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Come See What's in Union County

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For more information, call or visit:
Union County Chamber of Commerce
903 Skyway Dr., Monroe, NC 28110
Phone: 704-289-4567
www.UnionCountyCoC.com



Welcome to Union County!

I'd like to extend a personal invitation to you to experience all Union County has to offer. You'll find our community to be a wonderful place to visit or call home.

Whether you are visiting for a short time, relocating, or a life-long resident, we believe you will find "*In Union County*" to be a valuable resource. This publication provides a wealth of useful information about Union County and is organized in a format you can refer to again and again. Union County Chamber member businesses make this publication possible through their advertising and financial support. We encourage you to support them by doing business with them.



If you are visiting, you will find a variety of activities to interest you: equine farms, antique and fine shopping, parks and lakes, vineyards, historical sites and landmarks. Lodging opportunities include bed and breakfast inns, camping and RV campsites, modern hotels and even treehouses.

Union County is a warm, welcoming community with 14 diverse municipalities offering a wide variety of shopping, entertainment, and places to call home. If you plan to relocate, you'll find Union County offers the charm of rural life combined with a metropolitan flair. Whether you're looking for a townhome or condo, a home in a subdivision, or acres of land in a rural setting—Union County is the place you can call home.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce works daily to lead, serve, and promote our businesses and community. We are proud of our community and gladly call Union County home. Our goal is to make Union County the quality standard for business, manufacturing, education, arts, and healthy, active lifestyles. We encourage you to support businesses in Union County. By shopping in Union County, your dollars support our community – and are important to the continued growth and prosperity of our community.

If you own a business, YOUR Chamber is the place to be. The Chamber provides services to grow business, enhance operations, develop professionally, and advocates in matters of public policy. Our website (www.UnionCountyCoC.com) provides in-depth information about the Chamber and our community. Contact the Chamber staff to learn more about how the Chamber can benefit your business or assist you in finding needed resources right here in Union County.

Let us help you connect with Union County. You're going to love it here!

Pat Kahle
President
Union County Chamber of Commerce

The Arts & History in Union County



The arts are important to our local economy, the education of our students, the preservation of our heritage and our quality of life. Union County enjoys a legacy built on a diverse cultural foundation. For additional information, contact your Union County Chamber of Commerce at 704-289-4567, www.UnionCountyCoC.com or one of these fine organizations.

George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center

Wingate University presents guest lectures, art exhibits, theatrical performances and music concerts and recitals by students, faculty and visiting artists in the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center. These performances and exhibits are open to the public and many are free. The Batte Center, on the Wingate campus, has partnerships with the Union Symphony Orchestra and Union County Youth Ballet, and often collaborates with performing arts and music organizations from throughout the Charlotte area. The Batte Center's annual Performance Series features nationally and internationally renowned artists and musicians. Call 704-233-8300 or visit www.battecenter.org.

Historic Union County Courthouse/Heritage Room

This 1886 Victorian Italianate building, featured in motion pictures, now houses the Heritage Room. If you are interested in county history or genealogical work, this is it. The Heritage Room is open Mon. through Wed. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thurs. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Located at the Historical Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street, Monroe; 704-289-6737.

Jesse Helms Center

The center highlights the life of late Sen. Jesse Helms, a native of Monroe. Education, citizen awareness and historical documents await you. Mon. through Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located at 3910 US Hwy. 74 East, Wingate; 704-233-1776; www.jessehelmscenter.org.

Mexico-Cardenas Museum

Experience Mexican culture through folk art, photos, and clothing. Learn how former Mexican President Lázaro Cárdenas encouraged JAARS founder Cameron Townsend in his translation work of minority languages. Located at JAARS, 6403 Davis Rd., Waxhaw. Free admission. Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. 704-843-6045; www.jaars.org.

Museum of the Alphabet

Where did writing begin? Who created our alphabets? Are there languages without alphabets? Travel back in time to trace writing systems from the ancient world to today. Located at JAARS, 6409 Davis Rd., Waxhaw. Free admission. Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. 704.843.6066; www.jaars.org.

Museum of the Waxhaws

Experience regional history from 1650 to 1900, including Andrew Jackson's life. Outdoor sites include a homestead, blacksmith, barn, smokehouse and picnic area. Newly opened gold panning area for adults and children alike. Open Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; admission charge \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for children ages 6 to 12. Waxhaw Amphitheatre, Waxhaw; 704-843-1832; www.museumofthewaxhaws.org.

Union County Community Arts Council Gallery

Downtown Monroe is enhanced by this gallery, which features exhibits/open houses of artists and their various mediums and entertainment. The Council's mission is to promote the cultural arts in the Union County schools and through the community. The Council provides grant opportunities to qualifying arts organizations and artists. 120 N. Main St., Monroe; 704-283-2784; www.unionarts.org.

Union County Playmakers

Union County Playmakers is a community based theatre that provides live entertainment and opportunities to participate on stage and off. UCP productions include concert readings, fully staged productions, children's theatre, Mystery "Picnic" events, Short Play Festivals, educational opportunities, and partnerships with civic and social organizations. UCP enriches, inspires, and educates our community through theatre arts. 704-238-3394. www.unioncountyplymakers.org.

Union County Writers Club

The Union County Writers Club of North Carolina was formed in the fall of 1994 with the assistance of the Union County Arts Council. The club was supported by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Program of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts. The organization's goal is to provide necessary tools to improve skills and heighten the writing interest of the Union County residents. The UCWC strives to encourage talents by sponsoring workshops, lectures, critiques and readings. For more information, contact Barbara Johns 704-254-1243 or www.ucwc.webs.com

Union Symphony Society, Inc.

A nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to entertain, educate, serve and inspire through music. Union Symphony produces at least nine live concerts per season as well as a number of community performances including classical, pops, opera and jazz. 704-283-2525. www.unionsymphony.org

Union Symphony Orchestra (USO)

Union Symphony Orchestra is a professional orchestra with 75 core musicians under the baton of Richard Rosenberg. For more information about the Union Symphony concert season, call 704-283-2525 or visit www.unionsymphony.org.

Union Symphony Ensemble Services

Union Symphony provides small ensembles for community events such as the WDAV Classical Harvest Concert Series when a Union symphony string quartet will perform for the community at Matthews Community Farmers Market.

Union Symphony Youth Orchestra (USYO)

An educational program of Union Symphony Society, Inc., for music students of the greater Union County area of North Carolina interested in the study and performance of orchestral repertoire, Union Symphony Youth Orchestra is a full section auditioned orchestra. Visit www.usyo.org.

Union Symphony/Prelude Junior String Orchestra

In its sixth season, Prelude is an auditioned junior string orchestra for qualified students through ninth grade. Student musicians require a minimum of two years formal music training in the study of orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, violoncello and double bass.

Union Symphony Youth Chamber Players (USCHAP)

These ensembles serve students interested in the study and performance of chamber music. They rehearse separately and perform for community venues such as the Union County Community Arts Council and the American Red Cross. The ensembles include Vivace Strings, a chamber ensemble of the USYO, Allegro Strings and Dorian Fiddles.

JAZZ

Union Symphony offers live jazz performances in community venues such as The Bottle Factory, Southern Range Brewing and John's Place, Matthews. Union Jazz is an ensemble for youth interested in the study and expression of improvisational jazz. It includes players of traditional jazz instruments. Learn more about Union Jazz at www.unionjazz.org.

Union County Youth Ballet

Monroe City Ballet is a pre-professional company formed in 2005 to help promising Union County dancers reach their full potential by strengthening technique and enhancing stage presence. Company members are selected based on their abilities and their commitment to dance. They have participated in numerous local and state performances including the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Winter Adjudication, the UNC School of the Arts Winter Dance Festival in Winston-Salem, NC, the Annual Artists Music Guild Awards Ceremony and the NC Governor's Inaugural Parade in Raleigh, NC. 704-289-5733 or www.ucyb.org



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Celebrate in union county



The following is a partial list of celebrations and events in Union County, and are subject to change. Please visit the websites of these municipalities for more information.

FAIRVIEW

www.fairviewnc.gov | 704-753-1981

Fall/Winter Events

- Annual Fall Festival

HEMBY BRIDGE

www.hembybridgenc.govoffice2.com
704-882-3940

Fall/Winter Events

- Hemby Bridge Festival & Parade

INDIAN TRAIL

www.indiantrail.org | 704-821-5401

Spring/Summer Events

- Hop-To-IT Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunset Series Concerts & Movies
- Family Fun Day
- July 4th Parade
- National Night Out

Fall/Winter Events

- Cultural Arts Festival
- Halloween Candy Crawl
- Pottery Scene on the Green
- IT's a Wonderful Life Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

LAKE PARK

www.lakeparknc.gov | 704-882-8657

Spring/Summer Events

- April Saturday Kite Festival
- Girls on the Run 5K
- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Summer Movies – Music in the Park
- Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration
- National Night Out in Lake Park

Fall/Winter Events

- October Saturday Fall Festival
- Chili Cook-Off
- Christmas Tree Lighting & Celebration

MARSHVILLE

www.marshville.org | 704-624-2515

Fall/Winter Events

- Boll Weevil Jamboree

MARVIN

www.marvinnc.org | 704-843-1680

Spring/Summer Events

- Annual National Night Out

MINERAL SPRINGS

www.mineralsprings.com | 704-243-0505

Spring/Summer Events

- Queen's Cup Steeplechase (www.queenscup.org)

Fall/Winter Events

- Annual Fall Festival

MONROE

www.monroenc.org | 704-282-4500

Spring/Summer Events

- Beach, Blues & BBQ
- Music on Main

Fall/Winter Events

- Taste of Union (www.opreachout.org 704-289-4237)
- Warbirds Over Monroe Air Show
- Union County Christmas Parade (www.theallianceforchildren.org 704-226-1407)

STALLINGS

www.stallingsnc.net | 704-821-8557

Spring/Summer Events

- Stallings Bark in the Park
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Blair Mill Disc Golf Tournament
- Sunset Concert in the Park
- Children's Fitness/Safety & Movie Night

Fall/Winter Events

- Stallings Fest
- Christmas in the Park

UNIONVILLE

www.unionvillenc.com | 704-226-1989

Spring/Summer Events

- Fourth of July Celebration & Parade
- Concert Series in the Park

Fall/Winter Events

- Annual Barbecue
- Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade

WAXHAW

www.waxhaw.com | 704-843-2195

Spring/Summer Events

- JAARS Day (Four Saturday events per year – www.jaars.org | 704-843-6130)
- Kaleidoscope Fest

Fall/Winter Events

- Autumn Treasures
- Holiday Festival of Lights

WEDDINGTON

www.townofweddington.com
704-846-2709

Spring/Summer Events

- Egg Hunt

Fall/Winter Events

- Country Festival
- Annual Tree Lighting

WESLEY CHAPEL

www.wesleychapelinc.com | 704-839-0182

Spring/Summer Events

- Easter Egg Hunt at Dogwood Park

Fall/Winter Events

- Fall Festival at Dogwood Park

WINGATE

www.townofwingatenc.gov | 704-233-4411

Spring/Summer Events

- Breakfast with Easter Bunny
- Summer Fun Festival

Fall/Winter Events

- Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event

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www.monroeaquaticsandfitnesscenter.com

Play & Do in union county



Recreation is a big part of life in Union County, as evidenced by the large number of athletic associations, ball fields, parks, tournaments, golf courses and recreational facilities. All areas of the county have recreational facilities, most with playgrounds and ball fields.



If you love the links, you have found the right place. Union County's gently rolling wooded hills and mild climate make it a year-round golfers' paradise. With six semi-private golf clubs, three public courses and two private country clubs, you can easily find your niche. Courses designed by Jack Nicklaus (Longview) and Donald Ross (Monroe Country Club) await you.

In Monroe, the Parks and Recreation Department provides programs, fitness classes, sports leagues and summer day camps. The city operates the Monroe Golf Course and Country Club on U.S. 601 South. That facility features an 18-hole golf course, picnic area and nature trail. The ballroom is available for rentals and can accommodate up to 200 people.

Monroe also operates the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center on Hanover Drive. Featuring a 25-yard indoor pool, basketball and racquetball courts, running/walking

track and fitness equipment, the center also has a water park, whirlpool, sauna, steam room, massage and on-site child care to pamper you. Yoga, aerobics, martial arts and swim classes are available, as well as a wellness program.

