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A. We certainly do and actually, many of our Adopt-a-Road volunteers are reporting that they have seen a decrease in litter in the past year. This is certainly a reason to be excited and encouraged.

Q. What else is the county currently doing to prevent littering?

A. We continue to have approximately 35 volunteers who pick up litter on various roads in the county and we send warning letters to people who are seen littering i.e. trash blowing out of the bed of a truck or people throwing litter out of a vehicle. Many of these incidents are reported on our Litter Hotline # (706-439-6025). Any reports of trash and household garbage at a location are investigated and appropriate measures taken. We monitor existing junkyards to make sure they are not adding to the junkyards in violation of our ordinance.

Q. What other volunteer efforts are going on regarding litter?

A. In conjunction with Janet Hartman with the Downtown Development Authority, we always have a spring event called The Great American Clean-up which is associated with Keep Our Mountains Beautiful and Leslie George, Executive Director of North Georgia Resource Management Authority. During this time we encourage all of our Adopt-a-Road participants to pick up their assigned areas and we usually have an event in downtown Blairsville around the Old Courthouse Square, planting flowers and cleaning up. This year we won't be able to do that because of the streetscape proj-

ect that will begin shortly so we are looking at some other ideas for clean-up. We will announce them later in the paper.

Q. Is litter still a problem for the county?

A. Yes it is. I do not mistake the fact that having fewer litter complaints means that we do not have a problem, because we still do. It is one of the most frustrating issues as commissioner to realize that people STILL just throw their trash out the car window onto the roadway and we still spend thousands of dollars a year picking it up. But it is better than it used to be and we can only hope that over time the public will realize how much money is being wasted just because some of us refuse to do what is right.

Q. We recently moved here and we just cannot understand why some people have old junk cars on their property. Why can't something be done about this?

A. We continue to have a few complaints about this and I have addressed this issue several times before. We do have a junkyard ordinance which was passed in 2005; however, those junkyards that were pre-existing prior to the ordinance were grandfathered in. So while the ordinance has certainly prevented the problem from getting much worse, it will just take time on the others. You also must remember that all junk cars are not junk. Many people utilize parts from them. Currently, the high cost of steel makes them fairly valuable to sell as scrap metal and this has aided the cleanup effort.

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the food vendors, a way to close the bathroom doors so everyone walking by them isn't getting a free show and viable solutions for those that are mobility challenged.

We share ideas for promoting the Market through the many agri-tourism efforts throughout the State, using social media like Facebook to apprise the locals of what crops will be harvested for Market each week, and having a weekly give-away drawing for an item donated by one of our vendors.

There are 22 weeks to the season and we have at least another 6 events prior to and after season. With over two dozen "themed" market days, the planning for games, demonstrations, entertainment and a budget for all these events is sometimes enough to keep us from a restful night's sleep.

Signage has to be installed, rack cards designed and distributed throughout the state, an inventory on shirts to sell, website to be updated, mobile apps designed and then there's the daunting task of responding to a plethora of communications every time

we are fortunate enough to be featured in a publication.

This committee of eight, along with the support of our local safety officials, the Union County Recreation Department and the Union County Commissioner's Office, are planting the seeds for what we anticipate will be a bumper crop of good times, great products, and a healthy, authentic and heritage rich experience for all those that cross the threshold of our Union County Farmers Market in 2013.

Trash and Treasures opens Friday, April 12th at 8am (till 1pm). We encourage artists and crafters to come and set up a booth in our newly designated area (booths on the even numbered side of Building B). The Farmers Market opens on Saturday, June 8th, and will be open every Tuesday (3-7pm) and Saturday (7am-1pm) through October. Email your inquiries to UCFarmersMarket@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page for updates and our website at UCFarmersMarket.com. I can't wait to see you!

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ing our youth. Just look how many donate to the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, all of our Recreation Department programs, 4-H, band, drill team, equestrian show team, livestock teams and many other youth sponsored organizations in our county.

Our citizens should all

feel proud and now it is up to our school board, with continued input from the community, to wisely spend these ESPLOST funds.

I have full confidence that they will be dedicated to that purpose.

Lamar Paris, Union County Sole Commissioner

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man nature is to want to do business with friends first.

