

# North Georgia News

Hometown newspaper of Blairsville, Suches and Union County

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## Hometown Halloween on the Square returns on Wednesday, Oct. 31

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

It's that special time of year again, when the air cools down and the leaves go from green to a firestorm of reds, yellows and oranges, and along with these changes comes Halloween.

Halloween in the North Georgia Mountains is a fun time of year for kids and adults alike, though it's definitely the kids who get the most out of it, with all of their costumes and candy spoils.

And as always, Downtown Blairsville plays host to the thousands of people who turn out every year for the annual Hometown Halloween on the Square on Oct. 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"It's one of our most

popular events of the year," said Darren Harper, program manager of the Blairsville Downtown Development Authority. "In fact, I would say it's probably our most well attended besides the Christmas Day Parade.

"It's also one of the few times a year that we close the square to traffic. If you think about every other event, like the Arts and Crafts Festival, Sorghum Festival – anything that goes through town – they only close it for the parade, and after that, traffic (resumes). But for Halloween, it's closed for several hours."

Of course, with every Halloween event comes trick-or-treaters, and that means local vendors will be gearing up to hand out tons of candy to costumed children that Wednesday.

"We tell vendors to plan for 2,000 pieces of candy, so for any business or organization, that's kind of an investment," said Harper. "Not only are they paying a small fee to participate, but they're having to buy a lot of candy."

"In those two hours, we'll have about 2,000 to 2,500 people go through the line. It's also becoming more attended by adults in costume than it has been in the past. Halloween kind of skews towards adults these days, anyway.

"But for us up here, it's always been more kid oriented. The last few years we've seen more and more adults dressed up, which is kind of fun. They bring their dogs, they themselves are dressed up, so it's kind of a big deal for a lot of families."

Because Halloween

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A view from a past Hometown Halloween on the Square, which will take place as it does every year on Oct. 31 in Downtown Blairsville. Happy Halloween! Photo by Shawn Jarrard

## Paris proclaims World Polio Day; Riley speaks in county meeting

By Mark Smith  
North Georgia News  
Staff Writer

Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris declared Oct. 24, 2018, as World Polio Day during his regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 18.

Paris formally presented the World Polio Day Proclamation to the Union County Rotary Club earlier that day in the club's weekly lunch meeting at North Georgia Technical College.

Rotary International began its hugely successful fight against polio in 1979, later launching a campaign to rid the world of polio called PolioPlus in 1985, and then the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988.

Since then, the number of polio cases worldwide has dropped 99.9 percent.

The Rotary organization was founded on Feb. 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, and is



Frank Riley in the Oct. 19 regular meeting of Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris. Photo by Mark Smith

considered the world's first nonprofit service organization.

In other news, Frank Riley, Georgia Firewise liaison and executive director of the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council, addressed those in attendance at the

commissioner's meeting.

Just prior to making a Firewise presentation that evening, Riley presented Paris with a paper water container and a paper bag as a gesture to promote awareness of

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## The Good Neighbors say goodbye with final Car and Truck Show

By Shawn Jarrard  
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After 34 years of hosting a big annual show, the Good Neighbors Auto Club held its final Car and Truck Show on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Rain has been rare for the annual show, but the Good Neighbors were determined to make the best of their last outing as a club, despite the rainy weather.

Due to a decline in membership, the club will dissolve moving forward, and any funds remaining to the group will be dispersed year after year in the form of scholarships for graduating seniors until all the money is gone.

Those who don't recall, the first show was in 1984, though the club actually started in 1983. Now in its 34th year, the show spent its first year at Union County High School before moving to the Old Milton Inn for two years.



Rainy weather definitely put a damper on turnout for the final Good Neighbors Auto Club Car and Truck Show, but many die-hard car enthusiasts showed up anyway. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

In 1987, the club moved the show over to the Union County Bank, which is now United Community Bank, where it stayed until its final show on Oct. 20.

"When we originally started, we had members from North Carolina, Blairsville, Georgia, and Blue Ridge, Georgia, and that's where

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## Break in 8-inch water main results in Boiled Water Advisory

By Shawn Jarrard  
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Shortly after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 17, Blairsville City Water issued an alert via the Union County Wireless Emergency Notification System.

There had been a massive water leak, according to the notification, and the city was working to find the leak and repair it.

Not long after its initial notification, the city also issued a Boiled Water Advisory for its roughly 3,000 water customers, which was to remain in effect until further notice.

Fortunately, the city was able to quickly locate and repair



City of Blairsville workers filling in a repair job following an Oct. 17 water main break in this field off Woodside Drive. Photo by Shawn Jarrard

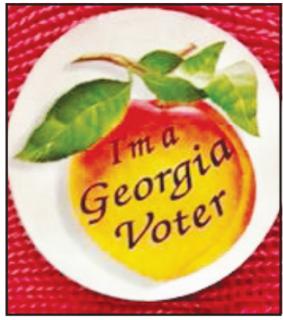
the leak that consisted of a 10-foot break in an 8-inch water main some 12-feet deep in a field next to Ingles off Woodside

Drive. "We can't prevent a water line break," said Blairsville

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## Five ballot initiatives aim to amend state constitution

By Shawn Jarrard  
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The Official General Election Ballot for the state of Georgia features five proposed

amendments to the Georgia Constitution, and voters will be directly responsible for deciding whether or not these amendments pass or fail at the ballot box.

With General Election early voting well underway and Election Day rapidly approaching, here's a look at the proposed constitutional amendments and what they mean.

**Amendment 1**  
Ballot Title: "Creates the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and parks."

Amendment 1 is asking voters whether or not they support setting aside 80 percent

of existing sales taxes on sporting goods for conservation efforts. If passed, the measure is expected to raise \$200 million over the next 10 years, which will likely be used for the purchase and/or preservation of Georgia wildlands.

**Amendment 2**  
Ballot Title: "Creates a statewide business court to lower costs, enhance efficiency

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## Union County hosts Firefighter Standards and Training Council class

By Shawn Jarrard  
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The Union County Fire Department played host to a regional fire training class on Saturday, Oct. 6.

Held at the Union County Community Center, the training was conducted by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, which provides certification standards for all firefighters in the state.

Specifically, the Oct. 6 class trained firefighters in how to evaluate fellow firefighters who have gone through fire training.

"These evaluators have



Fire training conducted by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council on Oct. 6 at the Union County Community Center.

## North Georgia Motorcycle Show shifts into gear on Oct. 27

By Shawn Jarrard  
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For the 18th year running, the North Georgia Motorcycle Show is headed for the North Georgia Technical College in Blairsville.

This year's show will take place on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The show is always a family-friendly way to spend a beautiful fall Saturday in the mountains, and as usual, registration, admission and parking are all free.

Motorcycle enthusiasts will be treated to a terrific show featuring the following nine



A view from a past North Georgia Motorcycle Show, which is always a good family-friendly event in the mountains. Photo by Lowell Nicholson

**HRWC**  
State of the Water  
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**Chase Elliott**  
Wins @ Kansas  
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**Run for Recovery**  
5K - Oct. 27  
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Senior Night  
**CROSS COUNTRY**  
Region Championship  
@ Ogelthorpe Co. 4:30 & 5 PM