The City of Monroe purchased the 30-acre Union County Fairgrounds property on the city's western edge and has developed the Parks Williams Athletic Complex. This facility includes softball and soccer fields, a walking trail and restroom facilities. The City also recently renovated the Old Armory which houses the City's newest community center, including a meeting room, children's activity area, computer lab, restrooms, a fitness room, large media room and catering kitchen.

The Town of Indian Trail Parks and Recreation department orchestrates a ton of events throughout the year – ranging from parades that draw in thousands to sales and cultural arts festivals that

highlight local artists and businesses. These all take place at their three great parks - Crossing Paths, Chestnut Square and Crooked Creek. The parks provide an exciting assortment of outdoor activities, including walking paths, playgrounds, fitness classes, a dog park, disc golf course, ball fields, environmental education classes, sports clinics, a splashpad and a healthy, safe environment to enjoy the outdoors. The Town also will soon add a playground for children with special needs at Crooked Creek Park – a true destination park attended by thousands of visitors from across the region every year. And the new Town Hall building near Chestnut Square Park includes community rooms and a Cultural Arts Center for residents and visitors to reserve for events and conferences.

Stallings Municipal Park in the town of Stallings boasts an interactive fountain for warm weather enjoyment, and Blair Mill Park, also in Stallings, features a disc golf course.

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Play continued

The county's largest recreation facility is Cane Creek Park, a family-oriented venue on 1,050 acres of land including a 350-acre trophy bass lake in southern Union County. This is one of three Trophy Bass Lakes in the State. Water is the key to Cane Creek, including fishing, swimming and boating. The lake is home to some of the best large-mouth bass fishing in the state as well as bluegill, crappie and catfish. A boat ramp allows you the opportunity to bring your own boat and pick your favorite fishing spot, or you may rent a canoe or rowboat when you arrive at the Park. Large covered picnic shelters with power, water, grill and picnic tables invites visitors enjoy just-caught fish or other savory items you may choose to bring with you. A concession stand is also available with a large listing of delicious items on their menu.

Park activities are not restricted to daytime. At the family camping area, you can relax at one of 108 family campsites overlooking the lake. The group camping area features 11 tent sites and six cabins to accommodate a maximum of six people each. Five horse campsites are available for horse enthusiasts who would like to bring their horse and camp overnight. Swimming, hiking, biking and horse trails also are available.

Union County developed a second district park in the east, near Wingate. Jesse Helms Park, located on a 230-acre tract on Presson Road, spreads across gently rolling wooded land. Amenities include athletic fields, hiking trails, picnic areas and natural areas.

Union County offers a variety of privately owned recreational options:

Aw Shucks!

Aw Shucks Farms is a treasured destination each fall with lots to do for all ages. Attractions include hayrides, corn maze, pumpkins, a 1950's Soda Shop, and an 1800's train car featured on Animal Planet! Paddle boats, fishing, and fossil mining make for a great outdoor party but indoor parties and weddings are also available in their event barn, The Cotton Gin. 3718 Plyler Mill Rd, Monroe. 704-709-7000. www.AwShucksCornMaze.com.

Extreme Ice Center

Extreme Ice Center offers the coolest activities all year around! At Extreme Ice Center, you will find two NHL sized sheets of ice and one ¼ sheet, aptly named "The Puddle," as well as a Pro Shop, Concession Stand, Fitness Center, and the Center Ice Tavern. They also specialize in Birthday Parties, Summer or Winter Camps, and Group or Corporate Outings! Public Skating, private or group lessons, broomball, and league play are offered year around. 4705 Indian Trail-Fairview Road, Indian Trail. 704-882-1830; www.xicenter.com

Fox's Alley Bowling, Bar, & Grill

Fox's Alley Bowling, Bar, & Grill offers much more than bowling. They have a separate bar and dining area, outdoor covered patio with seating, volleyball, cornhole boards, even yoga! They also have Latin night,

bowling leagues, Pub Poker, karaoke, DJ dance nights, and live music every Saturday. Birthday parties and event hosting are also available. 1901 Skyway Drive, Monroe. 704-776-9518; www.foxsalley.com

Hilton Vineyard & Wine Bar

Family owned and operated since 2010, over 80% of all grapes, berries and other fruits are grown locally at their beautiful 3 acre vineyard. Their 25 flavors of wines are fermented, bottled and labeled right here in Union County. The Hilton Vineyard Wine Bar is located in Historic Downtown Monroe and open Monday-Saturday. It features live entertainment and nightly specials. Outdoor seating is also available which makes them a favorite spot during street events and downtown occasions. 104 S. Main St. Monroe (704)776-9656 www.hiltonvineyard.com

NCG Cinemas

Digital and 3D screens for the latest releases, Reel Deal Tuesday deals on tickets and snacks, and free refills on drinks and popcorn at NCG Cinemas. Relax in their luxury reclining seats while enjoying your movie. NCG Reward Program earns you points to redeem at the concession stand. Free Family Film Festival program in the fall. They also offer sensory friendly movies at select times. Birthday parties or large group events available. 1911 Dickerson Boulevard, Monroe, NC. 980-313-8504. www.ncgmovies.com/monroe

Sun Valley 14 Theatre

Sun Valley 14 Theatre is a state-of-the-art, luxury movie theatre that boasts fourteen fully expanded wall to wall screens, high-back rocker stadium seating, a movie awards program and superior concessions. Summer discount movies for kids, \$5 Tuesdays* and monthly sensory friendly screenings. The theatre is surrounded by new restaurants to make it a night out or lunch and a movie. 6449 Old Monroe Rd, Indian Trail. 704-234-5373. www.stonetheatres.com. (*3D and PDX additional)

Other Recreational Options

Cane Creek Park | www.co.union.nc.us

Carolina Courts | www.carolinacourts.com

Carolina Panthers | www.panthers.com

Charlotte Checkers | www.gocheckers.com

Charlotte Eagles
www.charlotteeagles.com

Charlotte Hornets | www.nba.com/hornets

Charlotte Knights | www.milb.com

Charlotte Motor Speedway
www.charlottemotorspeedway.com

Ellen Fitzgerald Senior Center
www.parks.monroenc.org/ellen-fitzgerald-senior-center-monroe/

Kate's Skating Center
www.katesindiantrail.com

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center
www.monroeaquatics.com
and www.fitnesscenter.com

Nascar Hall of Fame
www.nascarhall.com/about

The Athletic Barn
www.waxhawathleticbarn.com

Trails Dynasty Miniature Golf
www.trailsdynasty.com

Play continued on page 13



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Play continued

Treehouse Vineyards

Treehouse Vineyards is a North Carolina winery, producing viniferous wines and wines from the first American grape – the muscadine, which is native to the NC region. Taste the fruits of the labor of local residents Phil and Dianne Nordan and their family, and be pleasantly surprised! Enjoy wine tastings, and events scheduled regularly such as live music, trivia night, line dancing lessons, latin night, and murder mysteries. This beautiful 36-acre property boasts three treehouses all of which can be rented overnight or hourly. They can also help you plan the wedding of your dreams and other special events. 301 Bay St, Monroe. 704-283-4208. www.treehousevineyards.com

Wesley Chapel YMCA

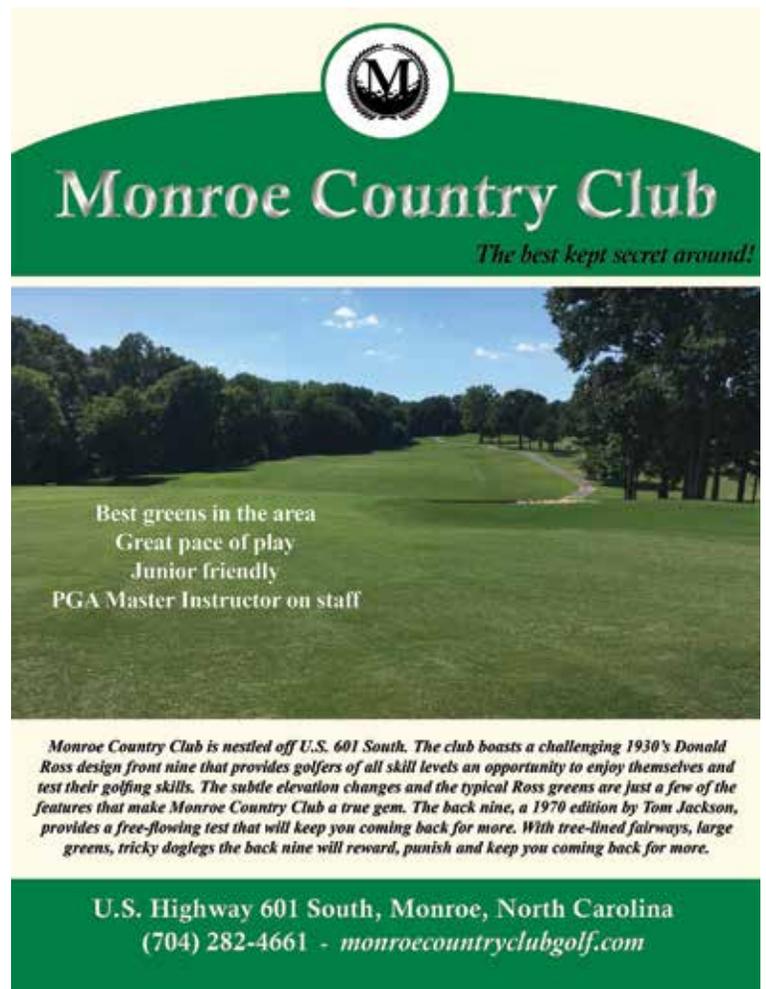
Dedicated to the community since 2012, the Wesley Chapel YMCA provides diverse and dynamic programs. They offer health & fitness programs, youth programs, camps, youth & adult swim programs, including safety and certifications, and much more. The Y is a great place to improve your health, try new activities, spend time with family and friends, and connect with your community. Onsite childcare available and access to over 100 YMCA locations. 5924 Weddington-Monroe Rd, Suite B1, Wesley Chapel. 704-716-8315. www.ymcacharlotte.org.

Wingate University Athletics

If you're a spectator, not a player, Wingate University competes in football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, golf, swimming, lacrosse, cross country and tennis. 220 N. Camden Rd, Wingate. 704-233-8000. www.wingate.edu.

Easy Access to Charlotte

And you only have to drive a short way to Charlotte for semi-professional and professional games. The Carolina Panthers offer excitement for NFL fans. Don't worry if you're not a football fan, there are many more pro sports opportunities. Charlotte's NBA basketball team, the Charlotte Hornets, plays in uptown Charlotte. Also located in uptown Charlotte, the 150,000-square-foot NASCAR Hall of Fame is an interactive, entertainment attraction which honors the history and heritage of NASCAR. The Charlotte Knights play in the AAA International League at BB&T Ballpark in uptown Charlotte. The Charlotte Checkers are members of the East Coast Hockey League. Each spring and summer, the Charlotte Eagles and Lady Eagles keep the adrenalin of soccer fans pumping. In May and October, Lowe's Motor Speedway, off I-85 in Cabarrus County, comes alive with the best of NASCAR racing, including the Coca-Cola 600 and the UAW-GM Quality 500.



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Monroe Country Club is nestled off U.S. 601 South. The club boasts a challenging 1930's Donald Ross design front nine that provides golfers of all skill levels an opportunity to enjoy themselves and test their golfing skills. The subtle elevation changes and the typical Ross greens are just a few of the features that make Monroe Country Club a true gem. The back nine, a 1970 edition by Tom Jackson, provides a free-flowing test that will keep you coming back for more. With tree-lined fairways, large greens, tricky doglegs the back nine will reward, punish and keep you coming back for more.

