

Northeast Georgia Spring & Harvest Runs, now Blairville 5K Run & Walk**Runners from all over the state, south, nation and world have participated**

The Northeast Georgia Run began in 2009 as a fundraising event for the Union County Committee of the American Red Cross, with some of the proceeds also benefitting local groups. The event, now under the direction of the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition, ran its 10th event in April 2014.

Every event has the starting and finishing line in Meeks Park.

During those 10 events (held twice a year in spring and fall) hundreds have flocked to Union County from all across the state, the

southeastern United States and from around the world.

The latest event saw the Top 12 winners in the 1/2

Harris College cross country team has runners from all over the country and the world as part of the event.

One year a runner from Kenya won a 1st Place trophy. Groups come to run together in the event. An event included a runner training for a spot on the U. S. Olympic team.

The format has changed with the 1/2 Marathon being re-

tired.

The event is now called the "Blairville 5K Run & Walk."

The 1-mile Walk will be promoted for school students with interesting things along the walk. Adults will still be allowed to walk the 1-Mile. The next event, the Harvest Run, takes place Sept. 6, 2014.

Proceeds in 2014 benefit the Union County Anti-Drug Coalition, American Red Cross Disaster Fund, Union County Recreation Department Scholarship, Meals on Wheels, Family Connection, Special Olympics, Police Shop With A Cop, Sheriff Christmas Program and Kiwanis Kids Programs Fund. None of the money raised goes to any individual. Funds are raised through sponsorships and race fees. Many volunteers give their time at the event.

The Blairville 5K Committee (formerly the NEGA Run Committee) is Race Director Norm Cooper, Larry Conley, Karen Roxbury and Ron Borr. Assistance in recent events has been provided by Union County Government, Meeks Park staff and others. All events have coverage, photos, times, sponsors and other information on www.blairville5K.com.

Events have drawn more than 100 participants since its beginning, with 150-plus showing up at Meeks Park in the Spring Run 2014. An event recently had more than 200 participants.

Local radio stations prompted the event.

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New Name, New Logo

Marathon and 5K Race represent eight cities in two different states. Military persons stationed in South Carolina made the trip over a couple of years ago. Young

NEGA Run 1st Place finishes 2009 to 2014

H - Harvest Run

S - Spring Run

1/2 Marathon Male

2009 H Barry Brown	1:28:11
2010 S Devin Traub	1:38:02
2010 H Austin Alvarez	1:37:45
2011 S Barry Brown	1:28:29
2011 H Blake Beardon	1:31:03
2012 S Barry Brown	1:25:49
2012 H William Brock	1:36:28
2013 S Cody Decker	1:25:58
2013 H Doug Saylor Jr	1:36:14
2014 S Jeremy Webb	1:24:08

5K Race Male

2009 H Zack Tyler	17:37
2010 S Daniel Payne	20:53
2010 H Tucker Belton	19:43
2011 S Charles Too	18:43
2011 H Frank Cline	17:30
2012 S Tony Kipemboi	17:16
2012 H Jeremy Webb	18:56
2013 S Alex Bitok	21:13
2013 H Justin Davenport	21:06
2014 S Paul Ramirez	18:20

1/2 Marathon Female

2009 H Debra Vanderlean	1:56:35
2010 S Jill Hurst	1:25:44
2010 H Heather Blackmon	2:10:16
2011 S Dale Dyer	1:47:23
2011 H Katie Dunn	1:43:25
2012 S Jennifer Hogan	1:49:04
2012 H Melanie Caceres	1:40:50
2013 S Kim Bentley	1:29:12
2013 H Laura Phillips	1:45:29
2014 S Nicole Smith	1:34:21

5K Race Female

2009 H Rebecca Westbrook	21:40
2010 S Becky Dyer	25:44
2010 H Heather Akins	24:28
2011 S Becky Dyer	22:57
2011 H Shawnda Martin	21:52
2012 S Holli Abernathy	23:03
2012 H Ansley Garrison	24:02
2013 S Summer Almajed	23:26
2013 H Lynn Pinyerd	23:20
2014 S Gensis Newton	24:15

Northeast Georgia Run Spring 2014**Platinum Level Sponsors**

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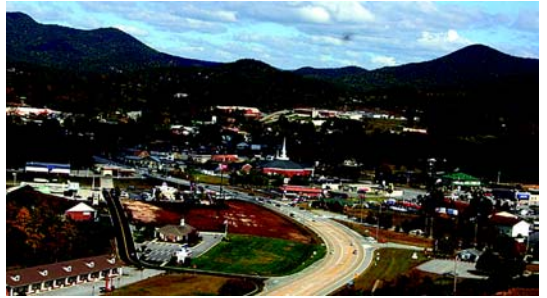
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Pat's Hallmark Store
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Support for Event

Union County Gov't
Meeks Park Staff
UC Fire & Rescue
UC Road Department
Kiwanis of Blairville
UC Sheriff's Office
UC Anti-Drug Coalition
Active.com
Run Committee members
WCNG Radio
WJRB Radio

Proceeds Benefit

UC Anti-Drug Coalition
American Red Cross
UC Rec. Scholarships
Meals on Wheels
Family Connection
Special Olympics
Police Shop With A Cop
Sheriff Christmas Giving
Kiwanis Kids Programs

Real Estate making a big comeback in Union Co.

Downtown Blairville

nc

Rebounding is the key word for the real estate market in Union County.

Louise McTaggart of McTaggart and Associates Realty is optimistic about the current trend and the future expectations.

"It is greatly improving and I see this continuing through the coming years," said McTaggart. "In a real estate magazine I read they are predicting that in 2016 the real estate market will be back and as good as it was in 2006, which was a major year before the down turn."

Robert Rogers of Blairville Realty stated, "The real estate market in Union County is continuing to improve for both home sales and land sales. The foreclosures have slowed way down to near normal levels which is helping our prices make a comeback to more realistic values. We are seeing much better activity on all price ranges of homes instead of only the cheaper ones."

"Land and lot sales are also gaining steam which is encouraging," added Rogers. "Prices across the board are appreciating, but there are still some very good buys to be had."

What makes real estate more desirable in Union County than in surrounding areas?

"I think Union County is more attractive due to its geographic location, being centrally located in the northeast Georgia mountains, and our infrastructure," Rogers said. "Most of the roads in the county are paved, we have great public facilities such as Meeks Park, the largest hospital in the area with all kinds of specialist, plus an excellent school system. The county's natural beauty including Lake Nottely and approximately half the county being owned by the Forest Service is also a plus."

McTaggart said, "The infrastructure for one thing, the good roads, water to many locations, the lack of pollution, a good environment, clean streams, mountain views. A lot of counties have mountains, but because we have a lot of forest service land, I think we have a lot of mountains that will never have homes on them so we can enjoy nature."

Both were asked to describe the county in just a few words.

McTaggart offered: "Progressive, pristine, low crime, friendly people."

Rogers responded: "Scenic, progressive, natural, relaxing, friendly, as good as it gets."

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**Rep. Stephen Allison**

Georgia House of Representatives

District 8

Serving Union County, Towns County, Rabun County, part of White County



stephen.allison@house.ga.gov

District 8 Office
103 Blue Ridge Street
Blairville, GA 30512
706-781-2210

Coverdell Legislative Office Building
421-C State Capitol, Office 504
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-0188