degree in Social Work from UNC-Greensboro and a master's degree in Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill.

According to Young, his job was very unique because no day was the same. "The job never became dull or routine," he said.

Some important changes took place in human services under Young's leadership. One change that had a significant impact on how DSS worked with families was the Welfare Reform effort in North Carolina, called Work First, which began in the late 1990s.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

March

Register of Deeds Moves into New Office Space

Register of Deeds Crystal Crump and her staff moved into their newly renovated office space on the second floor of the Union County Government Center on March 1.

The new office, which was increased in size from 3,663 square feet to 8,290 square feet, includes a paralegal workroom, marriage room, public access computer room with spots for 33 computers, and a training room that can be used by all County departments.

Changes Made to Self-Help Program

The Union County Board of Commissioners in March approved changes to Public Works' Self-Help program.

The Self-Help program offers financial and construction administration assistance to existing county residents desiring the extension of County-owned water and/or sewer infrastructure to serve their homes. The program targets, but is not limited to, residents who face an existing or imminent threat to public health or to the environment due to poor water quality, insufficient water supply, or failing septic systems as determined by Union County Environmental Health.

Changes to the program included reducing the participation threshold requirement from 100 percent of homeowners to 70 percent, and using money from the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund to supplement money contributed by participants and the commissioners' discretionary General Fund contribution in order to complete projects.

Four current projects met the modified program thresholds - Cyrus Lee Lane, Polk Mountain, Wellington Woods 1, and Dodge City.

Super-Regional Library

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved the Union County Library Board's recommendation to build a 35,000 - 40,000 square foot super-regional library to serve Mineral Springs, Waxhaw, Marvin, Weddington, and Wesley Chapel.

Capital cost to build one 35,000 - 40,000 square foot super-regional library (\$11,320,000) is slightly less than the cost to build two 20,000 square foot regional libraries (\$11,648,000) which was also under consideration by the Library Board.

Revaluation Notices Mailed



The Union County Tax Assessor's Office mailed more than 90,000 real property appraisals with valuation changes during the week of March 16.

Property data (such as the size and location of land, square footage of the building, age and condition and quality of the building construction) was collected on all parcels of land with the aid of a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal system. Market value rates were developed on a geographic basis from recent sales and then applied uniformly to all property in that area.

The last revaluation in Union County was conducted in 2004. Union County has adopted a policy to complete a revaluation every four years. A revaluation is conducted every four years to equalize values on properties that have changed at different market rates.

Water Conservation Ordinance Amended

The Union County Board of Commissioners made several amendments to the County's Water Conservation Ordinance.

- 1) The opening paragraph was amended to state (a) that the ordinance does not apply to reuse or reclaimed water, and (b) that the County may establish a rate structure that increases the cost of potable water commensurate with the escalation of water shortage conditions. The latter requires approval by the Board of Commissioners prior to implementation.
- 2) The triggering events for declaring water shortage conditions were slightly liberalized to make clear that the county manager may make a water shortage declaration when demand on the water system or portions of the water system exceed capacity. Also, the requirement for declaration of Stage 2 found in Article III, Section II was modified to enable a declaration when sustained water demand exceeds 90 percent, rather than 95 percent, of capacity.
- 3) Beginning with a Stage 2 water shortage declaration, transporting water outside of Union County for any purpose other than emergency fire protection, where such water has been drawn by tanker truck from a hydrant of the Union County water system shall be prohibited.
- 4) Notices will be mailed to inform customers of civil penalties, and certified letters will be mailed prior to customer's service being terminated.
- 5) Distinction was made between irrigation meters and other water meters. Water to residences and businesses may be terminated following a fourth and subsequent violations, but service will be restored upon payment of a \$1,000 civil penalty. In the event service through an irrigation meter is terminated for a second time, service will remain disconnected until no stage of the ordinance has been in effect for one calendar year.
- 6) The county manager is authorized to release billing information, as such term is defined in N.C.G.S. 132-1.1(c), of customers who violate, or have violated, the provisions of this Ordinance, when the county manager, in his sole discretion and acting pursuant to N.C.G.S. 132-1.1(c)(2), determines that the release of such billing information during times of mandatory water conservation is necessary to assist Union County to maintain the integrity and quality of services it provides.
- 7) The ordinance provides an appeal procedure prior to termination of water service.

Latson Named New DSS Director

D. Dontae Latson was named director of the Union County Department of Social Services in March.

Latson came to Union County from Carolinas HealthCare System where he served in various capacities at the Behavioral Health Center in Charlotte. During his eight years with the Behavioral Health Center, he worked as a psychotherapist, supervisor, program coordinator, and provided direction and administrative oversight for several departments within Behavioral Health.



Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the neighboring community of Seat Pleasant, Md., Latson received his bachelor's degree in social work from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md., and a master's of science in social administration from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduation, Latson served as a therapist and case manager at a therapeutic foster care agency in Fairfax, Va.

Board Seeks High-Speed Internet System

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution requesting that the N.C. General Assembly amend legislation that would give Union County authority to operate a high-speed Internet system, including but not limited to a wireless high-speed Internet system, as a public enterprise, independently or in cooperation with other local governments.

The resolution states that the Internet is the most used communications tool in the business world and that Internet access and training are essential to surviving and thriving in an evolving economy.

According to the resolution, high-speed Internet service is not available in many rural areas of Union County, therefore, Union County cannot effectively compete for the development, recruitment and retention of commercial, manufacturing, and service-sector businesses, all of which are vital to the present and future economic health of Union County and its residents.

On November 17, Stan Pace of Verizon informed commissioners of his company's plan to spend \$1.8 million to provide about 26,000 customers in Monroe, Goose Creek and Altan with high-speed Internet service.

Board Approves Funds for UCPS Transportation Facility



The Union County Board of Commissioners approved funding in the amount of \$1.4 million to purchase property for the Union County Public Schools' new transportation facility. The 35.69 acres is located off Goldmine Road near Rocky River Road.

The new transportation facility will replace the current facility which was constructed prior to the consolidation of the Monroe City and Union County school systems. The new facility will contain maintenance bays and office space for approximately 20 Transportation department employees. The current facility will be renovated for Maintenance Department use.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

April

Al Greene Named County Manager

Al Greene was named county manager in April. Greene came to Union County from Pender County, N.C. where he served as interim county manager.

"I'm excited that the commissioners have invited me to come to Union County to serve as county manager," Greene said upon his hiring. "I understand there are a lot of challenges and opportunities facing us, and I look forward to working with the Board of Commissioners, the staff and the community to meet those challenges."

Greene's career in public service began in 1985 when he served as town administrator of Richlands, N.C. before becoming town administrator in Murfreesboro, N.C. in 1986. He was named the town manager for Beech Mountain, N.C. in 1990 and moved to York County, S.C. in 1994 where he served as assistant county manager from 1994-1999 and county manager from 1999-2006.

Bulk Reclaimed Wastewater Available

Reclaimed wastewater or reuse water was made available to the public in April at the Crooked Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and Twelve Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Reclaimed wastewater is wastewater that has been treated to high standards and is considered safe for many purposes that do not require drinking water. Union County Public Works' customers may use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation of public and private landscapes and turf, street sweeping (not cleaning), filling decorative ponds and fountains that drain to sanitary sewer systems, and soil compaction and dust suppression. The County uses reclaimed wastewater to wash County vehicles and County personnel and County authorized contractors use reclaimed wastewater to clean sewers.

The cost of reclaimed wastewater is half that of drinking water, which equates to \$1.22 per 1,000 gallons. Water and drought restrictions do not apply to reclaimed wastewater.

A permit issued by UCPW is required to obtain and use reclaimed wastewater. Individuals and businesses wishing to attain a permit must become familiar with reclaimed wastewater educational material provided by UCPW, complete an application to transport and distribute bulk reclaimed wastewater from UCPW facilities and pay applicable fees.

Watering Restrictions Eased

Union County's Stage 3 water restrictions were eased to allow one-day per week lawn irrigation. Union County residents had been prohibited from watering their lawns since November 6, 2007.

Effective 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, lawn irrigation was permitted as follows:

- Odd numbered addresses – **Water ONLY on Saturday**
- Even numbered and unnumbered addresses – **Water ONLY on Sunday**

It was later announced that residents could wash their vehicles on the same day they were allowed to water their lawns.

Telecommunicator of the Year

Christy Burnette was named Union County Telecommunicator of the Year. Burnette has worked as a telecommunicator in Union County's 9-1-1 center since December 2006.



Surplus Items Online

Union County surplus went up for sale on GovDeals.com in April. Union County auctions off surplus items every year in September. However, GovDeals.com allows the County to sell surplus items throughout the year, helping eliminate the need for space to store unused equipment.

GovDeals Web site is similar in function to eBay. Shoppers find a photo and detailed description of each item for sale, a starting bid amount, bid increment amount, and a bidding end date.

