



# Around the Rock

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Town of Blowing Rock  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 7

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

## 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.....295-5220

## After Hours/Weekend Water or Sewer

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

## Upcoming Meetings

### Town Council

01/12/2016 6:00 p.m.  
02/09/2016 6:00 p.m.

### Planning Board

01/21/2016 5:30 p.m.  
02/18/2016 5:30 p.m.

### ABC Board

01/21/2016 3:00 p.m.  
02/18/2016 3:00 p.m.

### BRAAC

01/07/2016 5:30 p.m.  
02/04/2016 5:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Events

### Town Offices Closed:

**New Year's Day**  
January 1st

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
January 18th

### Winterfest:

January 28th- 31st



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



## Lawrence and Yount Re-elected

Blowing Rock voters re-elected Mayor JB Lawrence and Council Member Yount to serve another term of office. They each took their oath of office Tuesday, December 8, 2015 during the Town Council Meeting. Council Member Yount was also named Mayor Pro Tem at the meeting.

2015-2017 Blowing Rock Town Council pictured left to right: Mayor Pro Tem Albert Yount, Council Member Jim Steele, Mayor Lawrence, Council Members Ray Pickett, Sue Sweeting and Doug Matheson.

## Blowing Rock Inducts Steele to Town Council



Blowing Rock's newly elected Council Member Jim Steele, took his oath of office during the Town Council meeting Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Mr. Steele previously served on the Council from 2010-2013.

## Special Thank You to Council Member Phillips



At the December Town Council meeting, Mayor Lawrence thanked exiting Council Member Dan Phillips. The Town recognized him for all his hard work and dedication during his four years of service.

## Contributions Needed to Support Hanging Flower Baskets



The hanging flower baskets along Main Street and Sunset Drive make Blowing Rock come alive with color! The Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission's (BRAAC) Memorial/Honorary Hanging Flower Baskets hold a special place in the hearts of our citizens who sponsor these baskets. Hanging flower baskets provide an opportunity to show appreciation in many ways.

If you would like to contribute \$50 to BRAAC in honor or remembrance of a loved one, Memorial/Honorary hanging basket donations will be accepted through July 1, 2016. Donations are currently only about one third of what they were last year at this time, so please consider helping out with this worthy cause.

Please mail your check, payable to The Town of Blowing Rock, P. O. Box 1628, Blowing Rock, NC 28605, Attn: BRAAC. Don't forget to note whom you wish to honor or remember with your gift. Please call (828) 295-5222 with questions.

## Non-Emergency Police Contact Information

Here is a simple way to reach a Blowing Rock Police Officer for a non-emergency situation. If you need to ask a question or simply pass some information along, please call (828)295-5212 and your call will be answered either by the Blowing Rock Police Department or the Watauga County Communications Center. You may then ask the attendant to have a Blowing Rock Police officer call you. The attendant will ask for your number and the nature of the call. You will then receive a call directly from a Blowing Rock Police officer to the number you provide. Please remember that for any emergency situation call 911. This remains the most effective and reliable way to quickly have a patrol car dispatched to your location. When deciding which number to call, please consider this: if it is an emergency and you need an officer to actually come to your location, or if there is suspected criminal activity currently taking place, always call 911. If you are requesting or passing along information only, call (828)295-5212 as per above. It is important that when a Law Enforcement Officer actually deploys to a scene they do so only after being centrally dispatched via the 911 system.

## Kinder Basketball Registration



Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 18th for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 25th. To receive the taxpayer rate, a copy of your Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga/Caldwell County) must be attached. The taxpayer rate is \$35 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 February 23th. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Erin at (828) 295-5222.

## Have you paid your 2015 property taxes?

To those who have not paid their 2015 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 4, 2016. If you pay by mail, your payment must be postmarked on or before January 4, 2016 to avoid interest and penalty. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property please contact the Watauga County Tax Assessors' Office at (828) 265-8041 or the Caldwell County Tax Assessors' Office at (828) 757-1340. For your convenience you can pay property taxes in person at Town Hall Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or online any-time at: [www.townofblowingrock.com](http://www.townofblowingrock.com). For assistance or questions, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200.



## WinterFest 2016



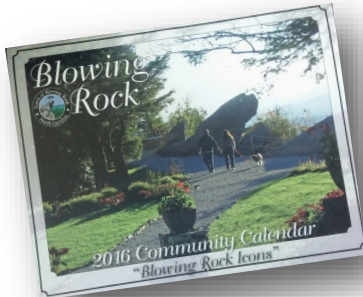
Celebrate the fun side of winter at the 17th Annual Blowing Rock WinterFest, January 28th - 31st. There's something for all ages!

### Events include:

- WinterFest & After Party
- WinterFest Firewalk
- Shop Till You Drop
- Small Plate Crawl
- Polar Plunge
- Chilly Chili Cookoff
- Ice Carving Competition
- WinterPaws Dog Show
- Kids Activities
- Silent Auction & Raffle
- WinterFashion Show
- WinterFest Snowflake Parade

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).



## 2016 Town Calendars are Here!

The 2016 Town calendars are available at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street. Calendars are also available at the Visitor Center located at 159 Chestnut Street (at the BRAHM building). Calendars are free of charge.

Stop by today and pick up your calendar!



## Is your water really turned off?

All seasonal home property owners are strongly encouraged to have their water turned off completely at the meter prior to the onset of extended freezing temperatures. Homes left unattended for more than two weeks that do not have water turned off at the meter **do not qualify** for a leak adjustment in the event that a pipe bursts and/or a leak occurs. If you are unsure of how to properly shut off the water at the meter or do not know where your meter is located, please contact Town Hall for assistance. This is a function that most caretakers are familiar with. Please note that base charges to support water and sewer plant operations still apply.

### How to Shut Off Water at the Meter

1. Locate your water meter. These are typically in iron boxes in the ground in front of or to the side of your home. Some are located towards the bottom of property lines or may be towards a neighboring street in the back of your home. If you cannot locate your meter, please contact Town Hall for assistance.
2. Remove the meter cover.
3. Locate the correct shut-off valve that is attached to the meter. This should be the one on your side of the meter, not the main water line on the side near the road maintained by the Town of Blowing Rock.
4. Turn the valve clockwise by hand, with meter key (can be purchased at Town Hall for \$30) or wrench. Meter should stop spinning. When the valve is turned off, the handle should be perpendicular to the water line.

## Town Update List

If you would like to be added to the Town of Blowing Rock's general email distribution list and receive information periodically regarding Town activities and items of general interest, please provide your email address on the line below and return this portion of the newsletter with your utility payment. Your email address will not be shared with others. Alternatively, you may email [manager@townofblowingrock.com](mailto:manager@townofblowingrock.com) asking to be added to the list.

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_