

The Badge

February 2024
Issue Eighteen



Towns County Sheriff's Office News



From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

I would like to start by saying thank you to everyone who came out for the barbeque dinner at the Towns County Recreation Center. It was an honor to see such a great turnout, and I am overwhelmed by your continued support.

I would like to take a moment to highlight our Sheriff's Auxiliary and invite you to attend our Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy. Our Auxiliary is composed of men and women from our community who

donate their time and services in an unsalaried, non-sworn support capacity. This group of individuals assist with security, crowd control, traffic control and direction, youth education and crime prevention programs. Having an Auxiliary allows the Sheriff Office to extend services it provides to the community without expanding the Sheriff's Office budget, thus providing labor cost savings to the agency. Last year, Auxiliary members volunteered over 3,056 hours collectively which saved taxpayers over \$60,000.

I am pleased to announce our Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy will begin April 9, 2024. This is a free 10-week course offered to Towns County citizens and business owners to provide you with a better understanding the daily operations of the Towns County Sheriff's Office. Complete information is included in this issue. I would like to encourage you to attend.

I would also like to remind you we are available to come to your community and speak to your group, or help you set up a neighborhood watch program, please call our office at (706) 896-4444.

If you have information that will help us solve a crime, or information about a drug dealer, you can send us an anonymous tip on our website: www.townscountysheriff.org.

We look forward to continuing to work together with you and serve you with the highest level of professionalism.

Towns County Sheriff's Office Mission Statement

Our Mission is to modernize the Towns County Sheriff's Office and to provide quality enforcement services using proactive enforcement, community partnership and problem solving, which will create a safe, secure, and desirable living and working environment for our citizens and visitors.

JANUARY DRUG ARRESTS:



ALL PERSONS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY IN A COURT OF LAW.

SHERIFF'S LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Towns County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the 2024-01 Sheriff's Law Enforcement Academy. Space is limited and attendance is free.

Participants must be at least 21 years old, a resident, business owner or employee, or student within Towns County. Participants must be willing to make a commitment to attend the full 10-week program which will be held weekly each Tuesday from 10 AM to Noon, beginning April 9, 2024.

From road patrols, and court services, to investigations and jail operation, participants gain a better understanding of daily operations through presentations by various members of Towns County Sheriff's Office, as well as guest speakers from other partnership agencies.

If interested, you can apply in person at the Towns County Sheriff's Office

located at: 4070 Highway 339, Young Harris, Georgia 30582, Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30 pm. Applications are also available on our website: <https://www.townscountysheriff.org/sca> . If you have questions, please contact Jill Gittens at 706-896-4444.

The deadline to apply is Friday March 22, 2024.

JANUARY DRUG ARRESTS

During concentrated patrol and a drug surveillance operation on December 10, 2023, at Sunoco on Hwy 17 at the North Carolina state line, deputies initiated a traffic stop at which time the driver fled into North Carolina. The pursuit was terminated for safety concerns. The driver was identified as Wayne Bruce Odom. Warrants were issued for his arrest and the public was asked for anyone with information on his whereabouts to contact Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Last night, January 3, 2024, a tip was received that Odom was working at Brasstown Valley Resort. Deputies arrived at that location and apprehended Odom.

During the arrest Odom attempted to escape but was apprehended and charged with obstruction. During a search of Odom, an amount of Methamphetamine, which field tested positive, was found on his person along with drug related objects.

Wayne Bruce Odom, age 44, Hayesville NC was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects
- Willful Obstruction of Law Enforcement Officers

These charges are in addition to the outstanding charges of:

- Felony Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Police Officers
- Seatbelt Violation

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the deputies and investigators for their quick response and apprehension of Odom. He would also like to extend his appreciation to the citizens who called with information concerning the location of the suspect.



****All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law****

Drug Complaint Leads to Arrest

On January 13, 2024, during concentrated patrols in the Gumlog community, Sheriff's deputies, a traffic stop was conducted.

Investigators received information regarding a residence on Highway 66 where information led to a search warrant.

A search was executed at the location and Methamphetamine was confiscated, which field tested positive. During the search a subject at the residence was discovered to have outstanding warrants in Union County.

Daniel Eugene Mort, age 46, Young Harris was arrested and charged with:

- Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Drug Related Objects

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the citizens for information regarding drugs in the Gumlog community. Everyone must work together in our fight against drugs.



All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

SKELETAL REMAINS FOUND

Towns County Sheriff's Office and GBI Investigates Skeletal Remains

The Towns County Sheriff's Office along with the GBI are conducting a death investigation regarding human skeletal remains found in the 8000 block of Gumlog Road at a vacant residence on January 1, 2024.

The skeletal remains have not been identified. An autopsy will be performed at the GBI Medical Examiner's Office.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office and the GBI are actively investigating the death.

SCAM ALERT

A Towns County citizen has brought to our attention a scam being mailed to residents. The scam letter is from CSI Consulting/Financial CapitalSolutions and includes a check for a substantial amount of money. The letter then asks that you pay a substantial amount of fees and taxes.

This is not a legitimate sweepstakes. This is a scam to take your money as the check they send you is not drawn on a valid bank account.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Towns County Sheriff's Office at 706-896-4444.

On Tuesday morning, January 9th, Towns County Sheriff's Office received a call to a house fire at Lakeview Drive and Red Bank Road.

The residence was fully involved and according to deputies, fueled by heavy winds.

No one at the residence was injured.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Towns County Fire Department.



Shouting out a big THANK YOU!!!! to the [Towns County Leo Club](#) for bringing us the best treat basket ever.



If you know someone who would like to receive the monthly newsletter, please have them contact Community Relations Coordinator Jill Gittens at (706) 896-4444 or jgittenstcso@townscountyga.com

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