To find Union County surplus equipment on the site, shoppers need only enter their zip code, which directs them to the list of items from Union County for sale.

Health Department Grant

The Charlotte affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure provided community grants totaling more than \$1.1 million to support breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment programs for the medically underserved populations of eight counties, including Union County.

The Union County Health Department received funding for breast health education and for mammogram screenings and diagnostic services for the uninsured or underinsured women of the county. The department's About Breast Cancer Project partners with CMC-Union's Spirit of Women organization and Charlotte Radiology Breast Center in Monroe to offer free mammograms throughout the year.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

May

\$10,000 Helps Fund Bicycle Safety Program for Youth

Time Warner Cable's Charlotte Division awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Union County Sheriff's Office to expand its bicycle safety program for youth, designed to educate children of the importance of wearing a helmet and the proper way to ride a bicycle.



Jessica Graham, public affairs director for Time Warner Cable, presents a check for \$10,000 to Sheriff Eddie Cathey and Sgt. Bernie Young.

The Sheriff's Office is one of two grant recipients to receive funding from Time Warner Cable's "Hands Helping Heroes" program, a community outreach initiative focused on public safety through education.

Board Supports Funding for Highway 218 Upgrade

The Union County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution requesting that the Mecklenburg Union Metropolitan Planning Organization support funding for the Highway 218 upgrade.

Because of increased traffic on Highway 218, the condition of the road has deteriorated, causing it to become unsafe for motorists of Union County and surrounding areas. The ability of Highway 218 to continue to function as a transportation corridor requires widening, intersection improvements, asphalt strengthening and resurfacing.

Commissioners requested the support of MUMPO to divert funding from the NC 218 project in Polkton and to reprogram excess right-of-way funds from the Mallard Creek Road Relocation project to facilitate necessary improvements on Highway 218 in Union County.



Parks & Recreation Receives Grant for Jesse Helms Park

Union County Parks and Recreation received a matching grant in the amount of \$500,000 from the North Carolina Park Authority.

The Park Authority received 89 applications from across North Carolina, and Union County ranked fifth in the point system.

The matching funds of \$500,000 and an additional \$111,963 were approved by the Union County Board of Commissioners on December 17, 2007.

The \$500,000 in grant money and the \$611,963 approved by the Board of Commissioners will help complete almost half of the Passive Area at Jesse Helms Park.



County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

June

Emergency Planner Supported Hyde County During Wildfires

Union County Emergency Planner Jeremy Jernigan spent June 12 - 16 serving as the planning section chief in Hyde County's Emergency Operations Center while the county and surrounding areas of eastern North Carolina were being ravaged by wildfires.



Jernigan

Every county in North Carolina and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indian Tribe has an agreement to come to each other's aid during emergencies and disasters. Hyde County sought assistance from firefighters and emergency management personnel throughout the state to aid them in fighting wildfires.

As planning section chief, Jernigan prepared the daily Incident Action Plan and wrote a contingency plan to evacuate about 1,000 people in the event wildfires spread to their part of the county.

Board Supports GAP Funding

The Union County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting GAP funding for the Monroe Connector/Bypass.

In June, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority was seeking funds from the state legislature for funding various projects that the Turnpike Authority was pursuing, including the Monroe Connector/Bypass.

At the time, projections of construction costs for the Monroe Connector were \$750 million to \$850 million. The projected construction costs did not include interest or debt incurred for construction.

It is estimated that the 30 percent GAP funding requirements for the Monroe Connector/Bypass will be \$24 million per year. The resolution requested that the state provide GAP funding for the project.

"If we don't get this GAP funding, no one in this room will see the Monroe Connector built during their lifetime," Commissioner Allan Baucom said during the June 3 Board meeting.

Budget Adopted

The Union County Board of Commissioners on June 19 adopted a 2008-2009 budget of \$237.4 million. The budget included a tax rate of 66.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, a 4.5 cents decrease from the previous tax rate of 71 cents.

The budget contained significant new investments in the County's public safety programs. Some of the more significant initiatives funded in the budget included:

- Construction, equipping and deployment of a countywide comprehensive public safety radio communication system for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.
- Full-year costs in the amount of \$260,000 in connection with the County's new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and RMS/JMS systems.
- Four additional patrol deputy sheriffs at a cost of \$391,000.
- One additional civilian crime scene investigator at a cost of \$97,000.
- Four additional detention officers to address state mandated in/out-take procedures imposed in 2007 and 2008.
- One environmental litter control officer at a cost of \$102,000.
- Pre-trial release option initiated by officials in the NC Court System and local law enforcement. These officials are reviewing the feasibility of instituting an Electronic House Arrest program as a pre-trial release option.
- Four additional paramedics and one ambulance to provide 12-hours per day, seven days a

- week of additional coverage at a cost of \$367,000.
- Reassignment of 4.5 positions from e-911 to the general fund at a cost of \$275,000.

