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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 6
December, 2009

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

01/12/2010 7:00 p.m.
02/09/2010 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

01/21/2010 7:00 p.m.
02/18/2010 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

01/21/2010 3:00 p.m.
02/25/2010 2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Town Offices Closed: New Years Day



Winterfest 2010:
1/28/10-1/31/10

Kinder Basketball



Registration:

Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 6th for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 9th. 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.

Blowing Rock Inducts New Council Members



Commissioner Steele Commissioner Matheson

Blowing Rock's newly elected commissioners, Jim Steele and Doug Matheson, took their oath of office on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. Their terms in office will run through December 2013.

Special Thanks to Retiring Council Members



Commissioners Ball and Tester

At the December Town Council meeting Mayor Lawrence acknowledged the success and accomplishments of the two retiring Commissioners, Barbara Ball and Keith Tester. The Town thanks them for all their hard work and dedication.

Town Calendars are Here!

The 2010 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!



Lawrence and Klutz Re-Elected

The Town of Blowing Rock re-elected Mayor JB Lawrence and Commissioner Tommy Klutz to serve another term of office, with both taking their oath of office at the December 8, 2009 meeting.



Mayor Lawrence Commissioner Klutz

Have You Paid Your 2009 Property Taxes?

To those who have not paid their 2009 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2010. If you pay by mail your payment must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2010 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 now 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!



Johnny Lentz Retires from Blowing Rock Public Works



Johnny Lentz and wife Brenda

Public Works Director Johnny Lentz is retiring after over 28 years with the Town. A retirement reception was held on December 2 to recognize Mr. Lentz on his accomplishments and service to the Town. At the reception, State Representative Cullie Tarelton presented Mr. Lentz with the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" award from Governor Bev Perdue. Congratulations Johnny on your retirement!

Assistant Public Works Director Mike Wilcox has been promoted to the position of Public Works Director. Mr. Wilcox has been with the Blowing Rock Public Works department over 26 years.



Matt Blackburn and Mike Wilcox

The Town also welcomes Matt Blackburn as Public Works Superintendent. Matt was raised in Alexander County and attended Alexander Central High School. He graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in Community and Regional Planning. Matt has worked as an environmental consultant for the past three and a half years.

BRAHM Parking Facility

Cold weather has somewhat slowed progress on the BRAHM building & parking facility; however, Boone Construction Co. is pleased to have the museum foundation walls poured prior to winter setting in. Footer work is also complete as well as underslab work on the museum. Final structural plans for the parking facility are under review.

Downtown Streetscape



Phase I of the Downtown Streetscape Project is approximately 85 to 90% complete. Recent completions have been AT&T conduit installation, new curb and gutter and paver installation (from Chestnut Street to Laurel Lane), as well as some sidewalk replacement.

The remaining improvements at the Martin House will be finished at the next break in cold weather. Landscaping is scheduled to be complete in Spring 2010.



The Town of Blowing Rock was awarded Level One Status through its conservation efforts in the North Carolina League of Municipalities Green Challenge Program. Please join the Town in "going green"!

Dennis Swanson to Retire from Blowing Rock PD

Blowing Rock Police Lieutenant Dennis Swanson will retire February 1, 2010 after over 29 years with the Town. The Town would like to thank Mr. Swanson for his accomplishments and dedication throughout these years. Please help us in congratulating Dennis on his retirement!



Lieutenant Swanson

Winterfest 2010

Join us as we celebrate the fun side of winter at the 12th Annual Blowing Rock Winterfest, January 28-31, 2010. Events include: Chili Challenge, Pancake Breakfast, Icy Polar Plunge, Winterfest Concert, WinterFeast, Wine Auction & Tasting, Downtown Hayrides, Bonfire, Ice Carving Competition, Kids Activities, Silent Auction, Blues Concert, and Winter Paws Pet Show. There's something for all age groups!

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.



Robbins Memorial Pool

Significant progress has been made over the past two months on the Robbins Pool Project and construction is slightly ahead of schedule at this point. The pool house is under roof and the concrete pool deck has been poured.



Water Interconnect Bid Award

Bids were received on October 29, 2009 for the Boone/Blowing Rock Water Interconnection Project. The project consists of the construction of approximately 24,750 linear feet of 12 inch diameter water line and approximately 1,600 linear feet of 8 inch diameter sewer force main along US HWY 321 between the Town of Blowing Rock and Town of Boone. A below grade prefabricated pumping station, meter station, pressure reducing station and a flow control station is also included. At the November 10, 2009 meeting, Council awarded the low bid of \$2,998,196 to Ronny Turner Construction, Inc. The \$4,000,000 project is being funded by various grants as well as a State low interest loan. Construction is expected to begin in the next couple of months.