

# Union County View

## Mark Griffin Honored by Electrical Inspectors

Mark Griffin, director of Union County Building Code Enforcement, in November received the Richard B. Boyd, Jr. Award from the North Carolina Ellis Cannady Chapter, International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

The award is presented annually to the electrical inspector who is or has been an inspector of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors for a minimum of 10 years and has performed all tasks assigned in an outstanding and distinguished manner. Further, the recipient must have contributed materially to the success and growth of the North Carolina Ellis Cannady Chapter, IAEI, and displayed qualities of leadership, dedication, strength, energy, vitality and knowledge.



"We are very proud of Mark's accomplishments and feel fortunate to have him working on our team here in Union County," said Executive Director of Growth Management Brian Matthews. "He is a great asset to our builders, citizens and to the staff that he oversees in Building Code Enforcement."

## Union County Emergency Management Urges Residents to Take Steps to Prepare for Winter Weather

Union County Emergency Management urges residents of Union County to update their emergency plans and stock their emergency supplies kits.

"With predictions of more precipitation this winter because of El Nino, Union County residents should take the time to plan for winter now," said Emergency Manager Donald Moye. "North Carolina winters are unpredictable. Earlier this year, much of the state had saw some form of frozen precipitation whether it was snow, sleet or ice. Union County residents shouldn't take any chances. It's better to prepare for the worse than to be surprised and facing a dangerous situation."

Moye adds that making an emergency plan, practicing it, having an emergency supplies kit and staying informed to changing weather conditions will keep residents and their loved ones safe. He encourages people to listen carefully to their National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio, local radio and television stations for storm watches or warnings.

"When winter weather warnings are issued, be prepared for possible power outages or roads made impassable by snow or ice," he said.

Moye reminds residents to practice the following winter safety tips:

- Keep alternative heating sources prepared. If you have a fireplace, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood. Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure your family knows how to use them.
- Properly vent kerosene heaters and keep any electric generators OUTSIDE and away from any open windows or doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Also, do not burn charcoal indoors. Carbon monoxide poisoning can result from charcoal fumes indoors.
- Keep fresh batteries on hand to use with flashlights and weather radios.
- Always keep at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food in your home.

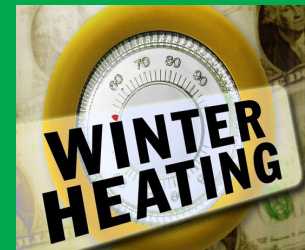
- Wear multiple layers of thin clothing instead of a single layer of thick clothing to stay warm. You will be warmer and, as the temperature changes, you can easily remove layers to remain comfortable.
- If you must travel during a winter storm, store an emergency kit in your vehicle that includes: blankets, a battery-powered radio with extra batteries, a first aid kit, a flashlight with extra batteries, battery booster cables and flares, a tire repair kit and pump, a road map, a sack of cat litter (for tire traction), a tow rope, bottled water and non-perishable high-energy foods such as granola bars, extra clothing to keep dry, and a windshield scraper and brush.

As a reminder, if driving on snow- or ice-covered roadways, reduce your speed. Driving at the regular speed limit will reduce your ability to control the car if you begin to slide. Leave plenty of room between you and other vehicles. If conditions worsen and you can no longer drive safely, pull off the highway. Stay calm and remain in your vehicle. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.

For more information about how to be ready for winter weather, go to: [www.readync.org](http://www.readync.org) or download North Carolina Emergency Management's free ReadyNC mobile app, which provides real-time traffic and weather plus open shelters and items needed in an emergency supplies kit.

## Heating Assistance Available Through LIEAP

The Union County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services (DSS), began accepting applications on Tuesday, Dec. 1 for citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating costs during the cold-weather months. Applications will be taken until Dec. 31 at 1212 W. Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Potential recipients of a one-time benefit from the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) must be 60 years old or older or disabled and receiving services from the Division of Aging and Adult Services. These include home-delivered meals or nutrition site meals from Union County Nutrition for the Elderly or In-Home Aide services provided through DSS or the Council on Aging.

Households without a member in the specified target groups listed above may apply to receive benefits beginning Jan. 4, 2016. This is a first-come, first-served program in which funds are distributed until they are gone. Certain income and reserve criteria also apply.

Those applying should bring the following information, for all household members, to the interview - Social Security numbers, birthdates, citizenship status, daycare expense receipts, legally-ordered child support paid to someone outside your household, income information and proof of income for all household members for the month prior to the month of application (paycheck stubs or income statements showing funds received during the month) and receipt, bill, or statement from the power, gas, or fuel oil company for your primary heat-source, in the name of someone in the household, and showing an account number.

If approved, an assistance payment will be made directly to the heating provider. For more information in English or Spanish, contact DSS at 704-296-4300.

## Help with Affordable Care Act Available at Monroe Library

It's Open Enrollment time for those insured under the Affordable Care Act and, once again, the Monroe Library is hosting a trained navigator to help local residents through the process.

Our navigator this year is Julian Cernuda and he comes to us through our continuing partnership (three years now!) with Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont. Julian is uniquely qualified for the job of navigating folks through the process. He's extremely knowledgeable, bilingual, enthusiastic and very personable. He'll be at the Monroe Library every Monday from 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. through the enrollment period which ends Jan. 31.