The budget provided Union County Public Schools with \$79.2 million for current expenses and \$18 million for capital outlay. The current expense amount is up \$8.4 million from last year.

Current expense funds are used to operate and maintain school facilities and allow more resources for high priority and targeted schools and additional teachers, principals, instructional supplies, salary increases, nurses and psychologists within the school system.

Capital outlay funds make resources available to purchase and replace buses, mobile units, technology, furniture and equipment. Capital outlay funds are also committed to initiate a program of upgrading the school system's older facilities.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

July

UCPW Urges Water Conservation

Union County Public Works asked its customers to continue their conservation efforts by only watering their lawns and washing vehicles one day each week.

Public Works' appeal for continued water conservation was in response to a July announcement from the Catawba-Wateree Drought Management Advisory Group that it was concerned about the area's worsening drought conditions.

Board Extends Suspension of Water Commitments

The Union County Board of Commissioners extended the suspension of the issuance of new residential water supply "agreeable to serve letters" in Union County until November 4. The suspension did not affect requests for minor subdivisions of five or less residential water connections.

On February 4, commissioners suspended the issuance of any new residential supply "agreeable to serve letters" for six months from that date. They also directed county staff to craft a Water Allocation Policy during the six-month period.

Water from Anson Treated with Chloramines

In August, drinking water supplied from Anson County to Union County's Eastern Water Distribution System began being disinfected with chloramines and not free chlorine. The change was intended to benefit Union County Public Works' customers by lowering the concentration of disinfection byproducts (DBPs) in the system.

Disinfection is a step in the water treatment process to assure the biological safety of water. Chlorine, chloramines and other chemicals can be used as disinfectants. Historically, chlorine has been the only disinfectant used in Union County. Customers that receive water treated at the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant receive water that has been disinfected with chlorine. Customers that receive water from Anson County's Water Treatment Plant at Blewett Falls will receive water that has been disinfected with chloramines.

Tax Assessor's Office Moves to Government Center

The Union County Tax Assessor's office moved from the Historic Courthouse to their newly renovated facilities on the 2nd floor of the Union County Government Center on Friday, July 11.

Historic Courthouse May Become a Museum

The Union County Board of Commissioners authorized the county manager to approve a contract in the amount of \$50,000 with Westlake Reed Leskosky to study the concept of converting the County's historic courthouse to a Heritage Center and museum.



The idea was first pitched to commissioners in 2007 by Virginia Bjorlin, chair of the Union County Historic Preservation Commission.

Funding for the feasibility study was provided in the FY08 budget and county staff and members of the Preservation Commission developed a Request for Proposals defining the desired scope of work. The RFP was sent to numerous firms recognized by the American Museum Association, and proposals were received from seven firms.

A selection committee recommended Westlake Reed Leskosky as the firm most qualified to conduct the study.

UCPW Praises Conservation Efforts of Water Customers

Union County Public Works released a chart showing how its customers had done a tremendous job conserving water during the past year. The results were based on records of daily water demand from the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant since mandatory water restrictions were implemented in June 2007.

The month prior to restrictions an average of 18.7 million gallons of water per day was being used from the Catawba plant, which has a permitted capacity of 18 million gallons per day for Union County. After restrictions were implemented last June, the average daily demand averaged 10.3 million gallons per day.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

August

New Veterans Service Officer Named

Michelle Marcano was appointed to the position of Veterans Service Officer.

For the past nine years, Marcano served as a program manager for the Army Career & Alumni Program, a counseling program that assists military service members transition into civilian life.

Marcano and her husband recently returned to North Carolina after spending nine years stationed in Germany. Prior to Germany, the Marcanos were stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Marcano holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii and a master's degree in community counseling from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C.

DSS Maintains 100% Accuracy Rate

The Department of Social Services' Food & Nutrition Service program was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the state and USDA for maintaining a 100 percent accuracy rate in its FNS program for the state fiscal year 2007-2008.

Crump Elected District Chair

Register of Deeds Crystal Crump was elected District Chair of District III for the North Carolina Association for Register of Deeds.



As district chair, Crump is responsible for representing District III, which consists of Anson, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union and Yadkin counties.

