



Towns County Sheriff's Office News



From the desk of Sheriff Ken Henderson:

Welcome to the October issue of The Badge. We are proud of the overwhelming response to our monthly newsletter.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office strives daily to make Towns County a great place to live, work and play. We are committed to providing quality professional policing. Having your trust and confidence is paramount.

We recognize that our effectiveness is enhanced through close community relationships. We share a vested interest in our community, and I urge you to do your part to keep our community safe.

Working together we can accomplish great things.

One great way our community helps our office is by the tips we receive concerning drug activity or suspected drug activity. I would like to remind you that you will remain anonymous should you submit a tip on our website or by phone.

In addition to our everyday duties, our staff finds ways to stay involved in our community. That's why I am proud to announce Towns County Sheriff's Office is hosting its first annual Trunk or Treat evening and I would like to invite everyone to bring their little ghosts and goblins to the event. The details are included in this edition.

Towns County Sheriff's Office will also be participating in Halloween at the Fairgrounds on October 31 from 5pm-9pm. This is always a fun night for our staff.

We will also be hosting our 3rd annual Shop with the Sheriff program in December. We will once again be taking less fortunate children from our community to shop for their Christmas goodies. Our wish is to make Christmas magical for as many children as possible, but we cannot make it happen without your help.

If you would like to make a donation, please call us at (706) 896-4444, or stop by our office located at 4070 State Hwy 339, Young Harris.

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.

SEPTEMBER DRUG ARRESTS:



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

TOWNS COUNTY FIRST RESPONDERS

TRUNK OR TREAT

A stylized illustration of a blue car with its trunk open. The trunk is filled with three yellow buckets of colorful candy and several pumpkins. The car is decorated with orange string lights. The background is dark blue with white spider webs and orange stars. The car is on an orange path.

*Hosted by Sheriff Ken Henderson
Partnering with local first responders*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
5:30PM-8:00PM | FREE EVENT**

**TOWNS COUNTY RECREATION CENTER
150 FOSTER PARK
YOUNG HARRIS, GA 30582**

SHOP WITH THE SHERIFF



"Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference." We are gearing up for our 3rd annual Shop with The Sheriff here at the Towns County Sheriff's Office and will once again be helping as many less fortunate children in our community as we can by taking them to Shop with The Sheriff.

The Towns County Sheriff's Office with the help of our School Resource Officers and Towns County Elementary School Administration will be helping us by identifying children whose parents are struggling to make ends meet and are worried about being able to provide gifts and basic needs on Christmas morning. Our Shop with the Sheriff event will give each child

a designated amount of money to spend, and will be accompanied by a Deputy, Sheriff's Office employee or volunteer as they shop. They will be able to purchase toys as well as basic items such as clothing and shoes. This is where you, our community, can help. We are asking for your support and donations to help these children in need. All donations are greatly appreciated; and every dollar donated will be used to ensure these children and their families have a happy and joyful Christmas.

For more information on how to donate please feel free to come by the office located at 4070 State Highway 339, Young Harris, GA or call us at (706) 896-4444.

SEPTEMBER DRUG ARRESTS

Towns County Sheriff's Office Deputy Darringer Barrett and Sgt. Bryan Forsyth conducted a traffic stop the evening of September 8th on an Ohio vehicle on Hwy 76 West.

During the stop, probable cause was established, and the vehicle was searched.

A plastic bag containing Heroin, which field-tested positive, was located on Jessica Lynn Parsons, a passenger in the vehicle.

The following individuals were arrested and charged:

Bobby Joe Neace, age 48, Wheelersburg, OH

- Dangerous Drugs

Jessica Lynn Parsons, age 35, Portsmouth, OH

- Felony Possession of Heroin
- Possession of Marijuana

Sheriff Ken Henderson states our concentrated patrols will continue.



Towns County Sheriff's Sergeant Bryan Forsyth and K-9 Deputy Darringer Barrett received a tip of drug activity in the area of the Citgo gas station on Hwy 76.

A suspicious person in a vehicle was located and K-9 Xena conducted a free air search of the vehicle and alerted positive for narcotics.

A search resulted in marijuana packaged for sale, scales, and drug paraphernalia.

Blaze Zee Szczepanski, age 29, Blairsville, was arrested and charged:

- Felony Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute
- Felony Possession of Marijuana
- Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects
- Driving While Licenses Suspended/Revoked

Sheriff Henderson is proud of the Towns County Sheriff's Deputies for their continued efforts to keep these illegal drugs from being distributed in our county.