U.S. Highway 601 South, Monroe, North Carolina
(704) 282-4661 - monroecountryclubgolf.com

Event Facilities

Aw Shucks! | 704-221-0350

3718 Plyler Mill Rd., Monroe NC 28112

Champagne Manor | 704-776-8636

4707 Sugar & Wine Rd., Monroe NC 28110

CHS-Waxhaw Community Room

704-667-6802

Providence Road South, Waxhaw NC 28173

Hampton Inn Charlotte/Monroe

704-220-2200

2368 Roland Dr., Monroe NC 28110

Henry Hall Wilson House | 704-283-1912

1301 E. Franklin St., Monroe NC 28112

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

704-774-1779

2505 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Monroe NC 28110

Monroe Country Club | 704-282-4661

Hwy 601 South, Monroe NC 28110

South Piedmont Community College

Conference Center | 704-292-1200

4209 Old Charlotte Hwy, Monroe NC 28110

The Bottle Factory | 704-226-9777

304 W. Franklin St., Monroe NC 28112

The Jesse Helms Center | 704-233-1776

3910 US Hwy 74 East, Wingate NC 28174

The Seed Mill | 704-709-7204

3718 Plyler Mill Rd., Monroe NC 28112

Treehouse Vineyards | 704-283-4208

301 Bay St., Monroe NC 28112

Union County Agricultural Services Center

704-283-3801

3230-D Presson Rd., Monroe NC 28112

Wingate University LaVerne Banquet Hall

704-283-8000

403 N. Camden St., Wingate NC 28174

Business & Industry in union county



It's great doing business in Union County. The area has become a magnet for companies who find the land, labor and support they need right here at home. Whether the focus is manufacturing, retail, services, small business or agriculture, business is booming here. Union County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. during the past decade.



Blessed with open land, easy access to interstates, a CSX mainline, the Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport and nearby Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, Union County's economy is robust and growing. The Monroe-Union County Economic Development office continues to work to support existing industries and to attract new firms that bring investment and jobs.

To continue the consecutive years of strong investment and job creation, both Union County and the City of Monroe offer competitive incentive programs. Union County is also implementing an infrastructure grant to help encourage existing and new companies to select the county for projects creating capital investment and jobs. This grant will help finance small infrastructure projects, such as turn lanes or sewer lines that may be necessary.

Union County's labor force of over 118,000 is productive, competitive and highly skilled, especially in precision manufacturing. According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, Union County's 2010 Median household income was \$63,190; and per capita income was \$27,469 (inflation adjusted dollars). For the past 18 years, Union County has continually ranked among the lowest unemployment rates in the Charlotte region.

A skilled workforce is one of Union County's strongest assets. South Piedmont Community College offers a well-rounded curriculum, including associate degrees, certificate programs, and on-site training. Curriculum is tailored to the market demands. Advanced technical programs include state-of-the-art metallurgical science technology, mechanical engineering technology, welding technology, electrical systems technology and a heavy

concentration in health care. To ensure industry needs are met, South Piedmont Community College partners with these existing and incoming companies to match education and training programs with future employment demands. In the last several years, SPCC has also implemented Apprenticeship 20/20 to provide direct, hands-on training in partnership with local manufacturers.

Wingate University, with its main campus as well as two satellite campuses in the Ballantyne area of Charlotte and Hendersonville, offers a traditional array of curriculum tracts as well as doctorate programs in pharmacy, education, and physical therapy, fulfilling higher education need throughout North and South Carolina. For the 2016 commencement, Wingate University conferred degrees to 265 undergraduates and 119 graduate and professional students.



union county

Located seven miles southeast of Charlotte and adjacent to I-485, Union County is home to as much diversity in one county as there is in the state of North Carolina. The Gateway region of the County, nearest to Charlotte, is a well-developed area, optimally suited for corporate offices and distribution locations. The central portion of the county has developed a strong base in advanced manufacturing, most notably in aerospace, and has the state's highest concentration of aerospace companies - 23 companies in a seven mile radius. Agriculture reigns supreme on the eastern side of the county, where production of soybeans, corn and broiler chickens ranks among the highest in North Carolina. These attributes, along with the County's strong workforce development pipeline from the public schools, South Piedmont Community College and Wingate University, combine to make Union County the ideal location for many manufacturers to call home.

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Business continued

The Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport is growing to accommodate new industries and to make the community more attractive for office and manufacturing development. With a runway of 7,000 feet, the airport can accommodate a full range of general aviation and corporate aircraft. The opening of the U.S. Customs Service in 2014 has set the airport up for the next several decades, allowing international flights to fly directly into Monroe and Union County. Union County's current regional transportation linkage has already been further enhanced by the inclusion of the Charlotte Area Transportation System (CATS) daily express bus service from Monroe to uptown Charlotte on US 74 with stops in Indian Trail and Stallings.

These improvements will further enhance development in the nearby Monroe Corporate Center. The 500-acre business park, developed by the City of Monroe in 1996, has attracted world-class companies such as Greiner Bio-One, Scott Safety, Coca-Cola Bottling Consolidated Co., American Wick Drain, UTC Aerospace Systems, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, O'Neil Digital Solutions and Record USA. The City of Monroe recently completed its 4th speculative building at 109,000 square feet with a 30-foot ceiling clearance. Like previous "spec" buildings, this building will hopefully entice a company to bring its capital investment and jobs to Union County.

Capitalizing on the tools and assets located in the county, Monroe-Union County Economic Development concentrates its recruitment and retention efforts in four areas of focus: precision manufacturing, agri-business, logistics and commercial. Manufacturers in the fields of aerospace, bio and life-sciences, pharmaceuticals and plastics all call Union County home and rely on the highly skilled workforce which can fulfill the requirements of advanced manufacturing with high tolerances. In fact, with 23 companies and approximately 3,500 jobs, Union County has the high concentration of aerospace in North Carolina. ATI Specialty Materials, UTC Aerospace Systems, Cyril Bath (Aries Alliance), IMET Alloys, Midway Aerospace

Major Employers

As of April, 2016 4th Quarter. Source: NC Department of Commerce.

Rank	Employer	Industry	Employment Range
1	Union County Schools	Education & Health Services	1000+
2	Tyson Foods, Inc	Manufacturing	1000+
3	ATI Specialty Materials	Manufacturing	1000+
4	Harris Teeter	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1000+
5	Union County, NC	Public Administration	1000+
6	Wal-Mart Associates Inc.	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500-999
7	Pilgrim's Pride Corporation	Manufacturing	500-999
8	City of Monroe	Public Administration	500-999
9	Food Lion	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	500-999
10	Carolinas HealthCare System	Education & Health Services	500-999
11	Charlotte Pipe and Foundry Company	Manufacturing	500-999
12	Wingate University	Education & Health Services	500-999
13	Scott Safety	Manufacturing	250-499
14	McGee Brothers Company Inc.	Construction	250-499
15	Windsor Windows & Doors	Manufacturing	250-499
16	United Parcel Service	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
17	Lowe's Home Improvement	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
18	CR England Inc	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
19	Unicon Inc.	Natural Resources & Mining	250-499
20	Consolidated Metco Inc.	Manufacturing	250-499
21	A E P Industries Inc	Manufacturing	250-499
22	Scott Clark Toyota	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	250-499
23	South Piedmont Community College	Education & Health Services	250-499
24	Edwards Wood Products	Manufacturing	250-499
25	ASSA ABLOY	Manufacturing	250-499

and others thrive here. Union County also has a strong backbone of agri-business companies from Edwards Wood Products in the timber sector to Tyson Foods and Pilgrim's in poultry and Great American Snacks in prepared foods. In the coming years, with the opening of the Monroe Expressway, the economic development offices anticipate growth in logistics along this new corridor and in commercial development around I-485.

Union County continues to enjoy significant growth which creates investment and jobs from both new and existing industries. In 2015, the county achieved over 269 million in investment, primarily due to O'Neil Digital Solutions locating in the Monroe Corporate Center and due to expansions from several existing industries. At the end of 2016, ATI Specialty Materials completed construction of its \$70 million expansion which houses the company's powder-metal manufacturing used for the aerospace industry.

The community has received national recognition for its accomplishments. Southern Business & Development named Monroe #3 in top 10 places for aerospace in the southeast. Other accolades include being recognized as a Top 10 Low-Cost Manufacturing location to re-shore near a major Southern airport and Top 5 location to supply Boeing. Monroe-Union County Economic Development looks forward to continuing to support our existing industries and welcoming new companies that choose Union County in the future, making it the great place that it is!

For more Information

Monroe-Union County Economic Development

3509 Old Charlotte Highway
Monroe, NC 28110
704-282-5780
www.developunion.com

Union County Chamber of Commerce

903 Skyway Drive
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Agri-Business

in union county



Agriculture, once the primary industry in Union County, remains a viable part of the economy. Pumping more than \$502 million into the economy annually, agribusiness is spread among wheat, poultry, cattle, eggs, soybeans, corn and nursery/ornamental plant production.

In order to embrace a community and its people, one need only look to the past to the culture and values that undergird what Union County is today. In the 1920's and 1930's, life throughout the south was a patchwork of small farms devoted to subsistence agriculture. Farms consisted of a few chickens for eggs, a few rows of corn for meal, possibly a cow and hog for meat and milk, and cotton for clothing or as a source of cash. As years of soil depletion took their toll on production, and farm prices plummeted, many counties looked to other industries to fuel their economy and feed their people. Union County, to the contrary, combined a thirst for education and a spirit of cooperation to propel agriculture into a position of wealth and progressivism.

Today, Union County farmers and agribusiness represent over 15% of the county's economy. Forestry products contribute \$2.9 million and farm level income contributes \$499 million dollars

annually to the local economy, placing it third among the state's 100 counties and 91st in the United States. Based on a study by NC State University economists, agriculture and agribusiness employ 8.6% of the total county workforce.

Rather than be content with backyard flocks, Union County farmers recognized the potential that large markets, such as Charlotte, its neighbor to the west, had to offer. As a result, Union County poultry producers became leaders in the concept of vertical integration. Vertical integration is a process which brings all aspects of production, such as genetics, health, nutrition, processing and marketing under a single management umbrella. Such a system provides the capital, management, and specialization to allow farmers to be more efficient, establishing Union County as an industry leader. Today, the county ranks 2nd in broiler production in NC with over 64 million birds marketed annually. Long a leader in turkey production, the county is

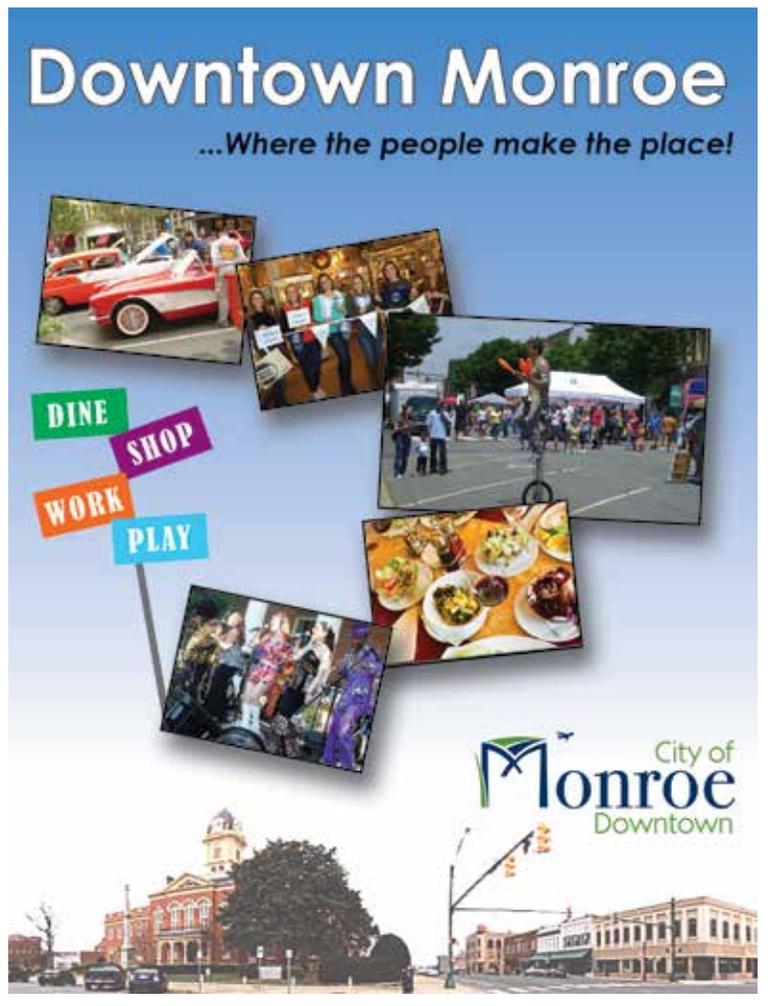
currently 4th state-wide and 11th nationally with 3 million produced each year. Central to this growth has been the access to processing. Union County boasts major processors - Tyson Foods, Pilgrim's Pride, Circle S Ranch and Simpson's Eggs - firms which together employ over 2,100 people. This combined production of poultry to make Union County the #1 poultry county in the nation based on 2015 data!