If the first two weeks are any indication, Julian will be a very busy man; he has already completed 15 appointments in the time allotted for eight! That's operating at 187 percent of capacity. He handles walk-ins as he has time, but it's best that our patrons make reservations through the appointment hotline at 855-733-3711 or online at [www.gcaconnector.org](http://www.gcaconnector.org).

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Janet Wolfe of Tax Administration's Land Records division received the Regular Mapper Academic Achievement Award from the North Carolina Property Mappers Association. Academic Achievement Awards are given to the students who achieve the top scores at the annual Mapping School. Janet made a 98 on the exam to become a certified mapper, only missing one question.



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Tony Wentz, Facilities Project Manager for Union County Public Works, earned his Professional Energy Manager (PEM) certification from N.C. State University. As a PEM, Tony will have the capability of doing more in-depth energy analyses of various systems and have the latest resources available for gathering information and analyzing it.



The certification required approximately 100 hours of course time taught by numerous energy professionals, from both academia and the business world, who are experts in the subjects covered. The examination consisted of 100 questions including manual calculations, true/false and multiple choice. By passing this exam Tony received his Diploma in Energy Management and a PEM Certificate.



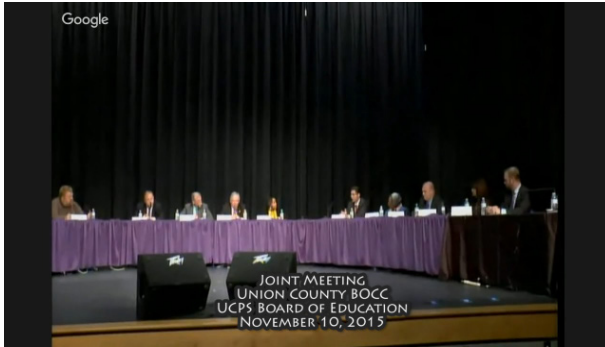
The Solid Waste Management Facility upgraded its Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station with a much-needed concrete apron replacement. To save considerable money in the budget, Chris Medlin and his team jack hammered all the old concrete for removal and replaced any inferior sub-grade materials with compacted stone to prepare for our contractor to install rebar and pour the new concrete slab. This is one of several improvements recently performed by the Division of Solid Waste in an effort to provide better service to its customers and residents.



Union County government offices and libraries will close Thursday, Dec. 24 - Sunday, Dec. 27 for the Christmas holiday. Offices and libraries will also close on Friday, Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. All library locations will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 for New Year's Eve.

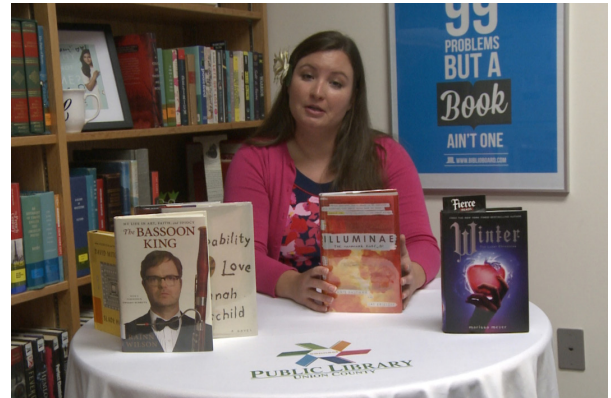


Joint Meeting of Union County  
Board of Commissioners and Union  
County Public Schools Board of  
Education



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDtm5uqZpPs>

The Book Report



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ\\_ykXjEoGc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ_ykXjEoGc)



UCTV 16 is online here:  
<http://www.co.union.nc.us/NewsNotices/UCTV16andVideos.aspx>



## Union County Service Award Recipients December 2015

### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

ANNA HUNTER  
MICHAEL MALLOY  
JONATHAN PHILEMON  
EFFIE ARTHUR

### SERVICE AREA

HUMAN SERVICES  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SHERRIF'S OFFICE  
HUMAN SERVICES

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

JACKSON WALKER  
FAYE GRAHAM  
MONICA CARPENTER

### SERVICE AREA

HUMAN SERVICES  
HUMAN SERVICES  
HUMAN SERVICES

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

DEBBIE PURSER  
JARED STEELE

### SERVICE AREA

COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

## New Employees



NICOLLE HOPE  
PT ASSESSOR  
TAX ASSESSOR



NOELLE SPENCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH SPECIALIST  
PUBLIC HEALTH



