

Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday December 30, 2009

Angel's Chamber Messages

With the New Year fast approaching, we are looking ahead to the future here at the Chamber. We are busy evaluating our current programs and services as well as looking at new ways to serve our membership and our community. As we do this, we want to know what services are of most value to you. Below, I've listed an outline of our current member benefits:

Listing on our Website – Our Website receives an average of 80,000 visits with over 290,000 page views per year.

Listing in our 2010 Membership Directory – We distribute over 2000 Membership Directories each year.

Discounted Insurance – As a member of the Towns

County Chamber of Commerce, you will have the buying power of a large company through Member Care Alliance. Contact the Chamber for more details.

Weekly Newspaper Insert in the Towns County Herald – Partnering with the Towns County Herald on our weekly newspaper, the "Chamber Chronicle" is a weekly insert highlighting our members and their events. Additionally, The Herald will mail the newspaper to all Chamber members free once a month.

Monthly Newsletter – In addition to the weekly newspaper, a monthly newsletter is emailed with events and information to give our readers an "at a glance" view of the month's activities.



E-Mail Blast – We send out weekly email blasts to the membership as well as others who request to receive our information.

Twitter and Facebook Listing – Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/tcounty-chamber and on Facebook at

Towns County Chamber of Commerce.

Weekly Radio Spot on WNGM AM Radio – We have a weekly spot on WNGM AM Radio where we feature your special events to our members and the community at large.

Business Referrals –

Many requests for referrals are received every week for just about every kind of service. We only refer businesses that are chamber members. You have our representation while non-members do not.

Ribbon Cuttings – We offer Ribbon Cuttings to new businesses or existing business that have a location change or expansion. This is a great way to get your business featured in the newspaper, our newsletter and on the radio at no cost to you.

Business After Hours & More – We periodically host Business After Hours, Breakfasts and Lunch & Learn events at various locations and times throughout the year.

Brochure Distribution – We attend local and statewide festivals, fairs and trade

shows throughout the year to promote Towns County.

Member to Member Discount Program – This program gives members the opportunity to offer discounts exclusively to other members.

If you have a suggestion on how we can add to or improve upon our current benefits, please let us know. Call, email or stop by anytime to let us know your thoughts on how we can better serve you. 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA 30582 706.379.4996 info@mountaintopga.com.

*We hope to hear from you soon,
Angel Long
President, Towns County Chamber of Commerce*

Member Spotlight Spin Lite Cycling

Spin Lite Cycling is a full service Bicycle Shop located at 322 Big Sky Drive behind the Holiday Inn in Hiawassee. Spin Lite has been owned and operated by Lyle and Diane Strickland since 2004. All of their in stock new bicycles are on sale and their selection of used bikes are always priced to save! They are offering indoor winter cycling

"spin" classes at the shop Tuesday through Friday at 8:15am, 10:15am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm and 4:15pm. Also on Saturdays at 8:15am, 10:15am and 12:15pm. Classes are \$5.00 each and last 45 minutes to one hour. Bring your water bottle and get ready to get in shape for the New Year! Call Lyle and Diane at 706.835.7920 for all your bicycling needs!

Community Events

Old Fashioned Square Dance

Join us each Monday in Hiawassee, GA. 6:00 pm at the Senior Center (2 blocks behind – south of the town square, beside the Courthouse, 48 River St.). Old Fashioned Square Dance lessons are free. This is not Western Sq. Dance but rather Big Circle (shew-fly, grapevine, etc.) with basic clogging demos. Help us revive this lost art, come once or every lesson. Sponsor: Towns Co. Historical Soc., POB 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060.

Member Calendar of Events

December 31st - New Year's Eve Celebration at the Oaks at Fieldstone Resort 706-896-4141
December 31st - New Years Eve Celebration at Brasstown Valley Resort - 706.379.9900
December 31st - Possum Drop at Clay's Corner, Brasstown, NC
January 2nd - The Temptation Concert at Georgia Mtn Fairgrounds 706-896-4191.

Chancey Hill B & B holds open house for Chamber members

Chancey Hill Inn B&B is hosting a Grand Open House for all Towns County Chamber of Commerce members on Thursday, January 14th from 4:30 p.m-6:30 p.m. John and Dale Harmon have renovated the old Mountain Memories B&B on Chancey Drive. They still offer the same beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Lake Chatuge, but have updated the Inn with new interiors

and a new style. They invite you to come and check out their beautiful B&B and enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, beautiful surroundings and great company. They are located on 385 Chancey Drive in Hiawassee.

Directions: From the Chamber, go East through Hiawassee on Hwy 76. Turn Left on Bell Street (Between Linda's and Eller's Garage). Turn Right on Chancey Hill Road. Call 706.896.8424.

