



Around the Rock

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Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7
December 21, 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

1/8/2008 7:00 p.m.

2/12/2008 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

1/17/2008 7:00 p.m.

2/21/2008 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

1/17/2008 3:00 p.m.

2/28/2008 3:00 p.m.

Tourism Development Authority

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

Upcoming Events

January 24–27 Winterfest

January 7–8 Kinder Basketball
Registration

Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 7th for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 8th. To receive the taxpayer rate a copy of the Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga County) must be attached. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Amy at 828-295-5222.



Town Offices will be closed December 24-26 in observance of Christmas and January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

How to Stay Safe this Winter

1. Dress for the cold weather: Wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight clothing and wear mittens instead of gloves.

2. Avoid overexertion: The strain from cold temperatures and heavy labor such as shoveling, pushing a car or walking in deep snow may cause a heart attack in older and less physically fit individuals.

3. Winterize Your Vehicle: Make sure you car has adequate antifreeze, the tires have good traction and are inflated to the correct pressure, the heater and defroster work properly, the battery is no more than 3 years old, and be sure to have a good ice scraper.

4. Carry a Winter-Survival Safety Kit in Your Vehicle: Bring along blankets and a bright colored cloth to tie on your antenna in case you become stranded. Have a flashlight with spare batter-



Winter Weather Tips

ies, an extra change of clothing to keep dry and pack non-perishable foods.

5. Before Traveling: Check the latest forecast, check the latest road conditions and let someone know your destination in case of an accident.

6. If you become stranded in your vehicle during a winter storm: stay in your vehicle, maintain proper ventilation by making sure the exhaust pipe is not plugged and make yourself visible to rescuers.



Steps to Winterize Your Home

Preparing your home for winter will help avoid messy spring cleanup due to broken water pipes.

Shut off main water supply at the street or basement. If you have a private water supply, turn off the pump and drain the pressure tank.

If heat will be turned off:

1. Shut off gas lines at the entrance to your home if present.

2. Open all faucets and leave them open to empty pipes.

3. Drain the water heater and leave the valve open.

4. Remove all water from toilet tanks and bowls.

5. If you choose to remove drain traps, plug line to block sewer gas.

6. Unplug the refrigerator, thoroughly clean, and prop open the door.

7. Unplug all electrical items, except lights on timers.

If heat will be left on:

1. Set thermostat to 50 degrees.

2. Keep heat turned on in any areas where there are water or drain pipes. If this is impractical, wrap them with electrical heat tape.



Stage III Water Shortage Update

Western North Carolina is in an exceptional drought and most of the rest of the state is in a severe drought, officials with the U.S. Drought Monitor reaffirmed again this week. North Carolina continues to experience below normal precipitation. Due to worsening drought conditions the Town of Blowing Rock continues to maintain Stage III Conservation measures.



Police Chief Eric Brown Graduates Management Development Program

On December 11, 2007 Police Chief Eric Brown received his certificate for completion of the 19th North Carolina Justice Academy Management Development Program. In attendance were Course Coordinator Bob Garbett who presented Chief Brown his certificate of completion and many officers from around the state who attended class with Brown. Chief Brown was also chosen by his peers to serve as the president of his class.

The North Carolina Justice Academy is a division of the North Carolina Department of Justice. Created in 1973, the Academy's enabling legislation establishes its duties as providing training programs for criminal justice personnel, providing technical assistance upon request to criminal justice agencies to aid them in the discharge of their responsibilities and developing, publishing and distributing educa-

tional and training materials.



Chief Eric Brown Accepting His Certificate

Police Chief Brown attended an eleven week course that began in January 2007 and ended in November 2007. His training with the NC Justice Academy included Gathering and Analyzing Information, Employment Law, Communication Skills, Media Relations, Managing the Difficult Employee, Leadership, Performance Man-

agement and Motivation and Achievement. He participated in lectures, discussions, case simulations, independent studies, strenuous physical activity, practical exercises and team projects.

Please join the Town in congratulating Chief Brown on his accomplishment of completion of the Management Development Program.



Chief Eric Brown

New Council Members



Commissioner Yount

Commissioner Pickett

Blowing Rock's newly elected commissioners, Albert Yount and Phillip Pickett, took their oath of office on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, following the acknowledgement of the success and accomplishments of the two retiring Commissioners, Rita Wiseman and Terry Lentz. Their terms in office will be December 2007–December 2011.

Mayor Receives Award

Mayor JB Lawrence was presented the Outstanding Executive Board Member award from the High Country Council of Government for 2006-2007.

The High Country Council of Governments is the multi-county planning and development agency for the seven north-western North Carolina counties of Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. The Council of Governments, which is a cooperative extension of local governments, is one of 17 multi-county planning organizations in the State and operates in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes.

Mayor Lawrence is presented this award for outstanding service and effort in promoting cooperation among local governments in Region D.



2008 Winterfest



Blowing Rock will be hosting the 10th annual Blowing Rock Winterfest January 24-27, 2008. Events for this year include: Downtown Hayrides, Wine Auction, Wine Tasting, Winterfest Blues Festival, Polar Plunge in Chetola Lake, Chili Cook-Off and much more!

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.