

The Seven Devils Echo

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Call for Crisis Center in 7D | 1 |
| FY 11 Budget Adopted | 2 |
| Meet the Town Clerk | 2 |
| 911 Addressing | 3 |
| New Water Billing Policy | 3 |
| News & Updates | 4 |

Assistance and Support Opportunity

“Crisis Center” for Seven Devils

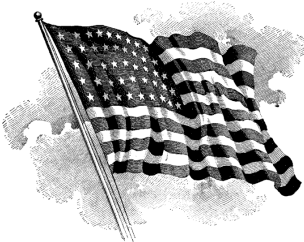
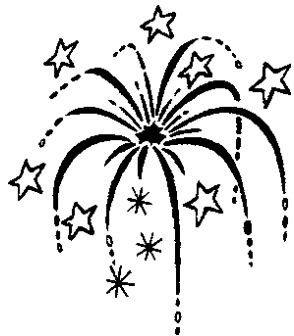
The Town of Seven Devils experienced several large snow storms and an ice storm this past winter. Due to the ice storm, most of the town experienced power outages resulting in interruption of water service for a few residents on the town water system and for almost all residents on private water. Additionally, most residences did not have heat since most depend on electricity.

Because of these problems, some of our Citizens and Public Safety Committee members are recommending to the Town Council the establishment of a Seven Devils Crisis Center to help meet the needs of citizens in case of similar conditions in the future. Opening of the Town Hall as a temporary Emergency Center to assist residents and visitors during such emergencies seems appropriate. The Center would provide bathroom facilities and some cots for those without water or heating.

Our committee has contacted the Red Cross and they have agreed to provide assistance to our cause. This would include cots, blankets, first aid kits, and MRE's (meals ready to eat). As a result of this assistance from the Red Cross, the expense to the Town would be minimal. However, there is one contingency to the help offered by the Red Cross. Seven Devils residents must man the Crisis Center when open. This would require that twelve citizens be trained (the training conducted by Red Cross personnel) and be available to man the Crisis Center. Two volunteers would be required at all times when the Center is opened, hence the need for alternates for relief. We already have six volunteers and require only six more. **Please join us in this worthy cause. Sign up as a Volunteer.** Any of our Sub Committee members listed below are able to answer your questions and record your support:



| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Earl and Barbara Pariseau | 828-964-2781 |
| Carroll and Linda Berkley | 828-963-1815 |
| Dick and Shirley Nelson | 407-340-4644 |



SECURITY INFORMATION UPDATE

Please go to www.sevendevils.net and download the Security Information Form and mail it to Town Hall so that we can update our records. The Town needed to notify citizens of damage to their houses or property in December and we were unable to reach many citizens. Please send this information to the Town Clerk and we will record the information and also provide it to our Public Safety Department.

Council Adopts \$1.5 Million Budget for FY 2011

Following a June 1, 2010 Budget Public Hearing, the Town Council adopted the new annual operating budget ordinance for FY 2011 at its regularly scheduled June meeting on the 14th. The budget, totaling \$1.5 million, is comprised of the General Fund totaling \$1.2 million and the Enterprise (Water) Fund totaling \$283 thousand. Property Tax Revenues continue to be the primary source of revenues at 61%, followed by ABC Store Distributions at 6.7% and State Shared Revenues at 6.5%. On the expenditures side, Public Works, Public Safety, Administrative, and Fire Protection comprise the majority of costs of operations.

Interestingly, Avery County reappraised real property values this past year and as a result, the valuation of taxable property on the Avery side of the Town had an overall devaluation of approximately \$2 million. Fortunately, new home construction on the Watauga side of Town more than offset this decrease and as a result, the Council was able to hold the Ad Valorem tax rate of \$0.51. Reducing the tax rate is always a goal but is very difficult when our budget is so reliant on property tax revenues as reflected in the first paragraph.

The Capital Improvement Plan, containing planned capital expenditures over the next five years, has estimated costs amounting to \$3.1 million. Major capital expenditures within this \$3.1 million are four water system upgrade projects, which need to be completed.

Note from the Town Manager



We embark upon a new fiscal year on July 1, 2010 and we say goodbye to the past. In some ways, we are glad the old is passing. What a year! We have experienced a host of challenges, but we have come out on the other side strong and without too many scars. The new fiscal year brings its own new challenges and opportunities for citizens, Town Council, various boards and committees, and your Seven Devils staff. All of the parties afore mentioned have worked diligently to make Seven Devils a better place to live and visit, and I offer my thanks and appreciation for what has been accomplished and what we will accomplish in the future as we work together. I am reminded of the old adage “United we stand, divided we fall.” I commit to you that I will continue to work diligently to keep the momentum of advancing the health, safety, and general welfare of our citizens and visitors a top priority.

Introducing the Town Clerk

At the June 14, 2010 Town Council meeting, Bethany Higgins was sworn in by Mayor Dodson as the Seven Devils Town Clerk. Bethany holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Management from Florida Atlantic University and was most recently employed as an internal claims adjustor and administrative specialist with Sarasota County Risk Management in Sarasota, FL. She is a N.C. Licensed Real Estate Broker and a N.C. Notary Public. Bethany is very excited about serving in the capacity of Town Clerk at Seven Devils and looks forward to working with the Town Council and citizens to improve municipal responsiveness, efficiency, and effectiveness. Bethany lives in Banner Elk, NC where she enjoys hiking, camping, mountain biking, fly fishing, and spending time with her family of three adult children and one grandchild.



