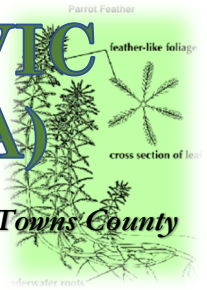


in this issue >>>

- *Message Commissioner Bradshaw about Parrot-Feather in Lake Chatuge*
- *Topics From Various Meetings Attended by TCCA Board Members*
- *Special Article – Parrot-Feather – “A Real Danger to Lake Chatuge”*

TOWNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION (TCCA)

“Addressing the issues and concerns affecting the citizens of Towns County and its environs.”



Newsletter Volume 3/ Issue 1 Late Fall 2023/Early Winter Edition 2024

Mission Statement >>>

The TOWNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION is a non-partisan/non-political association supporting the community since 2004. Our mission is to provide a platform for Individuals, Families, Businesses, Organizations, Neighborhood Associations, City and County Governments to address issues and concerns which affect the management, planning, and development of the County and its environs. Our objective is to share the concerns expressed by the TCCA, to ensure transparency and accountability of both Cities and County government officials as well as State appointed authorities and utility providers, and to fully cooperate with those authorities in the best interest of Towns County.

Some of What Your TCCA Is Doing:

- *Addressing the spreading of Parrot Feather in Lake Chatuge, especially in the area around Macedonia Baptist Church. Its spreading!*
- *Assessing the pros and cons of rapid growth in and around Highway 76, especially in the Hiawassee area, and what impact it might have on traffic and housing needs.*

Parrot Feather – A Serious Threat to Lake Chatuge

Many of you may not yet know about the Parrot Feather invasion on Lake Chatuge that started around the Macedonia Baptist Church some two summers ago. In the early stages, the Parrot Feather invasive plant was not the only one taking over a section of the lake. A cold weather event in December of 2022 eliminated all the other invasive plants except for the Parrot Feather. Since then, Parrot Feather has grown outside its initial isolated area, and it is not stopping unless something is done. What many do not realize, this is a **real** threat to our lake. If unchecked, it will spread, via boat traffic and river current towards Lake Chatuge Dam settling primarily in coves where it tends to grow in less than 15 feet of water. It is already getting close to the water intake area where many of us get our water supply.

The Towns County Civic Association has always addressed issues affecting our area. This is a **real** threat! This issue will cover much of what we know about the Parrot Feather and what it is capable of doing to Lake Chatuge if nothing is done. Whether you use Lake Chatuge or not, if the Parrot Feather is not stopped, we will lose a special part of what makes Towns County beautiful.

MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR REGION LEADERS



Sole Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw (see update on page 7): – *As Commissioner of Towns County, I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern over the Parrot Feather problem, we are facing in our lake. I want to assure everyone of you that I take this situation very seriously and will do anything within my legal scope help rid Lake Chatuge of this invasive species. Lake Chatuge is one of our county's strongest tourists pull and if this problem is left unchecked, it will have a negative impact on businesses, land values, as well as the county's economic health. I am also very concerned about the danger the vines pose for young or weak swimmers that could become trapped under the plant and drown.*

As I have worked toward solutions for this problem, I reached out to MountainTrue and asked if they would be willing to sign a contract, with a company for the treatment of the Parrot Feather to which they agreed. Towns County will accept donations from citizens for the treatment. My finance staff will track the funds in a special line item earmarked especially for the contract and will send the donated funds to MountainTrue to pay for the treatment. We are also seeking out any possible grants which may help in the future as well as talking with our state representatives about any possible help they may be able to provide. I am confident that together we will be able to address and eradicate the problem. Anyone wanting to donate should make their check payable to Towns County and mail or hand deliver it to 48 River Street, Suite B, Hiawassee. GA 30546. Please mark donation for Parrot Feather in the memo line so my staff will be able to distinguish and track the donated funds.

