



Around the Rock

Highlights of What's Happening Around Town

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

www.townofblowingrock.com

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....(828) 295-5200
Planning & Inspection.....(828) 295-5240
Water/Sewer/Garbage.....(828) 295-5200
Parks & Recreation.....(828) 295-5222

Non-Emergency

Police Admin only.....(828) 295-5212

Fire Admin only.....(828) 295-5220

Emergency Police & Fire.....911



Thomas G. McRary Water Plant

On December 11, 2013 the Town lost a valuable and beloved employee, Thomas McRary. Mr. McRary had been an employee with the Town for 34 years, serving as Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor. During the Town Council meeting on January 14, 2014, Council honored him by dedicating and naming the Blowing Rock Water Treatment Plant the "Thomas G. McRary Water Plant". There will be a dedication and naming ceremony held at the Water Treatment Plant on April 15, 2014 at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to attend and help the Town honor and pay tribute to a lost and treasured friend.

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

03/11/14 5:00 p.m.

04/08/14 5:30 p.m.

Planning Board

03/20/14 5:30 p.m.

04/17/14 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

03/20/14 3:00 p.m.

04/17/14 3:00 p.m.

BRAAC

03/13/14 5:30 p.m.

TDA Board

04/01/14 3:30 p.m.

Historic Markers to be Presented to Historic Properties

Four sites will be honored this spring with new plaques that describe their significance to our community, thanks to the on going efforts of the Blowing Rock Historical Society and the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum. These sites will be recognized during the 125th Birthday celebration of the Town of Blowing Rock. This year, plaques will be presented to the following:

- Ice House (Late 1930s)
- Doctor Charlie & Harriet Davant Residence (1938)
- Church of the Epiphany (1947)
- Sonny's Grille (1955)



Everyone is invited to the Birthday Party and presentation of markers in Town Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 2:30 pm. Birthday cake and good wishes will make this a festive occasion. Please join us!

Upcoming Events

Town's 125th Birthday & Awards:
03/11/14 2:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Summer Day Camp Registration:

BR Taxpayers- 03/03/14

Open Registration- 03/18/14

Program Dates- 06/16/14 - 08/04/14



Kinder T-ball Registration:

BR Taxpayers- 03/24/2014

Open Registration- 03/25/2014

Program Begins- 04/29/2014

Golden Easter Egg Hunt:

04/12/14

Games: 10:00 a.m.

Hunt: 11:00 a.m.



Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival:

www.blueridgewinefestival.com

04/09/14-04/13/14

Town Offices Closed- Good Friday:

04/18/14

Reception to Honor Volunteer Boards

The Blowing Rock Town Council will honor the various Boards and Commissions on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014** with a reception at **4:30 p.m.** before their monthly Board meeting at 5:30 p.m. This reception will take place in Town Hall at 1036 Main Street.

2014 Board Appointments

Planning Board: David Hardwood, Lisa Stripling, Wes Carter, Genie Starnes & Richard Scheurer

Board of Adjustment: Ron Oberle, Charles Davant III, Joe Papa & Laurin Carter (alternate)

ABC Board: Susie Greene

TDA Board: Lianne Mattar

BRAAC: Barbara Wright, Rita Wiseman, Alice Roess & Melissa Pickett



Snow Clearing Process

When large amounts of snow accumulate in a particular area, the Town takes every precaution not to block private or public access points with huge piles of snow. However, similar to DOT, the Town simply doesn't have the time or resources during our cleaning process to stop and clear access points to private driveways. When a heavy snow occurs the Public Works crews will scrape all snow and wait for the snow to stop before any salt is placed on any roads. Several areas that are used to pile the large amounts of snow are the Corner of Park Avenue and Main Street and the Ruple Presbyterian Church Parking lot on Chestnut Street. If you have any questions about the Town's snow cleaning process, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200.

