



Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Volume 14, Issue 3

July, 2020

www.townofblowingrocknc.gov

Important Numbers

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

Non-Emergency

Police Administration.....295-5212
Fire Administration..... 548-2800

After Hours/Weekend Water or Sewer

Emergency.....295-5210

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

07/14/2020 6:00 p.m.

08/11/2020 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

07/16/2020 5:30 p.m.

08/20/2020 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

07/16/2020 3:00 p.m.

08/20/2020 3:00 p.m.

BRAAC

07/02/2020 9:00 a.m.

08/06/2020 9:00 a.m.

Robbins Pool Opens

06/27/2020 Residents only

06/29/2020 Non Residents

See Page 2 for guidelines

Town Offices Closed

Independence Day - July 3rd

4th of July Festival & Parade

Cancelled due to COVID-19

Art in the Park:

July 18th & August 15th

Monday Night Concert Series:

Cancelled due to COVID-19

Movie in the Park Thursday Nights

Cancelled due to COVID-19

COVID-19 Updates

www.townofblowingrocknc.gov

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Adopted Budget

Following budget work sessions and a public hearing, the Town of Blowing Rock Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget was adopted at the June 9, 2020 Town Council meeting. The recommended and now adopted Budget is available on the Town's website at www.townofblowingrocknc.gov.

The Fiscal Year 2020-21 adopted budget totals \$10.9 million and includes \$8.7 million in the general fund, \$1.8 million for water and sewer operations, \$37 thousand for the BRAAC fund and \$284 thousand for capital projects. This is a decrease compared to last year's adopted budget of \$56 thousand which represents a 0.52% decrease. The decrease is mainly due to projected revenue declines associated with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which are beginning to develop and are expected to continue on into the FY 2020-21 budget year. Included in the operating budget is debt service requirements for payment of principal and interest on borrowed funds such as lease-purchase payments and the general obligation bond. The FY 2020-21 Budget for debt service expenses, for both the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund, total \$1.9 million or 21% of the total operating budget. The FY 2019-20 Adopted Budget for debt service expenses, for the General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund, totaled \$1.5 million or 15% of the total budget.

To fund FY budget operating expenditures and account for general fund operational cost increases (i.e. general obligation bond debt service, insurance, electrical, etc.), but mainly due to expected revenue declines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Adopted Budget reflects a \$180 thousand fund balance allocation and NO proposed tax rate increase due to the economic impact to the community of the COVID-19 pandemic. Future tax rate increase is anticipated to service issue III G.O. Bond debt service.

Referencing the Water and Wastewater Fund, the budget proposes NO increase at this time in the water and sewer rate schedule, it is planned to revisit the rate structure mid-year and possibly implement rate increases at that time. Following the April 2019 NC Rural Water Association water and sewer energy savings assessment study, when it becomes necessary to change out pumps/motors, the Town shall consider acquiring the type of energy efficient pumps/motors listed in the assessment.



Expanded Communications Services



Blowing Rock Police Department is committed to constantly seeking ways to improve the services that we deliver to the citizens and visitors of Blowing Rock. In keeping with this commitment, we are pleased to announce changes in our communications plan.

Effective July 1st, 2020, Blowing Rock Police Department will partner with the Boone Police Department to provide police communications services. This partnership will enable us to expand the hours that communications and customer support functions are available locally. Beginning July 1st non-emergency calls for police services will be handled by our staff 7 days per week from 7am until 7pm. After 7pm, during our less busy times, our non-emergency calls will be transferred to dedicated "Blowing Rock" lines which will be answered at Boone Police Department. 911 calls for services will not be affected in this change.

In addition to the expansion of local coverage, other improvements will include less reliance on automated answering systems, customer support available at our office 7 days per week, and the addition of improved technologies that will assist in all aspects of our policing mission. It should also be noted that no additional funding has been necessary to provide these changes.

Staff at both Boone and Blowing Rock police departments are excited about our partnership and have been working hard over the past few weeks, with the support of our Mayors, Council members and Town Managers, to insure that this transition is seamless.

As a reminder we have listed below the telephone numbers that should be used to contact Blowing Rock Police.

Emergency – 911

Non-Emergency – (828) 295-5210

Cooper Issues Executive Order #147

On Wednesday, June 24th Governor Roy Cooper issued NC Executive Order #147 concerning the extension of Phase 2 and New Measures to Save Lives in the COVID-19 Pandemic. This order includes a requirement to wear face coverings in public spaces, whether inside or outside, where physical distancing of at least six feet is not possible. A summary of the Executive order can be found on the Town of Blowing Rock's website under Coronavirus Disease or at the following link <http://www.townofblowingrocknc.gov/Home/Components/News/News/142/16>

2020 Pool Schedule



The Robbins Pool at Broyhill Park opened on Saturday June 27, 2020 for Blowing Rock residents and on Monday June 29, 2020 for non residents. Many changes are in place due to COVID-19 for this year. You **MUST** register online and pay online to reserve a session to swim. Visit BRPR.US under Programs to reserve your time. Pool guidelines are as follows:

Public Swim - 2 sessions - There will be a maximum of 70 people per session

- 1st session - 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- 2nd session - 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Patrons need to PRE-REGISTER and pay ahead of time (or risk losing your reservation).
- **NO REFUNDS FOR ANY REASON** and we will encourage **NO PAYMENTS AT THE POOL** (we will take cash for those who do not have debit card and walk-up to swim).

Admission Fees :

- Taxpayers
\$3.00 per session
- Non-Taxpayers
\$5.00 per session
- Lap and Non Swimmer
\$2.00 per session

Adult lap swim hours of operation will be 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

- Only 3 lap swimmers per day and you must PRE-REGISTER and pay ahead of time (or risk losing your reservations).

We will only allow 60 online registrations and hold 10 registrations for anyone who may walk up and have not pre-registered.

Come to the pool ready to swim as restrooms are reserved for **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.

It is recommended that patrons wear a mask outside of the water if you are over the age of 2.

Only 32 people in the water at a time.

Staff will not be wearing masks due to potential emergencies.

Staff will escort families to their dedicated area after asking medical questions before entering pool and they must stay in that area when not swimming in the pool.

Waterslide will be closed.

Vending Machines will not be operational.

Please adhere to all CDC and NCDHHS guidelines when using our facility.



EVERYONE MUST sign a waiver before entering the pool.

****Please note this is subject to change based on the North Carolina Guidelines and Phase Restrictions****

Free Virtual Summer Camp

Summer Day Camp is one of our most treasured and anticipated programs of each year, unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to have our summer camp. HOWEVER, that doesn't stop us from wanting our campers to have the best summer possible during these wacky times. We have come together with local businesses to help provide our campers with activities ALL SUMMER LONG! Get ready to experience science experiments, arts and crafts, virtual field trips, interactive virtual games, education series, and more! Below is the link to our Summer Day Camp website. Please bookmark and check it each week as we will posting new videos all summer! <https://blowingrocksports.wixsite.com/website>