



Union UPDATE

February 19, 2013

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Consolidated Human Services Agency and Board Established

The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday approved a resolution that creates a Consolidated Human Services Agency to carry out the functions currently performed by the Union County Department of Social Services and Health Department, a Consolidated Human Services Board, and the position of Human Services director to be appointed and supervised by the county manager.

"This consolidation will benefit both agencies in terms of efficiencies, as well as better serve the clients in both those departments," said Chairman Jerry Simpson.

At a special meeting on Oct. 30, commissioners instructed Union County staff to begin the process of combining the Union County Health Department and Union County Department of Social Services into a Consolidated Human Services Agency with a separate Consolidated Human Services Board.

During the 2012 legislative session, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted legislation amending statutes authorizing county governments to consolidate human services. The goal of consolidation is to integrate business processes, budgets, capital projects and support functions when possible to sustain efficient and effective human services program delivery. Based on these statutory changes and goals, commissioners were presented with options and staff recommendations regarding consolidation. Commissioners directed staff to pursue the Consolidated Human Services Board governance method as outlined by statutes.

Before a Consolidated Human Services Board can be established, North Carolina law requires the formation of a nominating committee comprised of members of a county's current Health and Social Services boards. It is the nominating committee's responsibility to submit nominations to commissioners to be considered for appointment to the new board. At its Nov. 19 meeting, commissioners named Dr. Nancy Randall, Evelyn Blackley, Dr. Michael J. Johnson and James Struve (alternate) to the nominating committee. The nominating committee met in three public meetings and considered 33 applicants, of whom 27 were recommended for the board.

Individuals appointed by commissioners to the board are:

Consumers of Human Services:

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



What's Happening at the Library?

Slavery in the Americas
Saturday, Feb. 23
1:15 p.m.
Monroe Library

Did you know the United States was not the last major power to abolish slavery in the Americas? It would take almost another quarter century to end slavery in Brazil. Join us for UNCC professor Chris Cameron's talk on the experience of slavery in the Americas and the different paths to abolition. For more information, contact Tim Speasl at 704-283-8184 ext. 240.

Surplus Auction

Check out Union County surplus items for sale at www.govdeals.com/unioncountync.

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.

- Lori Clark 1-Year Term
- Steven Godfrey 3-Year Term
- Tammy B. Millward 2-Year Term
- Melinda Plue 4-Year Term

Required Professionals:

- Psychologists, Carlton Aldrich 3-Year Term
- Pharmacist, Evelyn Blackley 4-Year Term
- Engineer, James N. Struve 2-Year Term
- Dentist, Dr. Robert Bookholt 3-Year Term
- Optometrist, Dr. Michael Johnson 4-Year Term
- Veterinarian, Brenda D. Yercheck 2-Year Term
- Social Worker, Eunice McGee 1-Year Term
- Registered Nurse, Patsy Curry 1-Year Term

Psychiatrist and Physician:

- Psychiatrist, Dr. Deanna Cornelius 4-Year Term
- Physician, Dr. Chandra Hollier 4-Year Term

County Commissioner:

- Jonathan Thomas 1-Year Term

Other Persons:

- Gary Ritandaro 1-Year Term
- Louis Philippi 1-Year Term

Commissioners Discontinue Their Health Insurance Benefits

The Union County Board of Commissioners has unanimously voted to eliminate health insurance coverage for current commissioners and future commissioners.



For a number of years, Union County has maintained a health insurance plan for the benefit of current employees and sitting commissioners. The current insurance plan and related documents provide coverage for sitting members of the board and also provides options for dependent coverage. This benefit was in effect when all current commissioners were elected to the board, and paid health insurance coverage is part of each commissioner's compensation package.

North Carolina General Statute 153A-92(b) limits the board's ability to reduce compensation for sitting commissioners. However, the board can limit the benefit if an individual commissioner consents.

In order to make any reduction or elimination of health insurance benefits for future commissioners, General Statute 153A-92(b)(2) allows the board to pass a resolution reducing or eliminating the benefit no later than 14 days before the last day of filing for candidacy for the office of Union County Board of Commissioners.

For a list of air times on UCTV, visit 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.

www.literacyunion.org

"Every year our county departments have to find ways to make ends meet with the money they are allowed to have," said Commissioner Todd Johnson. "So, it's hard for me to tell any department to cut their budget if we aren't willing to let the cuts start with us."

"We are part-time employees, and there is no other part-time employee in the county that is eligible for health insurance," said Commissioner Richard Helms. "We need to set the example and start making cuts with us."

Based on current fiscal year insurance estimates, the financial impact of this change will be a net reduction in next fiscal year's general fund budget of between \$7,812 and \$13,620 for each commissioner. The range reflects different insurance plan options available, and the associated annual budget estimate associated with those options.

County to Update Land Use Plan

The Union County Board of Commissioners has authorized the county manager to start the process of updating the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

"The Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted in 2010; however, it took six years to get to that point," said County Manager Cindy Coto. "The document's guiding principles are in pretty good shape, but the land use map does not anticipate any future growth or lay out a road map as how to manage future growth."

"With the current Land Use Plan as it is we're not able to properly plan," Commissioner Todd Johnson said. "There's going to be progress, and if we don't adjust our Land Use Plan, we aren't going to have any guiding principles through that growth."

At a work session on Feb. 13, commissioners received an update on the status of the comprehensive rewrite of the county's Unified Development Code and a review of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. By consensus, the board directed staff to proceed immediately with an update to the plan.

Commissioners Deny Text Amendment to Land Use Ordinance

The Union County Board of Commissioners has denied a text amendment to the county's Land Use Ordinance that would allow subdividing property on private roads.

