



SPRING 2010



THE SEVEN DEVILS ECHO

Christmas Day Ice Storm 2009 – Still in the News

For those who live in Seven Devils year round, you know of the damage sustained during our ice storm on Christmas Day. You have seen progress in our cleanup effort. We have been seeking assistance from FEMA and NC Emergency Management for the cleanup. Although no specific amount is certain, help is certain. The efforts to secure the assistance have been very time consuming, but we are making progress. We are currently seeking contract bids to remove the remaining debris from our right-of-ways and soon this work will begin.

In addition to right-of-way debris removal, FEMA has also taken many photographs of debris in the yards of our citizens. In FEMA's cost estimates, they have included ice storm debris they see in our citizens' yards. FEMA is allowing this debris to be put on the roadside for contractor removal.

GUIDELINES

The contractor(s) working for Seven Devils will not be allowed to come onto any citizen's property to remove debris. All debris must be

brought onto the Town's right-of-way to be considered for removal. Only debris from maintained portions of yards is eligible. No debris from vacant lots is eligible. **Only the debris created by the December 25 ice storm is eligible for removal, and there will be a time constraint. All debris will need to be brought to the right-of-way for removal no later than the end of June. The debris must not be placed in ditch lines where it will create a drainage problem when our spring and summer rains come. The debris needs to remain away from the pavement and well above the ditch line.**

This is very important. If the debris gets in the ditch and we have significant rain, it will be carried into the culverts where it will hang. This will be detrimental to road stability, shoulder stability, and even create drainage issues for citizens' yards.

It is important to know what debris removal is allowed and equally important to know what is not allowed. This is not an opportunity to

trim shrubbery and trees and include in your ice storm debris. It is not an opportunity to dispose of unwanted wood fencing or other old lumber. **Only ice storm related debris is eligible.** It is also important to know that the debris, once taken to the right-of-way, may remain there for quite some time. **You do not need to call to notify the Town that you have debris to be picked up, unless it has not been removed by mid-July.** Our Public Works Department will not be responding to debris removal calls. Thus, it is possible you may see debris at the roadside for up to three to four months.

We ask for everyone's patience with this process. We also ask that you please be honest in your yard cleanup efforts by bringing only ice storm debris to the roadside. If you have the ability to dispose of your own yard debris, please help the Town by disposing of your own debris. The Watauga County Land Fill has adopted special handling for ice storm related debris. There is no fee for the first one-ton of debris you bring to the land-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TOWN COUNCIL RECOGNIZES HAWKSNEST	2
THE BEAR FACTS	2
TIME TO VOTE	3
SPRING CHORES	3
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET	4
SAFETYFEST	4

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fill since this is included in your taxes. Additionally, Watauga County has adopted a no fee period for ice storm related debris until June 7 for homeowners, but not for contractors.

For information about the policy in Avery County please call (828)737-5420.



Town Council Recognizes Hawksnest

Anyone who has lived in Seven Devils this winter can attest to the fact that it's been a doozy of a winter. Snow, snow, and more snow has been the norm rather than the exception. Our Public Works Department has done an admirable job of snow removal – working overtime, erratic hours, weekends, holidays, and anything else required to get the job done. All of our Public Works employees deserve a big THANK YOU!

In spite of their diligent work, there were times when the Town simply did

not have the resources to keep up with and move all the snow. Our main problem was that we ran out of road shoulder. The snow was piled so deep that we could not scrape the snow any further over on the shoulders.



Most of our roads became one-lane roads. It was then that our friends on the mountaintop realized our predicament and volunteered their services. In a great spirit of community and co-operation, Hawksnest offered to assist the Town in moving the snow.

The big “snow cat” owned by Hawksnest “more at home grooming ski and tubing slopes” became a major asset in moving the snow our trucks could no longer move. The “snow cat” made the work look easy as it pushed the snow well to the

outside on the shoulders, making room for our trucks to put the next snowfall.

In recognition of the great assistance provided by Hawksnest, the Town Council of Seven Devils passed a “Resolution of Appreciation” at their March 8, 2010 meeting thanking Hawksnest for their donation of equipment, time, and personnel. Please express your appreciation to Lenny Cottom and Vance Duggan of Hawksnest as you have opportunity. The Town sincerely appreciates their efforts.

The Bear Facts: What You Should Know

With spring arriving, so too will black bears. As they come out of hibernation, we know that Town Hall will soon be receiving reports of sightings. When you are in bear country, you should be careful and prepared. Our philosophy is that we have to get along with the bears. This is their home too.

Bears live by their noses and are very curious. Dog and bird feeders are like magnets for them. If they can smell food they will try to get to it. Black bears are **not** naturally aggressive. According to the Park Service, there are two times that an injury may occur:

1. If you try to feed the bear (they cannot tell where the food ends and your hand begins)
2. If they feel cramped or crowded. Then they are likely to take matters into their own paws and start swinging, to give themselves more space.

If you find yourself face to face with a black bear, here is what to do:

- Do not turn your back on the bear
- Do not run
- Do not “play dead”
- Take a few steps backward (to give the bear space)
- Yell, scream, clap your hands, bang rocks or pans together - make as much noise as you can



If you feel a bear is a threat, you can call the Wildlife Management Office in Raleigh (919-733-7291). However, according to their office the only time they will actively intercede is if someone has been injured by the bear.

If you have a bird feeder and there is a hungry bear in the area, you have just provided a snack for him. Minimizing the number of feeders will help. For your safety, please keep garbage, bags of dog and cat food, and other food secure in the garage with the door closed.

Time to Vote Again: Information from the Voter Information Group

The North Carolina Residential Primaries will be held May 4, 2010. This Primary is for both the Democratic and Republican Parties. Seven Devils residents of Avery County vote at the Banner Elk Town Hall. Seven Devils residents of Watauga County vote at the Foscoe Fire Department.

