

gym, ball fields, and beach. Kendall said these services are free to county residents.

In addition, Kendall said he will continue to enforce the county's height restrictions in the building code, and he is currently working to get a sizable grant to help protect Lake Chatuge.

Kendall discussed the Service Delivery Strategy, which has to be agreed upon by the county, the City of Hiawassee, and the City of Young Harris. He said the three governments have until October 2010 to reach an agreement.

When it comes to the strategy, Kendall said water and sewer services have become a sticking point. He said the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority, which is an independent board not tied to the county, is currently in disagreement with Hiawassee. He said the city wants water rights for anyone who hooks onto their sewer system, but the authority does not want to give the city those rights. Kendall said he is waiting to see what both parties come up with and, based on that, he will do what

is best for the citizens.

Kendall said the county, Hiawassee, and Young Harris have to sign the strategy, but the authority does not. He said if the three governments cannot agree by October 2010, then the matter will fall into arbitration. "But I feel like we'll get it worked out—eventually," he said.

When it came time for questions and answers, all of the questions concerned water and sewer services. One association member said Hiawassee has an invisible surcharge in their water bills to help pay for sewer. Another member said he wants fire hydrants as part of the Service Delivery Strategy. One man asked what happened to the one million gallons of sewer capacity in the county. A few members wanted to know how they could make the four water/sewer parties into one entity.

After a good half dozen questions from the members, Kendall said he did not want to say too much about the matter without the cities or the authority present.

## Desk...from page 1

Environment filled with love and guidance, along with dental and medical care and educational opportunities. These children are our future and I feel it's our responsibility to care for them and their right to be cared for. The youth homes provide not only the 'basics' of life, but also the chance for children to take part in holidays, birthdays, and other special occasions. The Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes care for over 200 children per year through residential facilities, camps and other programs. Homes and programs such as these teach boys how to be gentlemen and girls how to be ladies. They truly nurture in more ways than one. The Boys Ranch of Hahira, Cherokee Estates of Dalton, Herrington Homestead of Nunez, Mountain View of Chatsworth, and Pineland of LaGrange, all offer the TLC children need and deserve.

However, the costs associated with these homes weigh heavy on the Georgia Sheriffs' Association. That is why I am asking you for your participation in this fundraiser in an effort to assist in supporting the homes.

For more information about the Towns County Sheriff's Office, to share your comments or ask questions please contact us at [www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com](http://www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com) or call 706/896-4444. Or simply come by the Sheriff's Office located at 4070 State Hwy 339, Young Harris, Georgia.

You can sign up for our monthly electronic newsletter on the home page at [www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com](http://www.townscountysheriffsoffice.com) or you can send an anonymous e-mail tip by visiting the Contact Us page. Or call 706/896-3697 to leave an anonymous tip. Your information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared without your consent.

While showing the maps, Satterfield took a little good-natured ribbing from the members. One woman asked where the soccer field was located on the map. Satterfield replied all of the flat land was dedicated to the buildings. Another man asked Satterfield where his office was in the administrative building. Satterfield answered that he hoped to be retired by the end of construction.

It did not take long for the ribbing to turn into scorn. When the time came for questions and answers, the first man who spoke said he commended Satterfield on the aesthetics of their plans, but it was in contrast to the "ugly poles" put up in Hiawassee, which drew much applause from the crowd.

The man called the new poles "monstrous things." He said BRMEMC had trashed Hiawassee while building a beautiful palace in Young Harris.

When asked why they put up the new metal poles along Highway 76, Satterfield said the route was chosen because it followed the already existing right of way, and the metal poles were chosen because of codes that required a certain amount of spacing between transmission lines.

Another man said the low cost to BRMEMC comes at a high cost to county residents. "You are helping to destroy our city," he told Satterfield.

At that point, a woman in the group spoke up and said the power company is preparing for the growth coming to the county. The man replied that he didn't see any growth here.

There were a couple of times when multiple people were speaking at once and the meeting became disorganized. Association president Charley Kraus had to pound a gavel on a table during one such moment to regain order.

Satterfield said there are already substations dealing with an overload in the county. He cited Woods Grove as one example. He said the recent construction in Hiawassee has been done from a service reliability standpoint.

A man in the group then began to press Satterfield why they didn't bury their power lines like had been done in the town of Helen. At first, Satterfield said it would have been too much trouble for the

businesses, who also would have had to bury their connecting lines. The man then argued that the businesses would not have had to do that, and he tried to push the issue of burying the power lines, to which Satterfield replied, "It's too late for that now." The crowd began to cry out "no" at Satterfield after he said that.

When asked if there had been any public hearings concerning the new metal poles, Satterfield answered, "There was no public hearing requirement."

A man then asked why BRMEMC's monthly rates have increased even though the cost of fossil fuels such as coal has decreased. Satterfield said the company goes by wholesale power cost. Association president Kraus said it was a good question, but it should have been directed at the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Kraus then defended Satterfield, saying the power company is between a rock and a hard place, which elicited many more "no's" from the crowd.

Satterfield also clarified for the association that Commissioner Bill Kendall had nothing to do with running those new metal poles down main street.

"We are making the best decisions that we feel are reasonable for the rate payer," said Satterfield, who added that no matter where the growth occurred, people would be upset. Once again, he was met with many "no" responses by the group.

Finally, Kendall asked if they could plant trees around the poles to help beautify them. Satterfield said planting trees around the poles would make the poles harder to climb, so it would not be a good idea. However, he did say one woman suggested they paint murals on the poles to help make them more visually appealing.

## Charged...from page 1

eventually two suspects emerged," the sheriff said.

Sheriff Clinton also had high praise for residents in the Bald Mountain Park community.

"This is a good example of what happens when we work together as a community to solve crime," Sheriff Clinton said. "By working together, we're truly making a difference."

Crime is significantly down in Towns County and the Sheriff's Office plans to continue to lower the rate of crime through proactive measures, Sheriff Clinton said.

"Over the last year and a half our agency and Towns County residents have made a significant impact on crime," the sheriff said. "I would like to thank the people of our county for their cooperation in helping us to reduce crime."

"Citizen alerts, tips and other types of communication are vital in our efforts to curb criminal activities such as the sale of illegal drugs, burglaries and dangerous traffic offenses," the sheriff said. "This is a good example of what happens when we work together as a community to solve crime."

Commissioner Bill Kendall recently negotiated a waiver of a \$40,000 fine imposed on the Clay-Towns Authority by the state Environmental Protection Division. The fine was passed along when the Towns Development Authority assumed control of the former Clay-Towns Authority property.

"We received a letter from the Attorney General's Office saying that the \$40,000 fine from EPD (Environmental Protection Division) had been settled," Kendall told the group on Monday.

Monday's action by the Industrial Development Authority will pay off the remaining debts against the property.

The property has re-

cently undergone a "facelift" with county workers completing the landscape scheme within the park on Industrial Boulevard.

"We have a chance to move forward and do what this authority is designed to do and that's to bring jobs to Towns County," Industrial Development Authority Chairman Morris Phillips said.

Industrial Development Authority member David Shook agreed.

"We've definitely come a long way," he said. "We've got a golden opportunity to make a significant difference here in Towns County by bringing jobs and industry to this community."