5. **Offer Something Unique** – Find what makes you special and tout that aspect of your business. Whether it be unique advertising, exceptional customer service, a dynamic storefront, or a unique spin on your business model, differentiate yourself and be memorable for something.

6. **Share Your Successes** – Do not be afraid to brag a little. Sharing your success builds confidence in your customers and helps build a positive image for your brand. Utilize all media outlets to spread the word.

7. **Get Involved** – Getting involved in a charitable organization or with a local project is not only a great way to meet new people but

more importantly, it demonstrates your commitment to the local community and the people who are part of it.

8. **Learn From Others** – Never miss an opportunity to learn a lesson. Study the methods of other successful business owners and listen to the feedback that your stakeholders are giving you. No one is perfect, so always be ready to adapt.

If you are interested in learning more about the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce or any of the ideas mentioned in this week's column, I invite you to give us a call at 706-745-5789 or email me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com. You can find us online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com.

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eat it. If he found chewing tobacco he would take a wad of it."

Bud decided that Retus should be taught a lesson. Bud and a friend named Vernon coon hunted with a couple of boys out of Mississippi. Late in the summer of 1971 the men had stumbled across a den of rattlesnakes in a rock face close to the town of Red Bay, Alabama. So, the four men went back to the rock face and caught a 2 and a half feet long rattlesnake.

They stretched out the snake and three of the men held the snake while Bud used a pair of pliers to pull the fangs out of the mouth of the snake. Bud allowed the snake to heal for a couple of weeks before taking the snake to work with him on the last Friday of September.

About 2:30 in the afternoon, Bud went to his truck and retrieved his rattlesnake.

He placed the snake in the large pocket of his denim jacket and laid the jacket on a chair next to the scales where all the log trucks were weighed.

Sure enough at 3 p.m. here came Retus driving into the woodyard with a load of logs. As was his custom he got out of the truck and began talking to anyone who would listen.

Bud was inspecting the logs on Retus' truck and Retus noticed Bud's jacket on the chair. When he thought Bud wasn't looking Retus reached into the coat pocket looking for candy or tobacco. Bud

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and whiteness. The sights were delightful but the sounds were heavenly. Provided by God's wonderful singers, the blue birds, cat birds, mocking birds, sparrows, brown thrashers and house wrens serenaded me with music that would calm the spirit, and remove moody thoughts from a little boy's mind.

All of my boy hood paths were pleasant but the greatest path of all was when God showed me the path of life (Psalm 16:11). I have been walking this path for fifty years and found it to be a plain path (Psalm 27:11) and a path of righteousness (Psalm 23:3). It is protected by the presence of God (Psalm 139:3, 142:3). He has directed my paths (Proverbs 3:6). Some of you who are reading this at one time walked in God's path but you have found a wicked path to walk in. Yet, you long in your soul to be back in that old path. Just ask God to direct you back (Jeremiah 6:16). There are others of you who have only known a dark path. In the words of the writer of Hebrews I encourage you "to make straight paths for your feet" (Hebrews 12:13). Let the Holy Spirit lead you to the Path of Life. It will lead you to the Father's House.

Chamber of Commerce events

For details and future events

see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com

Wednesday, April 3

11 am Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting for TATA - 3196 Hwy 515 E Unit 1, Victoria's Center
2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm Bingo - Union County Community Center View Grill

Thursday, April 4

8 am Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cooks Country Kitchen
10 am Blairsville Garden Club, Gardening for Pleasure - Free Seminar Union County Community Center
12 pm Rotary Club of Union County - Cadence Bank, 2nd Floor
5 pm Trivia Night & Tacos - The Union County Community Center View Grill

Friday, April 5 - No Events

Saturday, April 6

7 am Allegheny Masonic Lodge Big Country Breakfast - 60 Rogers Street
2 pm Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
7 pm Neighbor's Hand "The Gathering" - twice monthly worship service 307C Cleveland Street

Sunday, April 7

10 am Sunday Brunch - The Copperhead Lodge

Monday, April 8

12 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant

Tuesday, April 9

7 am The Vogel Volunteers meet for Volunteer Day projects - Vogel State Park
8 am Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cooks Country Restaurant
5 pm Blairsville Kiwanis Mountain Fair Opens - Tuesday thru Sunday Airport Industrial Drive

Wednesday, April 10

6 pm Bingo - Union County Community Center View Grill