



# Around the Rock

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Town of Blowing Rock  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 6

[www.townofblowingrocknc.gov](http://www.townofblowingrocknc.gov)

## Important Numbers

Town Hall.....295-5200  
Planning & Inspections.....295-5240  
Water/Sewer/Garbage..... 295-5200  
Parks & Recreation.....295-5222

## Non-Emergency

Police Administration.....295-5212  
Fire Administration.....548-2800

## After Hours/Weekend Water or Sewer

Emergency.....295-5210  
Emergency Police & Fire.....911

## Upcoming Meetings

### Town Council

01/08/2019 6:00 p.m.  
02/12/2019 6:00 p.m.

### Planning Board

01/17/2019 5:30 p.m.  
02/14/2019 5:30 p.m.

### ABC Board

01/17/2019 3:00 p.m.  
02/14/2019 3:00 p.m.

### BRAAC

01/03/2019 3:00 p.m.  
02/07/2019 3:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

### Town Offices Closed:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
January 21st

**Winterfest:**  
January 24th- 27th



[www.blowingrockwinterfest.com](http://www.blowingrockwinterfest.com)

## Blowing Rock



Celebrate the fun side of winter at the 21st Annual WinterFest, January 24th - 27th.

There's something for all ages!

### Events Include:

- WinterFeast & After Party
- Little Miss Winterfest
- Shop Til You Drop
- Hayrides
- Polar Plunge
- Beer Garden & Chili Cookoff
- Ice Carving Demonstrations
- WinterPaws Dog Show
- Kids Activities
- Silent Auction & Raffle
- WinterFashion Show
- Ice Skating in Memorial Park

### And 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 Chamber of Commerce (132 Park Ave.) and online at: [www.blowingrockwinterfest.com](http://www.blowingrockwinterfest.com).

## Meet Interim Town Manager, Jim Freeman



Jim Freeman, ASU graduate '74 and '77, will serve as the Interim Town Manager of Blowing Rock for the next few months. Before his retirement, Mr. Freeman had a combined career manager total of 32 years in NC. Since retiring in 2013, he has completed short-term interim NC manager positions for the City of Havelock, Town of River Bend, Town of Swansboro, Town of Smithfield and City of Claremont.

Jim lives in Troutman, NC with his wife of 37 years Sheila. They have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren.

Jim's schedule may vary but he plans to be in Blowing Rock Tuesday thru Thursday each week.

## 2019 Town Calendars are Here!

The 2019 Town calendars are available at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street. Calendars are also available at the Visitor Center located at 132 Park Avenue (at the Chamber of Commerce building). Calendars are free of charge.

Stop by today and pick up your calendar!





## Property Check Program

The Blowing Rock Police Department offers a Property Check Program for our citizens. Any resident of Blowing Rock that owns a home or other property that will be vacant during the winter months can request extra patrols by completing a Property Check Information Sheet which can be found at Blowing Rock Town Hall, the Blowing Rock Police Department or on the Town of Blowing Rock website at [www.townofblowingrocknc.gov](http://www.townofblowingrocknc.gov). There is no fee for this service.

## Did you know Blowing Rock has an Electric Car Charging Station ?

Did you know Blowing Rock has an Electric Vehicle Charging Station? The unit is capable of charging 2 vehicles at a time and has designated parking in the lower portion of the American Legion Parking deck. The unit is capable of charging any electric vehicle and is only \$5 for a 2 hour session. Blowing Rock is proud to offer this service to a growing number of electric vehicle users.



## Kinder Basketball Registration

Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 14th for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 21st. To receive the taxpayer rate, a copy of your Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga/Caldwell County) must be attached. The taxpayer rate is \$30 and the non-taxpayer rate is \$40. Kinder Basketball will meet twice a week for four weeks at the Blowing Rock Elementary School Gym, beginning late February. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Autumn at Parks and Recreation (828) 295-5222.

## Could a Leaking Toilet Be Running Up Your Water Bill?

One of the most common causes of higher than usual water bills is a leaking toilet. You may believe that if you don't see or hear the water, that it could not possibly be leaking but, as detailed below, there are several things that can contribute to a costly situation with a toilet leak:

**Stuck/Open Flapper:** chain that connects the flush handle to the flapper can get stuck in the down position causing usage up to 4800 gallons per day or roughly 200 gallons per hour!!!

**Worn/Warped Flapper:** (silent leak): normal wear and/or mineral buildup on flapper over time caused by accumulated levels of chemicals that purify the water, in-tank cleaners (these will destroy flappers quickly)

**Fill Valve's Float:** a cracked/misaligned float will take on water and cause the fill valve to run slowly and continuously

**Failed Fill Valve:** normal wear and mineral deposit buildup prevents the valve's ability to shut off completely

**Fractured/Broken Toilet Tank:** caused by stress/impact, will cause the fill valve to continuously replenish the tank, leading to total collapse and massive flooding to your property.

**Ruptured/Leaking Supply Line:** rubber lining or fitting joint can break down

**Important Note:** Toilet leaks **DO NOT** qualify for leak adjustments per Town Ordinance Section 14-15.1.

### **What Should You Do If You Suspect a Toilet is Leaking?**

Add a packet of Kool-Aid or 5-10 drops of food coloring to the tank. If that color shows up in your bowl after a few minutes, you have a leaking toilet and should contact a plumber.