



# Union UPDATE

February 12, 2013

## QUICK LINKS



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## County Adopts Policy for Replacing Reduced Funding

The Union County Board of Commissioners has decided not to automatically replace funds from state, federal or private agencies with local money when those agencies reduce or eliminate funding to Union County or Union County Public School (UCPS) programs.

"This policy is timely given the legislative sessions currently underway at both the state and federal levels and represents a clear message that the fiscal sustainability of Union County is a primary goal of the commission," said Finance Director Jeff Yates.

The residents of Union County receive important, beneficial services from a wide variety of state, federal and private agencies, as well as county programs which rely on funding from these agencies that are critical partners with the county and UCPS in the provision of programs to the community.

"When these agencies terminate programming, reduce services or curtail funding, it cannot be assumed that the county will maintain these programs," Yates said. "The county's ability to assume the financial responsibility for these services without significantly impacting other service areas, which are solely the responsibility of the county or without having to increase tax rates, is limited."

The policy adopted by commissioners will prevent, to the extent possible, the shifting of financial responsibility for state, federal or privately funded programs to the residents of Union County by not replacing those funds with local funds when those agencies reduce funding to the various community programs that rely on that funding.

County Manager Cindy Coto will provide information, on a periodic basis, to the board concerning any reductions in funding from state, federal or private sources that are expected to adversely affect services to the residents of Union County. When services are severely affected by such reductions, the county manager will determine what actions, if any, may be necessary to mitigate the impact on local services.

The board may from time to time express concerns, via resolution, to the county's legislative delegation concerning possible impacts of reduced funding or increased/unfunded mandates.

New Area Agent in Local Foods

monthly program guide via your email by contacting Shelley Fearn, Reader's Services Librarian, at [sfearn@union.lib.nc.us](mailto:sfearn@union.lib.nc.us).



## What's Happening at the Library?

Monroe  
Black History Walk  
Saturday, Feb. 16  
Sunday, Feb. 17  
3 p.m.  
Monroe Library

Learn about forgotten businesses, civil rights events and more during this one-hour, one-mile walk. Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Bad weather will cancel this event. Registration is required. Call Patricia Poland at 704-283-8184 ext. 224.

Donna Washington  
Storyteller  
Tuesday, Feb. 19  
5 p.m.  
Marshville Library

Donna Washington is an award-winning author and storyteller. Her stories are fun for all ages. Refreshments will be provided.

## This Week at the General Assembly

Want to know what's going on in state government? You can by watching "This Week at the General Assembly" on UCTV 16 or the county's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/unioncountync](http://www.youtube.com/unioncountync).

For a list of air times on UCTV, visit

In response to the growing demand, Union County now has a new area extension agent specializing in the field of local foods. Dustin Adcock will be developing programs and assisting other area agents to build a stronger and safer food market for producers and consumers.



Adcock served as an agriculture teacher in Union County for five years, operates a market garden and community supported agriculture program, and is actively involved in his church and community. His expertise is in consumer horticulture along with soils, sustainability, vegetable and fruit production.

Adcock's role as an area agent in local foods is the first of its kind in North Carolina. This means that our county has the potential to develop a program and service like no other and become a model for the rest of the state. Adcock has a great passion and vision for local foods and agriculture.

A large portion of what we eat travels hundreds, if not thousands of miles, before reaching our plate. According to the Economic Research provided by USDA, local food markets and growers have increased four times in the last seven years.

"The majority of all food produced by local growers in Union County is sold in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, therefore effecting the local economy in a very critical time," Adcock said. "We must embrace this movement for its healthful, cultural, environmental and economic benefits."

So, why should you buy your food locally? While in transportation, fresh produce loses valuable nutrients and flavor. During the trip from harvest to dinner table, sugars turn to starches, plant cells shrink and produce loses vitality.

Local food also supports the local economy and family farms, which are steadily decreasing. Being cognoscente of where your food originates and how it's grown makes you, as a consumer, more aware of your health and the effects of what you eat. Finally, the products of our local farms make use of valuable land and promote a healthy balance within the ecosystem that is quickly being converted to housing and industry. There is no doubt that purchasing local foods can and will sustain our small towns and counties along with their citizens.

For assistance with your small farm, market, garden or any other local food production questions, contact Adcock at 704-283-3830. If you're interested in purchasing locally grown food from our new five-county, farmer-owned cooperative, email your interest to [farmfreshventures@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshventures@gmail.com) or call 704-694-2415.

Union County Public Library to Offer  
Digital Magazine Collection

[www.co.union.nc.us](http://www.co.union.nc.us) and click on the UCTV 16 icon on the home page.

## Tutors Needed

We seek compassionate volunteers!

Would you consider tutoring an adult learner?

Take the first step by attending Literacy Council 101 on one of these dates:

Wednesday, Feb 20  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information, contact the Literacy Council of Union County at 704-226-1425 or email [info@literacyunion.org](mailto:info@literacyunion.org).

[www.literacyunion.org](http://www.literacyunion.org)

The Union County Public Library is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of a digital magazine collection of over 80 popular titles offered through Zinio, the world's largest newsstand.