Rather than accept a future facing decreasing yields, Union County farmers led again by developing and adopting a process of crop production known as no-till. Instead of plowing, farmers plant directly into the previous crop's residue, preserving topsoil, moisture and essential nutrients. The improved topsoil retention, increased yields and the lowered cost of this method of production led to Union County becoming a crop production leader as well. Union County currently ranks #1 in wheat, #8 in soybean and #14 in corn production in NC with over 143,000 acres of these commodity crops being produced in the county.

Ag continued

As the housing industry boomed in Union, farmers seized upon opportunity. Union County agriculture has become a major force in the “green industry” supplying ornamentals, turf, shade trees, and flowers to meet the demand for landscape materials. At present that segment of agriculture produces over \$17 million dollars of farm income annually, ranking 10th in NC.

In recent years, a growing segment of agriculture has been the result of the increased interest in “local food”. As consumers become more aware of their food sources and its impact on their health and lifestyle, they are seeking a closer relationship with producers. Terms like organic, heirloom, farm-fresh, and artisan are becoming a part of a growing food movement and yet another marketing opportunity for Union County’s farmers. During the 5-year span of the ag census, locally sold direct marketed foods for consumption more than doubled.



Farmer's Market

Local vendors offer homegrown produce, plants, baked goods and more. Open Saturdays (April – December) 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays (January – March) 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (seasonal). Located at 805 Skyway Drive, Monroe; 704-283-3626. Visit the Union County government website, www.co.union.nc.us/LivingHere/FarmersMarket for more information.



Live in union county



Union County shares a mix of country charm and proximity to urban convenience. Its historic buildings and old-fashioned main streets share the same page with new housing developments and bustling department stores. Union County's growth rate has remained steady for the past few years, making Union County the 8th fastest growing county in the state.



Our population is expected to grow to approximately 250,000 by the year 2019.

While anticipating plans for ever-improving infrastructure and projects like the Monroe Bypass, Union County looks to preserve its heritage.

The birthplace of Andrew Jackson is also the home of beautiful and natural areas like Cane Creek Park and Brooklandwood, home of the Charlotte Queen's Cup Steeplechase. The county has plenty to offer and welcomes newcomers to enjoy its unique quality of life.

Newcomers who want to share the future by putting down roots here find a myriad of options, from traditional two-story homes to historic mansions, from sprawling ranch-style abodes to cozy farm houses and country estates with barns and stables.

Whatever you select, you'll find reasonable housing prices here; in fact, you may discover your dollars go a bit further than they did in your old hometown. Or, if you prefer, you'll find plenty of new upscale construction, especially in western Union County near Weddington, Marvin, Waxhaw and Wesley Chapel.

The Carolina Multiple Listing Service (CMLS) lists Union County as Area 10. The Union County Board of Realtors has divided that into five sub areas, four in the county and the fifth in Monroe. For more information on what these areas offer, ask your realtor.

After you read these brief profiles of Union County's towns, drive around and get to know the area. You're sure to discover the perfect home for you.

Population Data

Population Change for Union County and its Municipalities

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, N.C. Office of State Budget and Management)

Municipality	2010 Census	2016 Estimate
Fairview	3,324	3,612
Hemby Bridge	1,520	1,712
Indian Trail	33,518	38,222
Lake Park	3,422	3,756
Marshville	2,402	2,655
Marvin	5,579	6,377
Mineral Springs	2,639	2,945
Monroe	32,797	34,818
Stallings	13,432	15,378
Unionville	5,929	6,585
Waxhaw	9,859	14,194
Weddington	9,452	10,642
Wesley Chapel	7,463	8,596
Wingate	3,491	3,915

Union County 201,291 226,606

Union County Median Household Income (2017): \$65,903

Monroe (County Seat)

The city of Monroe is a vibrant and progressive city that serves as the hub of retail, government, culture, and industry in Union County.

From the large Historic District complete with stately homes and a newly revitalized downtown, to its industrial core attracting businesses from across the globe, to the ever-growing retail marketplace, Monroe has something to offer to all.

The downtown area is currently in the throes of a revitalization plan that has been spearheaded by city leaders. The plan is geared to increase traffic to downtown businesses as well as to show off the charm of the tree-lined streets and make the downtown area a destination for families. Several activities like live music, antique car cruise-ins, outdoor movies to name just a few, are held throughout the year. The downtown, at times, also finds itself the center of attention as film crews use the backdrop of the Historic Union County

Courthouse and charm of Main Street in major motion pictures.

Monroe continues to grow its industrial base in the Monroe Corporate Center, strategically located adjacent to the Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport and South Piedmont Community College. The Corporate Center plays home to several international and local companies and has room for continued development.

Monroe is known for its aerospace industry cluster. The recent growth of this business segment goes hand in hand with the growth at airport. The 6,000-square-foot terminal overlooks a runway that has been recently expanded to 7,000 feet to attract businesses that will land and store their private jets in Monroe.

Other retail development along U.S. 74 includes large national retailers as well as small family-owned businesses. This development has occurred at a steady pace, giving residents shopping options that will

keep them close to home. South Piedmont Community College strengthens the city's economic and educational future. SPCC has a campus on Old Charlotte Highway and offers numerous degree programs along with continuing education, college transfer, basic skills, and workforce training.

Monroe is also home to Carolinas Medical Center-Union, Novant Health Medical Plaza, and several medical offices and specialists to provide the highest level of medical care available.

Regarding recreation, Monroe is home to the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center, a state-of-the-art facility complete with workout area, basketball courts, indoor swimming pool, and an outdoor water park. The city of Monroe also operates Monroe Country Club, a municipal golf course that is truly a delight to play.

Whatever your need or desire, Monroe is your destination.

Play continued on page 22

Real Property Tax

(per \$100) Assessed Value Rate

(Source: Union County Tax Assessor's Office)
As of July, 2017

Union County	\$0.2684
Countywide Fire	\$0.0104
Countywide EMS	\$0.0263
Special School	\$0.4450
Fairview	\$0.0200
Hemby Bridge	\$0.0000
Hemby Bridge Fire Tax	\$0.0503
Indian Trail	\$0.1850
Lake Park	\$0.2300
Marshville	\$0.5100
Marvin	\$0.0500
Mineral Springs	\$0.0250
Mineral Springs Fire Tax	\$0.0567
Monroe	\$0.5863
Monroe Downtown District	\$0.2190
Stallings	\$0.2150
Stallings Fire Tax	\$0.0503
Unionville	\$0.0200
Waxhaw	\$0.3600
Waxhaw Fire Tax	\$0.0413
Weddington	\$0.0520
Wesley Chapel	\$0.0165
Wesley Chapel Fire Tax	\$0.0293
Wingate	\$0.4300

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Live continued

Fairview

When folks in the Fairview community needed a gymnasium for their school in the 1930s, they built it themselves. It is that sense of community that residents preserved when they incorporated in 2002. The town tax rate is 2.0 cents per \$100. Taxes help the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department with equipment. Tax funds were also used to fund a matching grant to build a park for the Fairview community. Fairview Park opened April of 2017.

Fairview is predominantly farmland and single-family homeowners. Fairview's borders stretch from the county's northernmost border to Unionville on the south with a land area of 37 square miles. The N.C. 218 and U.S. 601 intersection is the heart of the community. The nearby Fairview Volunteer Fire Department serves as its focal point which houses the office of the Land Use Administrator and Town Clerk.

The Town Council meets at 7:00 pm the second Monday of each month at the Fairview Town Hall at 7516 Concord Highway, which is located at the old Fairview Elementary School site. (704) 753-1981. www.fairviewnc.gov

Hemby Bridge

The Town of Hemby Bridge is a community dedicated to keeping its rural, small-town feel alive in the midst of big-city growth all around it. Farmers and residents of the community established the Town of Hemby Bridge on November 3, 1998 in an effort to preserve that simple way of life. The ways in which they have accomplished that goal are by keeping a zero percent tax rate and by hosting events to benefit the community. The town's biggest event of the year is the Annual Hemby Bridge Festival and Parade which is held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The celebration that began as a Christmas Lighting in the town center now attracts thousands of people to our small town where they enjoy a family-oriented day of live entertainment, food and craft vendors, and games for the kids. Hemby Bridge invites everyone to come and enjoy the holiday festivities with us! Hemby Bridge really is a Small Town with a Big Heart! (704) 882-3940. www.hembybridgenc.govoffice2.com

Indian Trail

Welcome to the Town of Indian Trail! Whether you are a long-time resident or have recently relocated to our town, everybody enjoys living, working, playing and learning in Indian Trail! In recent years, we have been named a U. S. Top Ten "Best Places for Families" by Family Circle Magazine, the "Most Affordable Place in North Carolina," a "Great Place for Healthy Living in N.C." and one of the Top Five "Best North Carolina Towns for Young Families." These accolades highlight just a few of the many great aspects of Indian Trail: affordable housing, great neighborhoods, substantial green space and A-plus schools.

Indian Trail welcomes and promotes new businesses and entertainment venues to help better serve its ever-growing residential population, and we remain dedicated to bringing the best amenities to our residents while keeping a small-town feel. For those residents and businesses looking for metropolitan conveniences, Indian Trail is just a short drive to downtown Charlotte, where residents can enjoy professional and college sports, international amenities, shopping for everyone, world-class museums and delicious restaurants. Indian Trail is located near an international airport, minutes away from a busy regional airport (Charlotte-Monroe Airport) and has instant access to Interstates 485 and 74. We have two higher education institutions that border Indian Trail: South Piedmont Community College and Central Piedmont Community College.

Indian Trail, incorporated in 1907, can trace its beginnings to the 1750s with the establishment of a trade route between Virginia and the Waxhaw Indian settlement. The economy evolved from a trading and gold mining community to an agriculture and transportation hub with the development of the railroad in the 1870s. Since the suburban trend emerged, Indian Trail has experienced huge residential growth. According to 2010 Census reports, the population has grown from less than 1,800 in 1990 to approximately 38,000 residents today.

Indian Trail is at an exciting crossroads of development! Town of Indian Trail elected officials and staff work in partnership with local civic organizations and community businesses to foster orderly growth and



inspire community pride by offering a variety of activities including festivals, parades, events and concerts throughout the year at the Town's three parks - Crossing Paths, Chestnut Square and Crooked Creek Parks. Our parks provide an exciting assortment of outdoor activities, including walking paths, playgrounds, fitness classes, a dog park, disc golf course, ball fields, environmental education classes, sports clinics, a splashpad and a healthy, safe environment to enjoy the outdoors. The Town also will soon add a playground for children with special needs at Crooked Creek Park – a true destination park attended by thousands of visitors from across the region every year. And the new Town Hall building near Chestnut Square Park includes community rooms and a Cultural Arts Center for residents and visitors to reserve for events and conferences.

Come join us and see what IT is all about! (704) 821-5401.
www.indiantrail.org

Lake Park

Lake Park NC residents host an Annual Family Kite Festival in Spring, an Annual Fall Festival in October, Spring and Fall Yard Sales, and Summer Evening events in Mathisen Square. The Village sponsors an Old-Fashioned 4th of July Picnic and Kid's Parade, a Chili Cookoff in November, and the Christmas Tree Lighting in Mathisen Square. Recognized as a Purple Heart Community since 2012, Lake Park commemorates Memorial Day here in Veterans Park.

Lake Park hosts Union County Girls on the Run and Common Heart annual races on village streets. Union County's first National Night Out occurred here in 2006.

Lake Park was North Carolina's first planned municipality and was incorporated July 1, 1994. The founding values, Courage, Honesty, Loyalty and Reverence, are inscribed on the Kite Girl Monument. Charlestonian row houses, estate homes, single family patio homes, townhomes and apartments line quiet streets. Shaded sidewalks encircle neighborhoods, parks, and a chiming clocktower. Playgrounds, blooming planters, bubbling fountains and brick crosswalks all add to this home town charm.

