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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 6
December, 2010

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

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010 PROPERTY TAXES?

To those who have not paid their 2010 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2011. If you pay by mail your payment must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2011 to avoid interest penalty. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property please contact Watauga County Tax Assessors Office at (828) 265-8041 or the Caldwell County Tax Assessors Office at (828) 757-1340. For your convenience you can pay property taxes online at: www.townofblowingrock.com. For assistance or questions regarding your property tax bill or making online payments, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200 and we will be happy to assist you!



Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

01/11/2010 5:00 p.m.
02/08/2010 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board

01/20/2010 7:00 p.m.
02/17/2010 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

01/25/2010 3:00 p.m.
02/24/2010 3:00 p.m.

SHERRIE PITTS RETIRES FROM PLANNING & INSPECTIONS

Administrative Assistant and Code Enforcement Officer Sherrie Pitts has retired after more than 30 years in public service with 19 of those years being with the Town of Blowing Rock. A retirement reception was held for Sherrie on November 10th to recognize her accomplishments and service to the Town. Congratulations Sherrie on your retirement!



The Town welcomes Tammy Bentley as Sherrie Pitts and Mayor Lawrence the new Planning Office Assistant and Code Enforcement Officer.



Tammy Bentley

Ms. Bentley comes to Blowing Rock after working approximately 4 years at Blowing Rock Realty (Agent Assistant), 2½ years at Lyons Construction and Realty (Office Manager) and 14 years at Jenkins Realty (Property Manager). She received an Associates of Applied Sciences Degree in Paralegal Technology from Caldwell Community College.

Tammy and her husband, Stan Hanna, reside on Little Laurel Road just outside Blowing Rock. Ms. Bentley began her employment with the Town on November 22nd.

Upcoming Events



Winterfest 2010:
1/27/10–1/30/10

Kinder Basketball



Registration:

Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 24th for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 25th. To receive the taxpayer rate, a copy of your Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga/Caldwell County) must be attached. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Garryd at (828) 295-5222.

EMERGENCY SERVICES FILLS C-SHIFT VACANCY

Emergency Services Director Kent Graham is pleased to announce the hiring of Jason Potter effective September 28 as the new C-Shift Firefighter/Paramedic.



Jason Potter

Jason brings an impressive level of experience and certification to Blowing Rock. He is strong in all disciplines of fire, rescue and emergency medical services, holding the following certifications - Firefighter II, EMT-Paramedic, Swift Water Technician, Rescue Diver, NC Forestry, NC Rescue Technician, Incident Management, and Ropes.

Jason has prior experience with Lenoir Fire, Hudson Fire and Rescue, Caldwell EMS and is currently a member of Patterson Volunteer Fire Department. For the past five years, he served as a paramedic with Caldwell County.

Jason and his wife, Misty, live in the Patterson Community at the foot of the hill just off of Hwy 321. Please welcome and congratulate Mr. Potter as he recently learned he will soon be a father.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WINTERFEST 2011

Join us as we celebrate the fun side of winter at the 13th Annual Blowing Rock Winterfest, January 27-30, 2011. There's something for all ages!

Events include:

- Chili Challenge
- Pancake Breakfast
- Icy Polar Plunge
- Winterfest Concert
- WinterFeast
- Wine Auction & Tasting
- Downtown Hayrides
- Ice Carving Competition
- Kids Activities
- Silent Auction
- Blues Concert
- Winter Paws Pet Show

For more information about Winterfest Events or Sponsorships, call: (877) 295-7801 or (828) 295-7851. Tickets can be purchased at the Blowing Rock Visitors Center and online at: www.blowingrockwinterfest.com.



NEW GIS WEBSITE

Anderson and Associates, the company that hosts the Town's GIS website, announced that a new system will be online within the next several days for use by the general public. The new system will feature easier navigation, improved property searches, links to property cards, permits, and aerial photography from 2009. The link to the new system is:

<http://arcgis.webgis.net/nc/blowingrock/>

Feel free to call the Planning and Inspections office at (828) 295-5240 for tips on using the new site.

MORRIS STREET SIDEWALK

Just before the worst of the December weather, Mountain Crest Construction completed a 200 foot section of sidewalk, curb and gutter along the north side of Morris Street in front of the Hemlock Inn and the Herold/Schaefer property. Both owners were cost-share partners with the Town in this project.



TOWN CALENDARS ARE HERE!

The 2011 Town Calendars are available at the Visitor Center located at 7737 Valley Blvd and Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street.

Stop by today and pick up your calendar!



FREEZING WEATHER

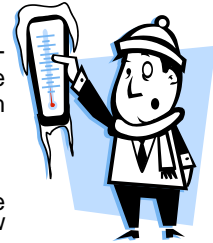
House Tips:

Be prepared for freezing weather! Winterize plumbing pipes now to help avoid the hassle and costs that are associated with frozen pipes.

Cold Weather Checklist:

- Know where the main shut-off valve for your plumbing is located and how to turn it off.
- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and outside facets.

If you plan to be away from home for an extended period, leave the heat on, or drain your water system before you leave. Ask someone to check your house daily while you are away.



Sidewalk Tips:

Another tip for freezing weather is how to take care of your sidewalks. The following are items that can be used safely on sidewalks and items that are not safe:

Do Use

- Kitty Litter
- Ice Melt (it can be found at the local hardware store and grocery store)



Do Not Use

- Rock Salt (this product will make the concrete crumble)

Vehicle Tips:

Make sure that your vehicle is winterized by checking the following:

- Antifreeze fluid (make sure to have an adequate amount and that it is rated for cold temperature)
- Tires (make sure they have good traction and are inflated properly)
- Battery (make sure that it is no more than 3 years old)
- Heater/Defroster (make sure it is working properly)

Other helpful items that need to be in the vehicle during the winter include:

- Ice scraper
- Winter-Survival Safety Kit

If you happen to become stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm: stay in the vehicle, maintain proper ventilation by checking to make sure the exhaust pipe is not plugged and make yourself visible to rescuers.



Recycling update: Since the residential curbside recycling initiative began in August 2010, GDS has collected 58.92 tons or 117,854 lbs of recyclables from Blowing Rock residents; there by greatly reducing landfill waste. Thank you for keeping Blowing Rock cleaner and greener through participation in this program!