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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Volume 5, Issue 1
February, 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

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

03/15/2011 6:00 p.m.
04/12/2011 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board

03/17/2011 7:00 p.m.
04/21/2011 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

03/15/2011 3:00 p.m.
04/21/2011 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events



Town's 122nd Birthday Party & Awards
03/11/11- 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Summer Day Camp

Registration:
BR Taxpayers- 03/07/11
Open Registration- 03/28/11



Kinder T-ball Registration:
BR Taxpayers- 04/04/11
Open Registration- 04/05/11
Program Begins- 05/03/11

Golden Easter Egg Hunt:

04/09/11
Games: 10:00 a.m.
Hunt: 11:00 a.m.



Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival:
www.blueridgewinefestival.com
04/13/11-04/17/11

Town Offices Closed- Good Friday:
04/22/11

Jerry Absher Retires From Public Works



Jerry Absher & Mayor JB Lawrence

Jerry Absher has retired after more than 30 years in public service with the Town of Blowing Rock. A retirement reception was held for Jerry on January 12, 2011 to recognize his accomplishments and service to the Town. Congratulations Jerry on your retirement!

Reception to Honor Volunteer Boards

The Blowing Rock Town Council will honor the various Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 with a reception at 5:00 p.m. before their monthly Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. This reception will take place in Town Hall at 1036 Main Street.

2011 Board Appointments:

Planning Board: David Harwood, Doug Pegram, and Lisa Stripling

Board of Adjustment: Charles Davant, Ron Oberle, and Thomas Drumheller

ABC Board: Susie Greene

TDA Board: Lianne Mattar



Historic Markers to be Presented to Historic Properties

The 122nd birthday of the Town of Blowing Rock on March 11th certainly marks an important event in the town's long history of celebrating its extraordinary legacy. Continuing the tradition begun by the Town, The Blowing Rock Historical Society and BRAHM (the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum), four plaques will be awarded to these significant properties:

- Maymont (Circa 1887)
- Blowing Rock Memorial Park (Circa 1939)
- St Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church (Circa 1921)
- Springhaven Inn (Circa 1889)



Everyone is invited to the Birthday Party and presentation of markers in Town Hall on March 11, 2010 at 3:30 pm. Birthday cake and good wishes will make this a festive occasion. Please join us!

Summer Day Camp

Camp registration begins March 7th for Blowing Rock Taxpayers and Open Enrollment begins March 28th. The camp is open to boys and girls from rising Kindergarten (must be five years old and recently attended daycare) -sixth grade for eight weeks beginning June 13th. Most camp activities are held in downtown Blowing Rock. Applications will be available online at www.townofblowingrock.com. For more information call Blowing Rock Parks & Recreation at 828-295-5222.



Regulation of Short-Term Rentals



At the 2011 Town Council Retreat, the Board of Commissioners reaffirmed that short-term rental regulations, established in 1984, be strictly enforced to protect Blowing Rock’s historic residential neighborhoods.

Problems associated with short-term rentals in the single-family districts include noise, increased traffic, lack of neighborhood security due to unknown occupants, garbage not properly disposed, and traditional residential neighborhoods becoming commercial “hotel districts”.

The following is a brief list of regulations and facts concerning the short-term rental of dwelling units:

Definition:

Short-Term Rental of a Dwelling Unit. The rental, lease, or use of an attached or detached residential dwelling unit for a duration that is less than 28 consecutive days. Short-term rental use does not include rooming houses, boarding houses, or bed and breakfast establishments, which are specifically addressed as separate uses within the Table of Permissible Uses.

- Short-term rental of dwelling units is permitted in the General Business, Town Center, Central Business, and Office-Institutional zoning districts as well as the R-6M/PUD zoning district of Chetola Resort, Chateaux Cloud and the Royal Oaks condominiums.
- A short-term overlay district can be approved by Town Council within the R-10M or R-6M zoning districts, but certain conditions must be met to establish this overlay district. A short-term rental overlay district was established at the Royal Oaks Condominium Complex when requested by the POA.
- Short-term rental is not permitted in any other residential districts.
- Regulations pertaining to short-term rental are also applicable in the Town’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ).
- Enforcement of short-term rental violations is typically centered on complaints received from neighboring property owners, but other evidence such as web sites and rental publications can also be used in enforcement. Town staff can also obtain administrative search warrants to collect documents and the Board of Adjustment has subpoena powers.
- The civil penalties for short-term rental violations are \$500.00 per day.
- To comply with Town Code, rental contracts must be for 28 days or greater. Renters may not sublease their rental contract to other parties within the same 28-day period.

For example: If a house sleeps 8 people, two families of four may rent the dwelling unit for 28 days, but no other families may occupy the unit during the entire 28-day period.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call the Planning and Inspections Office at (828) 295-5240.

Snow Zones

Wastewater Annual Report



The Public Works Department recently installed signs on Main Street and Sunset Drive to restrict overnight parking during snow and ice events. This will enable snow removal crews to more efficiently clear public parking areas for the next business day. Please do not park in snow emergency zones during snow or ice events between the hours of 1 AM and 9 AM on Main



The Town of Blowing Rock has released the 2010 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 Director of Plant Operations, Tom McRary at 828-295-5225.

Street between Hwy 221 and Chestnut Street or along Sunset Drive.