Member Benefit of the Month

Your Listing on our Website...www.mountaintopga.com received hits in November - 4,105. 3,537 of them were new visits!

Stray mutt climbs the ladder to federal agent

There once was a dog named Hawkeye. His origin was unknown as he wandered the streets of Blairsville. Soon he was picked up by Union County Animal Control and was later turned over the Humane Society's Mountain Shelter, Inc. He had no identification and was unclaimed by a family who apparently did not recognize their "diamond in the rough". But, the Humane Society personnel did immediately.

Arriving at the shelter on August 24, 2009 the staff made arrangements to get him to where he could put his nose to good use. On September 1, 2009 he was taken to the National Dog Detector Training Center (NDDTC) a division of the United States Department of Agriculture in Newnan, Georgia. A total of 7 dogs were taken to be evaluated, but on that fateful day Hawkeye was the "star that shined" and the only one who was accepted after passing a very stringent evaluation. And so, thus began Hawkeye's new career.

Shortly after arriving at NDDTC he was placed through a series of tests and evaluation



Hawkeye graduates

procedures and passed them all with flying colors. Then began his training where he would work side by side with his new handler Tino Menchaca an agricultural biologist with Santa Clara County, CA.

On December 10, 2009 Hawkeye graduated with honors and will now be serving our country proudly as a Federal Agent working to detect and intercept prohibited plant material at small parcel carriers (Fed-Ex/UPS) in San Fran-

cisco, California.

Once Hawkeye and Tino have served the US for 5 years Hawkeye will be eligible for retirement and will live happily ever after with his handler, Tino!

And the moral of the story is: The next time you plan to give away or fail to keep identification on your pet think again- he or she could be "A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH" too!



Hawkeye hard at work with handler Tino Menchaca

Northeast Georgia Board of Realtors support the Empty Stocking fund



The Northeast Georgia Board of REALTORS® held a "Letters from Santa" fundraiser and Shelagh Whitney was on hand to present Sheriff Clinton of Towns County with toys and a check for the Sheriff's Empty Stocking Fund.

Red Cross wants to know "Why do you give?" this winter

The holidays are a time to spend with loved ones, and a time to reflect. People donate blood because they care. People donate blood because they want to help save lives. But most importantly, people donate blood because they can. Thousands of people donate blood in our area each year, and their generous gift has helped save countless lives. With every donation, there's always a reason behind it. So this winter, the American Red Cross is asking blood and platelet donors, "Why Do You Give?"

Thursday, January 14, Young Harris College Blood Drive at the Myers Student Center (College Street), 11:30

Castaway Critters Pet of the Week



Say hello to little Wenkie. He is a handsome young boy, completely gray. He is super friendly and affectionate.

He'd love to be in his forever home for Christmas. Looking for a new best friend? Wenkie could be just the one for you! Call June at 706-379-2169 for more info and visit our site on Pet Finder to view more of the many animals available for adoption.

Birth Announcement



Daniel Christian Walker

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Winfield Walker III are proud to announce the birth of their son, Daniel Christian Walker on December 24, 2009 at Union General Hospital delivered by W. David Breedlove MD.

The birth weight of the baby was 7 pounds and 1 ounce. He was 18 inches long.

Mrs. Walker is the former Amanda Carolyn Walsh.

Birth Announcement



Madelyn Faith Mathis

Mr. and Mrs. Justin Clay Mathis would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Madelyn Faith Mathis. Born on December 21, 2009 at Union General Hospital, delivered by Suzanne Nunn, MD. The birth weight of the baby was 6 pounds, 12 ounces and she was 19 1/4 inches long. Mrs. Mathis is the former Ashley Nichole Waugh.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Towns County Tax Commissioner's Office will be closing to the public Thursday, December 31st, 2009 for end of the year accounting and procedures. We will also be closed Friday, January 1st, 2010 for the New Year Holiday.

Thank You
Bruce Rogers, Tax Commissioner
Towns County

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for interest rates on Towns County General funds will be opened at a special County Meeting on January 4, 2010, at 2 p.m. in the Towns County Commissioner's Office, in the Courthouse, Hiawassee, Georgia 30546.

Bids requested are as follows:

Fixed interest rates (APY) on three \$500,000.00 Certificates of Deposit beginning approximately January 5, 2010, for a term of twelve (12) months (until January 5, 2011). Bid forms will be provided for required bid information.

Towns County reserves the right to roll-over (automatically renew) the Certificate of Deposit with the Bank of the winning bidder for one renewal term, if desired.

Towns County reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason.

SEALED BIDS SHOULD EITHER BE BROUGHT TO THE MEETING, OR MAILED TO:

TOWNS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
48 RIVER STREET, SUITE B
HIAWASSEE, GA. 30546