



Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Volume 14, Issue 6

www.townofblowingrocknc.gov

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....295-5200
Planning & Inspections.....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
Emergency Police & Fire.....911

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

01/12/2021 6:00 p.m.
02/09/2021 6:00 p.m.

Planning Board

01/21/2021 5:30 p.m.
02/18/2021 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

01/21/2021 3:00 p.m.
02/18/2021 3:00 p.m.

BRAAC

01/07/2021 9:00 a.m.
02/04/2021 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Town Offices Closed:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18th

Winterfest:
January 28th - 31st



www.blowingrockwinterfest.com

2020 Town of Blowing Rock Projects in Review

The year 2020 has been a year unlike any of us have ever encountered. During these uncertain times, the **FIRST** priority of the Town of Blowing Rock, as always, has been the safety and protection of all citizens and visitors. While keeping the safety and protection of all Town stakeholders first, the Town Council has continued to move forward with the top thirteen items chosen in January 2020 as priority. As you will see below, 8 of the top 13 projects are either completed or in progress, which is a great testament to the vision and forward thinking of the Town Council and Staff.

#1 Town Water PRV's – In Progress - Replacement of the Town's 24 Industrial Sized Pressure Reducing Values. A Town Wide Hydraulic Water Study has been conducted during the 2020 Year, and results will be discussed at the 2021 Retreat. The water rate study will be presented for funding options.

#2 Memorial Park Playground Replacement - Complete – The playground design was selected and approved in March 2020, after extensive collaboration with Town Staff, Town Citizens and the TDA. Construction began in May 2020 and was completed in September 2020. The TDA was a 50% financial partner in the new playground.

#3 Sunset/North/South Main – Landscaping – In Progress – the council voted to create a more uniform landscaping design for all entrances into the Town. Council approved conceptual renderings in February 2020; the final design phase, along with stakeholder collaboration, is currently in progress. Construction work will begin in Spring 2021. This project is 100% funded by the TDA.

5 Town Code Amendments, etc. – In Progress - NC General Statues require a complete overhaul of the Town Land Use Codes to comply with statewide changes. The work is near completion and will be presented at the January 2021 Retreat.

#9 Crosswalks – In Progress – The Council voted to provide formalized (signalized) crosswalks at the intersection of Sunset and Main Street and Hwy 221 and Main Street. Conceptual designs were approved in October 2020, including the addition of a crosswalk at Chestnut and Main Street (non-signalized). This project is awaiting final approval from DOT. Staff will finalize the designs and introduce a formal bid package in January 2021.

#10 Parking Management/Shuttle/Tourism – In Progress – The TDA Board approved a comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Management Plan as of October 2020. Roger Brooks International will perform the study during 2021, including parking suggestions, etc. This project is 100% funded by the TDA.

#12 Sidewalk to Bass Lake Project – In Progress – This project is underway, with Padco, Inc. and Greene Construction as the subcontractors on the project. The expected completion date is Spring 2021. The funding for this project is 80% EFLAP Grant and 20% match from 2014 Bond Issuance.

#13 Street Paving – Complete – Moretz, Inc. completed the \$2.2M paving project in December 2020, paving a total of 72 roads, streets, or sections. This project included extensive stormwater drainage work on Chestnut Drive and Morris Street. The funding for this project came from the 2014 Bond Issuance.

Thank you to the Town Council for the continued focus on improving our infrastructure, planning for the future, and providing town staff with the necessary resources to perform their duties. I'd like to offer a special thank you to the town staff for working uninterrupted and flawlessly to carry out the council's vision during this pandemic. 2020 was quite the year!

Shane Fox, Town Manager



Celebrate the fun side of winter at the 23rd Annual WinterFest, January 28th - 31st 2021. There's something for all ages!

Events Include:

- Shop Til You Drop
- Cork & Canvas WinterFeast
- Rotary Charity Chili Challenge
- WinterFest Ice Stroll
- WinterFeast, A Restaurant Crawl
- Silent Auction & Raffle
- Bonfire, S'mores & Entertainment

For more information about Winterfest Events or Sponsorships, call: (877) 295-7801 or (828) 295-7851. Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce (132 Park Ave.) or online at: www.blowingrockwinterfest.com.

A Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Event



2021 Town Calendars are Here!

The 2021 Town calendars are available at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street. Calendars are also available at the Visitor Center located at 132 Park Avenue (at the Chamber of Commerce building). Calendars are free of charge.

Stop by today and pick up your calendar!

Protecting Your Home During Freezing Weather

Be prepared for freezing weather! Below are a few helpful tips on how to help keep your home protected against cold weather. Freezing Weather Checklist:

- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Make sure to seal your windows and doors against air leaks with weather stripping.
- Have your ceiling fans move in a clockwise direction to help push hot air downward.
- Know where the main shut-off valve for your plumbing is located and how to turn it off.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and outside faucets.
- Clean gutters to prevent icicles and ice dams from forming.
- Make sure to trim any trees that could cause damage during a snow or ice storm.



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

It is also a good practice to check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors during this time of year.

Happy New Year!!