Planning and Inspections Updates

Conditional Use Permits to be presented to Council March 11, 2014:

- **CUP 2014-01 Blowing Rock Resort Venture, LLC-** Blowing Rock Resort Ventures, LLC is requesting a conditional use permit to construct a small addition and make exterior modifications to the cottage units at Martin House Properties. The 0.60 acre property is located on the corner of Main Street and Laurel Lane and is zoned Town Center. At the February 20th regular meeting, the Planning Board recommended approval of the conditional use permit with certain conditions.
- **CUP 2014-02 Tussell Land Company-** Tussell Land Company is requesting a conditional use permit to make substantial exterior modifications to the former Goodwin Weavers building. The 0.95 acre property is located at 176 West Cornish Rd and is zoned General Business. At their February 20th regular meeting, the Planning Board recommended approval of the conditional use permit as submitted.

On-going projects:

- **Tanger Shoppes on the Parkway** – replacing a metal stream culvert that collapsed last summer with a concrete box culvert in 2 phases, taking approximately 6 months to complete. Tanger is funding the \$2.8 million project which is taking place on their property.



- **Mellow Mushroom building on corner of Main Street and 221** – renovation and addition to former Bob Timberlake gallery. Restaurant scheduled to relocate and open this Summer.



New Businesses/Locations:

- Guided Lily and Neaco are moving to the former Capel Rug building. Interior renovations are underway along with replacement of exterior stucco and repainting. The mural on the north side of the building will be returned once the stucco work is complete.
- Blowing Rock Realty has moved from its prior location on the corner of Main Street and Pine Street to Martin House Properties.
- Brittany Edsall Art is locating at the Martin House.
- Spice and Tea Exchange is locating at 1085 Main Street.

Wonderland Trail and Quail Hollow Road Repair Projects

Wonderland Trail: Bid award will be considered in March and construction will begin mid to late April with completion expected by the end of July.
Quail Hollow: Construction will begin in April with completion expected in June.

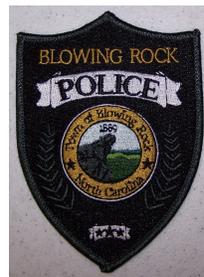
Ensemble Stage Agreement

The Ensemble Stage group has proposed to use the former Blowing Fire Station as their future home. The major elements of the agreement are that the Ensemble Stage group will have 18 months to raise all funds necessary to renovate the venue that would be placed in a dedicated escrow account and prepare design plans that would be returned to Council for approval prior to any construction or occupancy taking place. In addition, Ensemble Stage would be responsible for all operating costs of the building and related programs. A formal lease agreement documenting these agreed upon terms is being drafted.

American Legion Fundraising

The Town received bids for the American Legion Building improvement project on December 19, 2013. All bids received were higher than the currently budgeted funds. Several options were reviewed by Council at the January 14, 2014 Council meeting and later at Council's Retreat. Council decided to officially reject all bids and hold the existing funds in the project while encouraging the community to raise \$200,000 for the project. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant of \$142,500 stipulates that the facility must be complete and operational by September 30, 2015. Allowing two months for the re-bidding process and five months for construction results in a target date of February 28, 2015 for the funds to be raised in order to proceed. The community's financial support for the remaining funds is needed for the project with a fund raising goal of \$200,000. If you would like to donate to this project, please make checks payable to the "Town of Blowing Rock" and indicate "American Legion Renovation Fund" in the memo field of your check. Thanks for your support!

Police Chief Recruitment



The position of Police Chief was posted on the Town of Blowing Rock's website on Tuesday, February 4th as well as advertised in a variety of publications. Applications for the position were accepted through February 28th. The new Chief will be required to reside in the Blowing Rock Fire District. The management team is currently reviewing applications and is hopeful to have someone on board by June.

Summer Day Camp

Camp registration begins March 3, 2014 for Blowing Rock Taxpayers and Open Enrollment begins March 17, 2014. The camp is open to boys and girls from rising Kindergarten (must be five years old and recently attended daycare) to sixth grade, for seven weeks tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2014 to August 4, 2014. Applications will be available online at www.townofblowingrock.com. For more information call Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation at (828) 295-5222.

Wastewater Annual Report

The Town of Blowing Rock has released the 2013 System Performance Annual Report for the Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Copies may be picked up free of charge at Town Hall, 1036 Main Street. This report is also available online at: www.townofblowingrock.com. If you have any questions about this report, please contact the Water Plant at (828) 295-5225.