Town Center business district amid unique neighborhoods offer opportunities for small business enterprise and convenience to families and singles of all ages. Restaurants, medical and insurance offices flourish near local churches, schools and child care centers. Largest employers include Lucas Landscaping and the Lake Park Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

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3700 Forest Lawn Drive
Matthews NC 28104

Live continued on page 24

Live continued

Only a mile from Hwy 74 and less than five miles from two I-485 exits, Lake Park features over 60 acres of outdoor public areas, parks, ponds, playgrounds, tennis, volleyball and basketball courts, and swimming pools. Lake Park is home to the Piranhas Swim Team. 704-882-8657. www.lakeparknc.gov or mylakeparknc.com.

Marshville

Marshville began as the trading center for a surrounding farming community when the railroad built a cotton platform there in the mid 1800's. The town has grown over the years, but it still retains strong ties to agriculture and its rural past. The CSX railroad tracks that bisect the town are a constant reminder of Marshville's continuing appeal as a trading center.

Known early on as Beaver Dam and incorporated in 1877 as Griffinsville, the town was renamed in 1895 for J. W. Marsh, who donated land for a new town hall, school and churches. Claims to fame for Union County's easternmost town include its status as the boyhood home of country music star Randy Travis and setting for the 1985 movie *The Color Purple*. In 2013 Marshville was designated as a Small Town Main St. community.

Marshville straddles US 74 and is looking forward to the Fall, 2018 completion of a bypass that will provide quicker access to Charlotte. One of the few "full service" towns in "Sweet Union" Marshville maintains 27 miles of water system, 15 miles of sewer service, 12 miles of town streets and provides 24-hour police protection.

Marshville features a 13-acre park, complete with ball fields, picnic shelter and tennis courts, a one acre mini park, downtown Community Center, and the state of the art Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial Library. The Marshville Museum and Cultural Center opened in June, 2013 in the Old Town Hall building at 201 N. Elm Street, and features exhibits on the history of Marshville and surrounding areas as well as regular art exhibits and classes.

Town Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The Planning Board meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. The Boll Weevil Jamboree is held each year on the third Saturday in September. The Parks and Recreation department sponsors various events during the year for all ages.

Marshville's Town Hall, located 35 miles east of Charlotte at 201 W. Main Street, is open Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. (704) 624-2515. www.marshville.org

Marvin

Known for its beautiful rural atmosphere and horse farms, Union County's westernmost municipality is making provisions for commercial development to coexist in the community while preserving the rural character. Marvin's quiet pastoral scenes have attracted quick growth from many areas of the US. Firethorne, a large golf-oriented upscale development, the Marvin-Efird Park with its scenic views, trails, playground and barn, and Marvin's one and one-half miles of multi-use trails, has established Marvin as a signature high-end residential community while maintaining a low tax rate. Marvin's \$160,093 median household income is among the state's highest. (704) 843-1680. www.marvinnc.org

Mineral Springs

A self-described 'country town' with a long history and a penchant for horses, Mineral Springs has worked hard to preserve its farmland, forests, and its identity. Growing up between Monroe and Waxhaw, the town favors selected retail development. Town leaders shun strip malls, instead envisioning a pedestrian-oriented downtown with quaint shops.



Many newcomers arrive here with horses in tow. Mineral Springs is proud to be the home of Brooklandwood, the rolling, prestigious Charlotte Steeplechase track. Each April, the Queen's Cup attracts over 20,000 visitors. Mineral Springs is also home to numerous horse breeding, training, and boarding facilities of all sizes.

Building upon an existing network of horse trails, the Mineral Springs Greenway is a mixed-use trail system open to hikers and joggers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers. The parking area is located at 6214 McNeely Road. The longest trail is just less than two miles closely following the Wolf and Bates Branches. Our multi-use trails are open to the public from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.

Mineral Springs began holding an annual festival in 2015 featuring local talent, craft and food vendors and a children's play area, which includes a bounce house. The festival is held on the second Saturday in September. (704) 243-0505. www.mineralspringsnc.com.

Stallings

Our growth has been rapid, but we have retained the small town character that defines the cherished meaning of the phrase "hometown." As we have evolved & grown, we have preserved our independent spirit & sometimes stubborn tenacity, a resolve that led our founders to band together rather than be claimed by another community, one that is still seen in the organizations nurturing our schools and shaping our future.

Established in 1975, we are very young by most standards, and we welcome new neighbors who share our desire for small town charm with an unrivaled quality of life.

We enjoy the benefits of big-city commerce and culture, but exist as an oasis in a fast paced metro. We trade traffic congestion

for family walks in the neighborhood, sounds of the city for children's laughter in the park, and corporate meetings for socializing at the high school football game.

We are both natives and newcomers. We cherish our separate and unique neighborhoods and the tight-knit community they create. We rally around our children's schools as they continue to be some of the best in the region. No matter whom we are or where we come from, the thread that binds us together is our love of family, our love of connection, and our love of community, this community, a special place known as Stallings, with everything we need at a pace we can enjoy. Being a member of this community truly means you are part of something special, and in a sense, we are the standard of what good communities look like. (704) 821-8557. www.stallingsnc.org.

Live continued on page 26

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Live continued

Unionville

Unionville encompasses almost 19,000 acres north of Monroe and south of Fairview along U.S. 601 and Highway 200. While retaining its rural atmosphere, this old community with a newly-resurrected municipal charter maintains a low tax rate. The Unionville Presbyterian Church's fellowship hall was donated by the church members to the Town Council as a Town Hall in 2000. Longtime traditions include a Fourth of July celebration and parade, and Unionville Elementary School's annual barbecue the first Friday in November.

This is one of the area's largest and most well-known fundraising events for an elementary school. The Unionville Lions Club sponsors "Concerts in the Park" Thursday nights in July and August, featuring local bands. Also in 2000, the Town established an annual Christmas tree-lighting the first Saturday in December, and the Sam F. Keziah Unionville American Legion Post #535 now hosts the parade prior to the tree-lighting. (704) 226-1989. www.unionvillenc.com.

Waxhaw

Buzzing with creative and performing arts, vibrant music, eclectic shops and restaurants surrounded by a natural backdrop of rolling hills, horse country, fishing ponds and outdoor recreation, Waxhaw is rich in heritage, bustling with activities and offers a sense of well-being for all who live, work or play here.

Conveniently located just 40 minutes from uptown Charlotte, Waxhaw is a family friendly retreat from the city yet still provides its own bustling downtown. Whether it's farm to table cuisine or relaxed pubs and taverns, Waxhaw offers an eclectic mix of dining experiences. Shops range from rustic antique stores and American crafts, to clothing boutiques, and upscale home furnishings.

This charming little town took its name from the Waxhaw Indians, a tribe that once inhabited the area. Waxhaw incorporated on March 7, 1889 and has since become known for the numerous outdoor events held in its downtown area throughout the year including Spring Kaleidoscope, Friday night summer concerts, an Independence

Day parade with the area's best fireworks celebration, and Autumn Treasures. The Holiday Celebrations begin the first Friday in December with the Festival of Lights and continues with weekend activities through the month of December.

Waxhaw continually pays homage to veterans by holding Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, in addition to collaborating with the Waxhaw Business Association for a Patriot Day Ceremony. All of these events are held at the Military Wall of Honor located in historic downtown. The town is also increasing its visibility among the art community with an annual juried art show, an open-air art market, a downtown art walk, and art showings by over 30 local artists and 24 art studios located in the area.

Much of the quaintness of downtown Waxhaw is due to the railroad tracks which run parallel through the center of town dividing Main Street into two sides, each complemented by plush strips of green. Almost all of downtown can be viewed from the rustic overhead bridge built across the tracks that once carried vehicles and is one of the historic landmarks in the town. The beloved walkover bridge provides children and adults a place to cross or stand and watch the train going through town while feeling the rumble under their feet and garnering the occasional whistle blow from the train engineer.

Offered several times a year is the popular Historic Walking Tour, a stroll through the Waxhaw Historic District—listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The tour details Waxhaw's proud history and the beautiful old homes that line the streets. Designated as a Preserve America community, Waxhaw boasts a downtown bustling with activity every day of the week.

Several parks in the area have been renovated or completed for children and families to enjoy. In the downtown area is the David G. Barnes Park, located at 219 S.W. Main Street, with playground equipment for the little ones. It stands adjacent to the Waxhaw Sk8 Park, popular with skateboard enthusiasts. Also in downtown is the Dare Steele Garden on South Providence Street, developed to honor the memory of former Waxhaw teacher and resident Dare Steele. The



Harvey Clay Nesbit Park is also open at 1304 H.C. Nesbit Road. Located five minutes south of Waxhaw on Harkey Road is Cane Creek Park, a 1050-acre Union County owned park that draws visitors with its 350-acre trophy bass lake, a beach and swimming area, boats for rental, miniature golf, campsites and rental cabins. Eight miles of trails beckon mountain bikers.

Waxhaw has many cultural roots. The Museum of the Waxhaws is a memorial to President Andrew Jackson, the Waxhaw Indians, and the Land of the Waxhaws. The museum offers field trips, group visits, and special events such as a D-Day Celebration, living history events, gold panning, civil war reenactments and more. Located just south of Waxhaw is JAARS—an organization that works with more than 70 partner organizations worldwide to provide the tools and training they need to translate the Bible into thousands of languages. The JAARS Center offers weekday tours, has a lunch room open to the public and includes two museums, the Museum of the Alphabet and the Mexico-Cardenas Museum.

Laden with history, Waxhaw offers not only its historical district and established neighborhoods, but modern shopping districts and businesses as well. Newer housing can be found along Hwy 16 towards Charlotte, along NC 16 east and west, and along Rehobeth Road. We encourage visitors to come visit Waxhaw and discover that life happens here. (704) 843-2195. www.waxhaw.com.

Weddington

The Town of Weddington is located in the northwestern corner of Union County, approximately 15 miles southeast of the City of Charlotte and 14 miles northwest of downtown Monroe. The Town encompasses approximately 17 square miles or 11,044 acres. Weddington currently has a population of approximately 11,500.

The town consists almost entirely of single-family homes on lots of one acre or more. Its only commercial area is located in the vicinity of NC 16 and NC 84 and is referred to as the Town Center. Only 27 of the 11,044 acres within Weddington are commercially zoned, and they are all located in what is considered the Town Center. Weddington Corners Shopping Center is located at the corner of Providence and Weddington Roads. The Town Hall also is located in this area within the Town Center and is a locally designated historic home built in 1894.

The town tax rate is 5.2 cents per \$100 valuation. Taxes help to fund a contractual agreement with the Union County Sheriff's office for Sheriff Deputy's who are assigned specifically to the Weddington area that provide additional coverage on top of what is already

Live continued on page 28

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Live continued

provided by Union County. Taxes also help fund “first responders” service to the Town.

The form of government is Mayor and Council. Council meetings are held the 2nd Monday night of each month in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment.

Planning for the town is provided via a Zoning Administrator/Planner and a 7-member Planning Board. Planning Board meetings are held the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Weddington holds several community events throughout the year. The Easter Egg Hunt is held in the spring at the Town Hall. Kids enjoy games, prizes and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The town schedules a spring and fall Litter Sweep where residents are encouraged to help clean up the roads. In the Spring, Food Truck Fridays at the Town Hall has been very popular and in October there will be another fun, town-sponsored event. Lastly, our Annual Tree Lighting is held in December where the town lights the tree and enjoys local groups performing

while residents enjoy hot cocoa and cookies. (704) 846-2709.
www.townofweddington.com.

Wesley Chapel

Nestled between Monroe and Weddington, Wesley Chapel was incorporated in 1998 around a century-old community of the same name. The town’s commercial development, anchored by three upscale shopping centers at the intersection of N.C. 84 and Waxhaw-Indian Trail Road, enhances the village center. The newest addition to that center is the Town’s first municipal building, our Village Hall, at the east end of the shopping area. A mile to the west, at the corner of Lester Davis Road and NC 84 is the Village’s first Park, Dogwood Park, offering residents a quiet atmosphere to relax in a wooded environment with many walking trails (paved and unpaved), a dog park, a 2 ½ acre pond complimented by a fishing pier and an amphitheater to host local musical and artistic events. The pier is a Community Fishing Program Site and ADA accessible.