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 | 800-448-2383 |
| Skyline Telephone Repair Service | 877-475-9546 |
| Charter Communications | 877-728-3814 |



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE E-911 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

(This is a reminder of regulations established in 1993)

By authority of N.C.G.S. 153-A-239-1, County Ordinance, and our Town Resolution, the Town of Seven Devils is required to participate in the E-911 Emergency Response program which requires the posting of **clearly visible house numbers**. Proper posting of identification numbers shortens response times for emergency vehicles and crews. **House numbers can be posted in the following ways:**

- 1) Numbers on dwelling units must be no less than 3 ½ inches tall and located within a three (3) foot perimeter of an entrance whereby they are visible and readable from the street or road on which it fronts and no more than 100 feet from said street or road. The number must be reflective and visible day and night. **These individual house numbers may be obtained free of charge from Town Hall.**
- 2) In the event a building is not visible for 100 feet from the public street or road on which it fronts or the lot on which the building is located is landscaped in such a manner that the numbers cannot be seen from the public street or road, the assigned property number shall **also** be posted on the property at or near the property line at a driveway entrance or where there is access to said structure. The number may be posted on a rural mailbox if it is located as specified in this paragraph. Signs need to be reflective and a standard size of 6”x 18” and the size of the numbers needs to be no less than 3 ½ inches. **These signs are available through the Public Safety Committee at a cost of \$35. A custom post and sign are available for \$90, and the Public Safety Committee will install the sign/post for \$10.** A limited number of posts are available at this price and may be ordered on a first come, first serve basis. **If you have further questions please call Safety Committee Member, Kay Ehlinger, at 963-6928 or stop by Town Hall to place an order.**

New Water Billing Policy

Starting July 1, 2010, the Town of Seven Devils will resume monthly billing for water accounts with the following revised rate schedule:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Minimum Bill (3,500 gallons)..... | \$35.00 |
| 3,501 to 6,000 gallons..... | \$.01/gallon |
| 6,001 to unlimited gallons..... | \$.02/gallon |
| Water Bill for Private Well Users..... | \$15.00/month |



The second quarter billing for April, May and June will be mailed the first week of July. The next billing will be sent out the first week of August for July water usage. This change was made by the Town Council in the interest of alerting absentee property owners of any discrepancy in water usage that can occur from leaks.

As recommended in previous Echo editions and our Water Use Ordinance, property owners can take further steps to prevent water damage from leaks by installing a whole house shut off valve within 2 feet of the Town meter and the owner’s house.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings — Please Mark Your Calendars



| Town Council 5:30 PM 2nd Monday | Planning Board 5:30 PM 3rd Monday | Board of Adjustment 5:30 PM 4th Monday (if needed) | Public Works 10:00 AM 3rd Tuesday | Tourism Development 9:00 AM 4th Tuesday | Public Safety 5:30 PM 4th Tuesday |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| July 12 | July 19 | July 26 | July 20 | July 27 | July 27 |
| August 9 | August 16 | August 23 | August 17 | August 24 | August 24 |
| September 13 | September 20 | September 27 | September 21 | September 28 | September 28 |

NEWS & UPDATES



Town of Seven Devils Fire Chief Bobby Powell Secures Grant

A Big THANK YOU to Bobby Powell for writing and receiving a grant from the NC Governor’s Crime Commission for police equipment. The amount of the grant is \$6,907.50, and will be issued to the Police Department later this year. A letter from Governor Bev Perdue, dated May 29, 2010 commends our Police Department for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to a safer community for families. Congratulations, Bobby!

Annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is available on our website at www.sevendevils.net or a hard copy is available for viewing at Town Hall. This report is from the North Carolina Division of Environment and Natural Resources and contains information about the quality of the Town’s water supply.

Occupancy Tax on Short Term Rentals

Just a reminder to our property owners who rent their properties for ninety days (90) or less, there is a room occupancy & tourism development tax of 6% as authorized by N.C.G.S. 105-164.4 (3). Instructions and a monthly tax report form can be picked up at Town Hall or online www.sevendevils.net (go to info tab, forms, occupancy tax).

The Belle Fields Book Exchange

Did you know that our Town has a secret treasure hidden away at Town Hall? Located in our Meeting Hall is a wonderful book exchange made up of best seller books (Hard & Soft Bound) donated and borrowed by our citizens! For newcomers, our book exchange namesake, Belle Fields, one of the first residents of the Town of Seven Devils when it incorporated in 1979, continues to support and use the book depository. Come stop by and pick up or donate a good read to go. A big Thank You to our volunteers Pat & Bill Durham who keep the books neat & organized.

TDA News

The TDA recently hosted a luncheon for local real estate professionals to introduce or reintroduce them to our beautiful mountain. A lovely BBQ lunch was enjoyed by over nineteen real estate professionals including visiting Town Council members and the Town Manager. To view the Town Managers Welcome Letter go to www.sevendevils.net for more information.

