

# Sheriff Clinton...continued from page 1A

vide even more deterrent to crimes in local communities.

"When I first started out as a deputy sheriff I witnessed a conversation that took place between my first chief deputy and another man. The man was complaining to the Chief about some teenagers littering. The Chief asked the man a question. He asked, "Have you ever littered in front of a deputy?" The man said, "Of course not." To which the Chief replied, "Neither have they," Sheriff Clinton said.

Sheriff Clinton told the crowd that in his own way that he believed that his old Chief was pointing out two things. One, that there simply aren't enough deputies to witness every crime that occurs. Second, the one thing that people who are breaking the law never want is a witness.

"I often use this story when promoting Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch is not a new idea. According to the National Sheriffs' Association, who began the program in the late 1960s, the idea itself stems from Colonial America, when night watchmen roamed the streets, keeping an eye on things," Sheriff Clinton said.

According to Sheriff Clinton, an effective Neighborhood Watch limits the opportunities for criminals to commit crimes without a witness. The basic idea is for communities to partner

with the Sheriff's Office in keeping an eye on the happenings in their neighborhoods. An active Neighborhood Watch in every community countywide would prevent criminals the window of opportunity that allows them get away with their crimes.

"Recently, one of our drug agents was able to arrest a major drug trafficker. The drug trafficker was operating out of Gwinnett and Hall Counties and was supplying drug dealers in our area. The drug agent was able to infiltrate the drug trafficker's operation posing as a drug dealer," Sheriff Clinton said. "When the agent attempted to set up a transaction in Towns County, the drug trafficker refused, telling the undercover agent that 'you'll get busted' in Towns County." The agent made arrangements for the deal to go down in another county. He was able to make the arrest there, Sheriff Clinton said.

Sheriff Clinton drew a rousing applause from those attending the meeting. Obviously, they were proud of the fact that Towns County has a reputation for being tough on crime.

"I mention the story because it illustrates the fact that criminals are afraid of being caught," he said. "This drug dealer knew that Towns County had developed a reputation for being tough on drugs and crime."

"Now, suppose that criminals began to realize that everywhere they turned in Towns County, they ran into another Neighborhood Watch. How long before they simply gave up and went someplace else?" Sheriff Clinton asked.

Bottom line, criminals tend to follow the path of least resistance, the sheriff said.

"A friend of mine gives a class on safety in which she points out that a sign in your yard claiming you have an alarm can be as effective as having an alarm, because criminals don't want to take a chance on being caught," he said. "They would rather burglarize a home that didn't claim to have an alarm. They also would prefer to attempt their crime in an area without a Neighborhood Watch. Now suppose they couldn't find an area in Towns County without a Neighborhood Watch."

Sheriff Clinton would like communities throughout Towns County to take an interest in the formation of a Neighborhood Watch program. To get the ball rolling, contact the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.

The sheriff also has brochures and other information available detailing the impact of local Neighborhood Watch programs. For those interested in organizing a Neighborhood Watch, contact Sheriff Clinton at the Sheriff's Office.

## Prepare to hit the open road

If you are a "seasonal senior" who calls two places home, or a frequent traveler, don't let your prescription needs halt your plans. Your Medicine Shoppe Pharmacist offers these suggestions on preparing for a trip from a health care perspective: Make copies and pack all medical information. Insurance cards and doctor information in a secure location. It is also suggested to carry a note from the prescribing physician on letter-head stationary for controlled substances and injectable medications.

Store and travel with all prescriptions in their original pharmacist-labeled prescription bottles. All medications should be packed in a carryon bag and should be carried with you at all times.

Medications can be stolen from hotel rooms. Create and pack a first aid kit. Ask your Medicine Shoppe Pharmacist to assist you in finding everything you need to complete your kit. Consult with your Medicine Shoppe Pharmacist to see whether travel medications, including Travel Ease to prevent travel sickness, and nighttime sleep aids such as Medi-Sleep and Extra Strength Medi-Tabs are appropriate.

By following these simple tips, you are more likely to have a safe and healthy trip, and enjoy your travels even more. T0114.G2/SH

## Sheriff applauds businesses for help

The Towns County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit would like to take the opportunity to Thank Asiano Restaurant and the Mossy Bottoms Café for supporting the K-9 Unit's effort to raise money for Chase Away Canine Cancer for Police Service Dogs.