Electronic Services Expanded

The Tax Office launched its Electronic Government Solutions online service on August 27. EGS allows users to search personal property, real property, and vehicle tax records as well as run comparable sales, pay taxes online, and view GIS mapping with inquiries on real property.

EGS e-Tax Payments offers flexibility in selecting, editing, and paying a transaction. Payment of real property, personal property or both can be made online by using a credit card or debit card. Multiple properties can be paid with one transaction, and a printable receipt is furnished. The tax receipt can also be printed if necessary.

The Comparable Sales service allows users to search for comparable sales within the past 12 months. Searches are available by sales date range, acreage, sales price range, square footage, vacant/improved, neighborhood and current usage.

The Real Property with GIS Mapping service permits real property searches by name, parcel number or address.

To access the EGS system, visit the Union County Web site at www.co.union.nc.us and click on the On-Line Services button at the top of the page.

Easement Granted to Monroe

The Union County Board of Commissioners granted an easement across the County's Tallwood Wastewater Treatment Plant property to the City of Monroe for the placement of a 10-inch natural gas main.

The easement was needed for part of Monroe's proposed 43-mile natural gas transmission line, which will connect Monroe's municipal natural gas system directly to the Transcontinental Pipeline south of Mooresville.

New Size Limit for Bass at Cane Creek Lake

The minimum size limit for keeping bass caught at Cane Creek Lake was changed from 18 inches to 16 inches.



The 16-inch minimum was approved by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in an effort to improve the condition of bass in the lake by allowing additional harvest.

Tax Bills Mailed

In late August, the Union County Tax Office mailed approximately 105,000 property tax bills. The bills were mailed directly to individuals who pay the bill - either property owners or mortgage companies with which taxes are escrowed.

For the first time, Union County partnered with several municipalities to collect taxes on their behalf. Property tax bills for residents of Wingate, Wesley Chapel and Hemby Bridge received one tax bill that included both the county and municipal taxes. This partnership provides the residents of these municipalities with one point of contact for all of their property tax questions and issues.

Union County Public Works Revises Irrigation Schedule and Rates

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a new irrigation schedule and revised water conservation rates for Union County water users.

The new irrigation schedule assigned one weekday (Monday - Friday) for customers to irrigate lawns and wash vehicles. Previously, customers were permitted to irrigate lawns and wash vehicles on Saturdays or Sundays depending on their house number. The new irrigation schedule was related to the geographic location of homes in Union County instead of by house number.

Union County's former water conservation rates were based on monthly gallons used without regard to the stage of water restrictions the County is under.

Former rates:

Monthly Gallons Billed	Rate/1,000 Gallons
0 - 3,000	\$2.10
3,001 - 8,000	\$2.45
8,001 - 10,000	\$3.45
10,001 - 18,000	\$5.45
over 18,000	\$9.45

The revised conservation rates were also based on gallons used, however, rates increase after 10,000 gallons of use when the County is under Stage 2, 3 or 4 water restrictions. Union County implemented water restrictions in June 2007 and is currently under Stage 3 restrictions.

Revised Conservation Rates:

Monthly Gallons Billed	If no shortage	If Stage 2	If Stage 3	If Stage 4
0 - 3,000	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10	\$2.10
3,001 - 8,000	\$2.45	\$2.45	\$2.45	\$2.45
8,001 - 10,000	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.45
10,001 - 15,000	\$5.45	\$8.18	\$13.63	\$19.08
over 15,000	\$9.45	\$14.18	\$23.63	\$33.08

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

September

Firefighter Memorial Dedicated on 9/11

A memorial to honor and pay tribute to firefighters who have died in the line of duty and to recognize all firefighters of Monroe and Union County for their service was dedicated on September 11 on the lawn of the county's historic courthouse.

The memorial displays the names of Union County's three firefighters who have died in the line of duty - Tommy Griffin, Kenneth Strain, and Todd Hage. All 18 volunteer fire departments in Union County, along with Monroe Fire Department, are listed on the base of the memorial.



Odor to be Reduced at Twelve Mile Creek WWTP

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a plan to control the odor coming from the County's Twelve Mile Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Twelve Mile Creek WWTP was constructed in 1997 and was originally located on more than 225 acres off Highway 16 near Cuthbertson Road. In the early 2000s, the land was subdivided to include sufficient area for future expansion of the plant to 15 million gallons per day, while the remaining land was sold to a private residential/commercial developer. The plant currently sits on approximately 80 acres.

