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Union County Fire Chief Charles Worden also wanted to let the people of Jones Creek know that, "Without their support we would not be able to carry on this service for our community."

"We get a small budget of money each year from the county for vehicle maintenance, but outside of that we are totally dependent on the contributions made to this station by the citizens of this area."

Last year Station 2 responded to 199 calls. One of those calls was to the property owned by Martha Howe.

"Someone flicked a cigarette onto our property last April and it caught the woods on fire around my home," she said. "Station 2 arrived on our property in less than 15 minutes and was able to control the fire and save my home and also the surrounding homes in my neighborhood."

"They risk their lives to help us and my donation is a way of saying thank you to them," she said as she dropped her donation in "the boot" at

the fire station.

The volunteers at Station 2 are all fire fighters but some are professional paramedics and EMT personnel as well.

Lt. Burnette told of two responses the paramedics made that involved the use of an AUD known commonly as a defibrillator.

During these two calls, the paramedics were able to save the two individuals whose hearts had stopped.

"We don't actually know how many lives we possibly save with as many medical calls as there are but I am sure we help save a lot," he said. "We just want to be there for those who need us for whatever their need may be."

The Station utilizes three

emergency response vehicles. One is a "Tanker Truck" which carries approximately 2,000 gallons of water.

Rescue 2 is a Georgia Emergency Management Agency Certified response vehicle, and was totally paid for by community donations.

The third vehicle is an older Fire Engine, commonly known as a Fire Truck, and carries only half as much water as the Tanker Truck.

"Right now we are in need of a new Fire Engine to replace the old one and that is where some of the donations are going," he said. "We are trying to save up the money to purchase it at this time."

The Open House had a little something for ev-

erybody. Food consisting of grilled burgers and hotdogs with all the fixings, a bouncy house for the kids and a popcorn machine for munching.

The volunteers provided tours of the trucks and the fire station and also did all the grilling.

The kids were involved as well. They were able to sit in the cabs of the trucks and sound off the emergency horn.

They were provided with drawstring bags consisting of a Frisbee, a nice plastic cup and straw, a volunteer firefighter coloring book complete with games to teach them fire safety and, of course, no treat bag for the kids would be complete without the all important Junior Firefighter sticker.

It really was a great day for all involved and although the volunteers at UCFD Station 2 were trying to say thank you to the community, it seems that the community was saying thank you as well.

Many were seen dropping their donations into the boot and without those funds the Station would have to close its doors.

Thank you Station 2 and to all emergency volunteers in Union County.



Saturday was a big day for Union County Fire Station 2 as they celebrated their connection with their community on Jones Creek. The day was about teaching fire safety, making sure the kids had fun and giving back to a community that continually gives to them by way of donations. Some came, gave and told stories of how the firefighters at Station 2 had risked everything to save their homes, others were just glad to attend and chip in with funds to help the department meet its needs for continued public safety. The bottom line was that this community cares as much about its firefighters as the firefighters care about them. Photos/Joe Collins

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know our needs."

Georgia Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Mike Beatty said the CDBG program provides an essential resource to Georgia's rural communities to support projects that will create jobs and assist low- and moderate-income residents.

"As communities large and small are making difficult choices, today's announcement represents an important investment in various local health and safety, economic development and job creation programs, helping preserve Georgia's quality of life," Commissioner Beatty said.

More than \$36 million is being allocated for CDBG awards that will be used to support capital projects in 74 Georgia communities.

Those projects include upgrades of water supplies, the provision of basic sewer services, health facilities, senior citizen facilities, flood and drainage improvements and other neighborhood revitalization projects, Commissioner Beatty said.

Commissioner Paris said credit for receiving the grant funding goes to the seniors.

"They wrote letters to Commissioner Beatty," Paris said. "Commissioner Beatty will tell you that the amount of personal letters received from seniors in Union County made all the difference in the world of where some of that grant money was going."

"We're so proud to be in a position where we now having funding to improve the quality of life at the Senior Center for our Senior Citizens," Paris said.

## Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at [www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com](http://www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com)

<b>Wednesday, September 12</b>	
10am	Ribbon Cutting for The Union County Cannery – Union County Farmer's Market
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
<b>Thursday, September 13</b>	
8am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Monthly Meeting – Cooks Country Kitchen
12pm	Rotary Club of Union County – Cadence Bank
<b>Friday, September 14</b>	
8am	Union County Farmers Market - Trash To Treasure Sale
9am	U.C. Republican Meeting – The Lodge at Copperhead
7:30pm	Nashville Unleashed – The Lodge at Copperhead
<b>Saturday, September 15</b>	
7am	Union County Farmer's Market
7am	Union County Farmer's Market
7am	Union County Farmer's Market
<b>Monday, September 17</b>	
12pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting – Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6pm	Free Texas Hold 'em Tournament – Lodge at Copperhead
<b>Tuesday, September 18</b>	
8am	Tri-State Business Women's weekly meeting – Cooks Restaurant
3pm	Union County Farmer's Market
<b>Wednesday, September 19</b>	
2pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad
2pm	Friends of Union County Library Meeting – Union County Library Community Room