



Union UPDATE

November 20, 2012

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Commissioners Take Steps to Consolidate Human Services

The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday took initial steps to establish a Consolidated Human Services Agency.

At a special meeting on Oct. 30, Commissioners directed 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 (CHS).

Before a CHS Board can be established, North Carolina law requires Union County to form a nominating committee comprised of members of the current Union County 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 CHS Board. At Monday's meeting, Commissioners named Dr. Nancy Randall, Evelyn Blackley, Dr. Michael J. Johnson and James Struve (alternate) to the nominating committee.

The law stipulates that the CHS board have a minimum of 17 members and not exceed 25 members. The present boards of Health and Social Services have a combined total of 16 members. The County recommends the CHS Board have 17 members when established. In order to create a uniform staggered- term structure for the CHS Board, the law allows a member to be appointed for less than a four-year term. It further states that the CHS Board will fairly reflect the population makeup of Union County, will be made up of residents of Union County and will include four consumers of human services, eight professionals (psychologist, pharmacist, engineer, dentist, optometrist, veterinarian, social worker and nurse), two physicians licensed to practice medicine in the state, (one of whom must be a psychiatrist), one county commissioner and other persons, including members of the general public representing various occupations.

To aid the nominating committee, Union County will advertise the CHS Board positions on the County website, UCTV 16, newspapers and other avenues. Those interested in applying should request an application from the Union County Clerk to

Sign up to receive the Union County Public Library's monthly program guide via your email by contacting Shelley Fearn, Reader's Services Librarian, at sfearn@union.lib.nc.us.



Notice of Election Recount

The Union County Board of Elections will conduct an election recount for the Union County Board of Education District 2 (Carolyn Lowder and Kevin Stewart) on Monday, Nov. 26 at 9 a.m. in the Board of Elections office at 316-B East Windsor Street in Monroe. (Per GS 163-182.7(a))

For additional information call 704-283-3809.

Adult 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:

Dec. 3 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Jan. 14 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Feb. 20 from 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

DHHS Encourages North Carolinians to Maintain, Not Gain Weight During the

the Board Lynn West at 704-283-3853 or west@co.union.nc.us.

Applicants will be placed on the Feb. 18, 2013 Board of Commissioners' agenda. The Feb. 18 agenda will also include a resolution establishing the Consolidated Human Services Agency and the CHS Board, along with applicable amendments to the personnel policies to meet federal guidelines.

In addition, commissioners on Monday approved the creation of a human services director to oversee the Consolidated Human Services Agency and authorized County Manager Cindy Coto to approve an agreement not to exceed \$25,000 to retain a professional search firm to conduct a national recruitment for the position.

Economic Development Interlocal Agreement Approved

An interlocal agreement between Union County and the City of Monroe to create a county-wide economic development program was approved by the Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday.

The economic development program will have a 24-member advisory board consisting of eight voting members appointed by the City, eight voting members appointed by the County and eight ex-officio members. In order to offer municipalities in the county an opportunity to support the program financially or through strategic planning, no more than six of the County's eight appointees to the board may be representatives of municipalities, with no municipality having more than one seat on the board. The remaining two County appointments will be at-large members.

Highlights of the interlocal agreement include:

- Offering the chairmanship of the board of directors to the City of Monroe for the first two years. At the end of the first two years, the board would negotiate how to decide the chairmanship from then on.
- Exploring the opportunity to establish a 501(c)(3) corporation which would allow for the use of private funding in support of the economic development program.
- Designing the interlocal agreement so that it will sunset on June 30, 2015. This would allow approximately six months to establish the organization and two full years of operation of the program.
- Funding of the program on an annual basis would be \$700,000 with \$400,000 being paid by the County and \$300,000 being paid by the City.
- Employing five staff members who are and would continue to be employees of the City of Monroe.

The Interlocal agreement also includes the following provisions:

Holidays

Many North Carolinians gain between 1 and 5 pounds each holiday season. It may not sound like much, but most people who gain weight during the holidays never manage to return to their pre-holiday weight. A free online resource from the statewide Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina movement aims to help you keep weight gain at bay this holiday season.

The Eat Smart, Move More...Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge begins Nov. 19 and runs through Dec. 31. During the six-week challenge, participants receive weekly email tips to manage holiday stress, ideas for fitting physical activity in during the busy season, and resources for cooking quick and easy meals when time is in short supply. A calorie counter, food log and activity log are also available for free download to help track your progress.

On-line sign-up is open at www.MyEatSmartMoveMore.com. Only an email address is needed to join and all participant information is kept confidential. People who sign up early and complete the pre-survey will receive bonus healthy holiday recipes and a shopping list.

In 2011, more than 3,000 people from 95 North Carolina counties took part in the challenge, and over half were first time participants. At the end of the program, 89 percent reported maintaining their weight.

The Eat Smart, Move More...Maintain, don't gain! Holiday Challenge is a part of the Eat Smart, Move More NC movement, coordinated by the DHHS Division of Public Health, to increase healthy eating and physical activity opportunities wherever North Carolinians live, learn, earn, play and pray. Find

One-time funding to the City in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 to assist with expenses associated with the transition from a municipal economic development program to a county-wide program. Such funding will be on a reimbursement basis and disclosed expenditures will be coordinated with the county manager.

