

# UCFD...continued from Page 1A



Team Depot building a courtyard park at Avita Community Partners in Blairsville. Photo Courtesy of Amber Gerdes

The department has partnered with Union County Schools to make the students and parents aware of these detectors.

Newspaper articles and Facebook posts have also been instrumental in getting the word out about this program.

Thanks to the support from Home Depot, the fire department will be able to continue its mission to protect the citizens of the county.

Should anyone need a smoke detector installed in their home or in the home of someone they know, contact Union County Fire Department at (706) 439-6091.

Upon contact, the fire department will schedule a time for a member of the department to install smoke detector(s) to adequately protect residents and their loved ones, free of charge.

Residents may also request this service via the online application at [www.tinyurl.com/ucfdsmoke](http://www.tinyurl.com/ucfdsmoke).

The grant through Home Depot fits into its mission of giving back to the community.

Recently, Home Depot has completed volunteer work projects at Avita Community Partners in Blairsville and in the Hamilton Gardens at Lake Chatuge.

# Lodge...continued from Page 1A



The North Georgia Honor Guard played a crucial role during Grandmaster Leazer's visit mid-May. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

At the request of Allegheny Lodge No. 114 Worshipful Master William White, the Grandmaster of Masons in Georgia, Dr. Gary Leazer, paid an official visit to the Lodge on May 15.

Dr. Leazer is known for having authored an investigative report on Freemasonry for the Southern Baptist Convention.

It was during his investigation that Leazer grew to appreciate the fraternal order, after which he joined and rose

in the ranks.

Currently, Leazer is the leader of all 400 plus Masonic lodges throughout Georgia, three of which are in Union County.

In his opening remarks, Leazer spoke to the importance of family. One of the themes he's embracing during his tenure as Grandmaster is "Masons and their families matter."

"And I'm encouraging the lodge to involve their ladies in as many activities as

they can," said Leazer.

For his part, White welcomed everyone at the start of the meeting, drawing inspiration from the level of community attendance that evening.

"It really is good to see the Lodge as full as it is, and we appreciate each and every one of you being here, especially the friends and wives and guests of our Masons, as well as the other Masons from around the local area," said White.

White spoke briefly on the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and said that Allegheny Lodge had accepted its first application for the upcoming local assembly.

Rainbow Girls are youths aged 11 to 21 who gain leadership experience through community service.

"It's a great organization," said Leazer. "Rainbow Girls need our help, as Masons, as men. We can go to their assembly meetings, we can support those girls."

"I've been to several Rainbow initiations and installations since I've been Grandmaster. I'll go to their Grand Assembly this summer, and I'm going to enjoy myself immensely."

The North Georgia Honor Guard featured heavily in the May 15 meeting at Allegheny Lodge, presenting the colors, firing a volley, playing taps and posting the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross ahead of Memorial Day, before gifting Leazer an American flag folded during their presentation.

Mason David Cook that evening portrayed the most famous Mason of all, the United States of America's first president, George Washington.

As Washington, Cook relayed some history about the famous general, including his time as a farmer and a surveyor, as well as some experiences on the battlefield.

Washington was known as a survivor and a man of great character, and as Cook imparted a bit of his story to those gathered, it became apparent why Masons so revere Washington.

As a Freemason, Washington embodied all those values that Masons hold dear - honor, integrity and philanthropy.

"Not all of us can be George Washington, but all of us can be patriots," said Cook. "When you see the flag and the colors being marched and in the parades, I remind you to stand, place your hand over your heart, take your hats off and salute the flag."

Also in the meeting, Towns County High School graduating senior Peyton Smith received a scholarship presented by Leazer.



Worshipful Master William "Whitey" White accepting a birthday present from Brother Ivy Smith, both of Allegheny Lodge No. 114. Photo/Shawn Jarrard

# Summer Reading Program at Union County Library

Kids of all ages are getting ready to have a fantastic time with the Summer Reading Program 2017 at Union County Public Library. The theme this year is "Build a Better World" with an emphasis on building and architecture. The library has some fun activities planned for the Summer Reading Program. The following entertainers, illustrators and storytellers will be joining us: Barry Stewart Mann, Todd Key, Hampstead Stage Company, Jeffini the Great, Kyle Puttkammer, Michael P. White and Mountain Regional Puppet Company. Storytime will be on Mondays at 11 AM from June 5 - July 24, 2017 and will be located in the library's community room. Enrollment in the Summer Reading Program will begin at our Monday storytime on June 5, 2017.

The goal of the Summer Reading Program is to

encourage children to read for pleasure at times when they are not in school. Union County Public Library offers special programs and incentives to encourage children of all ages, from infants to teens, to read what they enjoy, and to read often. Parents, grandparents and other caregivers are also invited to participate and to help pre-literate children enjoy books and develop a love of reading.

The Summer Reading Program is supported in part by Friends of Union County Library, Waffle House of Blairsville and patrons of the library provide additional funding. Union County Public Library is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information about the Summer Reading Program at Union County Public Library, please call 706-745-7491. You can also check out our website or Facebook page for more information: [www.mountainregionallibrary.org](http://www.mountainregionallibrary.org). The library is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9-5, Tuesday & Thursday 9-7 and Saturday 10-2.

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