



Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 5
October, 2011

www.townofblowingrock.com

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....295-5200
Planning & Inspection.....295-5240
Water/Sewer/Garbage.....295-5200
Parks & Recreation.....295-5222
Water - After Hours.....295-5210

Non-Emergency

Police Department.....295-5210
Fire Department.....295-5220

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

11/15/2011 5:00 p.m.
12/13/2011 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board

11/17/2011 5:30 p.m.
12/15/2011 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

11/17/2011 3:00 p.m.
12/15/2011 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Town Offices Closed:
Thanksgiving
11/24/11-11/25/11
Christmas Festival
11/25/11
Christmas Parade
11/26/11
Town Offices Closed:
Christmas
12/23/11-12/26/11
New Years
01/02/12

"Turning of the Valve"



The Boone/Blowing Rock Water Interconnection Line is complete. A "Turning of the Valve" ceremony was held October 19th at the mid point of the project across from Tweetsie Railroad. The project consisted of the construction of five miles of 12-inch diameter water line and 1,600 linear feet of 8-inch diameter sewer force main along U.S. Highway 321. Other additions included: below-grade prefabricated pumping station, metering station, pressure reducing station, flow control station, and fire hydrants.

The Project Received funding from the following:

- State of NC (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Grant - \$756,480.06
- Appalachian Regional Commission (USDA) - \$202,186.69
- NC Rural Center (Boone) - \$673,955.86
- NC Rural Center (Watauga County) - \$336,977.56
- Sales Tax Refund - \$49,562.72
- State of NC (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) 0% Interest Loan - \$756,480.06

Town of Blowing Rock Parking Facility



The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum Public Parking facility located at 159 Chestnut Street has been completed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the parking facility on September 30th, while the Museum's grand opening was held October 1st. The Town gained 59 public parking spaces on the deck with an additional 5 at Edgewood Cottage. Two public restrooms were also added to the parking facility structure.

Fall Leaf Pick-Up

Leaves will be picked up by roadside with vacuum trucks for the next two months, weather permitting. Leaves need to be free of sticks and branches, and placed so they do not block any drainage ways. When leaves become too wet to vacuum they need to be bagged and placed by roadside for pick-up. We are once again using contracted labor through Darren Wallace with State Maintenance to help assist the town staff in this process. For more information please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200.



Code Red Emergency notification



The Code Red emergency notification system provides the Town of Blowing Rock with telephone calling system capable of delivering customized emergency messages directly to homes, businesses and mobile telephone users. If you are not already registered for this service, please go on to the Town's website at www.townofblowingrock.com. Once you are on the home page go all the way to the bottom of the page and you will see a link to register for Code Red. If you have any questions please call Town Hall at (828)295-5200.

BRACC Fall Planting Day: 11/05/11

BRACC will hold its Fall Planting Day on November 5, 2011. If you would like to join in the fun meet in front of Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. For more information contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (828)295-5222.

PROJECT UPDATES

Six Pence Pub CUP:

Six Pence Pub has been constructing an outdoor patio that will accommodate 32 people; the patio is tentatively scheduled to open at the end of October.



Highway 321 Widening Project:

Officials with NCDOT met with Town Council on October 13th to discuss details of the US 321 Widening Project. The project is currently out for bid with a bid deadline of November 15th. A public information meeting with the selected contractor will be held early 2012.

NCDOT will relocate Town water and sewer lines that are in the path of the project. Upon request of the Town, NCDOT has included several betterments such as increasing the size/capacity of the lines from existing conditions and line additions in the project.

Some items included are as follows: main water line upgrade along US 321 from Possum Hollow Road to Green Hill Road, additional fire hydrants, valve upgrades, and main sewer out-fall upgrade from 600 feet south of the Chetola Dam to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Town is responsible for 100% of the actual cost associated with the betterments and line additions. The estimated cost to the Town is \$603,477.34, and will be re-calculated based upon contract bid prices and actual quantities used.

The Town has been setting aside capital funding for these upgrades over the past several years and has approximately \$200,000.00 currently in reserve.

Upon completion of the work, anticipated in late 2014, reimbursement shall be made to NCDOT in three annual installments. These estimated costs are significantly lower than the \$1.0 million plus estimate for the Town to relocate and upgrade the utilities on our own without NCDOT participation.

Water/Sewer upgrades & betterments of \$603,477 will be paid out of the Water-Sewer Fund and have been included in our Capital Improvement Plan.

- \$434,057.00– Sewer Inceptor to Wastewater Plant (portion of CIP Phase V)
- \$93,300.00– Additions
- \$76,120.34- Betterments

Black Mast arms at signalized intersections (\$21,500) and decorative fencing (\$40,000-\$60,000) at locations adjacent to sidewalks will be paid from the General Fund.

No payments are due on items until the project is complete.

Street Paving:

Fall street paving is almost complete. The following streets have been re-surfaced:

- Possum Hollow Road (Hwy 321 to Forest Lane)
- Hughes Road (Entrance)
- Green Hill Road (Fairway Court section)
- Forest Lane (Portion)
- Elliott Circle (Portion)
- Laurel Lane (Portion)

Also, the reconfiguration of a drain on the corner of Chestnut Street and Wallingford Street has been completed.

Sewer Line Replacements/Sewer Extensions:

The Town recently replaced two (2) aerial sewer lines. One of the lines was off of Laurel Lane in Mayview and the other was in New River Lake Estates. Both of these aging lines are part of our sewer rehabilitation capital improvement projects, and will help address inflow/infiltration issues.

The sewer extension on Wallingford Street and Globe Road has been completed. The project consisted of the construction of approximately 923 linear feet of 2-inch diameter low pressure sewer line, including all related appurtenances.

The sewer improvements on Main Street are also complete. That project consisted of the construction of approximately 285 linear feet of 8-inch diameter gravity sewer line, including manholes, and all related appurtenances.

Parks and Recreation

“Christmas in the Park”



Schedule of Events

Friday November 25, 2011

Visit with Santa (In Gazebo)	2:00 to 4:00 pm
Hayrides through Blowing Rock	4:00 to 9:00 pm
Airwalk	2:00 to 7:00 pm
Free Hot Cider & Hot Chocolate	5:00 to 9:00 pm
Caroling in the Park with “Vagabonds”	5:00 to 6:30 pm
Lighting of the Town (Major JB Lawrence)	5:30 pm
Bluegrass Christmas (Diana & Sarvis Ridge)	7:00 to 9:00 pm



Saturday November 26, 2011



Christmas Parade	2:00 pm
------------------	---------