Boasting a rural atmosphere, Wesley Chapel is a short 30-40 minute drive from Charlotte. Look for medium to upper end single family homes nestled amongst rolling green countryside still dotted with farms and cattle. Wesley Chapel and New Town Elementary Schools are part of the community fabric and a source of local pride. Several other elementary, middle and high schools are nearby and provide quality education for the children in our community.

Taxes are kept low by a centralized government aided by a small, capable staff, and also by the volunteerism of the community, including many families who have worked to make the park a reality through participation in volunteer days. Meeting dates as well as other community information can be found on the Village website: www.wesleychapelinc.com. (704) 839-0182.

Wesley Chapel is truly “A Great Place to Live and Raise a Family”.



Wingate

Wingate started with the name Ames Turnout for a contractor named Ames who graded the bed for the railroad tracks that run through town. The name was changed to Wingate in the late 1890s.

The town is inextricably linked with Wingate University, a private comprehensive institution that recently celebrated its 115th year. Growth is likely to come to both the town and the school within the next decade when the Monroe Bypass, connecting U.S. 74 at a point near Wingate, makes Charlotte less than a half-hour's drive away.

Wingate University offers 35 bachelor's degrees, master's degrees in business, accounting, education, physician assistant studies and sport administration and doctorates in pharmacy, physical therapy and education. Most of the more than 2,500 students attend classes at the 400-acre main campus just off U.S. 74; others attend the university's Ballantyne and Hendersonville campuses. The University is proud of its state-of-the-art George A. Batte Fine Arts Center and the Levine College of Health Sciences which houses the School of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies program.

Wingate is home to the Jesse Helms Center on U.S. 74 near the Wingate campus. The center is a tribute to retired US Senator Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a Union County native and Wingate College graduate (class of 1939). It displays exhibits and memorabilia and will house the senator's papers. The Helms Center sponsors a lecture series that brings government and international leaders to campus for public speeches and sessions with students. Visitors to town in recent years include Dr. Condoleezza Rice, Margaret Thatcher, and The Dalai Lama. The town of Wingate is proud of its new city hall, a historic Greek revival home released from the Jesse Helms Center and next door to the complex. 704-233-4411. www.townofwingate.gov.

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Utilities in union county



Electricity

City of Monroe - 704-282-4511

www.monroenc.org

Serves most of Monroe. Duke Energy and Union Power Cooperative serve small areas in outlying portions within the city limits of Monroe.

Duke Energy - 800-777-9898

www.duke-energy.com

Serves many unincorporated areas, and portions of the towns of Fairview, Indian Trail, Marshville, Mineral Springs, Monroe, Unionville, Waxhaw, Weddington, Wesley Chapel, Wingate and Stallings.

Pee Dee Electric - 800-992-1626

www.pdenc.com

Serves a small area in southeast Union County.

Union Power Cooperative - 704-289-3145

www.union-power.com

Serves many unincorporated areas, all of the towns of Hemby Bridge, Lake Park and Marvin, and the towns of Fairview, Indian Trail, Marshville, Mineral Springs, Monroe, Unionville, Waxhaw, Weddington, Wesley Chapel, Wingate and Stallings.

Natural Gas

City of Monroe - 704-282-4511

www.monroenc.org

Serves Monroe and Wingate.

Piedmont Natural Gas - 800-275-6264

www.piedmontng.com

Serves most of Union County.

Water/Sewer

City of Monroe - 704-282-4511

www.monroenc.org

Serves Monroe.

Union County Public Works - 704-296-4210

www.co.union.nc.us

Serves unincorporated areas and all or portions of towns of Hemby Bridge, Indian Trail, Lake Park, Marvin, Stallings, Waxhaw and Weddington. Marshville and Wingate contract with Union County for purchase of water and treatment of sewer and bill their customers. Private sewer companies support some subdivisions.

Trash/Recycling

Commercial Collection Office

704-233-5334

Residential Collection Office

704-512-9821

Recycling Office - 704-296-4213

www.co.union.nc.us

Unincorporated residents may contract directly with any number of independent solid waste collection service contractors within the county for services. City of Monroe, Town of Indian Trail, the Village of Lake Park, Town of Marshville, Town of Stallings, Town of Waxhaw, and Town of Wingate provide curbside pickup for their residents. Residents of these towns should contact their municipalities for further information.

Telephone/Cable/Internet

Frontier Communications

www.frontier.com

(Monroe/Wingate/Central Union County)

Residential service - 877-462-8188

Business service - 877-462-8188

Spectrum

1490 Walkup Ave., Monroe NC 28110

www.spectrum.com

866-874-2389

Verizon - www.verizon.com - (Monroe/Wingate/Central Union Cty)

Residential service - 800-483-4300

Business service - 800-483-5300

Windstream - www.windstream.com - (Eastern Union County)

Residential service - 704-624-2101

Business service - 704-847-9055

Windstream - (Western Union County)

Residential service - 704-847-4828

Business service - 704-847-9055



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Vital Info in union county



DMV Plate & Vehicle Registration

622E West Roosevelt Blvd.
Monroe, NC 28110
704-283-4113

14015-J East Independence Blvd.
Indian Trail, NC 28079
704-234-8704

You must register your vehicle before the reciprocity agreement between North Carolina and your former state expires (usually 30 days). Registration is renewed annually.

Present your title (unless title is held by a lien holder) and a valid registration card from your former state. If a lien holder holds your title, you must provide the lien holder's name and address on a state form for title release. You also must present proof of vehicle liability insurance that meets state standards.

Fees include \$52 title fee, \$28 registration fee for auto and a highway use tax that ranges up to \$150 depending on the situation.

If you're moving to N.C. from another state, you will be allowed to register your vehicle without an initial inspection. When your next annual registration renewal is due, you must have the vehicle inspected up to 90 days prior to the plate expiration date.

N.C. counties assess property taxes annually. Your car will be registered when you receive your license plate, and you'll receive a bill in about three months.

Voter Registration

www.unioncountync.gov/elections

You must be a United States citizen; at least 18 years of age, or will be by the date of the general election; have been a resident of North Carolina, this county, and precinct for 30 days before the election in which you intend to vote; no active felony conviction. You may register to vote at the Board of Elections at 316-B East Windsor Street in Monroe or the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (if conducting other transactions). Registration forms are

available at the Union County Library at 316 East Windsor Street in Monroe or any branch, any town hall, post office or high school in Union County. In addition, you may print a registration form at www.unioncountync.gov/elections. Completed forms should be mailed to the Board of Elections, PO Box 1106, Monroe, NC 28111. This application must be received (or postmarked) by your county board of elections no later than 25 days before the date of the first election in which you desire to vote. Registered voters have

the option of early voting in-person at select voting sites or at the main library in Monroe. Persons who are not registered may register to vote during the one-stop early voting period, this process is called "Same-Day Registration." Absentee Ballot by Mail is also an option, the request form and instructions are available at www.unioncountync.gov/elections. Contact the Board of Elections at 704-283-3809 for information concerning election dates, voting locations or if you have additional questions.



Police

All law enforcement emergencies call 911. The following towns have their own police, which can be contacted directly:

Marshville	704-624-6767
Monroe	704-282-4700
Stallings	704-821-0300
Waxhaw	704-843-0353
Wingate	704-233-1697

All other towns call the Sheriff's Office: 704-283-8101

State Highway Patrol: 919-733-7952 Monroe office: 704-283-8101

Fire - To report fire county-wide call 911.

Rules of the Road

- Speed limits range from 55 mph to 70 mph on interstates and from 55 mph to 65 mph on open highways. The limit is 35 mph within city limits unless otherwise posted.
 - Motorcyclists must wear helmets and drive with lights on at all times.
 - Seat belt use is mandatory for drivers and front seat passengers. Children eight and younger and weighing less than 80 pounds must be restrained in a child safety seat in the back seat, if the vehicle has an active passenger side air bag and a back seat that can hold the safety seat. Passengers younger than 16 must use a seat belt or a safety seat, regardless of where they sit.
 - Right turn on red is permitted after a complete stop unless otherwise posted. Left turn on red is not permitted.
 - Driving while impaired rules (DWI) are strict. The state blood alcohol level limit is 0.08 percent but motorists can be charged if other drugs affect them. Penalties can include fines, imprisonment and license revocation.
 - It is unlawful to use a cell phone for email or text messages while operating a vehicle.
 - Drivers less than 18 years of age are not permitted to use a cell phone or any additional technology associated with a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, except for calling 911 in an emergency.
- *Please see the North Carolina Driver's Handbook for a more information on traffic laws in N.C. It is available at DMV offices or can be downloaded from www.ncdot.gov/dmv.

Driver's License Offices

3122 US 74 West, Monroe, NC 28110
704-283-4264 | www.ncdot.gov/dmv

All new residents of North Carolina who plan to operate a motor vehicle in this state must obtain a driver's license within 60 days of establishing a permanent residence (30 days for a commercial license). Most newcomers seek a Class C license for personal cars and small trucks. Motorcycle riders also need a motorcycle endorsement. Licensed drivers who are 16 or 17 years old must show passage of a state-approved driver education course in their former state; otherwise, they receive a temporary license. You may obtain a NC Level 1 permit at 15 after passing an approved driver

education course. N.C. driver's licenses are valid for five years. Apply in person at a driver's license office to take the vision, sign recognition and written tests. The written and road tests may be waived if a valid license from another state is presented. If the out-of-state license has been expired more than two years, the written and road tests are required. The N.C. Driver's Handbook is available at DMV offices or can be downloaded from www.ncdot.gov/dmv.

A Class C license costs \$5.00 per year. The motorcycle endorsement is an additional \$2.30 per year, and you must pass a road skills test. The cost of a Learner Permit is \$20.

Communities in union county



Get in Touch with Local Governments

Union County: 704-283-3500
or www.co.union.nc.us

Administrative Offices for Municipalities

FAIRVIEW: 704-753-1981
www.fairviewnc.gov

HEMBY BRIDGE: 704-882-3940
www.hembybridgenc.govoffice2.com

INDIAN TRAIL: 704-821-5401
www.indiantrail.org

LAKE PARK: 704-882-8657
www.lakeparknc.gov

MARSHVILLE: 704-624-2515
www.marshville.org

MARVIN: 704-843-1680
www.marvinncc.org

MINERAL SPRINGS: 704-243-0505
www.mineralspringsnc.com

MONROE: 704-282-4500
www.monroenc.org

STALLINGS: 704-821-8557
www.stallingsnc.net

UNIONVILLE: 704-226-1989
www.unionvillenc.com

WAXHAW: 704-843-2195
www.waxhaw.com

WEDDINGTON: 704-846-2709
www.townofweddington.com

WESLEY CHAPEL: 704-839-0182
www.wesleychapelnc.com

WINGATE: 704-233-4411
www.townofwingatenc.gov



US Post Offices

Indian Trail 28079 – 210 Postage Way
704-821-4977

Marshville 28103 – 322 E. Union Street
704-624-2059

Matthews 28104 – 301 E. John Street
704-847-6063

Mineral Springs 28108 – 5912 Waxhaw Hwy.
704-843-3713

Monroe 28111 – PO Boxes
101 S. Charlotte Avenue
704-289-4508

Monroe (Annex) 28110 and 28112
(street delivery/carriers)
1639 Dickerson Blvd.
704-283-2565

Waxhaw 28173 – 100 Waxhaw Pkwy.
704-843-3483

Wingate 28174 – 212 N. Main Street
704-233-0402

For general U.S.P.S. information or for locations that do not have phone numbers listed, call 800-275-8777 or visit www.usps.com.

Libraries in union county



The Union County Public Library System is comprised of one Main Library in Monroe with three branches— Union West in Indian Trail, Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial Library in Marshville, and the Waxhaw Branch in Waxhaw. The Library System provides books in regular and large print, e-books, audiobooks, e-audiobooks, DVDs, children’s music CDs, newspapers, magazines and e-magazines. Monroe, Marshville, and Union West are open seven days a week with the Waxhaw Library open Monday through Saturday.