With Zinio there are no lines, no worries about returns, and best of all, no waiting. Every magazine in the collection is available any time of day, every day of the week. Zinio's innovative digital platform allows readers to enjoy magazines in a familiar and intuitive way. Connect to Zinio from home using any Internet browser, or enjoy mobile access from most devices, including tablets, smartphones and select eReaders by downloading and installing the Zinio Reader 4 app.

Zinio is provided as a free service to Union County Public Library members. To begin enjoying magazines like Consumer Reports, ESPN, Martha Stewart Living, Organic Gardening, Smithsonian and Taste of Home you will need to have a library card in good standing and visit [www.rbdigital.com/unionnc/zinio](http://www.rbdigital.com/unionnc/zinio) to create an account.

For more information or assistance, call 704-283-8184 ext. 232.

## Scholarship Offered by Cooperative Extension

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Secretaries Association (NCCESA) is accepting applications for its Herter-O'Neal Scholarship which is awarded each year to honor the work and dedication of Edith Herter and Frances O'Neal, founding members of NCCESA.

The \$750 scholarship is open to students pursuing an associates or bachelors degree in a business-related field of study. Applicants must be a legal resident of North Carolina. Funds are paid directly to the college rather than an individual and can be withdrawn to cover books and/or tuition.

To apply, pick up an application packet from your school's Financial Aid office or call 704-283-3742. The application deadline is March 15.



Union County  
Volunteer Association

# Tree Seedling & Fruit Plant Sale

## Saturday, February 16, 2013

### 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Union County Agricultural Center  
3230 Presson Road Monroe, NC 28110  
(Off of 74 next to Brooks Tractor)

BARE ROOT TREES NATIVE / ORNAMENTAL	BARE ROOT TREES APPLE & PLUM	CONTAINER TREES PEACH
Persimmon <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Apple Tree – 7/16" caliper 'Gala' Semi-Dwarf \$11	Peach Tree – 24-30" 'Intrepid' Halford \$8
River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i>	Apple Tree – 7/16" caliper 'Fuji' Semi-Dwarf \$11	Peach Tree – 24-30" 'Nectar' - white flesh Halford \$8
Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i> White	Apple Tree – 7/16" caliper 'Yellow Delicious' S/D ** \$11	Peach Tree - 24-30" 'China Pearl'-white flesh Hal \$8
Bald Cypress ** <i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Apple Tree – 7/16" caliper 'Arkansas Black' Standard \$11	Peach Tree – 24-30" 'Contender' Halford \$8
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Apple Tree – 7/16" caliper 'Stayman' Standard ** \$11	Peach Tree – 24-30" 'Challenger' Halford \$8
Southern Crabapple ** <i>Malus angustifolia</i> White	Plum Tree – 24-30" 'Blue Damson' Halford ** \$10	
White Pine ** <i>Pinus strobus</i>	Plum Tree – 24-30" 'Methley' Halford ** \$10	
	No Tree/Plant more than \$20	
	Pre Order Blueberries ! \$20 each	
	RAIN BARRELS 60 gal & 80 gal	
	<b>Rain or Shine !</b>	
		<b>FRUIT &amp; VEGETABLE BARE ROOT PLANTS</b>
		Blackberries 'Arapaho' thornless \$4
		Blackberries 'Navaho' thornless \$4
		Raspberries 'Anne' - Golden Yellow ** \$4
		Raspberries 'Dorman Red' \$4
		Muscadine Grapes 'Carlos' – 2 yr plants \$8
<b>CONTAINER TREES / SHRUBS</b>		
Figs – 'Brown Turkey' ** \$6		
Flowering Quince ** Salmon Pink flowers \$6		
Rose of Sharon ** \$3		

\*\*Denotes trees / plants that were not available last year!

Payments accepted in Cash or Checks only!

**Order your Rain Barrel by February 11 for pickup on sale day!**  
**Questions or orders: E-mail [ucmgwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:ucmgwebsite@gmail.com) or call 704-283-3822.**  
**Mark your calendars now for our Spring Plant Sale on Sat. April 20th!!**

# The Great Backyard Bird Count

## 2013

### CANE CREEK PARK

Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

10:00am - 12:00pm



Join us at Cane Creek Park to help us participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count. We will have ranger led nature walks at 10 am and 11 am. We will meet at the nature trail outdoor classroom. If we are lucky, we may spot one of the two bald eagles that reside in the park.

Beginners and experienced birdwatchers are welcome. Bring your binoculars and identification guides. This is a free event does not require pre-registration. (Regular entrance fees apply.) Contact David Paschal for more information at

[david.paschal@co.union.nc.us](mailto:david.paschal@co.union.nc.us) or  
704-843-3919.

#### What is the GBBC?



Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website. **Beginning in 2013, each participant must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists.** You'll only need to do this once to participate in all future GBBC events. As the count progresses, anyone with internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or from anywhere in the world. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see for the GBBC photo contest. A selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery. Visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more information.





Try it FREE today.

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