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Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6
December, 2008

Around the Rock

Chief Brown Introduces New Police Officer

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



Angel Mahaffey
Police Officer

Police Chief Eric Brown is pleased to announce the hiring of Angel Mahaffey effective December 1, 2008.

Ms. Mahaffey completed her Basic Law Enforcement Training in 2006 at Caldwell Community College. She comes to Blowing Rock from the Caldwell County Sheriffs Department where she was a detention officer and bailiff. Ms. Mahaffey has also worked as a school teacher for Caldwell County Schools in their Phase One reading program.

Angel, the mother of two teenage boys, resides in Caldwell County.

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

1/13/2009 7:00 p.m.
2/10/2009 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

1/15/2009 7:00 p.m.
2/19/2009 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

1/15/2009 3:00 p.m.
2/26/2009 1:00 p.m.
3/19/2009 3:00 p.m.

Tourism Development Authority

2/9/2009 3:00 p.m.

2009 Winterfest

Join us as we celebrate the fun side of winter at the 11th Annual Blowing Rock Winterfest January 22-25, 2009. 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, at the Hayes Performing Arts Center box office and online at: www.blowingrockwinterfest.com.



Upcoming Events



Town Offices Closed- New Years Day
Winterfest 2009- 1/22/09-1/25/09



Kinder Basketball Registration-
Taxpayers: 1/5/08
Open Enrollment: 1/6/08



Have You Paid Your 2008 Property Taxes?

To those who have not paid the 2008 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2009. If you pay by mail your payment must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2009 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!

OFFICIAL PAYMENTS CORP



Freezing Weather Safety Tips



Be prepared for freezing weather! Winterize plumbing pipes now to help avoid the hassle and costs that are associated with frozen pipes.

Cold Weather Checklist:

- Know where the main shut-off valve for your plumbing is located and how to turn it off.
- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and outside facets.

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

Planning and Inspections

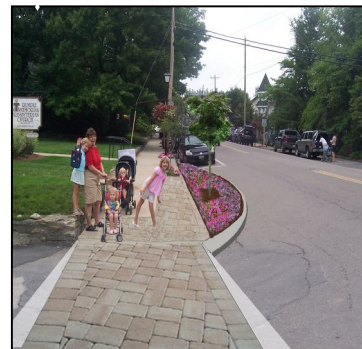
Downtown Streetscape Improvements– Public Comment Welcomed

The Town's consulting engineer, McGill Associates, will present the Downtown Streetscape Plan for Main Street to the Town Council to receive public comment on January 13, 2009. The proposed Main Street Streetscape Plan includes curb/gutter and sidewalk improvements, pavers, crosswalk improvements, landscape islands, additional street trees, an improved Main Street and Sunset Drive intersection, and a focus on pedestrian safety.

At the December 18, 2008 meeting, the Planning Board made a consensus recommendation to forward the Streetscape Plan to the Town Council for consideration.



Before
Chestnut Street Crosswalk



After
Crosswalk with Cobblestone Pavers

Noise Ordinance Amendments


After recent complaints from residents about neighborhood construction noise, the Blowing Rock Town Council amended the Town's Noise Ordinance on November 11, 2008. The most significant change pertains to construction hours. Construction noise is no longer permitted on Sundays, New Years Day, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day. Construction noise hours on Saturday have been shortened and limited to the hours between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

The noise hours for the use of lawn equipment has also been changed for Sundays. The new hours for this type of noise are from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Noise from disposing of garbage and recyclables is prohibited between 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM. This provision mostly pertains to businesses that empty bottles and cans and other refuse at late hours after closing.

Penalties for violations of the Noise Ordinance have not been changed. First time offenses are \$100.00, second offenses are \$250.00, and the third and subsequent offenses are \$500.00 each.

A copy of the revised Noise Ordinance is available at Town Hall or online at www.townofblowingrock.com.

Council Appoints New TDA Board Member & Chair

 The Blowing Rock Town Council recently appointed Rob Dyer, owner of The Best Cellar restaurant and Inn at Ragged Gardens, to fill a vacant seat on the Tourism Development Authority. Also, Town Council elevated Vice Chair Kent Tarbuton to the position of Chairman. Join us in welcoming Rob and Kent to their new roles with the Authority.

Special Thanks to Bernie Keele

The members of the Blowing Rock Tourism Development Authority and the Blowing Rock Town Council, would like to recognize and thank Bernie Keele, upon his retirement, for the time, energy and commitment he has given to the Town and the TDA since its creation in 2003. His leadership as the first Chairman of the TDA has made a very positive contribution to our community and caused Blowing Rock's program to become a model for other TDAs in the state. Please join us in thanking him for his hard work and commitment to the success of our community.

Highway 321 Widening Update

Design plans (50% complete) for the 321 widening project can be found at www.ncdot.org/projects/BlowingRock321. These plans include drainage, construction limits, right of way and easement boundaries. The project is scheduled for construction in Spring 2011.



Parks and Recreation 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 the Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga/Caldwell County) must be attached. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Amy at (828) 295-5222.

