



Around the Rock

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Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5
August 23, 2007

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

9/11/2007 7:00 p.m.
10/9/2007 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

9/20/2007 7:00 p.m.
10/18/2007 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

9/20/2007 3:00 p.m.
10/18/2007 3:00 p.m.

Tourism Development Authority

10/2/2007 8:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

9/8 Art in the Park

9/12–9/15 Mitford Days



9/22 19th Annual Blowing Rock Pet Show

10/6 Art in the Park

10/14 Fall Foliage
Blowing Rock Historical Society

Town Hall will be closed on
September 3, 2007 in observance of Labor Day

Stage II Water Shortage Advisory Continues

Western North Carolina is in a severe to extreme drought and most of the rest of the state is in a moderate drought, officials with the U.S. Drought Monitor reaffirmed again this week. North Carolina is experiencing below normal precipitation and above average temperatures. Due to worsening drought conditions and increasing town reservoir lake level drop, the Town of Blowing Rock continues to maintain Stage II Conservation measures. During Stage II, the following moderate mandatory water restrictions shall be in effect -

It shall be unlawful to use water supplied by the Blowing Rock municipal water system for the following purposes:

- water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flower and vegetable gardens except

by hand (no hose or sprinkler allowed).

- fill newly constructed swimming pools and/or wading pools or refill swimming pools which have been drained. A minimal amount of water may be added to maintain continued operation of pools which were in operation at the time a Stage I shortage was placed into effect.
- wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, or any other type of mobile equipment including commercial washing.
- wash down outside areas such as streets, driveways, service station aprons, parking lots, office buildings, exteriors of existing or newly constructed homes or apartments, sidewalks, or patios or to use water for other similar purposes.
- operate or introduce municipal system water into any ornamental

fountain, pool, pond, or other structure making similar use of water.

- use water from public or private fire hydrants for any purpose other than fire suppression or other public emergency.
- use municipal system water for dust control or compaction.
- use water for any unnecessary purpose or to intentionally waste water.

We appreciate your cooperation during this period of dry weather conditions. For additional information on ways to conserve water, please contact (828) 295-5200 or visit www.townofblowingrock.com.

For up to date information on the current drought conditions please visit

www.drought.unl.edu/dm.

Fall Bi-Annual Clean-Up Week

The Town of Blowing Rock will have it's Fall Bi-Annual Clean-Up week October 15-19, 2007. White goods such as stoves, microwaves, refrigerators etc. will be col-

lected. Brush, not from lot clearing or a building site, will be chipped and removed. No stumps will be collected. Please do not block any drains or ditches. Residents do not need to put their name on a list for

this service. Leaves brought to curbside will be collected starting October 28, 2007 and will continue until snow does not permit collection. Please call 828.295.5200 for more information.

Parks and Recreation News

State Grant Awarded for Pool Improvements

Parks and Recreation received a State Grant for \$500,000 for the pool area. The funding is a matching grant, meaning \$500,000 has to be raised to match the grant amount. The Broyhill Family Foundation also donated \$100,000 for the new pool. Donations to assist in matching the grant funds are welcomed. Please contact Parks and Recreation for more information on donations.

Halloween Festival

The annual Halloween Festival will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 3:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Festivities will include: airwalks, games, the Monster March in downtown with trick-or-treating, a bon fire, and a moonlit scavenger hunt.

Dog Training Classes

Dog training classes will be offered September 10, –October 15, 2007. Obedience training is the teaching of communication between dogs and humans. Obedience training teaches the good manners required to walk politely on a lead, "sit" and "stay" when told and "come" when called. John Quy from Little Horse Creek Farm will be teaching on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for beginners and at 7:00 p.m. for advanced. The cost for the class is \$100.00, and interested individuals can register for classes with Parks and Recreation.

New Tax Bill Statement

The 2007 property tax bill will have a new look. In September taxpayers will receive tax bills in a statement form with additional information, a return envelope, and a payment stub. This new form will replace the previous postcard billing. For questions on your Town property tax bill, please call Tax Collector, Sharon Greene at 828.295.5200

Additions to Memorial Park

Two new additions have been added to Memorial Park: a concrete walkway and a kiosk.

Carl Construction laid stamped concrete down in Memorial Park that goes from the gazebo out past the two big trees in front of the gazebo. This will serve two purposes: beautification of the park, and functionality for the heavy foot traffic in that particular area.



Frye Signs erected a kiosk located at the main entrance to the park. The kiosk

serves as an information center for those visiting our park facilities. Included in the kiosk is a map detailing where the other parks and facilities are located.



Adult Field Trips

Parks and Recreation announces the fall 2007 schedule of Adult Trips. This fall they will be visiting the Barter Theatre in Abingdon VA, Black Mountain NC, NC Museum of Art in Raleigh, the Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, Biltmore House in Asheville, and shopping trips to Hanes and Concord Mills for Christmas shopping. Prices vary per trip. If you are interested or would like more information, please call 828.295.5222

Summary of Recent Ordinance Amendments

At the August 14, 2007 meeting, the Town Council approved two ordinances dealing with newsracks and trees/landscaping.

Ordinance No. 2007-05 regulates the placement of newsracks in the downtown area. When implemented, the Town will provide black modular newsracks at Gosip Park near Wachovia, the post office, and beside the Pictorial Museum in Memorial Park. An additional newsrack may be placed near the intersection of Sunset and Ransom Street if an acceptable location can be found. The modular newsracks are consistent with the policies of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, Master Street-scapes Plan, and help make the sidewalks more ADA accessible. Newspaper and other publication vendors will be able to lease the available newsrack spaces for \$100.00 per year. No additional news or magazine racks are allowed in the Central Business or Office-Institutional zoning districts, and after January 1, 2008, all publication racks (news/magazine/other) must be removed from public and private property and placed in a Town-provided modular newsrack.

Ordinance 2007-03 substantially revises the existing tree and landscape ordinance. The revised ordinance strengthens the standards for commercial (non-single-family) development, expands the available plant species list, establishes new protected tree categories, reduces buffer widths in Central Business, increases the minimum size for planted shade trees, provides general clarification of landscaping terms and standards, and increases civil penalties for unauthorized tree removal. One of the most significant changes is that tree-topping and tree removal on single-family property is no longer regulated.

The ordinance is a result of a four-year effort from citizens, landscape professionals, BRAAC, the Blowing Rock Garden Club, the Planning Board, Town Council and staff.

The adopted ordinances will be available on line in the next few weeks. Information can also be obtained by calling the Town of Blowing Rock Planning and Inspections office at 295-5240.