



Union UPDATE

October 30, 2012

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Guide

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Sergeant Major Christopher House to Speak at Veterans Day Program

The Union County Veterans Service Office, in conjunction with the City of Monroe, will honor veterans at their annual Veterans Day Program on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport.



*Sergeant Major
Christopher House*

The keynote speaker will be Sergeant Major Christopher House. Sergeant Major House enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 14, 1989. In his 23 years of service, he has been stationed at Parris Island, S.C., Camp Geiger, School of Infantry for Marine Combat Training, Camp Johnson, N.C. Okinawa, Japan, Quantico, Virginia, Bangkok, Thailand, American Embassy, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and currently at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant Major House's personal decorations and medals include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation with three bronze stars, Meritorious Unit Commendation with two bronze stars, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, South West Asia Service Medal with bronze star, Afghanistan Service Medal with bronze star, Iraq Service Medal with two bronze stars, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one silver and two bronze stars.

Sergeant Major House was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. and moved to Monroe, N.C. with his parents in 1972. He attended Benton Heights Elementary School and Monroe Middle and Monroe High schools. His father, Paul, served in the Marines from 1960 to 1963.

During the Veterans Day Program, Union County will present the annual Junior Reserves Officers Training Corp (JROTC) Patriot Awards to a selected cadet from each of the JROTC high schools.

Questions regarding the program may be directed

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



BOCC Special Meeting on UCTV and YouTube

The Oct. 30 Union County Board of Commissioners special meeting is airing daily on UCTV 16 at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The meeting is also available on Union County's YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/unioncountync.

Radio Communications Council Meeting

The Union County Radio Communications Council will meet on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 2:30 p.m. in the Personnel Training Room of the Union County Government Center at 500 N. Main Street in Monroe.

Agricultural Board Meeting

The Union County Agricultural Advisory Board will hold a regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Union County Agricultural Services and Conference Center in Monroe.

Planning Board Meeting Canceled

The Nov. 6 Union County Planning Board meeting has been canceled.

The next scheduled meeting for

to the Union County Veterans Service Office at 704-283-3807. More information regarding the weekend events may be found at www.warbirdsovermonroe.com.

Residents' Input Sought in Process to Plan for the Region's Rapid Growth

Residents will have a unique opportunity to attend an open house and provide their input in a process to build a planning framework to address the unprecedented growth in the region and ensure the vitality of local communities.

The "CONNECT Our Future" open house will be held on Thursday, Nov. 8 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Union County Agricultural and Conference Center at 3230-D Presson Road in Monroe. Residents will be asked provide input on what they value about their community and region, and what they think are the biggest challenges faced by the region. They will be able to drop in anytime during the open house time period, view exhibits, talk to staff and provide their input.

Union County is one of the more than 100 local governments, businesses, and non-profits participating in the three-year "CONNECT Our Future" initiative to develop a regional framework for the growth of the 14-county region.

In the past decade, the region surrounding Charlotte has emerged as America's fastest growing region of any area with a population greater than 1 million people. Within 20 years, the population is expected to grow by 50 percent, and double by 2050, meaning the addition of more than 2 million people to the region.

The region is also one of the largest in the nation without a framework for growth. Building the capacity to accommodate the coming growth will be especially challenging given the cutbacks from federal and state resources.

About 30 open houses have been scheduled between November and February throughout the region that includes: Anson, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union Counties in North Carolina, and Chester, Lancaster, Union and York Counties in South Carolina. These initial "needs and values" open houses will be followed next year by community meetings to explore various options for meeting the challenges and opportunities of the anticipated growth.

Because residents throughout the region drive the same network of roads, breathe the same air and drink from the same water sources, the collaboration of communities working together across local boundaries can help to plan for healthy growth and avoid the negative consequences of growth.

Community input from this first set of open houses will be used to evaluate options for how the region should grow and will help ensure that the region can take advantage of opportunities to grow jobs, the economy and improve quality of life.

the Planning Board is Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Union County Government Center.

Friends Fall Dinner

The Friends of the Union County Public Library will host their annual Fall Author Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the South Piedmont Community College Conference Center in Monroe. The featured speaker is author Taylor M. Polites. Polites is the author of *The Rebel Wife*, a novel published by Simon and Schuster in September 2012.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from any Friends of the Union County Library board member, by calling Renee Hottle at 740-907-9190 or by emailing her at rahottle@hotmail.com.

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:

Nov. 13 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Dec. 6 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

The three-year planning process to build a regional framework is funded by a federal grant. The framework will be built on existing community plans, public engagement, and local values. The framework will contain policies, strategies and tools for voluntary use and adoption by local governments, and will also create a network of relationships across the region to address the challenges faced by individual communities and the region as a whole. To learn more about this initiative, visit www.ConnectOurFuture.org.

WorldCat Local Comes to Union County Public Library

Union County Public Library will be closed on Nov. 11 and 12 for Veteran's Day and on Nov. 13 and 14 to implement WorldCat Local and to install a new computer system, WorldShare Management Systems.

With WorldCat Local, Union County Public Library will offer unique search capabilities that enable library users to find information resources both locally and in libraries worldwide. Soon, local library cardholders will again be able to meet their research needs by requesting items from libraries beyond Union County through interlibrary loan service.

Union County Public Library's WorldCat Local service will work in conjunction with the OCLC WorldCat database to provide expanded web access to local, regional, and worldwide library resources. The Union County Public Library's search box will be available on the library's web site at www.union.lib.nc.us beginning on Nov. 15.

Expanded capabilities will be available to the library users through their personal accounts on WorldCat Local. Users will be able to see items on order, and place holds on items even before they arrive. Users will also be able to take advantage of enhanced social networking tools, including creating lists, reviews, and making recommendations.

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