



# Around the Rock

www.townofblowingrock.com

Town of Blowing Rock  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 5  
October, 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

11/11/2008 7:00 p.m.  
12/9/2008 7:00 p.m.

#### Planning Board

11/20/2008 7:00 p.m.  
12/18/2008 7:00 p.m.

#### ABC Board

11/20/2008 3:00 p.m.  
12/18/2008 3:00 p.m.

#### Tourism Development Authority

11/24/2008 9:00 a.m.

### Upcoming Events

Town Offices Closed- Thanksgiving  
11/27/08 & 11/28/08



Christmas Festival 11/28/08 2:00p.m.  
Christmas Parade 11/29/08 2:00p.m.



Town Offices Closed- Christmas  
12/24/08 - 12/26/08



Town Offices Closed- New Years  
1/01/09

## Preventing Crimes of Opportunity



Over the past few weeks several citizens have experienced vehicle break-ins. The only items taken were purses and/or their contents. There was no forced entry into the vehicles. The only suspect description at this time is that a suspicious male and female couple were seen in the parking lot where the second victim was parked. The Police Department is aware that there have been recent thefts along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Blowing Rock. With the fall season upon us and the potential for large numbers of visitors, the likelihood of criminal activity increases. Most vehicle breaking and entering in this area has been due to unlocked vehicles. To a professional

criminal who drives around a busy area looking for a victim, an unlocked vehicle or one that has visible items of value inside is a crime of opportunity. Just stopping for a minute to "run in" a location could give a criminal the chance they need. In the past, we have had cases where suspects parked and watched or "staked out" a location, looking for a chance. This may have been the case in at least one of the recent thefts. Crime Alert members are cautioned to be aware of the risks.

Take action to help protect your property using these common safety practices:

- Lock your vehicle, do not leave valuables in the passenger area, and be aware of your surroundings.



The Town of Blowing Rock is holding an electronic public auction for surplus items. The auction is currently open with bid closings staggered to allow bidding for multiple items. The following items are up for bid:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 2 Refrigerators | Utility Truck  |
| Garage Door     | Garbage Truck  |
| House Windows   | Air Compressor |
| House Door      | Oven/Stove     |

For more information on the items or to place a bid, visit [GovDeals.com](http://GovDeals.com). The items are sold on an "as is" basis and all sales are final. For more information regarding bidding, please contact Nicole

## Fall Leaf Pick-Up



Leaves will be picked up by roadside with vacuum trucks for the next two months, weather permitting. Leaves need to be free of sticks and branches, and placed so they do not block any drainage ways. When leaves become too wet to vacuum they need to be bagged and placed by roadside for pick-up. This year, the Town will be hiring two other crews to help with leaf pick-up which should allow for all areas to be serviced in a more timely manner.

## Recycling Center



The Town's recycling center is temporarily located at the Davant Field parking area.

Here are the items accepted and some tips on how to recycle properly.

- Glass- Clear, brown, and green.  
-rinse and separate by color
- Plastic- Check for #1 or #2 on the bottom.  
-remove lids
- Cardboard- Corrugated only.  
-break boxes down flat
- Newspaper- Inserts, magazines, office paper and junk mail.

## Drought Update



Please continue to conserve water!

## Parks and Recreation

### “Christmas in the Park”

Friday, November 28, 2008

#### Schedule of Events

All Activities will be in Memorial Park, Blowing Rock



- *Visit with Santa* In Gazebo 2:00– 5:30pm
- *Hayrides through Blowing Rock* Memorial Park 4:00– 9:00pm
- *Airwalk* 4:00– 8:00pm
- *Free Hot Cider & Hot Chocolate* 5:00– until
- *Caroling in the Park* With “Vagabonds” 5:00– 6:30pm
- *Lighting of the Town* With Mayor J.B. Lawrence 5:30pm
- *Bluegrass Christmas* With Diana & Sarvis Ridge 7:00– 9:00pm



#### Saturday, November 29, 2008

- *Christmas Parade* 2:00pm

### Adult Trips

- November 19th- Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte
- December 3rd- Shopping at North Lake Mall



### Grover C. Robbins Memorial Pool

The Town of Blowing Rock is currently planning improvements to the swimming pool complex. If you would like to make a donation to this community asset, please contact Jennifer Brown with Parks & Recreation at (828) 295-5222.

### Hayes Center

Be sure to visit the Hayes Center Production of “A High Country Christmas Carol” featured December 5th-14th. Visit [www.brcac.org](http://www.brcac.org) for more details.

## Planning and Inspections

### Revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

The Town of Blowing Rock recently received revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) from the NC Flood Plain Mapping Program. The revised maps are considered preliminary during the 90-day appeal period that begins on October 15, 2008 and runs through January 12, 2009. There have been some modifications to the previous 1997 flood maps. The base flood elevation (BFE) has been changed in several locations along the Middle Fork New River. The new flood maps indicate that some streams and smaller tributaries have been further studied; therefore, new special flood hazard areas have been extended to areas that were not previously mapped. During the 90-day review and appeal period, we encourage you to contact the Planning and Inspections Department for questions concerning the revised flood maps and study. We will have the maps and study available for review and will assist you in determining how the revised maps affect your property. Please call (828) 295-5240 for more information.

### Blowing Rock Commons Project



On October 14, 2008, after months of deliberation, the Town Council approved a conditional use permit for the Blowing Rock Commons project. The multi-phase project includes a 72-room hotel, 2 restaurants, 21,000 square feet of retail mixed with 16,000 square feet of office space, and 36 condominium units. The project will provide 402 new parking spaces on site with a large majority in a two-level underground garage. A sidewalk will be provided from the project entrance off Hill Street to Knights on Main restaurant. For safety and traffic flow, a left-turn lane will be constructed on Main Street at the main entrance near Chetola Drive.

### American Legion Parking Facility



The parking facility project, off Wallingford Street is underway with retaining walls poured and pier footings excavated. This project is being funded through the TDA’s occupancy tax proceeds as well as Parking Fund in-lieu fee payments. When completed, the parking facility will provide 69 additional spaces in the American Legion area. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2009 and is currently slightly ahead of schedule.