- Should the City expend less than \$1,750,000 on the joint county-wide economic development program during the initial term (January 2013 to June 2015) then the City will refund to the County an amount equal to 4/7th of any surplus.
- The City will perform outreach to the other 13 municipalities to solicit their participation in the development of a county-wide work plan and will incorporate those municipalities that wish to be included into the work plan which will be reviewed and adopted by the County. This will be an amendment to the interlocal agreement.

Performance measures/reporting have been identified and will be provided to the County in a monthly written report to the county manager and Economic Development Advisory Boards, a written cumulative quarterly report to the Board of Commissioners and an annual written report to the county manager and Board of Commissioners.

The Monroe City Council will vote on the interlocal agreement on Dec. 4.

Union Village Lease Amended and Roof Repairs Approved

The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday approved an amendment to the Union Village lease and roof repair and replacement work at the facility.

The Union County Department of Social Services and the County Health Department currently conduct business at Union Village on Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe. In April, The Union County Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of approximately 20 acres bordering Commerce Drive and Patton Avenue for a new Human Services building. Several issues at Union Village forced the County to seek a location to construct a new Human Services building. The total square footage and parking is not large enough to meet future needs and there is no room for expansion. Also, the current property, including the building, is about 11 acres smaller than the projected long-term need.

It is anticipated that construction of the new Human Services building will not be completed before the current Union Village lease expires. The expiration date of the current Union Village lease is June 30, 2015. The lease will be extended to June 30,



out more at
www.EatSmartMoveMoreNC.com.

2017, and the County will have additional unilateral renewal options with the right to terminate on six months' notice.

In addition, the County will assume responsibility for partial roof replacement and roof maintenance at Union Village in order to stop persistent water leaks. The County, at its expense, will replace the roof over the Health Department, replace certain roof sections and otherwise repair the roof over the Department of Social Services, perform repair work on the front canopies and maintain the roofs of the leased premises until expiration of the lease. The County will recoup funds used for roof replacement and repairs through the lease reduction.

The Sheriff's Office is on Facebook and Twitter

The Union County Sheriff's Office has launched its own Facebook page and Twitter site to provide the public and media with another way to receive important news from the agency.



The Facebook page is located at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Union-County-Sheriffs-Office-Monroe-NC/339778426089440>. The Twitter site can be accessed at <https://twitter.com/UnionCoSheriff>.

Union County Thanksgiving Closures

Below is a list of Union County government facility closures for the Thanksgiving holiday.



- Union County Offices closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 25.
- Union County Libraries closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Friday, Nov. 23.
- Union County Landfill closed Thursday, Nov. 22. Transfer Station only will be open on Friday, Nov. 23.
- Fred Kirby Park closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 25.
- Jesse Helms Park Soccer Complex closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 25.
- Cane Creek Park Day Use Area closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 25.
- Cane Creek Park Campground closed Thursday, Nov. 22 - Sunday, Nov. 25 (Campers with advance reservations have access to the campground. To make reservations, call 704-843-3919).

Union County Animal Shelter closed Thursday, Nov. 22 -
Sunday, Nov. 25.

For more information about Thanksgiving holiday closures,
704-283-3500.

Veterans Affairs to Offer Free Flu Shot, Healthcare Information

The W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center's rural health team will provide free flu shots to eligible Veterans at VFW Post 2423, 124 North Indian Trail Road, Indian Trail, N.C. on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Flu shots will be available for all veterans currently using VA health care and to those veterans possessing a DD-214 and a valid photo ID.

All former and current military members are encouraged to attend. VA staff will also provide health care registration, education and information services to all non-registered veterans and assistance in completing enrollment applications, requesting DD Form 214s, and initiating MyHealthVet online services.

Former military members who are not currently enrolled for VA health care benefits will need to bring a copy of their DD Form 214 to attach to their application for VA health care benefits. Veterans who cannot locate their DD Form 214 can request a copy from <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

For more information, call 1-800-469-8262, ext. 4958/4960/4937/4642. VA outreach activities are posted on the events calendar at <http://www.salisbury.va.gov/calendar.asp>. For more VA information, visit www.salisbury.va.gov or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VASalisbury.

Taste of the Season

Appetizer and Dessert Tasting

November 29

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The Victorian Crow's Nest

1710 West Franklin Street in Monroe

Samplings and holiday orders will be available from nearly 20 local vendors. The event will feature door prizes, raffles for special gift baskets along with music by *Dually Noted* and *The Union Symphony Youth Chamber Players*. Tickets are \$20.

Tickets are available at Hi-Lites, Renn's Nest, 100 Main Beef & Barbeque, www.loavesandfishesofunioncounty.org or at the door. Proceeds benefit Loaves and Fishes of Union County, a non-profit community pantry organization founded and operated totally by unpaid volunteers.

For more information, contact Loaves & Fishes of Union County at 980-328-7111 or LoavesFishesUC@aol.com

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