I. Significant dates affecting voting:

April 9 Voter registration deadline and last day to change party affiliation

April 14 One-stop (registration and voting) voting begins

May 1 One-stop voting ends

May 3 Mailed absentee ballots – due at Board of Elections Office

June 22 Primary Run-off, if needed

II. State Offices to be filled during the Primary

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House District 10 (Avery) District 5 (Watauga)
- N.C. Senate
- N.C. House
- District Attorney

III. Court Vacancies (Non-Partisan)

- Supreme Court (1)
- Court of Appeals (4)
- Superior Court District 10 (2)
- District Court – District 24 (1)

VI. County Offices to be filled

Avery County:

Board of Education (Non Partisan)

County Commissioner

Clerk of Superior Court

Sherriff

Watauga County:

Board of Education

County Commissioner

Clerk of Superior Court

Sherriff

Voter registration forms are available at Seven Devils Town Hall. Sample ballots will be available in April. Information on each candidate is available at Political Party Offices. See you at the polls!

SPRING CHORES

There is talk around town. It seems the calendar says it is SPRING. Day to day, we reassess what this means. Is it really spring? Many say they have endured as much winter as they can take. Whether it is truly spring or not, we know if it is not, it has to be just around the corner. So, take heart! Get ready for those spring chores. Spring can not be too far away.

As you prepare for your spring chores, Seven Devils is asking you to please tackle a specific outdoor chore. No doubt, you have heard we had a difficult winter and because it was so difficult, we had our Public Works vehicles on the road all the time, often day and night. It became apparent very quickly that we have a problem on almost all of our roads. The fact that many of our roads are narrow does not come as news to anyone, but the problem is compounded by thick vegetation that has

grown in our citizens' yards protruding onto the right-of-ways and in many cases into the streets. The vegetation consists of trees, tree limbs, and shrubbery. All this vegetation has created numerous problems for our vehicles and our Public Works trucks have taken a beating. We have numerous dents, broken glass, and multiple broken mirrors to show for our efforts.

The time has come to do something about this problem. The growth on the right-of-ways creates safety problems. It damages your vehicles and the Towns' vehicles and, even more important, it reduces sight distances needed for safe operation of our vehicles.

We ask our citizens to please remove the vegetation that hangs into and over the roadway, and the vegetation crowding signs and fire hydrants. Most of our roads have thirty feet of right-of-way, which means the right-of-way

extends several feet to each side of the road edges. We ask that you trim your trees and shrubbery back from the road edges for safety. If you take care of your own trimming, you will be satisfied with your results. If it is not removed, the town will have to arrange to trim the vegetation and you may not be satisfied with the results. So, please take care of your own trimming this spring season, no later than the end of June. Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated by

every-one who drives on our streets.





Regularly Scheduled Meetings ~ Please Mark Your Calendars

Town Council	Planning Board	Board of Adjustment	Public Works	Tourism Development	Public Safety
5:30 PM	5:30 PM	5:30 PM	10:00 AM	9:00 AM	5:30 PM
2nd Monday	3rd Monday	4th Monday (if needed)	3rd Tuesday	4th Tuesday	4th Tuesday
April 12	April 19	April 26	April 20	April 27	April 27
May 10	May 17	May 24	May 18	May 25	May 26
June 14	June 21	June 28	June 15	June 22	June 22

“Operation Medicine Cabinet”

Saturday May 22, 2010

Unused and unwanted pharmaceuticals and drug paraphernalia may be brought to a designated site for collection and disposal. Locations in Avery and Watauga Counties will be announced. Check your local newspaper or call Seven Devils Town Hall for updated information on times and locations (Seven Devils Town Hall was a site for the first Watauga County “Operation Medicine Cabinet” in October, 2009). Do the responsible thing – keep our children safe and our rivers clean by turning in drugs for proper disposal – please don’t flush them!



We hope to see you on May 22.

The Seven Devils Public Safety Committee



New Flagpole and Town Flag

Thank you to the Tourism Development Authority for their recent purchase of our new flagpole at Town Hall. Additionally, the TDA funded a new Town flag. It is our Town Seal on a white background. Be sure to take a look as you go by Town Hall.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Seven Devils Town Hall	828-963-5343
Town of Seven Devils Public Safety (Police & Fire)	828-963-6760
Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation	828-264-8894
Blue Ridge 24-hour Outage Reporting	1-800-448-2383
Skyline Telephone Repair Service	1-877-475-9546
Charter Communications	1-877-728-3814

7th Annual Seven Devils SafetyFest

Mark July 3, 2010 “Seven Devils SafetyFest” on your calendar! Join family, friends, neighbors, and visitors for the best BBQ in town. The Public Safety Committee has begun to seek sponsors, canvas area businesses for raffle and silent auction items and contact crafters. Volunteers are always needed – this event has folks in Seven Devils having fun and working TOGETHER to raise funds for public safety. Proceeds from the silent auction and sale of BBQ and raffle tickets go to the Fire, Police, and Public Works Departments to purchase and upgrade equipment to enhance “safety, health and welfare” of Seven Devils residents, visitors and neighboring communities.

Check Town Hall for a “Volunteer Sign Up Sheet” – we need you!!! Tickets will be available at Town Hall or from Public Safety Committee members and firemen June 1. Check out silent auction items at Town Hall the week of June 28. You do not need to be present to win, so please show your support through ticket sales.

BBQ Tickets: Adult \$7 Child \$5

Raffle Tickets: Book of 7 tickets \$5

Looking forward to seeing you July 3, 2010 between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Let’s work together to make Seven Devils safer.