Once again, I want to thank every one of you for your diligence in working towards a solution to this problem. It will likely take several treatments over the next few years to get this problem out of our lake, but with perseverance and cooperation between all parties, we will be able to prevent this invasive species from taking over our lake. (Copied from letter dated 01/16/24)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY TCCA BOARD MEMBERS

(Summary of meetings taken place since last newsletter)

City and County Government

City of Hiawassee:

- * A Special Called Meeting was held before the Oct. 30th Work Session at the Senior Center, 70+ people attended. Owners of Trailful were first to talk about having problems with flooding in their lower level, esp. since repairs started at Paris Business Center (PBC). (November Minutes)
- * City Attorney Thomas Mitchell spoke about an investigation (under a different attorney) of allegations that City Mayor Liz Ordiales signed several contracts without the Council approval and that is contrary to City Charter: paving her home road and committing the city to an additional \$1.2 million for the PBC which originally was to cost \$1.2 mill. to be paid for with a loan and SPLOST money. This contract would double to \$2.4 mill. The investigation will be as soon as another attorney is hired. (November Minutes)
- * In the regular meeting on Nov. 7th, it was voted by the Council to follow through with the investigation, hiring Attorney Miles. (November Minutes)
- * Economic Dev. reported that Y.H. 44-unit apartments were approved, 2025 completion date. (November Minutes)
- * The AirCare Med Contract was renewed, price \$5,390. (November Minutes)
- * 7 Alcohol Licenses were approved. (November Minutes)
- * Nov. 27th mtg.: Two amendments to the 30-year-old City Charter Home Rule Ordinance were made: 1. Allow officers to be removed from office with cause with the City Council to provide the procedures; 2. Elected officials who miss 4 meetings/year will automatically vacate their seat; first reading at 12/5 mtg., 2nd reading at the 1/9/24 mtg. at 6 p.m. (December Minutes)
- * Council members also ratified the contracts with the GMRC for grant administration services re: Paris Business Center Project & the Boardwalk Project, but 3 council members voted this way “under duress.” The contract was signed without the Council’s approval and is now doubled in price. But not voting for it could cancel any future loans. (December Minutes)
- * Hiawassee Building & Planning Committee member, Paul Scherer, was cleared of an ethics violation complaint. (December Minutes)
- * Council members approved new employee health insurance effective 1/1/24 with lower deductibles; however \$85/mo. more for premiums. (December Minutes)
- * Public Hearing to review Home Rule Ordinance Change for Removal of Officer: Atty. Mitchell read the new ordinance to a full audience. It says causes will be listed, voted on by Council, Officer has right to appeal in T.C. Superior Court. Liz quoted a state law that is over local law, she said she has attorney advice that it (new ordinance) violates state law. Atty. Mitchell disagrees. (January Minutes)
- * Jonathan Wilson was sworn in as Council member. Amy Barrett has served 2 yrs. as Mayor Pro Tem, she nominated Jr. Chastain & Council voted him in. (January Minutes)
- * **As a result of mediation, Mayor Liz Ordiales will resign before 12/31/24 (1 yr. before her term is up), Council agreed to pay ½ of her mediation legal fees up to \$1500.** (January Minutes)

City of Young Harris:

- * A public hearing will be held 11/7 to rezone former Kaiser-Dean property, now owned by John Kelley, from Residential to PUD (Planned Unit Development). Kelley wants to rename the property McTyeire Crossing: it will have 14 individual homes on individual lots/greenspace on the 21.5 ac.--not subsidized housing. (November Minutes)
- * Following a Public Hearing on a Zoning Ordinance amendment re: PUD (Planned Unit Developments), Council voted to enact the amendment. This will allow better control by requiring complete site plans up front. (December Minutes)
- * Council accepted City’s rollback millage rate of 2.335 mills for 2023 property tax bills. (December Minutes)
- * Special election will be held in 2024 for Steve Clark’s position on Council; he did not qualify for re-election and Dana Cable, who qualified unopposed to start her 4-yr. term in Jan. dropped out at the Dec. 5th mtg. Clark will remain in his seat until replaced. (December Minutes)

Commissioner’s Meetings:

- * 10/26/23 The county rate for property owners will be 10.738 mills, an 8.4% decrease over the 2022 millage rate. The growth in the real property digest will increase County tax revenues about \$235K. County has had no tax increase since 2008. (November Minutes)
- * Commissioner Bradshaw also withdrew the county government from T.C. Joint Development Authority “because of the economic growth in our area, this is no longer needed for the County.” (November Minutes)
- * Reported Courthouse construction is going well, should be completed in February. (December Minutes)

- * Several people were present to talk about Parrot Feather in the lake. Bradshaw is working on a public meeting soon with TVA, MountainTrue-Callie Moore, and possibly our Sen. Bo Hatchet & Rep. Stan Gunter. (December Minutes)
- * County owned Chatuge Campground will have slightly higher rates for 2024 and some different rules. (December Minutes)
- * The 2024 General Fund Budget was submitted to the GA Dept. of Rev. by the end of Dec. with 2nd reading. The 2024 Budget is up 9% at \$15.2 mill. compared to 2023 at just under \$14 mill., mainly due to salary increases to keep current employees. Largest sources of county income are property tax collections of \$2.5 million and Ad Valorem Tax of \$1 mill. (January Minutes)
- * Commissioner discussed parrot feather in the lake and said he will be having a public meeting in Jan. with TVA present. (January Minutes)

