

Business Office Annex more convenient to Union General Hospital Patients and Visitors

The long walk to pay your medical bill or pick up your Medical Record is no longer necessary, at Union General Hospital as they proudly open the Business Office Annex.

Featured in the main lobby of the facility, customers can make payments to their accounts, obtain Medical Records, or update insurance information

records when it's convenient for them. The annex hours are currently Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The main Business Office remains available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more in-depth services.

You can also make your payments on line at www.uniongeneralhospital.org, or at the Emergency Room registration desk, after hours. Should you need your Medical Records, Reports or Films you may call our Medical



Business Office Annex in Lobby

at the Annex; without long walks to the main Business Office or Medical Records Departments, which are housed on the second floor. "We want our services to be as convenient as possible to our customers" CEO, Dr. Michael Gowder said. By extending the hours of the Annex to differ from the main Business Office, customers have the advantage to drop off a payment or pick up their

Records Department at 706-439-6477 to request they be ready for pickup in the annex. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You will need a photo ID for pick up.

Under government regulations you can't obtain medical or billing records for someone other than yourself without written consent via Medical Power of Attorney.

Union General Hospital has a message on E-cigarettes

In the early 1960's the tobacco industry started to focus their slogans toward recruiting the female smoker. "You've come a long way baby" and "It's a women's thing" were slogans to entice women to smoke. The tobacco industry had captured fifty percent of the male population. New brand names were created for cigarettes such as Virginia Slims, Eve, and Satin to entice women to smoke. Women smoking increased to 33.9%, the sweet smell of success for the tobacco industry.

It now costs the average American for every pack of cigarettes \$7.18 in additional health care cost. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that TOBACCO costs Americans \$97 BILLION in lost productivity plus \$96 BILLION in healthcare cost.

Enter the E-cigarette, now we have the old "bait and switch". The tobacco industry now can entice youth as well as adults in a ruse that E-cigarettes with their cute names are misleading. Names like "thin mint" and "bubble gum". E-cigarettes are tobacco based and still contain a carcinogen.

The E-cigarette propo-

nents say vaping is far safer than smoking cigarettes, and some experts say that may well be the case.

Cigarettes and other tobacco products contain hundreds, if not thousand of chemicals, and companies add chemicals to enhance



flavor and to make the product more ADDICTIVE.

The carcinogen in tobacco is nicotine. E-cigarettes contain nicotine as well as compounds such as propylene glycol and water.

Propylene glycol and water, that rings a bell - same chemical you use as a coolant in your motor vehicle. Please help me to understand that not only can we as Americans inhale a carcinogen but also get an anti-freeze benefit too.

Second-hand smoke from E-cigarettes according to a 2009 study by the FDA contains formaldehyde, benzene, and nitroso-mines (a Carcinogen). The FDA is setting up guidelines for controls on this new tobacco product. Rubbish!

January 17, 2014, the U.S. Surgeon General, Boris Lushniak released the 50th Anniversary Surgeon

General's Report and announced 20 million of our fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, sisters, brothers and CHILDREN lost their lives to tobacco since 1954. In the U.S. alone 35 million adults have chronic lung disease such as COPD, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis or lung cancer.

We do not need another deadly mechanism in our society that causes irreversible damage and adds to the already awful nicotine statistics. Congress gave the FDA the authority to regulate tobacco products in 2009, but the law didn't include E-cigarettes and certain other products.

The legislation also does not allow FDA to ban tobacco products outright but it can limit sales and marketing and require warning labels. Here we go again with a convoluted carcinogenic product that shouldn't be sold to anyone. We want to reduce health care costs and here's a good place to begin.

Written by Charlie DeFrancesco

Charlie DeFrancesco, BS, RRT, Director of Respiratory Therapy, Union General Hospital, Inc. & Facilitator for the American Lung Association.

Benjamin T. Maltby CPAs, LLC Certified Public Accountant

Licensed in Georgia & Florida

417 Blue Ridge Street, Suite N

P. O. Box 489, Blairsville, Georgia 30514

706-745-3856

maltbyoffice@windstream.net



Grill Hours

Lunch 11 am - 2 pm

Dinner 5 pm - 9 pm

Market Hours

10 am - 9 pm

513A Murphy Highway
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

706-745-9519

Open Monday thru Saturday
Closed on Sunday
Mike Gurley, Owner

BLAIRSVILLE REALTY



Top Producing Office in Union County

Robert Rogers
Broker / Owner

**Homes & Land For Sale in
Beautiful North Georgia**

www.BlairsvilleRealty.com

63 Murphy Highway
Blairsville, Georgia 30512

706-745-3000
800-637-5535