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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 6
December, 2011

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

Lawrence and Yount Re-Elected



The Town of Blowing Rock re-elected Mayor JB Lawrence and Commissioner Yount to serve another term of office, taking their oath of office Tuesday, December 13, 2011 during the Town Council meeting. Commissioner Yount was also named Mayor Pro-Tem at the meeting.



Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

01/10/2012 5:00 p.m.
02/14/2012 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board

01/19/2012 5:30 p.m.
02/16/2012 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

01/24/2012 3:00 p.m.
02/28/2012 3:00 p.m.

Blowing Rock Inducts Phil Ippis to Town Council



Blowing Rock's newly elected commissioner, Dan Phillips, took his oath of office during the Town Council meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2011.

Special Thanks to Retiring Commissioner Pickett



At the December Town Council meeting Mayor Lawrence acknowledged retiring Commissioner Phillip Pickett. The Town recognized him for all his hard work and dedication during his four years of serving as a Commissioner .

Upcoming Events



Winterfest 2012:
1/26/12-1/29/12

Kinder Basketball Registration:



Kinder Basketball registration for 3-5 year olds will begin on January 23rd for Blowing Rock taxpayers and open registration will begin on January 24th. 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 21st. If you have questions regarding Kinder Basketball please contact Jason at (828) 295-5222.

TOWN CALENDARS ARE HERE!



The 2012 Town Calendars are available at the Visitor Center located at 159 Chestnut Street (at the BRAHM building) and Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street.

Stop by today and pick up your calendar!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 PROPERTY TAXES?

To those who have not paid their 2011 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2012. If you pay by mail your payment must be postmarked on or before January 5, 2012 to avoid interest penalty. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property please contact 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. 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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WINTERFEST 2012

Join us as we celebrate the fun side of winter at the 13th Annual Blowing Rock Winterfest, January 26-29, 2012. 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.



Wonderland Trail Water Line Replacement Project



On November 11, 2011, the Town received bids for the Wonderland Trail Water Line Replacement Project, with the winning bid coming from Iron Mountain Construction Co., Inc. The \$102,955 project will consist of 1,500 feet of water line upgrade along Wonderland Trail from an existing 4-inch diameter cast iron line with lead joints that dead-ends to an 8-inch diameter ductile iron line. The new line will connect to an existing 8-inch diameter water line at Laurel Lane and extend along Wonderland Trail to Valley View Road where it will connect to an existing water line. Creation of this "hydraulic loop" will increase available flow in this area, and improve water quality for those residents who are currently supplied from the existing dead-end line. These improvements will also increase line size to allow for improved fire protection along Wonderland Trail. The project is included on the Town's Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Plan and will be funded from Capital Reserve Funds on hand.

Congratulations

The Town would like to congratulate two Department Heads that have earned certifications this year.



Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown completed the National Recreation and Park Association Directors School this summer. The two-year, two-week program, sponsored by the NRPA, NC State University and Olgetree National Training Center is designed to prepare park and recreation directors for the challenges of leading and managing effectively. The curriculum helps participants to develop skills to evaluate organizational and administrative procedures, develop proficiency in the design and implementation of strategic planning, and organize their department to maximize public services to the community. This program is considered the nation's premier leadership development program for park and recreation executives.



EMS Director Kent Graham completed the Public Executive Leadership Academy this summer at UNC-Chapel Hill. The two-week course provides city and county managers and other key staff members throughout the Southeast the opportunity to learn more about themselves as leaders and to gain skills to lead and manage change in their communities. The program provides attendees with opportunities to learn about issues and challenges facing the state, create framework for thinking about relationships, develop tools to diagnose problems and create solutions within their community and organization.

Congratulations to both Jennifer and Kent for their commitment to professional public service and to our community.

Freezing Weather Safety Tips

Be prepared for freezing weather! Winterize plumbing pipes now to help avoid the hassle and costs that are associated with frozen pipes.

Cold Weather Checklist:

- Know where the main shut-off valve for your plumbing is located and how to turn it off.
- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and outside faucets.



If you plan to be away from home for an extended period, leave the heat on, or drain your water system before you leave. Ask someone to check your house daily while you are away.