



Around the Rock

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Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1
February 22, 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

Town Council

3/11/2008 7:00 p.m.
4/8/2008 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

3/13/2008 7:00 p.m.
4/10/2008 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

3/26/2008 3:00 p.m.
4/17/2008 3:00 p.m.

Tourism Development Authority

4/1/2008 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Golden Easter Egg Hunt- March 8



Wine Festival April 10-13

www.blueridgewinefestival.com

Kinder T-Ball Registration

BR Taxpayers: April 1
Open to all: April 2 (until filled)

Summer Day Camp Registration

BR Taxpayers: March 3
Open to all: March 24



Miller Joins Blowing Rock Police



*Police Officer
Stacey Miller*

Police Chief Eric Brown is pleased to announce the hiring of Mr. Stacey Miller, effective January 18, 2008, for a police officer position. In the late eighties and early nineties, Mr. Miller worked as a deputy for the Watauga County Sheriffs Department. He also served in the reserve programs at both Boone and Seven Devils Police Departments. Stacey left law enforcement to assist with Mecco Electric,

a family owned business. In 1987, Stacey was awarded the Outstanding Student Award in his Basic Law Enforcement Training class. Due to his extended leave from law enforcement, he was required to repeat the basic training program. In 2007 he completed BLET at Caldwell Community College where he served as class leader and was honored, once again, with the outstanding student award.

Stage III Water Shortage Update

With the persistence of drought conditions, the Town continues its effort to solve the long term problems associated with the water shortage. During Stage III, citizens are encouraged to practice moderation involving the use of water supplied by the Blowing Rock municipal water system .

Recent rainfall has dissipated due to severe winds sweeping the high country. Reservoir status, however, has greatly improved leaving the Town in a recovery state.



We appreciate your cooperation during this period of drought conditions. For additional information regarding Stage III restrictions, please call (828)295-5200 or visit www.townofblowingrock.com.

Special Waste Collections

Small items, including lamps, telephones, small hand appliances, clothes, buckets, and plastic containers, may be placed at the curb (yard side) for collection on the same day as your household garbage. Miscellaneous items resulting from cleaning your garage, attic, storage shed, or closet are picked up with your regular garbage. The Town does not pick up construction material debris.

The extent of such Town collection service shall not include major deposits of unwanted or abandoned furniture, appliances or incidentals related to construction projects. The Town picks up bulky items twice a year, usually during May and October. The Town will schedule the date a month in advance. If you need items removed on a date other than the date designated by the Town, you may schedule a date for pick up at a charge of \$15 per 15 minutes of collection time. Do not put this type of trash out until the week of pickup or you may be subject to a fine. For more information, contact Town Hall at 828-295-5200.

Planning & Inspections

General Construction Activity

In 2007 the Planning and Inspections Department received 403 building permit applications. This number represents an increase of 67 permits from a year ago (+20%) and 167 permits from 2005 (+70%). This increase provides a general picture of construction activity since the total cost of construction at \$20,468,616.30 was actually down 20% compared to 2006 (\$24,674,000.00). As a comparison of general building activity, the Town of Boone reported 453 building permit applications in 2007.



Edgewood Cottage

Sixteen (16) new home applications were received in 2007, down from 21 in 2006. The average construction cost for new homes was down as well from \$468,667.00 in 2006 to \$421,244.00 in 2007.

The largest number of overall permits was issued for additions and renovations to single-family dwellings. In this category there were 233 applications with an estimated construction cost of \$7,308,650.30. These types of permit applications include additions and remodels as well as HVAC changes, electrical service changes, and water heater replacements.

There were 3 new commercial permits issued this year at a cost of \$408,780.00. The cost of these commercial projects went down by \$4,619,220.00. The new commercial projects were Edgewood Cottage and the picnic shelter and steps in Memorial Park. There were 105 permit applications for renovations and additions to commercial properties. The costs submitted for these applications was \$5,091,792. These projects include United Community Bank, Food Lion, and several tenant changes at Shoppes on the Parkway.

Ninety-five (95) zoning permit applications and fourteen (14) conditional use permit applications were received this year.

Although the nationwide mortgage issues paint a bleak picture for the housing market, last summer we noted an increase in repair and renovations to older homes for turnover sales. This trend may not continue on the same pace as the last two years, but we expect at least an average year in single-family renovation projects. Also, given the number and type of conditional use permits applications being submitted, we anticipate an average to above average year in commercial development.

Helpful Tips

For those citizens planning to build a new home, build an addition, or make electrical, plumbing, or HVAC modifications, please call or come by the Planning and Inspections office to consult with our staff. We can assist you in making decisions about required permits and zoning or building code requirements. Our staff strives to provide the homeowner with tips and advice when considering a new addition or changes to existing service. Please call us at 828-295-5240 prior to beginning any type of work so we can walk you through the permit process. If you have questions, we are here to help.

Town Honors ASU Football Team



At the February 12 Town Council meeting, the Appalachian State University Football Team was recognized and honored for their accomplishments in being the first team in history to win three consecutive NCAA Football Championships .

Chancellor Peacock The Town presented Chancellor Kenneth Peacock and Athletic Director Charlie Cobb with a framed proclamation, as the Mayor declared February 12, 2008 as "Appalachian State University Day in Blowing Rock."

Chancellor Peacock displayed the trophies at the council meeting and proudly accepted the proclamation.

Summer Employment

The Parks & Recreation department will be hiring summer staff beginning March 1st. Positions would include: Life guard, camp counselor, and park attendant. For details contact Director Jennifer Brown at 828-295-5222.



Wastewater Annual Report

The Town of Blowing Rock has released the 2007 System Performance Annual Report for the Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Copies may be picked up free of charge at Town Hall, 1036 Main Street. This report is also available online at: www.townofblowingrock.com.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the Town of Blowing Rock Water/Sewer Treatment Plant at 828-295-5225.