# DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## **Letters to The Editor**

#### Recycle

The North Georgia Resource Management Authority and Keep Our Mountains Beautiful are teaming up with Document Destruction and Atlanta Recycling Solutions to provide the citizens of Towns County with both free document destruction and electronics recycling on October 17 from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Young Harris College on Hwy 76 at the corner of Timberline Road in the parking lot.

Document destruction service is only for personal documents that need to be destroyed. If you have a business and would like to have documents destroyed, please call Document Destruction at 706-677-2779.

On the same day we will be teaming up with Atlanta Recycling Solutions to provide free electronics recycling. For information please visit our website at www.ngrma.org under the KOMB Activity section or call 706-894-2785.

Thank you Leslie J. George

#### More praises are due!

The residents of North Mountain Drive are just so very pleased to finally have their road problems fixed in no time at all, after what seemed like a long time of frustration and aggravation.

At the last council meeting, the mayor, city manager and the members listened patiently to us and decided to have Annie Johnson speak to our commissioner Bill Kendall. He was very willing to help and lo & behold, in about ten days they have attended to the different problems withe a crew of competent workers who did a good job.

A complete resurfacing of the whole road will be done at a later date.

Your grateful citizen

### Planning for the future of Towns County

cover some specific issues of the direction of Towns County unincorporated future services for water and sewerage. Future short and long term planning needs to

be addressed. The city of Hiawassee, along with the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority, started plans for increasing the capacity for both water and sewerage approximately 3-4 years ago. Specifically in the sewer expansion, permits were applied for and were approved. Along the way, numerous engineering and environmental studies were conducted by the city of Hiawassee at great ation. expense.

was withdrawn any consid-

#### This editorial will lons/day will give the Towns County Unincorporated area enough sewerage capacity for the next 10-20 years at a fraction of the cost.

By Carl S. Schultz

The commissioner should not allow any further point sources for sewer effluent into Lake Chatuge. Canned on small sewer plants for use by local government entities should be discouraged. Canned septic plants are not environmentally friendly to particularly this mountain terrain and the lake, and are not sound use. Recovery of water, which will become a big country issue in the future, is also another consider-

The Towns County any new water or sewer Water and Sewer Authority plants in Towns County should be stopped immedieration for the future agree- ately. There is no justification for this except for the wassee for wither increased Towns County Water and Sewer Authority be anonymous in its dealing with government or the citizens of this county, at a much higher cost to everyone. My next editorial will Cost numbers show that talk about Lake Chatuge which has been made a pawn to all these matters, without any consideration by the Towns County Water and

## The Middle Path

#### by Don Perry

sands of years to build.

What kind of people

are we that we allow an entire

mountain ecosystem to be

destroyed, removed from our

collective natural heritage as

a source of lasting beauty,

habitat and watershed, so that

a few dozen people can sit

in a recliner and look out a

picture window? What kind

of human being cuts down a

two thousand year old living

being, a tree that was alive

when Christ walked the earth,

and then stands over it like a

conquering hero to pose for

a picture? I don't know the

answer to these questions, but

I do know that these people

have been with us since the

there is a dividing line amongst

humans which separates those

who are "comfortable" on

this planet and those who are

not. By "comfortable" I mean

those biological creatures still

connected to, still mindful of

the symbiosis of sun and soil

and water which sustains us

all whether we acknowledge

it or not. Then there are those

withering branches cut off

from their roots, existing in a

synthetic chemical soup, in-

sulated from the natural world

by a fragile layer of technol-

ogy, divorced from awareness

and appreciation of the naural

world by a lack of spiritual

insight or an abundance of mis-

guided religious dogma which

promises that our true home is

somewhere else, a virtual para-

my own faith it is a comfort

to consider that it is the meek

that will inherit the earth. We'll

take it! The world improvers

and the conquering heroes who

have worked so hard to bring

order to the chaos of nature are

welcome to their virtual pie in

the sky, artificially flavored

and attractively packaged.

In the hope and belief of

dise anywhere but here.

beginning of civilization.

If you haven't seen the Ken Burns series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," then you owe it to yourself to seek out a replay on PBS or to purchase the whole series, soon to be available on DVD. If you are a regular reader of this column, chances are that you have already seen it. Long time readers will know that our middle path leads right to the edge of the wilderness, and that if we err in our judgments we tend to give benefit of the doubt to the unspoiled earth and Sacred Genius made manifest in the natural world.

We have long advocated for a gentler touch upon the land, and like many who live here, the bulldozers, the scarred slopes, and the glare of security lights from high places gradually erasing the night sky, these things are felt as a visceral pain. During the heady days of unplanned development in our area, the fever to build anything anywhere as fast as possible erased centuries of natural development in a few short years.

Many of us argued the fundamental "wrongness" of the ham-handed approach seen all along the Appalachians and indeed in many parts of the country where a greedy, needy, get-rich-quick approach to living on this small planet accelerated the digestion and fouling of our home.