Within the last few years, several large residential subdivisions – Cureton, Quelin, and Prescott – and a commercial center, Cureton Town Center, have been developed around the plant's perimeter. With the construction of Cureton Parkway/Kensington Drive paralleling the northern and western edges of the plant site, the plant has become more visible, and at times, more prone to generating nuisance odor complaints.

Because of its close proximity to its adjacent neighbors, separate odor control systems were installed at the plant's influent pump station and grit facility as part of the recently completed plant expansion project. However, plant staff continues to receive odor complaints, primarily from the Cureton and Quelin subdivisions.

The plan approved by commissioners consists of "capping" tanks most prone to generate offensive odors, withdrawing the air from the tanks and running it through "scrubbing" units before it is released into the atmosphere.

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$4,795,350. Estimated construction time is 12 months.

Car Washing Allowed on Weekends

County Manager Al Greene in September allowed Union County water customers to wash vehicles on Saturdays and Sundays as well as on their assigned day to irrigate.

The idea to allow vehicle washing on the weekends was brought forth by Commissioner Lanny Openshaw. "I've received a bunch of emails from people who say they aren't able to wash their cars on weekdays because of their work schedules," Openshaw said at the time. "I would like to suggest that we allow customers to wash vehicles on their assigned weekday as well as weekends."



The new irrigation schedule was reviewed with commissioners in August and under that schedule each customer was assigned one weekday to irrigate lawns and wash vehicles. Customers were notified by the County of their new irrigation date in September.



County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

October

Lawsuit Against Animal Services Dismissed

A lawsuit filed against Sheriff Eddie Cathey and the Union County Sheriff's Office by the Union County Humane Society and the N.C Coalition for Humane Euthanasia over the agency's Animal Services euthanasia practices was dismissed on October 13 by the Chief District Court Judge in Union County. The suit was filed on March 7, 2008 by the plaintiffs, and alleged that the Sheriff's Office was unlawfully euthanizing certain animals in violation of North Carolina law.

In a District Civil Court hearing, both parties entered into a stipulation agreement that absolved the agency of any wrongdoing.

New Inspections Director

John Reavis was appointed to the position of Union County Building Inspections director. Reavis replaced Donald Moore who retired on December 31.



Reavis came to Union County from SFL+Architects in Charlotte where he served as contract administrator. He previously held several positions with Iredell County including inspector, plans reviewer, and inspections supervisor.

Courthouse Lighting Upgrade

Commissioners approved funding to upgrade the outdoor lighting at the historic courthouse in Monroe.

The upgraded lighting will enhance the courthouse's visibility at night and showcase it as one of the premier downtown Monroe attractions.

Cunningham Honored by Governor

David Cunningham, former director of Union County Environmental Health, received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award from the state of North Carolina.



Created in 1965, The Order of the long Leaf Pine is the highest honor the governor can bestow on a North Carolina citizen. It is given to individuals of have a proven record of service to the state through a long history of service to his or her community.

New Environmental Health Director

Jeff Knight was named Environmental Health Director, replacing David Cunningham who retired on October 31.



Knight joined Union County Environmental Health in 1988 as an environmental health specialist. In 1994, he took the same position in Mecklenburg County, but returned to Union County in 2000. He was promoted to an environmental health program specialist in 2005 and environmental health supervisor in 2006.

Board Implements Hiring Freeze and Curtails Spending

The Union County Board of Commissioners on October 20 imposed a freeze on both hiring and capital spending. The hiring freeze can be overridden by County Manager Al Greene if the position or capital expense is critical to the County's operations. Commissioners also directed County staff to develop a plan for further reductions in spending.

The financial markets dislocation and economic downturn of September and October have had significant effects on the County's operating and capital budgets.

Board OKs Water Allocation Policy

The Union County Board of Commissioners approved a policy that will distribute 20 million gallons of water capacity per day to new and existing projects.

In February 2008, commissioners adopted a resolution that tasked the county manager and Public Works Department with developing a Water Supply Plan and Water Allocation Policy. This resolution acknowledged that, at times, the Union County Water System peak day demands exceeded available water treatment capacity. As a result, the opportunity to provide water service to new customers is limited. The Water Supply Plan and Water Allocation Policy are intended to provide a roadmap for the County as it seeks to provide new water service for continued population and economic growth.