Deputy Billy Shattles and K-9 "Darth" were able to raise a total of \$605 in a short period of time with the help of the community, Towns County Fire/EMS and Towns County Sheriff's Office employees.

It all began when Deputy Shattles learned that a fellow handler, Officer Joe Shirley, had to make the toughest decision any handler would ever have to make. Norfolk Southern Railroad Police Canine, K-9 "Muis" had been battling Lymphosaroma (a K-9 cancer). The decision was made to ease his suffering.

With the help of



Shattles, Copeland and Darth



Griggs, Shattles and Darth

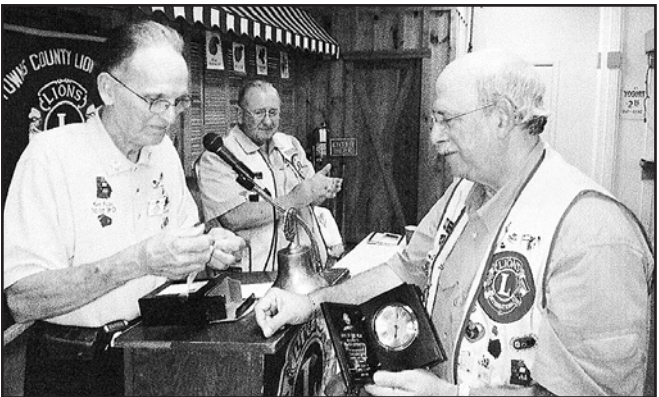
Capt. Tully Griggs and Asst. Fire Chief Harold Copeland, Dep. Shattles set out to raise money to present to the Douglas

County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, which were holding their own "Pennies for Police Service Dogs" fundraiser in Memory and Honor of K-9 "Muis".

When you are a K-9 Handler, a bond is created between the handler and his canine partner. This is true with Deputy Shattles and "Darth". According to Shattles, Darth is a big part of the family. Dep. Shattles and Darth would like to thank the Towns County Community for the support for this effort.

Recently Deputy Shattles and K-9 "Darth" also attended an intense two-day Narcotics and Patrol Canine Seminar hosted by the Habersham County Sheriff's Office and Custom Canine Unlimited. Keeping a K9 unit up to date on current training and certifications is an ongoing challenge, and Deputy Shattles and Darth are up to the task.

## Lions Club installs new officers



Left to right: Ken Fuller, Ralph Grady, Gerry Gutenstein. Lion Gerry is receiving Lion of the Year award.

On June 29, the Towns County Lions Club held their annual meeting for installation of officers and recognition of exceptional service for the previous year. The immediate past officers are Ken Fuller, President; Julie Payne, Secretary; Janice King, Treasurer; Vice Presidents Ralph Grady, Gene Jackson and Michael Annast; Chaplain Jimmy McAdams; Membership Chairpersons Gene Mitchell and Darlene Bradshaw; Lion Tamer John Taylor; Tail Twister Katie Polstra and Past President Hilda Thomason. The Directors for the 2009-2010 year were Al Rubenstein, Jack Anderson, Leonard McConnell, Grover Garrett, Myers Banister and Lanier Nicholson.

Presidential awards were presented to Gene Jackson, Charles Culverhouse, Myers Banister, Deborah Saylor and Allen Saylor. The Lion of the Month awards were presented to Ralph Grady for May, Laurie Main for June and Bud Parker for July. The Lion of the Year award was presented

to Gerry Gutenstein.

The officers for the 2010-2011 year are President Ralph Grady; Vice Presidents Michael Annast, Janice Smith and Bob Ford; Secretary Julie Payne; Treasurer Janice King; Lion Tamer Ernie Freda; Tail Twister Katie Polstra; Membership Chairman Gene Mitchell; and Past President Ken Fuller. The Directors for the 2010-2011 year are Jack Anderson, Lanier Nicholson, Leonard McConnell, and Myers Banister.

The Towns County Lions Club is a community service club with our basic focus being sight and hearing assistance. Other programs of the Lions Club are area beautification, White Cane, Towns County Food Pantry, college scholarships for needy students, the give a Christmas program for local needy children and the Georgia Mountain Fair. Anyone over the age of 18 interested in making a difference in your community is encouraged to join the Lions Club. T0114.K1/SH

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