Ken Burns' series reminds us that the struggle to preserve the natural world is not unique to our area or our time. Every national park that we enjoy today was won against great odds and with great struggle and sacrifice, and the struggle continues to this day. The mindset that would have dammed up the Grand Canyon is still with us today as it burns rainforests and removes mountaintops on a global scale, while locally The decision to build it builds ridiculous roads on





#### Ornamental tips for October

October is a great time of the year to clean up, plant and prepare for next year's garden. With leaves falling and temperatures dropping this is an ideal time to be working outside.

Following are some tips to help you make plans to get outside. Cleanup around roses, flowerbeds and summer vegetable gardens; diseased or insect infested foliage and stems left on the ground can harbor pests that may overwinter and reoccur next year.

Red maple trees offer brilliant fall color and they may be safely planted now, Sometimes it seems like recommended varieties include 'Red Sunset', 'October Glory' and 'Autumn Flame'.

A final weeding-mulching of fruit and ornamental plants will help prevent weeds next year.

Now is a good time to dig new flower or garden beds for next year. Incorporate plenty of organic matter if possible and leave the soil rough for good water penetration. Plant a cover crop to increase the soil's organic matter content.

When landscaping for energy efficiency, choose evergreens for the north and northwest sides of your house where they will help to block cold winter winds without limiting winter sunlight.

Cover your tender garden and flower plants on the first nights of frost. Often if tender plants are protected from early frosts they will continue to bloom or bear fruit for several more weeks.

Collect okra seedpods, gourds, sumac heads, rose hips and other plants from your garden that are suitable for dried flower arrangements. Air dry these plant materials in a dark, dry room.

been outside all summer leaving diseases and insects should be allowed to make a that will begin to reproduce fairly slow transition to indoor again next spring and add to conditions. Quick changes in next year's pest problem. environments often results in yellowed foliage and leaf ternut, and Hubbard squash drop. To avoid injury, bring plants indoors before temperatures dip below 55 degrees F. Be sure to check for insect pests before you move your plants; a light washing removes insects. are still thriving, need a boost of fertilizer. Deadhead or cut back any leggy growth and they should continue to bloom

through frost. Fall and winter annuals may be making an appearance, but hold off on planting until the weather cools off.

This is the season that many insects may begin to migrate indoors. Watch out for the giant wood roaches and crickets- the two that cause the most alarm. Spiders, box elder bugs and ants can also be a problem. Spiders are actually beneficial, but not inside the house. Try to keep mulch away from the base of your house, and do a good job of sanitation. Spray or use granular insecticides around the foundation, paying particular attention to doorways and windows. Spider webs often stand out in the dew in shrubs and lawn areas. Don't worry about them harming your plants, actually encourage them, as long as they remain outdoors.

Harvesting herbs continues. If you have annual herbs such as dill and basil, you are probably getting more than you can use at once. Look into preserving your herbs through freezing and drying for use all winter long. Basil makes great pesto, and is also easily preserved. Avoid heavy pruning or perennial woody herbs such as rosemary and lavender. Severe pruning late in the season can weaken the plant and make it less winter hardy. Fall is a great time to plant new perennial herbs, and give you double duty in the landscape.

Strawberries covered in the fall with a spun-bonded polyester and uncovered in the spring just before bloom produced up to 60 percent more fruit than plants given the conventional straw or hay mulch cover.

Clean up home orchard and small-fruit plantings. Sanitation is essential for good maintenance. Dried fruits or "mummies" carry disease organisms through the winter to attack next year's crop.

Remove any diseased or insect-infested plant material from your garden; it may harbor overwintering stages of disease and insect pests. If you leave this plant mate-Houseplants that have rial in your garden, you are

ments with the city of Hiacapacity for Towns County unincorporated in water or sewerage.

The Towns County Commissioner can step in and make things happen. the cost to build a new sewer plant will be 2-3 times higher than expanding the current sewer plant. The expansion to 500,000 gal- Sewer Authority.



### Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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#### **OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET** "THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454

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"Don't think of it as an increase in allowance, Dad. Think of it as doing your part to stimulate the economy!"

#### **GUEST COLUMNS**

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of geat importance should call our editorand talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE ED-**ITOR SHOULD BE E-**MAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmemc.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed: however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

Cure pumpkins, buttemperatures between at 70° and 80° F for two to three weeks immediately after harvest. After curing, store them in a dry place at 55° to 60° F. If stored at 50° F or below, pumpkins Summer annuals that and squashes are subject to damage by chilling. At temperatures above 60° F, they gradually lose moisture and become stringy.

# **Community Calendar**

Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

Towns County AARP Chapter 1859 meets the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m. Luncheons are held at 1 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets at 5:30 every 2nd Thursday of the month at Crossroads Restaurant. Meeting begins at 6. Please call Julie Miller, (706) 896-6076. Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.

Towns County Planning *Commission* is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Mountain Computer User Murphy, NC. Call President *Group* meets the 2nd Monday

Towns County Water Board or Peggy Moorman: 828 835 Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 1082.

The Unicov Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

Towns County Board of *Elections* holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).

Towns County Historical *Society* meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 932, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921. Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. ,Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFWPost #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

Kit Miracle: 706 492 5253 of each month at the Goolsby

p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.

Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www. ngatu692.com.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www. moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons each Mon. in Hiawassee, GA, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060