The Water Allocation Policy seeks to document current water use by customers and quantify the amount of capacity that is available for system expansion. In developing the policy, the County sought:

- to retain flexibility to make adjustments during the term of the policy
- to be fair and equitable in allocation of future water service
- to be consistent with the County's recently adopted Sewer Allocation Policy

The Union County Public Works Department is actively pursuing additional water treatment capacity, and is currently in the planning, permitting, engineering design, and/or construction phase of numerous projects that are intended to secure additional water supply and delivery capacity to current and future residents of the county. However, until several of these projects are completed, it is necessary to have this policy in place to establish guidelines for allocating water treatment capacity.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

November

Union County Center Tops in State

Union County's Cooperative Extension staff and program efforts were recognized among the best in the state by Epsilon Sigma Phi's Xi Chapter. Epsilon Sigma Phi is a national organization established to promote professionalism and career excellence among Cooperative Extension employees. Members of the staff received the award at the annual meeting held in Greensboro on October 30.

"In a county recognized as one of the fastest growing in America, Union County has undergone tremendous change in the last decade," said Robbie Furr, 2008 Epsilon Sigma Phi president. "Amidst this change, Cooperative Extension has maintained excellence in program delivery to traditional audiences while expanding its outreach to a more diversified community and clientele."



Union County Cooperative Extension staff: Front row from left to right - Dana Braswell, Laura Byrd, Lisa Eubanks, Laura Grier, David Grant and Ron Cox. Back row from left to right - Jerry Simpson, Tom Pegram, Chris Austin, Sally McNeill, Jeff Rieves and Richard Goforth.

Medical Director Receives Award

Dr. Bill Helmuth, medical director of the Child Health and Communicable Disease programs at the Union County Health Department, was honored with a GlaxoSmithKline Recognition Award at the North Carolina Public Health Association's annual meeting.

Dr. Helmuth received the Individual Recognition Award which goes to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to improving children's health services.

After working with the Centers for Disease Control, directing a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for many years, working as vice president of a pediatric medical group in Florida, and traveling as a medical missionary, it was time for Dr. Helmuth to retire. Instead, he poured his energies into local public health by performing medical exams at United Family Services' Tree House, a children's advocacy center for children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse. His concern and compassion are most evident when he participates tirelessly in case reviews, working with Social Services and law enforcement staff, prosecutors, counselors, and other advocates on medical issues related to child abuse.



From left to right - Amy Parker, Union County public health administrator; Leah Devlin, NC health director; Evelyn Helmuth, Dr. Helmuth, Marilyn Foote-Hudson, executive director for NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation, Wayne Raynor, past president of NC Public Health Association, and Phillip Tarte, Union County health director.

Tax Office Wins Award

The Union County Tax Administrator's Office won the 2008 North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers Most Distinguished Jurisdiction Award for its innovative approach to defending 2008 revaluation property values.

The Tax Administrator's Office conducted a revaluation of real property in Union County for 2008. On March 20, nearly 90,000 change of assessment notices were mailed to property owners. Of those, more than 5,100 valuations were appealed to the Tax Administrator's Office and 1,395 of those appeals were heard by the Board of Equalization and Review.

Defense of property values at the Board of Equalization and Review revolved around two primary approaches. The first was a comparable sales book, organized by appraisal area, of more than 12,000 vacant and improved sales gathered during the revaluation. The book, developed by Real Estate Appraisal Division Manager Phil Every, was a major departure from the past practice of conducting individual comparable sales appraisals for the defense of every property valuation appeal.

The second approach to defending property valuation during the Board of Equalization and Review was developed and implemented by GIS Specialist Amy Nicholson. Using the Tax Assessor's geographic information system, Nicholson was able to access an online, real-time, interactive data system which allowed information to be projected on a screen for the board, staff and appellants to review during appeal hearings. The data displayed included a property map of the parcel, flood lines, sewer lines, utility easements, aerial photography, ownership information, and much more.

Cane Creek Park Lake Closes

Cane Creek Park Lake closed in November so repairs could be made to the lake's emergency spillway.



According to Parks and Recreation Director Wanda Smith, there was a malfunction with the riser gate that controls the water flow out the lake. The lake had been losing between a quarter of an inch and half an inch of water everyday. Inspectors determined the cause and severity of the malfunction and the necessary steps were made to make repairs.

Unionville Library Closes

The Unionville branch of the Union County Library permanently closed on November 6.

A library branch was located in the Unionville Town Hall since January 2003. Several factors contributed to the library's lack of success, including its location and limited space of only 1,350 sq. ft.

In the time it was open, about 22,900 items were checked out of the library. That was less than one month's activity at Union West Regional Library in Indian Trail. It cost four times more per borrower to deliver service at the Unionville branch compared to the Union West branch.

Resources from the Unionville branch – staff, books, supplies and computer equipment – were transferred to Union West.

