



# Around the Rock

www.townofblowingrock.com

Town of Blowing Rock  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4  
August, 2008

## 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

### Downtown Retail Study

9/8/2008 7:00p.m.

### Town Council

9/9/2008 7:00 p.m.

10/14/2008 7:00 p.m.

### Planning Board

9/18/2008 7:00 p.m.

10/16/2008 7:00 p.m.

### ABC Board

9/25/2008 3:00 p.m.

10/23/2008 3:00 p.m.

### Tourism Development Authority

10/7/2008 8:30 a.m.

7/1/ 8:30 a.m.

## Upcoming Events

Pool Closing: 9/1/2008

Kinder Soccer begins:  
8/26/2008-9/18/2008



Youth Basketball Registration:  
9/8/2008 - 10/15/2008



Art in the Park:  
9/14/2008 & 10/4/2008

Halloween Festival: 10/25/2008

Tweetsie Ghost Train: Each  
Weekend In October



## Shoplifting Prevention Tips

Merchants: With tourist season in full swing the Blowing Rock Police Department would like to remind you shoplifting can cost your business thousands of dollars a year.

Keep in mind: Shoplifters often work in pairs or groups. They strike at times when employees are less alert such as, opening or closing, lunch or dinner breaks, shift changes, and crowded peak hours.

Here are some prevention tips and defenses to help secure your store:

Make shoplifters "feel" watched, Post signs against shoplifting, require receipts for returns for cash and a photo I.D. and signature for returns without a receipt, keep displays away from entrances and exits, keep fitting rooms locked, arrange items neatly to spot missing items easily, keep small and expensive items locked or out of reach, educate your employees. Train your sales people to watch for large hand bags, strollers, shopping bags, etc. Be attentive.

When you suspect shoplifting contact the Police Department as soon as possible and try to get an accurate description of the shoplifter(s).

With well trained employees who know what to look for and strategic display practices your business will be a less likely target for shoplifting.

## Bi-Annual Clean-Up

The Town has scheduled the "Fall Bi-Annual Clean-Up" during the week of October 13-October 17. Please do not block any ditches or drains. This pick-up includes white goods, yard debris (leaves, tree branches), mattresses, paint cans, etc. Paint cans need to be opened and let paint solidify or add cat litter to paint to absorb liquid. Residents do not need to call Town Hall to have their names on a list. The Bi-Annual Clean-Up is offered in the fall and spring of each year.



## Drought Update

Conservation Status Update: After an evaluation of current water levels and the expected pattern of precipitation. Blowing Rock will remain at level I conservation at this time.



## Water Interconnection Fee

Citizens of the Town of Blowing Rock will notice this month on their water bills, a new \$5.00 per month (\$10.00 per bill) charge. This fee is to help fund a much needed and long sought after emergency water line interconnection with the Town of Boone. The water supply interconnection is meant to be used when either Blowing Rock or Boone is in need. Partnering with Boone as well as ASU for an emergency water supply provides a secondary water source when drought conditions exist on a regional basis.



The Town was recently approved for a \$2.2 million low interest loan from the State of North Carolina. Fees collected from water bills will help cover the debt service of this loan. In addition, the Town received a \$300,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, Boone received a \$1 million grant from the North Carolina Rural Center and Watauga County received a \$500,000 grant from the North Carolina Rural Center to help offset the costs of this \$4 million water interconnection project.

The design phase is currently underway for the interconnection line to Boone. An easement is being negotiated with the National Park Service to construct below the Blue Ridge Parkway, and ASU is providing an easement to construct a pump station in their jurisdiction along US Hwy. 321.

Thank you for doing your part in creating a long term solution to any potentially long term drought conditions.

## Parks and Recreation

### Halloween Festival

October 25, 2008  
Schedule of Events



- Air Walks in Memorial Park: 3:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
- Games & a Fun House in Rec. Center: 3:00p.m.-5:30p.m.
- Hay Rides through Blowing Rock: 4:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

Meet in Memorial Park

- **THE MONSTER MARCH:**



Line up at the American Legion at 5:30p.m.

Parade starts at 5:45p.m.

- Trick or Treat Downtown Blowing Rock: 6:00p.m.-until  
Look for Black and Orange Balloons
- Bonfire in the Park: 6:30p.m.-9:00p.m.
- Costume Contest: 7:00p.m.

Sign up at the Recreation Center by 6:45p.m.

(White Building by the Tennis Courts)

- Scavenger hunt at Broyhill Lake: 8:30p.m.

Bring your flashlight! (ages 6-13)

Participate in teams (max: 3 per group)



### Youth Basketball

Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation will begin registration for its Youth Basketball program on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 2008. This program is offered to boys and girls who are in kindergarten through fourth grade. Children will be placed in individual leagues according to their grade. The registration fee is \$30.00 for Blowing Rock taxpayers and \$40.00 for non-taxpayers; each child will receive a basketball jersey. Practices will begin the week of October 26th and will be held once a week. Games will begin the first weekend of November and run through mid to late December with up to two games per week.



Volunteer Coaches are needed! Please call Parks & Recreation at (828)295-5222 or check our website at [www.townofblowingrock.com](http://www.townofblowingrock.com) for more information.

### Adult Trips

Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation announces the fall 2008 schedule of Adult Trips. This fall we will be visiting the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA for Sweeney Todd and Miracle on 34th St, Hickory Nut Gap Farm in Fairview, NC, Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, NC, and North Lake Mall in Charlotte, NC. Prices vary per trip. If you are interested or would like more information, please call us at (828)295-5222.



### Open House at Fire Department

The new Blowing Rock Fire Department received its certificate of occupancy on July 9, 2008. The Fire and Rescue Staff have been working hard moving in the new building. There will be an open house celebrating the much anticipated move. All are welcome to visit the new building on Sunday, September 7th from 2:00-6:00p.m. With the ribbon cutting taking place at 3:00p.m.

## Planning and Inspections

Commercial Projects Update: Two Conditional Use Permits applications have recently been through the public hearing process. CUP 2007-04 for Blowing Rock Commons was heard at a special Council meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. This project proposes a 72-room hotel, two restaurants, a mix of office and retail, and 36 condos. Town Council tabled a decision until September or later to receive revised plans and additional information. The first public hearing on this project was heard in February 2008.



The Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) was presented for consideration at a public hearing at the August 11th Council Meeting. Due to the anticipated turnout, the meeting was held in the BR School auditorium. This joint project between BRAHM and the Town proposes a 21,388 sq. ft. museum and an adjacent 65-space parking structure. The permit was approved on the condition that the Town approves the final bid costs on the parking facility at a later date.

Two directory kiosks have been constructed downtown to guide visitors. The kiosks display a map of downtown, the US Hwy 321 bypass, and Tanger Outlet Shops along with a directory of the shops, restaurants, and services. Foldout maps are available at the kiosk locations on Main Street and the Maple Street parking area.