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# Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 6  
December, 2012

## Important Numbers

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

## Non-Emergency

Police Admin Only.....295-5212  
Fire Admin Only.....295-5220  
Emergency Police & Fire.....911

## Upcoming Meetings

### Town Council

01/08/2013 5:00 p.m.  
02/12/2013 5:00 p.m.

### Planning Board

01/17/2013 5:30 p.m.  
02/21/2013 5:30 p.m.

### ABC Board

01/24/2013 3:00 p.m.  
02/28/2013 3:00 p.m.

## Upcoming Events



Winterfest 2013:  
1/24/13–1/27/13

### Kinder Basketball:



Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 21st for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 22nd. To receive the taxpayer rate, a copy of your Blowing Rock tax bill (not Watauga/Caldwell County) must be attached. Kinder Basketball is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. for four weeks, beginning February 26th. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Jason at (828) 295-5222.

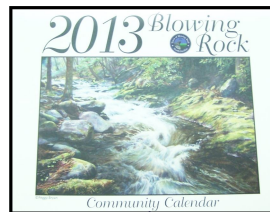
## IN MEMORIAM



Our thoughts are with the family of Owen Tolbert as we all say goodbye to this wonderful man. Owen served as a police officer at the Blowing Rock Police Department from March 1980 until his retirement in December 2006. Owen became Police Chief in May of 1991 and led the police department for the next 15 years. As a police chief, Owen was well respected by his officers and staff as well as the folks in our community. Owen was far more than a police officer and police chief.

Owen was a friend to all. Please remember his family during this time of loss.

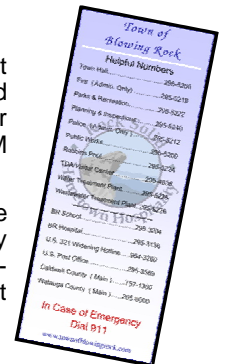
## NOW AVAILABLE IN TOWN!



The 2013 Town Calendars are now available at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street and they are also available at the Visitor Center located at 159 Chestnut Street (at the BRAHM building).

While you are picking up your calendar, be sure to ask about the new complimentary Town of Blowing Rock helpful numbers magnet. It's a way to keep a complete list of Blowing Rock area government related contact numbers handy in your home.

Stop by Town Hall today to pick up your calendar and directory magnet!



## KEEPING IT SAFE

As the Holiday Season began, the Blowing Rock Police Department started the distribution of a Commercial Security & Safety Survey to local businesses. The survey has helped to assist the Police Department with becoming more familiar with business' layouts and current security measures. It is also an opportunity for the department to give tips on improving the security of local businesses. If you are a local business and did not receive the survey or have questions, please contact the Police Department at (828)295-5212.

The Commercial Survey also provides shop owners the opportunity to receive a weekly "Brief Sheet". The "Brief Sheet" provides a summary of the activities of the Police Department each week, including both previous and new cases the department is working on, keeping shop owners aware of any recent activity. The "Brief Sheet" is also featured in the Blowing Rocket newspaper each week for citizens to view.

The department would also like to share the following tips to keep you safe as you are out frequenting area shops.

- Please keep your homes and vehicles secure.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle.
- If you are going out of town, please feel free to call the Police Department (828)295-5212 to arrange for additional patrol in your area.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## WINTERFEST 2013

Join us as we celebrate the fun side of winter at the 14th Annual Blowing Rock Winterfest, January 24th-27th. There's something for all ages!

### Events include:

- Chili Challenge
- Pancake Breakfast
- Icy Polar Plunge
- Winterfest Concert
- WinterFeast
- Wine Auction & Tasting
- Downtown Hayrides
- Ice Carving Competition
- Kids Activities
- Silent Auction
- Winterfest Gameshows
- Winter Paws Pet Show

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).



## PROJECT UPDATES

### Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements



Greene Construction, Inc. continues work on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. The project is approximately 90% complete, with Basin #4, #3, and #2 complete, Basin #1 work nearing completion and handrail hardware installation continuing. Generator delivery is expected next week. The project has a scheduled completion date of March 25, 2013.

### The Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey

The Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey was conducted in October. NC State University's Center for Urban Affairs is finalizing the survey summary and will provide copies for Council review at the annual retreat in January. Visioning workshops are tentatively planned for April-May 2013.

### Highway 321 Widening Project

Blasting and grading operations continue at Cliff Dwellers and the new proposed intersection of Main Street and Hwy 321 near Chetola Dam. There will be no blasting in this area again until January 3, 2013. Expect regular road closures in this immediate area on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 3 pm. For more information call Caprice Cheek with NCDOT at (828)964-3260.

### Police Department Roofing

Roof alterations were recently completed at the Police Department to correct a leak problem. The work was performed by Blowing Rock Property Services.

## PROJECT UPDATES CONTINUED

### Streetscape Phase III

Mountain Crest Construction completed Phase III of the Downtown Streetscape project on Main Street. New curb and gutter, pavers, and sidewalk were installed from just north of Storie Street to the south end of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Two street trees and tree grates were also added with the project.



### Main Street Paving

NCDOT has completed all paving and re-stripping of Main Street from the Hwy 221 intersection to the south end of Main Street at Broyhill Furniture.

### Salt Bin

Greene Construction is in the process of finishing a new Salt Bin at the Town Public Works warehouse site.



## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2012 PROPERTY TAXES?

To those who have not paid their 2012 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2013. If you pay by mail your payment must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2013 to avoid interest 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 online at: [www.townofblowingrock.com](http://www.townofblowingrock.com). For assistance or questions regarding your property tax bill or making online payments, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200 and we will be happy to assist you.



## GO GREEN! ELECTRONIC BILLING

You may have noticed on this month's water/sewer bill a notice that the Town is now offering an electronic billing option. This service is optional and will only go into effect on your account if you register for the service. The Town has partnered with SouthData Innovative Solutions in order to offer this paperless billing option. If a customer registers for the service they may have the option to no longer receive their bill through U.S. Mail, but rather receive their bill via e-mail or to be e-mailed a bill in addition to receiving their paper bill. This option will offer customers quicker access to their bills and a way to store billing history electronically as well as reduce mail and clutter. If you would like further details on the service, please call Town Hall (828) 295-5200, or register for the service online at the web address located on your paper bill, where you will enter your registration code also found on your paper bill.