County Accomplishments and Highlights for 2008

December

Kuehler and Rogers Join Board

Tracy Kuehler and Kim Rogers took their oaths of office on Monday, December 1 joining Allan Baucom, Parker Mills and Lanny Openshaw on the Union County Board of Commissioners.



Tracy Kuehler takes the oath of office.

The board's first official act was electing Lanny Openshaw as chairman of the board of commissioners. Kim Rogers was elected vice-chairwoman.



Kim Rogers takes the oath of office.

Crump Sworn-in

Register of Deeds Crystal Crump was sworn-in for her second term of office on December 1.



Crystal Crump takes oath office as her family looks on.

Wireless Connections to be Placed in Government Center

County Commissioners agreed to lease space inside the Government Center for the placement of wireless radio transceivers that will help citizens of Monroe receive Wi-Fi service.

The City of Monroe approved agreements with Wildfire Connections to allow Wildfire to attach communication equipment to various city facilities and utility poles in order to provide a subscription Wi-Fi service to Monroe citizens. In exchange for this agreement and an advertising commitment from Monroe, Wildfire will build and operate a free Wi-Fi service that will be accessible to citizens in the outside areas of downtown Monroe, effectively turning downtown Monroe into a free "Wi-Fi Hot Spot."

To make the project work logistically, Wildfire will have access to the roof of the nine story Government Center. The County negotiated an agreement with Wildfire where they will lease space on the building roof, in exchange for installing and servicing connections to serve the Union County Agricultural Services and Conference Center and Jesse Helms Park.

Planning Board, Others to Air on UCTV 16

Commissioners voted to have County staff videotape all meetings of the Union County Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Board of Equalization and Review and televise the meetings on the County's government channel, UCTV 16.

Motion Rescinded

Commissioners passed a resolution requesting that the North Carolina General Assembly make no changes to the composition of the Union County Board of Commissioners.

The resolution rescinds a motion passed by the board on May 19 directing County staff to work with state legislators to increase the number of commissioners who serve on the Union County Board of Commissioners up to the number of nine.

Disclosure Forms OKd

Future applicants for the Union County Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Board of Equalization and Review and the currently suspended Public Works Advisory Board will be required to fill out disclosure or conflict of interest forms prior to being considered for board positions.

Changes Recommended for Boards

Commissioners proposed amendments to the Land Use Ordinance that would reduce the number of members on the Planning Board from nine to seven and the Board of Adjustment from seven to five.

These proposed amendments will go to the Planning Board for consideration. A public hearing on the proposed changes will be scheduled after the Planning Board makes its recommendations.

Jerry Simpson Retires

Union County Cooperative Extension Director Jerry Simpson retired on December 31. Simpson was director in Union County for the past 10 years.



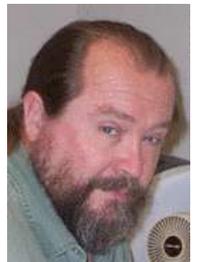
Simpson started his career with Cooperative Extension in Raleigh in June 1977 as an extension swine specialist managing the genetic evaluation program for North Carolina pork producers. After four years he returned to a cross-county livestock agent position with Cabarrus and Stanly counties where he conducted educational programs for swine and beef producers. He came to Union County in December 1981 as a livestock agent working with pork and corn producers and became Cooperative Extension director in 1998.

Simpson says the greatest satisfaction for an Extension educator is to witness the success of others that comes as a result of information they supplied. "I will miss that and the relationships that develop," he said.

One of Simpson's proudest accomplishments is his formation of Union County's 4-H and Youth Development Foundation and the opportunity it will provide to Union County young people.

Interim Director Named

Jeff Rieves, horticulturalist with Union County Cooperative Extension, was appointed to serve as interim Union County Cooperative Extension director. Rieves took over for Jerry Simpson who retired on December 31.



Important Union County Phone Numbers...

Union County Main Number	704-283-3500
Animal Services	704-283-2308
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	704-283-3536/3575
Environmental Health	704-283-3553
Finance	704-283-3813
Fire Services	704-283-3524
General Services	704-283-3872
Health Department	704-296-4800
Homeland Security	704-292-2670
Information Systems	704-283-3841
Inspections	704-283-3816
Internal Audit	704-283-3630
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	704-283-3843
Risk Management	704-283-3663
Sheriff's Office	704-283-3789
Social Services	704-296-4300
Stormwater	704-283-3520
Tax Administration	704-283-3746/3848
Transportation and Nutrition	704-283-3713/3712
Veterans Services	704-283-3711/3744

