



Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Volume 14, Issue 4

September, 2020

www.townofblowingrocknc.gov

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....828-295-5200
Planning & Inspection.....828-295-5240
Water/Sewer/Garbage.....828-295-5200
Parks & Recreation.....828-295-5222

Non-Emergency

Police Administration.....828-295-5212
Fire Administration.....828-548-2800

After Hours/Weekend Water or Sewer

Emergency.....828-295-5210
Emergency Police & Fire.....911

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

09/08/2020 6:00 p.m.
10/13/2020 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

09/17/2020 5:30 p.m.
10/13/2020 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

09/17/2020 3:00 p.m.
10/13/2020 3:00 p.m.

BRAAC

09/03/2020 9:00 a.m.
10/01/2020 9:00 a.m.

TDA

09/01/2020 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Blowing Rock Pool Closes

September 7th

Art in the Park:

September 12th
October 3rd

Last 2020 Farmer's Market

September 24th

Town Offices Closed

September 7th
Labor Day

November 11th
Veteran's Day

November 26th and 27th
Thanksgiving

Memorial Park's New Playground



At the beginning of the year, Town Council decided during retreat that replacing the playground was one of the top ten items that needed to be completed in 2020. During the February Town Council meeting, Town Council voted unanimously on the design. The Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority (TDA) voted unanimously in March to share in the cost of the new playground and fund half of the project.

The project began in March with removal of the old equipment, grading for the new equipment, and drainage installation. In May, the installation of the new playground began. The equipment installation was completed by the beginning of July, and the poured in place surfacing was completed by the end of July. The final touches of landscaping around the playground was completed the first of August.

The playground consists of a 2-5 year-old play area that has a structure, slides, swings, and a mommy and me swing. There is also a 5-12 year-old play area with climbing structures, slides, and swings. Throughout the playground there are hills, tunnels, log steps, balancing logs, mushrooms, and a trout. There is something for all ages to play on and enjoy, as well as has a beautiful "natural" play design.

The playground company, Landscape Structures, plants a tree in American forests for every square foot of carbon footprint of the playground they install. Landscape Structures has planted 71 trees in American forests because of The Town of Blowing Rock's carbon footprint of the new playground.

We are currently waiting on the Governor to move into a new phase that would allow playgrounds to open to open ours. The fence will remain around the playground until that time. Once we are able to open we will have a grand opening so be on the lookout for more information and updates on our website: www.townofblowingrocknc.gov or our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BRParksRecreation/>

Free WIFI Grades K-12 Monday -Friday

Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation will be offering 5 work stations for students Grade K-12. The Work Stations will be open Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m.- 3:45 p.m. starting August 24th, 2020 in the Rec Center. Students under 12 years old will need to be accompanied by a guardian at all times during their session. Upon entry, masks will be required at all times, the temperature of each individual will be taken, and health related questions will be asked. Parks & Recreation staff will sanitize each Work Station at the end of each day. You may also access Town Park WiFi anywhere inside Memorial Park for free. Please call our office at 828-295-5222 with any questions.

Semi-Annual Clean-up

The Town is planning the "Fall Semi-Annual Clean-Up" for the week of October 12th — 16th. This pick-up includes white goods, yard debris (leaves, tree branches), mattresses, etc. **The Town can no longer pickup any containers with liquids such as paint cans (will pick up if it has kitty litter or oil dry in it) or propane tanks, electronics, shingles, pallets or tires.** During this pick up, and anytime that you have yard debris, it should be separated into three piles: loose leaves, limbs, plants. Please do not block any ditches or drains. Residents do not need to call Town Hall to have their names put on a list. The Semi-Annual Clean-Up is offered in the fall and spring of each year. There is no charge for this service.



Yard debris should be separated into three piles: loose leaves, limbs, and plant debris.



Yard debris should not be placed into one pile for pickup.

**Watauga County Landfill now operates an on-site household hazardous waste collection facility. The HHW (household hazardous waste) facility is equipped to accept a variety of toxic materials such as; household cleaners, paint, varnishes, stains, paint thinner/remover, solvents, pesticides, automotive liquids, etc. It is very important to dispose of these items correctly in order to keep ourselves and our environment safe and toxic free. For more information, contact the Watauga County Sanitation Office at (828)264-5305. The address of their collection site is 336 Landfill Road in Boone.*

North Carolina's Undercount in the 2020 Census

State faces losing \$74 billion over the next decade

The 2020 Census is at a critical point. North Carolina is severely under counted with only a few weeks left. Our rural areas are especially behind. Our state--the 4th fastest growing and 9th largest--will lose \$7.4 billion in funding with our current count. The consequences of that will be felt far into the future. This isn't abstract money--these are your tax dollars, already paid and collected. If we don't lay claim to it through a proper count, it will go elsewhere. This will be felt most locally, in your hometowns: roads, schools, emergency services, veterans services, senior care, early education programs, parks, infrastructure, economic development, and on and on. Imagine where N.C. can be in 10 years with that additional, much-earned \$74 billion. Imagine where we may be without it. *For more information on North Carolina's precarious position, read Carolina Demography's article "[N.C.'s Current 2020 Census Response is Concerning.](#)"*

To Help, Connect With Your Community

Census workers are out knocking on doors, but the current count is far too low for them to ensure a complete count. Additionally, they have only a few weeks to work.

Thus, the way forward is through encouraging self responses.

Every response counts. A Census response brings \$1,823 per person, per year in federal and state funds back to N.C. counties and towns.

That's \$18,230 over the decade. For a family of five, that's \$91,150. For a neighborhood of 150, that's \$2,734,000.

Please take advantage of your connections with the community. Speak to local leaders and organizers: shop owners, faith leaders, community groups, etc.

To complete your online census visit: <https://my2020census.gov/>

Pool Closes Monday Sept. 7th

The Blowing Rock pool will be closing Monday, September the 7th for the 2020 season. You still have time to take advantage of the final days by visiting www.brpr.us to reserve a time and day for some relaxation for you and your family.

We look forward to a more normal season in 2021 and our plan is to open Memorial Day Weekend. Watch for the announcement in early 2021.