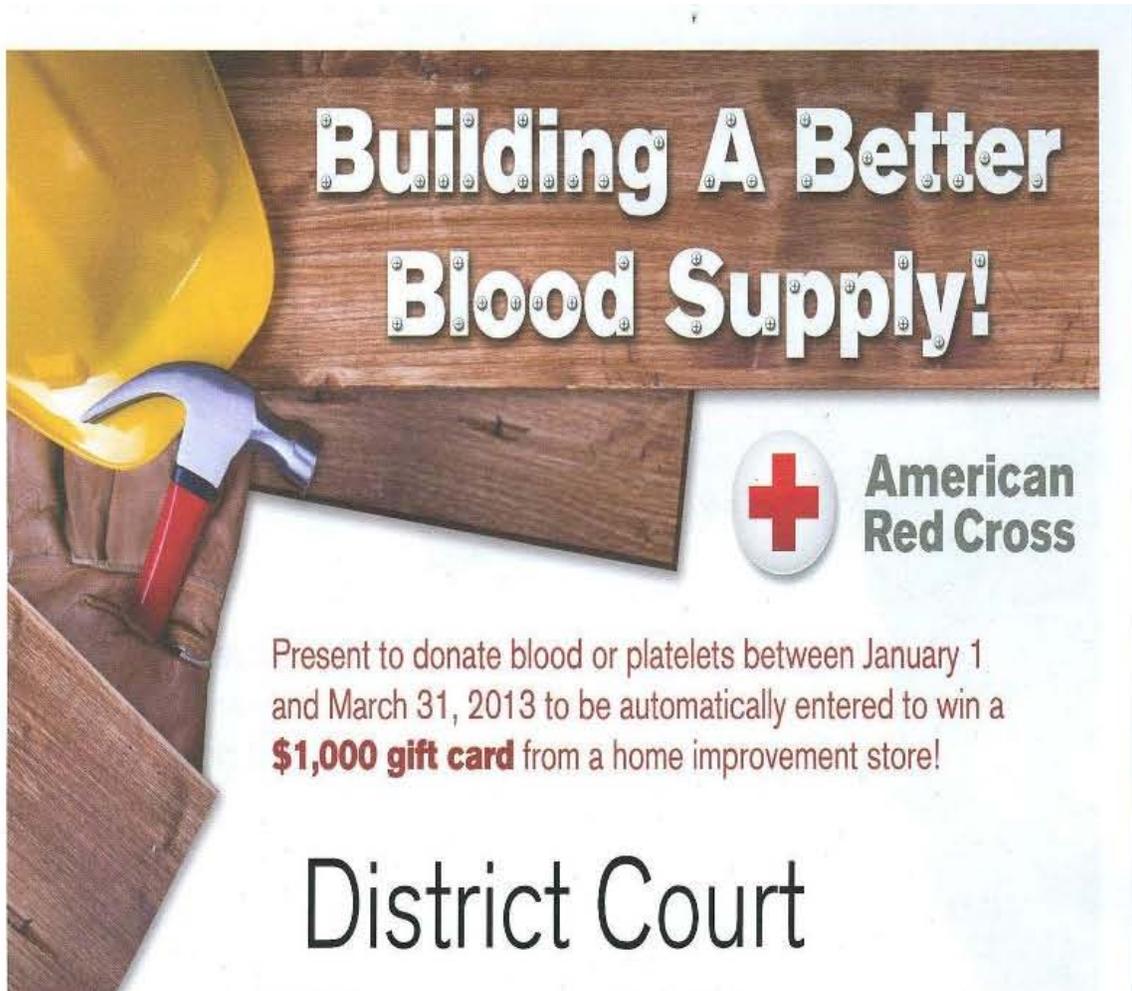
This issue was brought up at the board's Sept. 4 meeting when concerns were expressed regarding the difficulty faced by property owners who want to subdivide more than two lots for transfer to family members. This isn't allowed under the current county Land Use Ordinance if the lots would be served by a private road. In response to those concerns, the board initiated a text amendment that would enable the subdivision of more than two lots on a

private road.

At their Nov. 5 meeting, the board reviewed the current ordinance requirements and a draft amendment prepared by county staff that would allow additional lots on a case-by-case basis with approval of a special use permit by the Union County Board of Adjustment and directed staff to seek recommendation of the county's Planning Board.

On Dec. 4, the Planning Board voted 5-1 to recommend that commissioners not amend the text of the Land Use Ordinance to allow additional lots on a private road with the approval of a special use permit because the county is conducting a comprehensive rewrite of its Land Use Ordinance, and the issue of subdividing property on private roads will be addressed in the rewrite. Furthermore, the proposed text amendment would result in the creation of additional lots and density on private drives without the benefit of comprehensive planning and with long-term health and safety concerns associated with this type of unplanned development.

"My lack of support of this text amendment is not so much for the premise behind it, because I believe it preserves the rights of our landowners," said Commissioner Jonathan Thomas. "However, tonight we are looking at it from the impact it would have on our Land Use Ordinance and also the ability to circumvent some small development."



**Building A Better
Blood Supply!**



**American
Red Cross**

Present to donate blood or platelets between January 1
and March 31, 2013 to be automatically entered to win a
\$1,000 gift card from a home improvement store!

District Court

Judge's Office

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, February 21, 2013
9:00am – 1:30pm

Please call Michelle Phipps at 704-698-3220 to schedule an appointment!

Donors should eat iron-rich foods for two weeks before donating blood.
Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine on the day of the drive.

All donors will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$1000 gift card to a home improvement store!

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Our First Annual
Furniture Frenzy!!

Saturday, March 2, 2013

10am - 5pm

Finish a room or Furnish your home!

Dressers, tables, pictures, and much more.

All proceeds benefit Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter

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Monroe, NC 28110

Donations Welcome!

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