The Main Library is located at 316 East Windsor Street in Monroe. It was renovated and expanded in 2003 to serve residents of the entire county. Unique to the Main Library are a Spanish language collection, and the Dickerson Room which houses local history and genealogy research materials. The major nonfiction and reference collection is housed at the Monroe (Main) Library, where the staff offers telephone and email research assistance as well as help to library visitors.

The Union West Regional Library at 123 Unionville-Indian Trail Road in Indian Trail opened in 2002. This largest branch features a reading room with fireplace, where local residents enjoy browsing

magazines and newspapers or quiet study. This full-service facility is a frequent destination for the area’s children, who enjoy great programs, many of which are sponsored by the Union West Rotary Club.

The Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial Library at 414 Hasty Street in Marshville was named after the mother of the facility’s benefactor, deceased businessman Carroll Edwards. This beautiful facility, reminiscent of a Frank Lloyd Wright design, opened in 2003 to serve all of the residents of eastern Union County. It too is a full-service branch, and uniquely offers an obituary index to the Marshville newspapers. The Waxhaw Branch, located at 509 South Providence Street in Waxhaw is highly popular in spite

of its small size. It provides limited research services but all of the new materials readers of all ages could want.

All Union County Libraries offer public computers and free computer classes. For all ages of pre-schoolers, there are weekly story time programs at each location. There are programs throughout the year for kids, teens and adults; summer brings an intense series of activities for school-age children and teens. The libraries offer a wide selection of materials for children, teens and adults, with new books arriving daily.

For hours, directions and a wealth of online services, visit the website at www.union.lib.nc.us or find them on Social Media @UCPLNC.

Education in union county



When it comes to children’s education, every choice is important – but those choice are perhaps most important when a family is new to a community. So newcomers to Union County are sure to put schools at the top of the “things to decide” list. Union County is fortunate to have a well-respected public school system, quality private and charter schools plus two post-high school facilities.

Union County Public Schools (USPS) has 53 accredited schools, with approximately 42,000 students in grades Pre-K through 12. The school district is comprised of 11 high schools, 9 middle schools, 30 elementary schools, and 3 special-purpose schools.

Union County Early College (UCEC) and Central Academy of Technology and Arts (CATA) are high schools of choice and open to all Union County public high school students. UCPS offers more than 20 career academy pathways, with courses in programs that include aerospace, welding and engineering as well as culinary arts, pharmacy tech and digital film editing and production.

CATA was named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School, a prestigious award that recognizes high-performing public and non-public schools that make great strides

in education. Blue Ribbon schools are honored for overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

In 2017, UCPS celebrated a four-year graduation cohort rate of 92.5 percent, which is the highest graduation rate among the 10 largest school districts in North Carolina. In comparison, the state’s four-year graduation rate in 2016 was 85.9 percent. Additionally, the UCPS Class of 2017 earned a record \$126 million in scholarships, marking the seventh consecutive year the amount of scholarships offered to graduating seniors has steadily increased.

UCPS also offers dual language immersion programs at 11 schools: seven in Spanish (Antioch, Poplin, Shiloh, Sun Valley, Unionville, Western Union, and Weddington elementary schools) and two in Mandarin

Chinese (Marvin and Kensington elementary schools). Additionally, Walter Bickett and East elementary schools recently expanded academic options for students, allowing rising kindergartners to enroll in a dual-language Spanish and English program.

Beginning this fall, middle school students will have the opportunity to take health sciences courses at the new Health Sciences Academy at Monroe Middle School. This partnership with Carolinas HealthCare System will offer rigorous coursework to prepare students for college and careers in the medical field. Sixth-grade students will participate in integrated neuroscience/health science and medical Spanish courses, and all students will have opportunities to participate in internships, externships and career-building activities related to health care and the medical field.



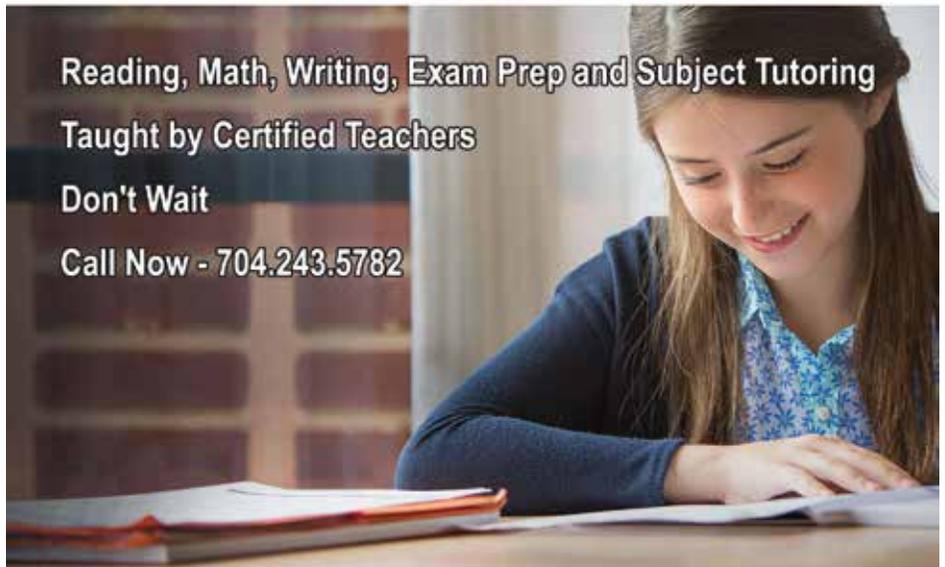
College and Career Readiness

All UCPS students as young as 11 years old will now have access to Naviance, a college and career readiness software that will be provided at no cost to UCPS families. The software will ultimately help students identify their strengths, explore career interests and create education plans for high school and beyond.

In middle school, students will have access to:

- Career Key, an online career assessment that allows students to view careers related to their interests
- Learning Style Inventory, an assessment that will help boost their academic potential by having students recognize their learning style, discover better learning strategies and gain career development skills
- Career Cluster Finder, a questionnaire that helps students discover career clusters that are most interesting to them

Education continued on page 38



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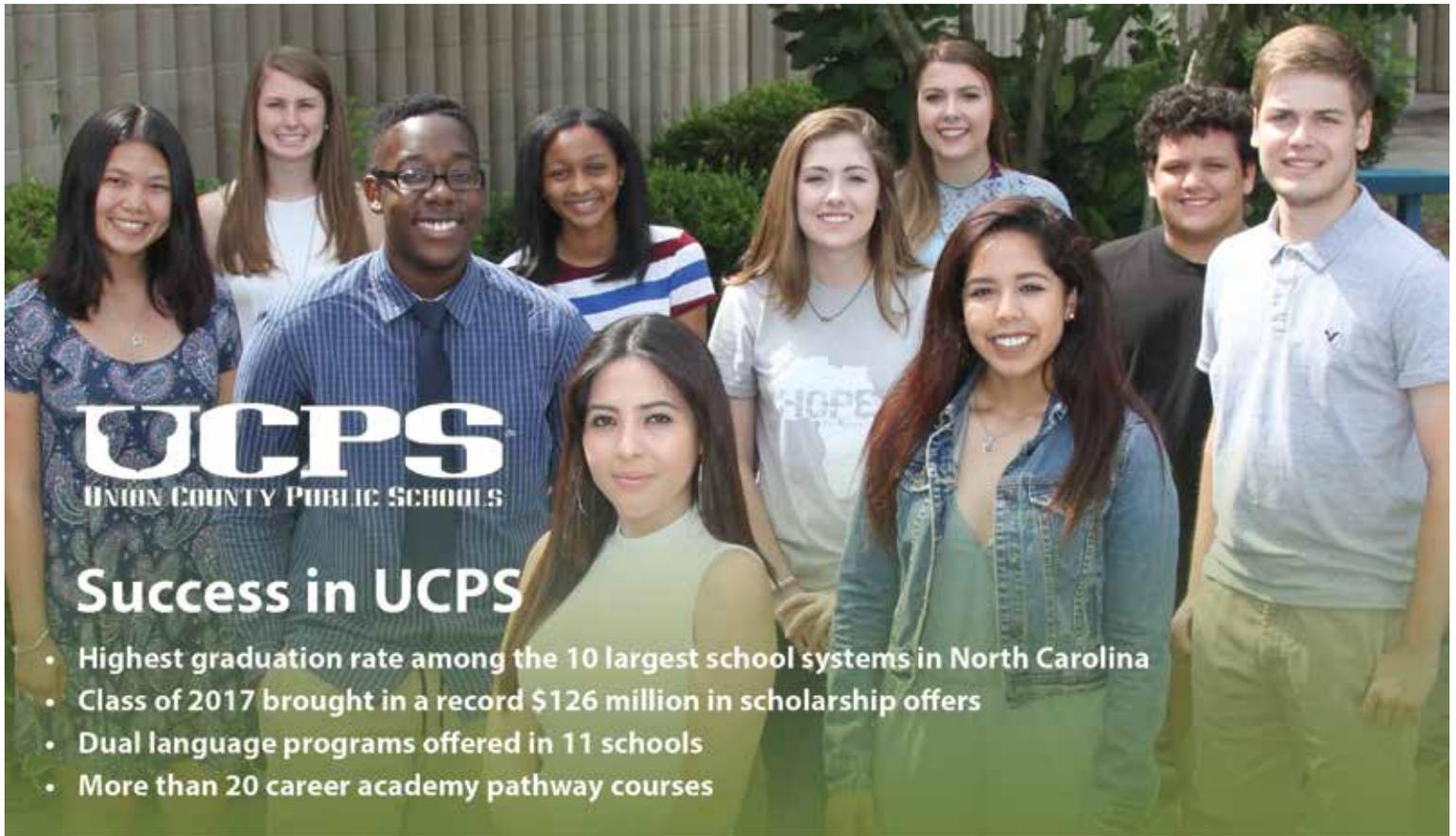
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UNION COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Success in UCPS

- Highest graduation rate among the 10 largest school systems in North Carolina
- Class of 2017 brought in a record \$126 million in scholarship offers
- Dual language programs offered in 11 schools
- More than 20 career academy pathway courses

www.ucps.k12.nc.us

Follow us on Social Media #UCPSNC



Education continued

In high school, students will have access to:

- StrengthsExplorer, a strengths assessment that identifies each student's three strongest emerging talents and helps them identify what they need to do to continue building on their strengths
- Career Interest Profiler, a career interest assessment that matches students' interests with activities and/or occupations

Naviance will be implemented in middle and high schools this fall.

Stay Connected

The school district uses several tools to stay connected with community members.

UCPS Snapshots, a monthly e-newsletter for community members, was launched in August and features timely information about district programs and initiatives as well as the great work that staff and students are doing in the school district's 53 schools. To sign up for UCPS Snapshots, text UCPSNEWS to 22828.

UCPS also regularly posts updates on social media via the Union County Public Schools Facebook page, Twitter (@UCPS_MonroeNC) and Instagram (UCPSNC) accounts.

Union Academy (UA) focuses on Challenge, Character and Community, preparing their students for success in college or a career of their choice. They have more than 17 years of success, serving 1,700 students in grades K-12. Union Academy is a tuition-free public school, enrolling students through a public lottery each spring.

Whether students join the UA family in kindergarten or years later, they and their families can be confident they are graduating from an exceptional school which challenges and encourages all students to reach for their dreams.

Union Academy was named a 2016 National School of Character (one of just 64 in the nation), a 2016 North Carolina School of Character (one of just four schools in the state), and a Charlotte Observer Regional Top 10 Workplace. Just in the 2016-17 school year, Union Academy high school students performed 40,850 community-service hours.

Academic honors include a 99% graduation rate for the Class of 2017, with 94% of graduates accepted into college or career-education programs. In 2016, Union Academy's ACT scores were above national and state averages, and their SAT scores were 43 points above the national average.

Thanks to incredible community and business support, a 100,000-square-

foot expansion project means all of their students will be on one campus for the 2018-19 school year. Find out more about Union Academy at www.unionacademy.org.

South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) serves Anson and Union counties with campuses in Monroe, Polkton, and Wadesboro. Committed to scheduling courses in a variety of lengths and times to accommodate students' needs, SPCC offers on-campus courses as well as distance learning programs.