County Planning Commission:

- * Two agenda items involved requests to combine more than one lot into a single property. Both had either potential or actual opposition from Homeowners Associations. The president of one association spoke against merging lots because it set a bad precedent and would reduce the amount of the homeowners' fees, which are based on a per lot basis. Upon advice of the County Attorney, both were approved because the Planning Commission only has the authority to enforce government laws and regulations, not homeowner association covenants, the latter being a matter that the courts would have to decide. (December Minutes)
- * The consent agenda included five Mountain Protection Act permit requests that were approved because all met the requirements of the act. (December Minutes)
- * A property owner on Bell Creek obtained a permit for a boat storage building. She has had a 2-story building built with stairs on highway right-of-way. They wound up giving her a variance to let the building stand, but with no electricity, etc. (January Minutes)

Health and Education

Board of Education:

- * High School Principal Bryan Thomason received Title I Reward School Award for making more gains than any other Title I school in GA in assisting children most in need of educational help. (December Minutes)
- * Outlined what the recently passed ESPLOST will be used for in the 46 yr.-old school built in 1977 (December Minutes)

City and County Utilities

T.C. Water & Sewer Authority:

- * Repaired 5 leaks, and the "Leak Insurance" of \$2 will be on everyone's bill unless they call to opt out. (November Minutes)
- * They discussed Parrot Feather in the lake and do not want herbicides in the water, which we all drink. However, TVA is saying they are not harmful to humans. (November Minutes)
- * Frog Pond had 2 water breaks—Cost of \$500K paid by property owners @\$14K each. (December Minutes)

Community Interest

Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce:

- * Holiday Bazaar (11/4-5) had 59 vendors (3 food). The number of vendors and visitors was down. (November Minutes)
- * Convention Visitors Board approved \$11,045 for advertising. (November Minutes)
- * Holiday Bazaar (11/4-5) final report—\$10,221 profit. (December Minutes)
- * Two events planned for January—Burgers, Brew & Basketball at YHC and Chatuge Burger Week. (December Minutes)
- * Burger Week: Extended to 10 days- Tues. 1/16- 25. 8 member restaurants: Brothers; Hawg Wild; Hiawassee Brew; Main Street Grill; Marina Station; Pick-A-Nick Basket Deli; Sundance Grill and Y.H.Wing House. Burgers will be \$9, and you must get at least 3 stamps for your passport to be entered into the drawing. \$200 is grand prize (\$25 from each restaurant). Passports & rack cards are going out this week to the restaurants. Passports are due by the end of business on January 29, and we will pick the winner. (January Minutes)
- * **Save Lake Chatuge-** Concerned citizens group has been formed regarding the parrot feather in Lake Chatuge. Tina & Julie attended the meeting on Thurs. morning, January 4th at Hiawassee Park. The meeting was a work session for the group and one of the 3 companies was there who have been asked to put a proposal together for the treatment of parrot feather. Southeastern Consulting Services—from Monticello GA-is the preferred company of the group. The treatment area is approx. 280 acres on the north end (Macedonia area) of the lake. Their proposal was \$400K which included a follow up after a certain amount of time. Commissioner Bradshaw is meeting this week with the county attorney to discuss the "How" and "Who" about entering a contract and managing any money raised by the citizens

group for the project. More open to the public meetings will occur once many of these questions have been answered. Visit the website – savelakechatuge.org and the Facebook group of the same name. (January Minutes)

County Health Department:

- * School immunization audit shows a rate from 44%-83%, depending on the grade. This is well below the state rates, typically over 90%. (November Minutes)
- * Monovalent Covid vaccine, RSV vaccine and flu shots are all available at our health Dept. (November Minutes)

Note: The information presented above may not necessarily reflect the final decisions from the noted meeting. Summaries are as submitted by Board attendees and edited for this publication. Future newsletters will reflect updated information as it becomes available.

★SPECIAL FEATURED ARTICLE★

Parrot-Feather – “A Real Danger to Lake Chatugue”

From time to time, the TCCA discovers issues presented at various meetings our Board Members attend which may be of interest to our citizenry. Our county and municipal administrators have a tremendous responsibility to ensure our citizens are getting the types of services expected to properly live, work and enjoy in our area. The following articles explains the history of Parrot-Feather and the threat it will have on Lake Chatuge.

