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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4
August, 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

09/13/2011 5:00 p.m.
10/11/2011 5:00 p.m.

Planning Board

09/15/2011 5:30 p.m.
10/20/2011 5:30 p.m.

ABC Board

09/15/2011 3:00 p.m.
10/20/2011 3:00 p.m.

Tourism Development Authority

10/04/2011 3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Town Offices Closed for Labor Day:
September 5th



Robbin's Pool at Broyhill
Park Season Ends:
September 5th

Kinder Soccer Begins:
September 6th



Art in the Park:
September 10th, October 1st

BRAHM:
Grand Opening October 1st



Halloween Festival:
October 29th



Bi-Annual Clean-Up



The Town has scheduled the "Fall Bi-Annual Clean-Up" during the week of October 10 - 14. Please do not block any ditches or drains. This pick-up includes white goods, yard debris (leaves, tree branches), mattresses, paint cans, etc. Paint cans need to be opened for paint to solidify or add cat litter to paint to absorb liquid. Residents do not need to call Town Hall to have their names on a list. The Bi-Annual Clean-Up is offered in the fall and spring of each year.

**Watauga County Landfill will be accepting full paint containers from 9am to 2pm on October 8th. For more information contact the Watauga County Sanitation office at 828-264-5305.*

November Town Council Meeting

The November 8, 2011 Town Council meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2011 due to Town elections being held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 in the Town Council Board Room. If you have any questions regarding the change, please contact Town Hall at (828) 295-5200.

American Legion Building

During the Town Council meeting on August 9, 2011 the Town accepted ownership of the American Legion Building located on Wallingford Street. It will be recognized as the Blowing Rock American Legion Building. Post #256 will still have full use of the building and the Town will be responsible for its' maintenance and operation.

Water Leaks



Did you know that water leaks in a single home can account for, on average, enough water to fill a backyard swimming pool, about 10,000 gallons of water?

High water bills are usually caused by leaks in the home. The following tips are ways to help reduce the occurrence of high water bills:

- **Check all faucets for drips**

A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year of water. Leaky faucets can be easily fixed by replacing washers and gaskets or by replacing the whole faucet.

- **Check toilets for constantly running water**

A toilet that is leaking can waste 200 gallons or more of water per day. To check for a leaky toilet put a small amount of food coloring or Kool-aid in the toilet tank, do not flush the toilet for at least 15 minutes. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl without flushing, you probably have a leaking flapper or plunger ball valve. Be sure to flush the toilet after testing to avoid staining the toilet tank. If you find a leak, replace the entire rubber flapper.

- **Check outside faucets and irrigation systems**

Every spring irrigation systems should be checked before use. During the winter months frost and freezing could cause damage to the system. An irrigation system with pressure set at 60 pounds per square inch that has a leak about the thickness of a dime can waste around 6,300 gallons of water per month.

The Blowing Rock Art & History Museum Grand Opening is October 1, 2011. Please visit the BRAHM website, <http://www.blowingrockmuseum.org>, for more information.

Emergency Services Welcomes Fontaine & Smith

Emergency Services Director Kent Graham is pleased to announce the hiring of two new Firefighter/Paramedics, Matt Fontaine and Alex Smith.



Matt Fontaine has been with the Fire Department as a volunteer and part-time employee for three years. Originally from Lafayette, Louisiana. Fontaine has lived in the Blowing Rock area for the last ten years. He is currently serving in a volunteer position as a Lieutenant for the department. Matt spends spare time working with his parents who live in the Seven Devils area.

Alex Smith has been a full-time paramedic with Caldwell County EMS and a part-time Engineer for Gamewell Fire Department for the past two years. Starting in the fire service as a junior at the age of 14, Alex has gained some experience from an early start. He is engaged to be married next April and will reside in the Gamewell area near the Caldwell portion of the Blowing Rock Fire District. His father works for the Lenoir Fire Department and his uncle for the Hickory Fire Department.



Please join us in welcoming them to the staff!



Halloween Festival



October 29, 2011 Schedule of Events

Air Walks in Memorial Park: 3:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

Games & Fun House in Rec. Center: 3:00p.m.-5:30p.m.

Hay Rides through Blowing Rock: 4:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

(Meet in Memorial Park)

The Monster March

(Line up at the American Legion at 5:30p.m./Parade starts at 5:45p.m.)



Trick or Treat Downtown: 6:00p.m.-until

(Look for Black and Orange Balloons)

Bonfire in the Park: 6:30p.m.-9:00p.m.

Costume Contest: 7:00p.m.

(Sign up at the Rec. Center (White Building by the Tennis Courts) by 6:45p.m.)

Scavenger Hunt - Broyhill Lake: Following Costume Contest

Bring your flashlight! (ages 6-13)

Participate in teams (max: 3 per group)



Sewer Extension Project

M&M construction continues work on the Sewer Extension project which will provide sewer service to approximately 11 homes. As part of the project, the water line along Wallingford is being upgraded and an additional fire hydrant is being installed. While the Wallingford portion of the project is complete, the Main Street portion is expected to be completed in the next week.

Town Recognized for Green Initiative



The Town received a Level Two Intermediate Green Challenge recognition award from the NC League of Municipalities for its efforts in becoming more environmentally friendly. The Green Challenge program was developed as a way to recognize municipal activities and accomplishments in saving energy, natural resources and money. Some of the items that contributed to the Town's upgrade in status were: Residential Curbside Recycling, Internal Office Recycling, LED Christmas Light Replacement Program and Tree Preservation/Replacement Program. During the last 12 months GDS, Inc. has collected 136.83 tons of recyclables, such as glass, plastic, aluminum, and other such items. In addition Public Works has collected 67.58 tons of cardboard from Commercial businesses.

Planning and Zoning Updates

Six Pence Pub

- CUP No. 2011-01 for Six Pence Pub to construct a patio for 32 outdoor dining seats is underway. This week, final steel should be delivered and soon after concrete decking should be poured. The patio is tentatively scheduled to open in October.



Blowing Rock Hospital

- Watauga Medical Center, Inc. recently purchased 43 acres just beyond the Blue Ridge Parkway, to construct a post-acute medical campus. As part of the initial process to request future water and sewer service, Town Council approved an annexation request effective June 30, 2011 for this land. The Hospital is currently seeking a Certificate of Need (CON) from the state prior to proceeding with plans and permitting applications.