

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Paris: land donation first step to new fire station

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Lucky Fire Station No. 13 got a \$125,000 head start.

Thanks to an agreement between the county and Scott Rye of Lakewood Land Company, the county has some free land upon which to put Fire Station 13.

The station is still in the planning stages, however, and Union County Fire Chief David Dyer has estimated the station as being roughly two years out from completion.

There are currently 12 fire stations located around Union County, and Station 13 will serve the north end of the county, which was identified as an area of need last year in the fire department's five-year



Left to right, Chief David Dyer, Jason Henson, Earl Sullivan, Commissioner Lamar Paris and Developer Scott Rye talk about the new location for Fire Station 13. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

strategic plan. Fire Station 13 will be located on Murphy (Jack Lance Memorial) Highway/U.S. 129-N, just inside the entrance to the new Hidden Harbor lakefront development that will hold its Grand Opening this weekend.

Rye – whose Lakewood Land Company is responsible for a total of six developments around the county, including Thirteen Hundred on Lake Nottely and Northshore – contacted Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris about getting some assistance on the turn lane for Hidden Harbor.

Commissioner Paris was able to talk with the Georgia Department of Transportation to reduce the length of the turn lane from the maximum initially required, which in turn saved Rye money in construction costs.

Prior to Rye approaching Commissioner Paris about the turn lane, the commissioner and Chief Dyer knew they wanted to place Station No. 13 somewhere near where Hidden Harbor ended up be-

ing, in the Ivy Log Creek area, and when Rye caught wind of the idea, he decided to donate the 1.7 acres to the county.

"We were told that this area of the county could use the fire protection," said Rye, whose construction crews in Blairsville are mostly from Blairsville. "And with all the business we've done here in the county, we just felt like it was a good thing to do for the county, the people around here, our customers coming in, having a fire department right here."

"We've had a lot of help from the county, and it's kind of our way, also, to say thanks. This is our sixth year developing in the county."

According to Commissioner Paris, that land

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## Station 3 brings firefighters, community together



Fire Chief David Dyer greets Commissioner Lamar Paris on Saturday during Fire Station 3's open house. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

By Shawn Jarrard  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Fire Station No. 3 on Gainesville Highway held its annual Open House on Saturday, June 18, and residents turned out in force to show their support and mingle with the neighborhood's first responders.

Eleven of the 12 fire stations of Union County are run by on-call volunteers who live within their station's districts – only Fire Station No. 1 is a paid department – and volunteers have to go through the same training as the full-timers.

Station No. 3, in conjunction with nearby Station

No. 12, serves the Owlton, Richard Russell and Town Creek areas.

The volunteer nature of these fire stations highlights the need for support – both financially and for the sense of community.

And though firefighters ask for donations from those

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## MRLS adds puppetry to the mix

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

YOUNG HARRIS – Puppets are all the rage this summer in the Mountain Regional Library System, with the new Mountain Regional Puppet Company, headed by MRLS Director Vince Stone.

The group, aside from Stone, is comprised of three local library employees: Casey Hunley, Marlene Cannon and Maria Thomas.

This group scripts and choreographs their own shows and will perform professional level puppet shows at all Mountain Regional branches throughout the summer.

"My job here as an administrative job," said Stone. "But I'm a true middle



MRLS Director Vince Stone shows off the characters of Frog and Toad from an upcoming production by the newly formed Mountain Regional Puppet Company, which will be touring the libraries of the system. Photo/Lily Avery

school librarian at heart. I love storytelling, I love puppetry.

myself a little creative outlet, I decided that it might be fun

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## Smith calls it a career with city of Blairsville

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Ken Smith spent the afternoon of June 14 with friends and co-workers at Monet's for his retirement luncheon, hosted by the Blairsville City Council and Mayor Jim Conley.

After a great meal and good fellowship, Mayor Conley presented Smith with a personalized plaque, recognition from the City of Blairsville for all of Smith's time



Mayor Jim Conley gives Ken Smith a plaque to recognize his work.

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## Sheriff: three charged in drug bust; more arrests expected in coming days

By Charles Duncan  
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Three Union County men face multiple drug-related charges following execution of two search warrants, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason said.

The search warrants revealed nine pounds of marijuana and multiple prescription pills were seized, the sheriff said.

The arrests of Michael Edward Parker, Richard Marion Jones, and Bricky Dean Vaughn also resulted in the seizure of more than \$7,000 in cash and a 2005 Toyota Tacoma, Sheriff Mason said.

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Sgt. Tyler Miller, left, and Sgt. Shawn Dyer, right, show off a bounty of drugs and cash seized last week in Union County. Three people were arrested and charged in the case.

## Farmers Market running wide open

By Lily Avery  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County Farmers Market was all the rave this past weekend, with people piling in to fill their shopping baskets with fresh produce and homemade goods, and spend quality time out in the sun with family and friends.

Keeping with this season's trend thus far, the market bustled with people and the parking lot overflowed into the grass area across the bridge over the creek. Farmers Market Manager Mickey Cummings still stands by his statement that this season is the best one yet, and no one seems to disagree with him.

Moses Cotton, a local musical act, brightened things up with lively music for patrons to enjoy throughout the morning.

Situated in the heart of the market, the band had extra instruments displayed on a picnic table, welcoming anyone and everyone to join in the fun and jam with them. Even Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris



Week 3 at the Union County Farmers Market was a hoot as families and friends gathered at the Market on Old Smokey Road. Photo/Lily Avery

took his turn with the band, playing a hand tambourine and singing along to well-known hits.

Close to the musical entertainment, market goers could snag their choice of a wide variety of fresh produce from Freddie Collins Farm. Everything from squash to

tomatoes was readily available for the picking.

"We sell all types of vegetables, all summer long," said Freddie Collins of Freddie Collins Farm. "We're looking at possibly having sweet corn next week, the following week for sure, for

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## Rodeo draws a crowd

By Lily Avery  
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Dust filled the arena as cowboys and cowgirls from all around gathered to show off their skills for the Fifth Annual Blairsville Pro Rodeo.

The rodeo was held at the Union County Arena on Friday, June 17, and Saturday, June 18.

"This is the Fifth Annual Union County Saddle Club, Mountain Valley Motors, International Professional Rodeo Association Pro Rodeo. IPRA is the second largest rodeo association in the United States," said Ray Norton, Circle N Rodeo Production Agent. "Some-

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No one said bullriding was easy. This bull didn't like that implication.

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