Parrot-Feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum (Vell.) Verd.
Water milfoil family (Haloragaceae)

Origin: South America

Background

Parrot-feather was introduced to the United States in the Washington, DC area about 1890. Commonly sold for aquaria and aquatic gardens, it has escaped to become invasive in ponds and other calm water bodies in this region.

Distribution and Habitat

Parrot-feather occurs in at least 26 states throughout the United States. It is limited to non-tidal, freshwater, slow-moving water bodies including tributaries, ponds, lakes and canals. It prefers good light, slightly alkaline and high-nutrient environments.

Ecological Threat

It can form dense mats and compete with native aquatic plants, especially in shallow ponds. It also provides habitat for mosquito larvae, impedes boats and clogs drainage ditches.

Description and Biology

- Plant: aquatic plant with stout elongate stems suspended in the water column and/or floating; both stems and submerged leaves may be reddish tinted; gray-green tips of the stems with leaves may protrude above the water.
- Leaves: well-developed, finely pinnately divided, in whorls of mostly five with smooth leaf margins.
- Flowers, fruits and seeds: flowers and fruits, if present emerge from axils of leaves.
- Spreads: vegetatively from whole plants or fragments; it can be dispersed by people dumping aquaria into rivers and ponds and by animals carrying fruits and fragments on their bodies.
- Look-alikes: many species of submerged aquatic plants including non-native invasive Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and native species such as Northern water-milfoil (*M. sibiricum*), coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and water marigold (*Megalodonta beckii*).



Prevention and Control

Attempting control by manual or mechanical means tends to spread the plants and should only be conducted in small, contained water bodies. Draining a pond in the summer achieved control in one instance, but draining may not achieve control in winter. Control with herbicides is difficult because the emergent stems and leaves have a waxy cuticle that repels herbicides. Research into biological control of parrot-feather is ongoing.

Native Alternatives

Aquatic plant species are difficult to tell apart to the untrained eye. Contact your state natural resource agency, native plant society, MountainTrue.org or other resource (see References) for assistance.

Reference:

<https://www.invasive.org/alien/pubs/midatlantic/myaq.htm#:~:text=Parrot%2Dfeather%20was%20introduced%20to,water%20bodies%20in%20this%20region.&text=Parrot%2Dfeather%20occurs%20in%20at,states%20throughout%20the%20United%20States.>

Impacts of Parrot Feather

The impacts of parrot feather are highly contributed to by the dense mats that are formed, including:

- Clogs waterways.
- Displaces native vegetation.
- Affects recreational activities such as boating, swimming, and fishing.
- Creates stagnant waters, increasing breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- Dense growths of parrotfeather provide breeding areas for mosquitoes and will degrade both water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. It fouls intakes used to supply municipal drinking water and irrigation and becomes a navigation hazard. Parrotfeather should never be introduced to open waters. Reference: (<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/water-supply-planning/aquatic-weed-control-program-6#:~:text=Dense%20growth%20of%20parrotfeather%20provide,be%20introduced%20to%20open%20waters.>)

How to Identify Parrot Feather

- Herbaceous, submerged aquatic plant reaching 2 to 5 m.
- Leaves are whorled and feather-like with 20 to 30 segments per leaf.
- Submerged leaves are 1.5 to 3.5 cm long and emergent leaves are 2 to 5 cm long and much greener.
- Flowers in axils of emergent leaves, forming a terminal spike above water.
- Only female white flowers are known to occur in North America.

What You Can Do

- Learn how to identify parrot feather and how to prevent the introduction or spread of this plant with your watercraft or fishing equipment.
- Never buy, plant or keep parrot feather in your aquarium or water garden. It is against the law to buy, sell, trade, possess, or transport parrot feather. (note: state law may vary)
- Never deposit unwanted aquarium or water garden plants into lakes or rivers. Dispose of them in the garbage or away from any waterbody.
- Clean, Drain, Dry your boat, trailer, and equipment after each use. Remove all plants, animals, and mud before moving to a new waterbody.

