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“Originally the lines were supposed to be finished already, but because they ran into this delay with the rocks, it’s probably going to be another couple of months. But they’ll be finished by mid- to late spring,” she said.

As far as the wastewater treatment plant itself, the city is on budget and on schedule. The wastewater treatment plant is set to be completed by the end of September.

There are, however, some details that have to be addressed, most notably at the plant entrances.

“There’s a service entrance and there’s a main entrance and part of Chris’s task has been to look at both of those entrances and go with the option of better usage. So the service entrance is not big

enough to get a dump truck in. The other entrance, we had to work with the Department of Transportation. When they finish the two bridges in Hiwassee, that bridge on 66 is the next bridge that they’re going to fix and improve, and they’re going to raise it, so we have to work with the Department of Transportation to make sure that people are going to be able to drive into our main entrance,” said Mayor Gibby.

Additional reports included the Water and Maintenance report and the Ethics Committee report.

“A couple of months ago, the ethics committee received a formal letter to ask them to look at conflicts of interest and how conflict of interest is being handled. The Ethics

Committee is a committee of community members,” said Mayor Gibby.

“The Ethics Committee cited times when the members of the council who are college-related should not have voted. So in the meantime, two of the new members have gone to a newly-elected officials training which is required in Georgia and Jared talked to the professor that led the ethics portion of the training, and he gave Jared some suggestions on how the ordinance could possibly be improved,” she said.

The advice was to change the ethics ordinance to allow council members to draft ordinances but not legislation.

“Jared is going to do a draft and bring it back before the council,” said Mayor Gibby.

Young Harris Arbor Day 21st Year as Tree City



Kousa Dogwood being planted in honor of Arbor Day

On Thursday, February 18, 2016, Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby read the Arbor Day Proclamation for the City of Young Harris to earn their 21st year as a Tree City. Present on a beautiful sunny winter day at the Cupid Falls Park

ceremony were members of the Enotah Garden Club and staff from City Hall.

A Kousa Dogwood was planted at the entrance to the park near the parking area. Rangers Tony Harkins, Ray Fortenberry, and Bryan Price

from the Georgia Forestry Commission gifted the Garden Club with White Pine, Loblolly and Dogwood seedlings. These will be nursed to plant at Cupid Falls Park upon completion of the ongoing construction. NT(Mar9,21)3/CA

Towns County celebrates Master Gardeners Day 2016



Present for the signing left to right: (front) Melissa Mattee, Towns/Union Ext. Agent; and Commissioner Bill Kendall. Back row: Timothy Jennings, County Ext. Coordinator; Master Gardeners - Dan Greenfield, Patti Bransford, Judy Caines, Grace Howard, Ellen Luckenbach, Sheleila O’Neal, Montana Stickler, and Marsha Elliott.

In 2010 the original 9 Master Gardeners formed a group to serve Towns and Union counties. We now have 40 Master Gardeners who volunteered 4,948 hours in 2015, valued at \$114,180 by the University of Georgia. When the current class completes in April, we will have 53 volunteers. We manage over 40

projects in the community; including a 4H Garden Club, planting and weeding the Hiwassee Square and Towns County Courthouse. In the spring we will start our “Ask-a-Master Gardener” booth at the TC Farmer’s Market and the Fairgrounds.

Master Gardeners go through 40 hours of intense

training in order to help the Extension office by educating residents on safe and effective gardening practices. To learn more about the program or to reach a Master Gardener with your questions, contact the Towns County Extension Office at 706-896-2024. You can also visit our website at www.perennialpals.com. T(Mar9,F2)5H

U. S. Coast Guard to hold Safe Boating classes



Younger boaters are now required to complete a boat education course such as this one.

March is here with warmer weather, so it’s time to think about boating on the surrounding lakes. Safe Boating Classes will be held by the local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 23 each month for the next six months beginning Saturday, March 5, 2016. The

classes will be \$25 for books and materials and will be held at the old 911 Center on Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris, GA from 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m. The complete list of dates is: March 5, April 16, May 14, June 18, July 16, August 6, and October 15. Please contact

Barry Luckenbach at 706-896-3167 or bluckenbach@aol.com to sign up for one of these classes.

Auxiliary Flotilla 23 reminds boaters that there are new laws in the state of Georgia, as of July 1, 2014. For your information, the following spells out some of the new boating rules. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1998 that operates any motorized vessel on the waters of the state must have completed a boat education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). An exception would be a non-resident who has proof that he/she has completed an approved boating course from another state.

Boating under the influence (BUI) of .08 or higher will be charged with a misdemeanor, punishable with up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 12 months in jail. All vessels built after 1972 must have a complete Hull Identification Number and you need to have on board the following: a current vessel registration in your name, life jackets for everyone on board (children under 13 MUST WEAR a life jacket at all times when the boat is moving), a cell phone, fire extinguisher, visual distress signals, a horn or whistle, a paddle or oar, and navigation lights.

Safe boating is the main goal of the Coast Guard Auxiliary and new boat owners are encouraged to take the course and seasoned boaters are encouraged to refresh your knowledge and be aware of new Georgia laws.

FSO-PA Joan Crothers