In the early morning of Thursday, September 14th, Towns County Sheriff's Sergeant, Bryan Forsyth was working concentrated patrols of our businesses and churches.

In the parking lot of Cornerstone Baptist Church, located on Crane Creek Road, Sgt. Forsyth observed a suspicious vehicle and activity in the parking lot.

Deputy Darringer Barrett and K-9 Xena were called to assist.

Deputy Barrett deployed Xena to conduct a free-air sniff of the vehicle, and she gave a positive alert beside the passenger door. Probable cause was established, and the vehicle was searched.

The search revealed an amount of crystal-like substance which field tested positive for Methamphetamine, drug related objects, scales, illegally obtained prescription medication called Baclofen, as well as a large amount of cash, which was confiscated.

Further investigation revealed this may have been the location for a drug transaction which was interrupted by Sgt. Forsyth.

Mark Anthony Roberson, age 36, Blairsville was arrested and charged with:

Felony Possession of Methamphetamine

Felony Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

SEPTEMBER DRUG ARRESTS, continued

Possession and Use of Drug Related Object

Dangerous Drugs (Baclofen)

Roberson is being held without bond at the Towns County Detention Center.

Sheriff Ken Henderson commends the hard work of the deputies, concentrated patrols, business and church checks in the early morning hours.



Towns County Sheriff's Office Deputies, K-9 and Narcotics Investigators teamed up to conduct concentrated patrols. These patrols concentrated on a small geographic area of Towns County are very effective.

On Friday, September 22nd at 1:00 pm, a traffic stop was conducted at the intersection of Bell Creek Road and Main Street in the City of Hiawasse.

K-9 Xena conducted a free air search and alerted on the vehicle.

Probable cause was developed, and a search of the vehicle resulted in locating a clear crystal-like substance consistent with Methamphetamine which was field tested positive for Methamphetamine and was laced with Fentanyl.

Driver Nathan Conrad Simms, age 43, Jefferson, GA was immediately placed under arrest. Simms is charged with Felony Possession of Methamphetamine and Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects.

Towns County Sheriff Ken Henderson commends these patrol techniques to continue our fight against drugs and other criminal activity. These concentrated efforts result in high visibility of patrol deputies.



In the early morning hours of Sunday, September 24th, during our continuing concentrated patrols, Towns County Deputies, K-9 and Drug Investigators conducted a traffic stop which was initiated by Deputy Darringer Barrett and K-9 Xena at 474 South Main Street, Hiawassee.

A free air search was conducted by Xena, and she alerted on the vehicle.

Probable cause to search the vehicle was established and a search of the vehicle was conducted resulting in the confiscation of an amount of Marijuana as well as a crystal substance which field tested positive for Methamphetamine and drug related objects.

Kevin Matthew Reynolds, age 38, Hiawassee was arrested and charged with:

- Felony Possession of Methamphetamine
- Possession of Marijuana
- Possession and Use of Drug Related Objects

Sheriff Ken Henderson is proud of our initiatives and focus on criminal activity and crime suppression in our community.



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Towns County Sheriff's Office offers an **Elderly Call in Program**: This program is offered for shut-ins and elderly citizen here in Towns County and has been in operation since 2005. If you have a family member or neighbor in need of our program, please contact our office at 706-896-4444. Your loved one will call our office everyday, including weekends to check in. If they do not call by a certain time, one of our officers will go to their home to check and make sure they are ok and not in need of assistance.

PUBLIC SAFETY APPRECIATION ON 9/11

Towns County Sheriff's Office would like to thank United Community Bank in Hiawassee for providing lunch to our staff today in remembrance of 9/11.

Everyone remembers where they were that day, 22 years ago, and the sense of helplessness we felt at the loss of so many lives.

Over 400 public safety officers were among those lost. Having taken an oath to protect and serve, these officers did not hesitate to run in and assist the injured.

Sheriff Ken Henderson states that he remains proud to live and serve in a community that supports their public safety officials the way Towns County supports the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Thanks again United Community Bank and let us Never Forget.



Sheriff Ken Henderson welcomed Olivia Schmidt as the newest Junior Deputy for the Towns County Sheriff's Office today.

Olivia, along with other members from Vertical Church, brought snacks and Gatorades for our deputies and staff in appreciation and also in observance of 9/11.

Sheriff Henderson would like to thank Vertical Church for their support and appreciation.



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 jgittens@townscountyga.com

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