Reference: <https://www.invadingspecies.com/invasers/aquatic-plants/parrot-feather-2/> (Note: Yes, Information from as far away as Canada – Freezing temperatures will not eliminate the problem)



Ms. Callie Moore, Western Region Program Coordinator for MountainTrue:

MountainTrue is pleased to be in partnership with [SaveLakeChatuge.org](https://www.savelakechatuge.org) and Towns County Government to address the invasive aquatic weeds that have infested the south end of Lake Chatuge in Towns County, GA, for the past two summers. As readers likely already know, parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) is a nonnative aquatic plant that poses a significant threat to the native flora and fauna of Lake Chatuge. It can rapidly colonize water bodies, outcompeting native vegetation, disrupting the natural habitat, and impeding recreational activities. MountainTrue and project partners have conducted thorough research and assessments to understand the extent of the parrot feather infestation in Lake Chatuge, as well as what works and what doesn't in terms of controlling the plant.

This information is vital in determining the most effective and least disruptive treatment methods. We are collaborating with local

environmental agencies, scientists, and community stakeholders to leverage collective expertise and resources. This collaborative approach ensures a well-informed and community-supported initiative. Our plan includes ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of treatment methods and make necessary adjustments. Transparency and accountability are integral to our approach, and we will keep the public informed about the progress of our efforts. While the decision about which specific company to hire has not yet been finalized, it is pending within the next couple of weeks and information about the treatment plan will be posted on SaveLakeChatuge.org at that time. MountainTrue and the private company selected for the work will coordinate closely with the City of Hiawassee's drinking water treatment plant operators over the course of the summer. To learn more about all the ways MountainTrue is working to protect and improve Lake Chatuge, visit: <https://mountaintrue.org/lake-chatuge/>. All donations to the Parrot Feather Treatment Fund and/or MountainTrue are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please keep in mind that there are lots of important native aquatic plants in Lake Chatuge. If you would like verification of an aquatic plant, send an email to MountainTrue's Western Region Program Coordinator, Tony Ward at tony@mountaintrue.org.



Jacob Williams, County Extension Agent, Northeast District:

The Towns County Extension office has gotten numerous calls over the past 18 months from individuals concerned about the invasive parrot feather. Most of these calls are centered around what can that individual do about the problem. So far, my response has been to discourage any individual from applying a pesticide to the lake. On privately owned property a landowner may apply pesticides, within label restrictions, to the property. There are pesticides that are designed for aquatic use, but if the property that the water rests upon does not belong to you, I have been discouraging individuals from applying those pesticides. On the lake, a pesticide application should only be made by someone with an active commercial pesticide applicator license in the aquatic category and a pesticide contractor permit.

An individual can make a pesticide application to property that they own without the need for a license. The process of attaining a commercial applicator license involves studying the appropriate material and taking a test at a testing site. If you pass the test then you must complete a requisite number of CEUs for your license to remain active. All pesticide applications, regardless of license status, must follow the label on the pesticide. Failure to follow the pesticide label is breaking federal law. There can also be serious ramifications for the environment if a pesticide is applied somewhere, it shouldn't have been, in too heavy of a dose, at the wrong time of year, or in too small of a dose. If you have pesticide, agriculture, or natural resource related question you can contact the Towns County Extension office. Our address is 67 Lakeview Circle, Hiawassee, GA. We are just down the street from the VFW Thrift Store. Our number is 706-896-2024. You can also email me directly at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



The SaveLakeChatuge.org group is a small team of volunteers who are passionate about saving our beloved Lake Chatuge from the Parrot Feather invasive species.

Six of us formed the group in late 2023 because we were all so frustrated by the lack of action by the TVA/DNR/County/State. We realized that if we just sat around and waited for someone else to act, we might lose our lake.

We're very grateful for Callie Moore and Mountain True, our non-profit partner in this venture. They've been so helpful in advising us on what needs to be done. We're also

grateful to the many local businesses and individuals who have made donations to the fundraising campaign. And we're deeply appreciative that Towns County stepped up in such a big way to help fight Parrot Feather.

Our mission is in our name. We want to Save Lake Chatuge, from Parrot Feather. But what we have found in the last few weeks is something even more powerful, that this community we live in is very special.

As someone said in the last County Meeting, "I've only lived here 3 years. I've lived in a lot of places, and I've never seen anything like the way this community has come together around this issue." Sometimes it takes a crisis for a community to realize what a special place they live in.

What folks can do to help is to continue to donate at SaveLakeChatuge.org. Parrot Feather is a stubborn adversary, and it won't be defeated with just a few treatments. And if people would like to donate their time to this effort, drop us an email at SaveLakeChatuge@gmail.com.

