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Authority for the purpose of being sold. This is the property that was to become the 4-H Shotgun Range.

Paris explained that by transferring the property to the Development Authority, there would be more flexibility in how the property might be disposed of.

The commissioner adopted a resolution approving a right-of-way sale to the Georgia Department of Transportation of county property located near the Farmers Market for the upcoming Georgia 515 widening/relocation project to take place between Blairsville and Young Harris.

GDOT purchased the 1.264 acres of right of way for \$450,000.

Paris also adopted another resolution approving what amounted to the donation of 0.076 acres of county land in the same vicinity to GDOT for use in the Georgia 515 project, citing the \$450,000 sale and the fact that GDOT made the Farmers Market Way intersection possible for the county.

Also on the agenda, Commissioner Paris approved an agreement between Air Methods Corporation and Union County for emergency air medical transportation services for county residents and their households to run June 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020.

The amount of this agreement is not to exceed \$76,765, and the county and

Union General Hospital will split the total bill.

The commissioner approved an agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for six work details between now and June 30, 2020. The cost of these details is \$39,500 per detail for a total of \$237,000.

He approved an agreement with Patrick Malone for coordinating the awareness of the 2020 U.S. Census in Towns and Union counties for the period of June 1, 2019, to May 31, 2020.

The cost of this agreement will be \$1,000 per month for a total of \$12,000.

Paris approved an agreement with Legacy Link for \$95,000, which is the required local share of operating the Union County Senior Center during Fiscal Year 2020.

He also signed a letter committing \$11,450 in local share monies to be used by the Legacy Link Area Agency on Aging.

Commissioner Paris approved a \$620,000 contract with Georgia Mass Appraisal and Service, Inc. for the purpose of reevaluating property values in Union County.

The company will provide the county with updated pricing schedules and inventories of real property by performing field inspections of all parcels in the county, of which there are 22,000.

Assessed property values should be about 40% of appraised property values,

Paris said. Since 2015, that ratio has dropped because of climbing appraised values. The new pricing schedules will get assessed values back in line with appraised values at the 40% ratio.

The commissioner said spending \$620,000 every 10 years is much less expensive than hiring permanent employees and buying them vehicles to accomplish the same thing.

Also in the meeting, Paris accepted six grants for various Enotah Judicial Circuit Accountability Courts. He said these are passthrough grants from the state to the courts and not money from residents.

The commissioner approved a quitclaim deed between the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority and the county for two tracts of land totaling roughly 1.4 acres located immediately southeast of the Union County Courthouse.

Previously, the land had historically been used by the county but belonged to the Haralson Family, which sold the land as part of the Haralson Property Development to the Blairsville DDA several years ago.

Paris said the county helped the DDA and city with their efforts to install Bob Head Street through the Haralson Property Development in 2016, and that the quitclaim deed is essentially the DDA honoring that past commitment and the county's historical use of that property.

Blairsville Cruisers reach a milestone with over 100 memberships from three states



With the latest new member applications received the Blairsville Cruisers Car Club reached a record of over 100 active memberships. We now have 107 memberships. Memberships include the spouse, family or significant other resulting in 196 actual members. A few of the memberships are individual and over 30% of the memberships are Veterans. The club is well known for the support of the local communities. The club makes a significant impact through charitable programs for needy children and local veteran organizations.

The Blairsville Cruisers Car Club is a non-profit corporation consisting of members in North Georgia and Western North Carolina whose members are auto enthusiasts and who are dedicated to their communities. Members are predominately from Blairsville, Hiawassee, Young Harris, Cleveland and Blue Ridge in Georgia and from Hayesville, Murphy and Andrews in North Carolina. There are also a dozen members from Florida. The Cruisers became a non-profit club in 2007 and have supported local charities since that time. Our motto is "Cruisin for the Kids".

Memberships are open to all who want to help the community. It helps if you are an auto enthusiast, but that is not a requirement. You are not required to own a classic or collector car to join the Cruisers. We need a few more volunteer workers. Anyone interested in the Cruisers is invited to join us for our pot luck and meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. The meeting is held at the pavilion in the Union County Farmers Market at 6 PM. The next meeting is Thursday, June 27th. Please come visit and see what the Cruisers are all about. Our cruise-ins are held at the Farmers market on the first Saturday of the month from 3-7 PM and on the third Saturday of each month on the Blairsville Historic Courthouse Square from 4-7 PM. Normally there are close to 100 vehicles

at the Farmers Market and around 50-60 on the square. Visit us at one of these events to get an idea of the fun and fellowship and to all the awesome vehicles.

The Blairsville Cruisers bring needy children a brighter Christmas. We support programs in North Georgia and Western North Carolina such as "Shop With A Cop", "Shop With A Hero", "Give A Gift" and the "Shop With A Cruiser" programs for needy kids at Christmas as well as several other charities supporting kids. The Cruisers also give scholarships locally to deserving students. We are able to do this because of the hard work of our members and the support of our sponsors and donors.

The "Salute to Veterans Car Show and Auction" each November allows the club to give 100% of funds raised to local Veterans and local Veterans organizations. Last year we donated to three very needy veterans as well as to the VFW in Hiawassee, American Legion Riders in Blairsville, the Warrior Veterans Outreach in Murphy, the Tri-State Chaplains Corp Veterans Mission Council in Hayesville and the

Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in Blairsville. Our 2019 Veterans event plans to increase our support of other local veteran organizations. The club has a veterans coordinator and the majority of the board of directors and officers are Vietnam veterans.

The Cruisers fund raising raffle car this year is a beautiful 2008 Mustang convertible which will be given away November 2nd at the Salute to Veterans Car Show & Auction at the Farmers Market. Be sure to get your tickets to win this car. A \$5 donation gets you one ticket, a \$20 donation gets you 5 tickets. \$100 gets you 25 tickets. Tickets are available at all Blairsville Cruisers events all season long and also at most festivals in Meeks Park where the Cruisers will have the car on display. The Moonshine Car Show at the fairgrounds in Hiawassee is another event where you can see the car and purchase tickets. You can also get tickets by mail by sending a check and your return mailing address plus your contact phone number to: Blairsville Cruisers, P.O. Box 2502, Blairsville, GA 30514. Your tickets will be sent to you by return mail.

The Ira Weaver American Legion Post 121, selling U.S. Flags



With American Independence Day just around the corner and many Union County summer residents returning, now is the time to decide if your U.S. Flag is still waving proudly or needs to be retired and replaced.

As part of its promoting patriotism program, Blairsville American Legion Post 121 sells 3' by 5', American-made, all weather U.S. flags for \$20. Additionally, if local residents con-

tact the post and purchase a flag, members will physically replace the old flag with the new one.

Also, for the residents of Union County, the post has a location inside the Historic County Courthouse to dispose of worn U.S. Flags. If a flag in good condition is retired with the post, the post will provide the retired flag to a local funeral home to be cremated with a veteran's remains to honor the veteran for their service to this country.

The post also sells military flags for the branch of service served with. There is about a 7-10 days to get these once ordered.

Contact the post by emailing ALPost121@gmail.com.

Most military veterans are eligible to join the American Legion. Call Commander Mike Ayers (678) 378-4663 for more information or attend the monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, except December, at the Major Leon Davenport Veteran's Center at 78 Blue Ridge Street. The meetings start at 6:30 pm.

The American Legion is the largest and one of the oldest and most inclusive of all veterans' organizations worldwide and devotes itself to mutual helpfulness, mentoring youth, advocating patriotic honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.



2008 Mustang Convertible Raffle Car