With campuses in Union and Anson counties, South Piedmont Community College has prepared thousands of men and women for great careers, right here at home—conveniently and affordably. SPCC, which is North Carolina's newest community college, created in 1999, offers dozens of credit programs, including college transfer, as well as many short-term continuing education opportunities offered year-round. South Piedmont is also a leader in Basic Skills instruction for adults who want to complete high school or improve their reading, writing, mathematics, and communication skills.

South Piedmont is growing—serving nearly 6,000 credit and continuing education students annually. But even as the college grows, extensive hands-on experience and one-on-one instruction remain hallmarks of South Piedmont's approach to learning.



Business and industry across the region recognize South Piedmont as an important ally. SPCC's on-site customized training programs equip men and women for the high-demand, high-paying careers of today and of the future.

SPCC also operates the Union County Early College in conjunction with Union County Public Schools to provide local high school students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree in a college transfer program through a five-year program. The college offers a similar program in Anson County as well.

South Piedmont Community College's status as an "up-and-comer" among the state's 58 community colleges is good news for everyone who lives and works in the communities it serves, and the college makes Union and Anson counties better places to live and work. To learn more about the many opportunities available at SPCC, visit spcc.edu.

Founded in 1896, **Wingate University** is an independent university with 3,500 students on campuses in Wingate, Ballantyne (Charlotte) and Hendersonville, North Carolina. At the Union County campus, Wingate University offers bachelor's degrees in 35 undergraduate majors, master's degrees in accounting and physician assistant studies, and doctorates in pharmacy and physical therapy.

Evening and weekend classes are offered at the Ballantyne campus for adults who wish to complete a bachelor's degree, get an MBA or a master's in sport management, and for teachers and school administrators seeking to obtain special licensures or pursue master's or doctoral degrees in education.

At all degree levels, Wingate emphasizes small class sizes, personal attention and hands-on learning. With Wingate's core principles of faith, knowledge and service, students gain the tools and support they need to excel in academics and apply that learning toward an extraordinary career and life.

Wingate student-athletes compete in 22 NCAA Division II sports. The university has won the prestigious South Atlantic Conference Echols Athletic Excellence Award for a record 11 years in a row. Wingate has more Academic All-American honorees than any other university in North Carolina.

Wingate University welcomes Union County businesses and residents to take advantage of cultural events on campus. The annual Performance Series offered at the George A. Batte, Jr. Fine Arts Center in Wingate showcases world-class performances and art exhibits. The university also hosts lectures by international figures and provides summer youth programs and athletic camps. To find out more about these events or to book a facility, visit www.wingate.edu.

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Health & Wellness in union county



Access to quality health care is an important issue when your family is moving to a new area. But quality health care isn't an issue in Union County – there's an abundance of it.



More than 300 physicians practice in specialties from cardiology to radiology, from endoscopy to rehabilitation. The county also has health professionals in chiropractic, podiatry, optometry, dentistry and other fields. Although all physicians have offices in Union County, some are based in nearby Charlotte and hold non-daily hours in Union County. Residents have choices in hospital care, emergency care and long-term care.

Many local medical facilities are affiliated either with Carolinas Healthcare System or Novant Health. Two area hospitals provide an array of specialized services.

For more than 50 years, **Carolinas HealthCare System Union** has been committed to a single purpose – improving the health of individuals, families and communities throughout Union County and the surrounding area. As part of this commitment, Carolinas HealthCare System

Union provides an array of specialized health services, including access to Levine Cancer Institute, Levine Children's Hospital and Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, an acute care hospital, long-term care facility, behavioral health center, a state-of-the-art women's and children's center and several community-based physician practices.

The 247-bed facility is located in Monroe, NC, and is recognized by residents of Union County and the surrounding area as an accessible and dependable source for quality care. In an effort to pair personalized medicine with an advanced level of care, Carolinas HealthCare System Union is continuing to add new services and more specialized physicians so Union County residents don't have to travel far for their healthcare needs.

Major expansions and significant improvements over the past decade have led to better service and more efficient

delivery of care at Carolinas HealthCare System Union. In November 2014, Carolinas HealthCare System Union opened a state-of-the-art Women and Children's Center that offers personalized healthcare experiences for women and children of all ages. Providing high-quality care in a family-centric environment, the Women and Children's Center features 24 labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum (LDRP) suites; a private entrance for moms-to-be and their families; a special care nursery staffed by board-certified neonatologists; specialty retail shop; and a family-style waiting lounge, complete with a fireplace, bistro, internet café and children's play area.

Carolinas HealthCare System Union continued their commitment to provide unparalleled services to the families in this community when Levine Children's Hospital began providing inpatient care at the hospital. Known as "hospitalists,"

Your Community's College!

these board-certified pediatricians are available 24/7 and provide world-class care right in your community. In January 2014, Carolinas HealthCare System opened Carolinas HealthCare Children's Urgent Care Union, a dedicated children's urgent care that's affiliated with Levine Children's Hospital.

Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute's Cardiovascular Center at Carolinas HealthCare System Union provides an extensive array of cardiac and vascular diagnostic services using the latest technologies. The interdisciplinary team approach to heart care ensures that patients get excellent, life-saving care while remaining close to home. In April 2014, the Cardiovascular Center underwent renovations that included a new patient and family waiting area, a radial lounge for patients recovering from heart catheterization procedures, patient recovery unit and an upgraded interventional radiology and vascular suite. Additionally, the Cardiovascular Center launched a percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)



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Health continued

program, commonly known as angioplasty. Carolinas HealthCare System Union is the only facility in Union County to offer urgent and elective PCI services to diagnose and repair blocked arteries in the heart.

Carolinas HealthCare System Union's Edwards Cancer Center, part of Levine Cancer Institute, was recently updated with a state-of-the-art linear accelerator, which provides advanced imaging and radiation treatment. Residents of Union County now have access to the latest advancements in radiation therapy technology in addition to the highest quality of cancer care available.

The Emergency Department (ED) on Carolinas HealthCare System Union's campus has some of the most advanced technology and includes 34 treatment rooms, two dedicated trauma rooms, a 64-slice CT scanner, cardiac monitoring equipment and other imaging equipment. In hands of top-notch ED staff and board-certified physicians, these new tools are helping expedite diagnoses and speed patients directly to the care they need.

Additional services provided by Carolinas HealthCare System Union include an accredited chest pain center, inpatient and outpatient surgery, home health services, chemical dependency services, sleep center, cardiac rehabilitation, as well as a specialized wound care center.

Not too far from Carolinas HealthCare System Union, residents of Waxhaw and surrounding communities are served by Carolinas HealthCare System Waxhaw, a unique outpatient medical facility that provides convenient access to 24-hour emergency care, advanced diagnostic and imaging services, and access to the experts at Carolinas HealthCare System's physician practices – all in one convenient location.

To better meet the healthcare needs of the community, Carolinas HealthCare System Union is expanding care beyond the hospital setting by providing faith-based healthcare, health screenings and educational opportunities focused on health and wellness.

Carolinas HealthCare System Union is the largest healthcare provider in Union County and is part of Carolinas HealthCare System, one of the leading healthcare providers in the Southeast. Carolinas HealthCare System provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness programs throughout North and South Carolina. Its diverse network of care locations includes academic medical centers, hospitals, freestanding emergency departments, physician practices, surgical and rehabilitation centers, home health agencies, nursing homes and behavioral health centers, as well as hospice and palliative care services. Carolinas HealthCare System works to enhance the overall health and wellbeing of its communities through high quality patient care, education and research programs, and numerous collaborative partnerships and initiatives.

Carolinas HealthCare System Union

**600 Hospital Drive
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www.CarolinasHealthCare.org/Union

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Health continued

Comprehensive care, close to home: That's what Novant Health Matthews Medical Center provides for thousands of Union County residents each year. The hospital is located on Highway 51 in Matthews, near the intersection of US-74, centrally located to the places where Union County residents work and live.

Matthews Medical Center is part of Novant Health, an integrated network of physician clinics, hospitals and outpatient centers dedicated to making the healthcare experience simple, convenient and affordable so that patients can focus on getting better and staying healthy.

At Matthews Medical Center, that dedication means expert care – with a personal touch. Nationally recognized for quality care and a commitment to excellence, the hospital offers a wide range of services including a 24-hour emergency room that provides access to an accredited chest pain center and certified primary stroke center.

The medical center also offers advanced diagnostic and treatment options for heart, cancer, orthopedics, pediatrics and maternity care. Radiology imaging services at the hospital include CT, MRI and

a Breast Center that provides same-day mammogram appointments, including the latest in 3-D technology.

Union County is growing quickly – and Novant Health is growing to meet the community's needs.

Summer 2016 saw the opening of the new Women's Center at Novant Health Matthews Medical Center, a comprehensive center offering a continuum of care to women at all stages of their lives. The Women's Center features labor and delivery, recovery and postpartum suites with balconies, full bathrooms with jetted baths and showers; pre-delivery obstetric rooms and a level 2 neonatal intensive care unit. The warm and welcoming environment helps families feel comfortable, while moms and babies are provided all the amenities and medical care they need.

Now more than ever, patients want to take charge of their own health. Matthews Medical Center helps them do that by offering the public access to its full-service medical library. The health library offers free services such as health information searches, support group listings and referrals, physician referrals and monthly

health education programs. It also provides access to a comprehensive collection of consumer health and medical databases, as well as hard-copy medical publications.

While Novant Health is providing support and education, the organization also is making it easier for patients to get the care they need, when and where they need it. To do that, the healthcare system is bringing more physicians, services and facilities to the area.

Today, residents can see primary care providers and a wide range of specialists, all in one convenient hub – the comprehensive Novant Health medical plaza campus, located in Union County on Highway 74, across from Poplin Place Shopping Center. The three-building medical plaza offers convenient access to leading-edge health services, including advanced diagnostic imaging such as digital mammography, CT and MRI technology. The campus is also home to primary and specialty care physician clinics including pediatrics, family medicine, cardiology, ob-gyn and more.

Novant Health is focused on keeping our community healthy, one person at a time. That's why Matthews Medical Center participates in longstanding community



partnerships in Union County, including a comprehensive sports medicine and wellness program with Union County Public Schools. This initiative provides students, teachers, staff and their families a wide range of services and programs to create a healthier community.

And Matthews Medical Center also cares for the Union County community through its relationships with the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center. The on-site wellness center provides members with access to two full-time registered nurses and services provided by licensed healthcare professionals.

Union County is a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family. Novant Health Matthews Medical Center is proud to play a key role in helping our residents get better – and stay healthy.

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www.arborbrook.org

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704-283-2739
www.firstassemblymonroe.org

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Matthews, NC 28104
704-234-0292
www.graceacademync.com

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www.metrolinachristian.org

Shining Light Baptist Academy
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Tabernacle Christian School
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Monroe, NC 28110
704-283-4395
www.tcsmonroe.com

Thales Academy-Waxhaw
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Waxhaw, NC 28173
704-327-8786
www.thalesacademy.org

Weddington Christian Academy
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704-846-1039
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Colleges and Universities

South Piedmont Community College
Old Charlotte Highway Campus
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Monroe, NC 28110
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www.spcc.edu

Wingate University
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Health continued

Long-Term Care Rehabilitation Facilities:

Union County is also home to a wide selection of licensed long-term care facilities providing a variety of services to residents. Long-term care facilities include: The Jesse Helms Nursing Center, Brian Center, Lake Park Nursing and Assisted Living, Monroe Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Monroe Manor, Elizabethan Gardens, Brookdale Monroe Square, Brookdale Union Park Assisted Living, PruittHealth Union Pointe, Woodridge Assisted Living, Carillon Assisted Living, White Oak of Waxhaw and Autumn Care of Marshville. Alzheimer's facilities include Clare Bridge of Monroe Square, Carillon Garden Place, Woodridge Special Care Unit, and Brookdale Monroe Square Memory Care.

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NOVANT Health Medical Plaza Monroe
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www.novanthealth.org

Emergency Rooms:

Carolinas HealthCare System Waxhaw
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www.carolinashealthcare.org/waxhaw

Carolinas HealthCare System Union
600 Hospital Drive, Monroe, NC 28112
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Urgent Care:

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Union West Urgent Care
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704-246-2777
www.carolinashealthcare.org/urgent-care

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