Please go to <http://Savelakechatuge.org> for more information and to make a donation. Effort supported by Towns County Civic Association

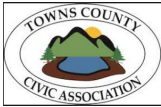



Excerpt from Resolution dated January 30, 2024:

HEREINAFTER BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Towns County directs:

1. It is anticipated that funds may become available from federal or state agencies to address this issue. However, it is apparent such funding will not occur in time for treatment prior to the summer of 2024. Therefore, it is directed that the sum of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars shall be drawn from the account designated as the County portion of hotel-motel tax proceeds and paid over to Mountain True for use in the treatment of the Parrot-Feather infestation in Lake Chatuge. Said funds shall be designated as set forth hereinafter.
2. The above-referenced sum is drawn from funds dedicated by law- for promotion of economic development and tourism in Towns County. In consultation with our attorney and state agencies, it appears, after payment of other legislated obligations and proper retention of reserves to fund the other obligations for the collections, a portion of the proceeds can be allocated to the protection of the economic resource of Towns County being Lake Chatuge.
3. There shall be no ad valorem tax dollars paid over for this purpose and payment shall not constitute an ongoing obligation of the County.
4. The referenced sum shall serve as an advance for anticipated funding by federal or state agencies and shall be designated as matching funds for any grants, funds or other sources requiring a match donation by Towns County.
5. Towns County has no independent knowledge or expertise in the treatment of the Class B noxious weed Parrot-Feather and relies upon Mountain True, and/or their subcontractors, to develop and implement the appropriate treatment plan for Lake Chatuge.

(Note: For a full copy of Resolution, please contact the Commissioner’s Office)

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| <div></div> <div>CONTACT INFORMATION Towns County Civic Association PO Box 455, Hiawassee, GA 30546-0455</div> <div>TCCA BOARD MEMBERS <i>John Clemens Michael Courey</i> <i>Larry Dietsch Anna Denton David Best</i> <i>Joan Crothers Jim Olson</i> Email: townscountycivicassociation@gmail.com Website: townscountycivicassociation.com</div> | | <div>For Members to Know As a member of Towns County Civic Association, you are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings. They are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month (time and location may vary so please check with a Board Member before attending). If you, as a member, wish to share a concern or wish to make a presentation, please let one of our Board Members know to have time scheduled.</div> <div>NON-PROFIT SUPPORT (contributions over the years) The TCCA, on occasion, will share their funds with various organizations supporting the citizens of Towns County. Below are a few of those organizations we have helped fund.</div> <div><div>Towns County High School Scholarship Fund Enotah CASA</div><div>MountainTrue (Formally Hiawassee River Watershed) Music on the Square</div></div> |
|---|--|--|

NOTICE: The TCCA desperately needs volunteers to be a part of our Board. If you are interested in knowing more about how the county and municipalities operate as well as those areas supporting our citizenry such as the Board of Education, Health Department and those agencies supplying us with water and power (Blue Ridge EMC), the TCCA is an ideal organization for you. We have a significant voice in how these entities serve us in Towns County. If you wish to join our Board, please let one of our Board Members know. We would love to have as part of our team.

GENERAL TCCA ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

TCCA membership is approximately at 95 individual memberships, 1 HOA's and 2 businesses. Most annual memberships end on June 30 of each year unless you have paid for a two-year membership which saves \$5.00. If you haven't already paid your dues for this year (2023-2024) or for a two-year membership, please do so right away. See form below:

The Towns County Civic Association exists to support you the citizens and businesses of Towns County. We monitor the various media sources reporting on the activities within Towns County to understand what is of interest to our citizens. More importantly, we listen to you, our members, to understand what they believe we as an Association should be doing to make Towns County a wonderful place to live, work and play. The TCCA does not get any funds from the city, county, or state government. We solely rely on your membership dues and our volunteers to do what we do in support of Towns County. So please, for those of you needing to renew their membership, complete the form below and continue to support our efforts.

Application Form Instructions:

Complete each question below and mail with your dues to:

Towns County Civic Association

PO Box 455

Hiawassee, GA 30546-0455

*****PLEASE COMPLETE FORM, PRINT AND MAIL WITH DONATION*****

APPLICANT NAME(S): _____

Street Address (Towns Co. or Other): _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Phones: _____

Emails: (TCCA uses BCC for mailouts): _____

If you have an address out of our immediate area, please enter below:

Address, City, State and Zip: _____

The Membership fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. One year membership dues: **\$25.00**, or two-year membership dues – **\$45.00**.

Paid Check # _____ or Cash: \$ _____. Please print and cut out the form and send to address above.

Please mark whether this is a new or renewal membership: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal Membership

As always, the TCCA appreciates your support, and we couldn't do what we do without your continuing membership in support of our efforts for Towns County.