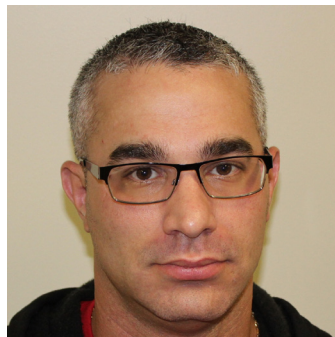
TRACY WESOLEK  
PT LIBRARY  
ASSISTANT  
LIBRARY



KELLY TROWBRIDGE  
JUVENILE SERVICES  
COORDINATOR  
LIBRARY



RONNIE CRAIG  
UTILITY MECHANIC I  
PUBLIC WORKS



JOSEPH BENNUDRITI  
UTILITY MECHANIC I  
PUBLIC WORKS



HAYDEN HUNTER  
UTILITY MECHANIC I  
PUBLIC WORKS



BENJAMIN EKLUND  
DETENTION OFFICER I  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**DILLON COLLODI**  
DEPUTY SHERIFF I  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**BARBARA HOUSTON**  
PT INCOME  
MAINTENANCE TECH  
SOCIAL SERVICES



**ARNETA SAPP**  
PT INCOME  
MAINTENANCE TECH  
SOCIAL SERVICES



**KIMM WOOLFORD**  
PT INCOME  
MAINTENANCE TECH  
SOCIAL SERVICES



**BRUCE TITUS**  
SOCIAL WORKER III  
SOCIAL SERVICES

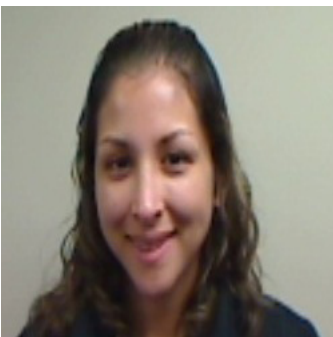


**RACHEL RUSHING**  
SOCIAL WORKER III-  
IAT  
SOCIAL SERVICES

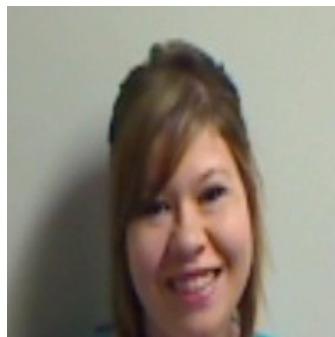


**LAURA CHRISTENSEN**  
PT PROCESSING  
ASSISTANT III  
SOCIAL SERVICES

## Promotions



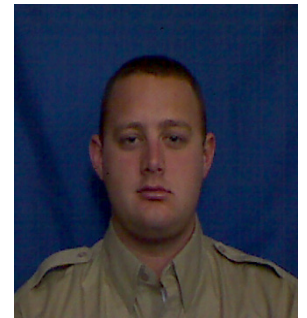
**TATIANA VALENCIA**  
PERSONAL PROPERTY  
SPECIALIST  
TAX ASSESSOR



**NICHOLE BONIN**  
REAL PROPERTY  
SPECIALIST  
TAX ASSESSOR



**CHELSEA BOULTON**  
TELECOMMUNICATOR  
II  
COMMUNICATIONS

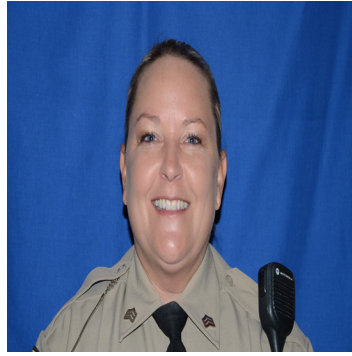


**NICK KIRKLEY**  
DETENTION OFFICER I  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

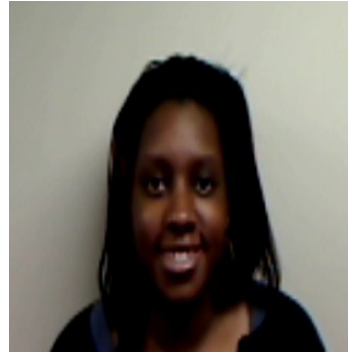




MICHELLE HANNON  
SERGEANT I  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



LORI PIERCE  
LIEUTENANT I  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE



DECORA BOWERS  
SOCIAL WORKER III-  
IAT  
SOCIAL SERVICES



TONYA MARTIN  
INCOME  
MAINTENANCE  
SUPERVISOR II  
SOCIAL SERVICES

## Town of Weddington Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

December 4, 2015  
Weddington Town Hall  
1924 Weddington Road  
5 pm – 7 pm  
(Rain Date: December 5, 2015)

*Join in the Celebration with your friends and neighbors as we kick-off the Holiday Season. Come sit and enjoy music and special performances by local school and church groups while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate.*

- 5:00 pm - Weddington High School Chorus Club
- 5:15 pm - First Baptist Church Weddington Handbell Choir
- 5:30 pm - Weddington Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus
- 5:45 pm - Graceway Baptist Church
- 6:00 pm - Antioch Elementary Chorus
- 6:15 pm -
- 6:30 pm -
- 6:45 pm - Chesterbrook Academy Pre-K2

*Please bring a new toy, non-perishable food item and/or stocking stuffer to be given to the Union County Christmas Bureau and be entered to win a prize. There will be a special visit from Santa and the 2015 Weddington High School Carousel Representative Miss Amber Parker. An opportunity to take your own pictures with Santa will be available. Also the annual Weddington Ornament, Weddington Town T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and magnets will be available for purchase.*

*Please contact the Town Hall at (704) 846-2709 if you have any questions.*