

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2022

# *The Town of Laurel Park*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK



WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

LAUREL PARK, NC

## ***Slow Down, you're moving too fast!!***



Residents have been complaining recently about the increase in speeding and littering in Laurel Park, especially along our main thoroughfares - Hebron Rd., Laurel Park Hwy and White Pine Dr.

Please be respectful of our walkers, cyclists and wildlife! Council has directed our Police Department to take action.

We do not want to ticket our residents, so please **HEED THIS WARNING**. Slow down and set a proper example for other residents and visitors to our beautiful Town.

Thank you!  
Carey O'Cain, Mayor

### **Christmas Tree Pick-Up**

Christmas trees can be placed out the day after Christmas, up until January 15th to be picked up by Public Works. Any trees placed after January 15th will be resident's responsibility to remove.

## **Holiday Garbage Information**



**Thanksgiving:** Scheduled trash collection services for Thanksgiving Day will move from Thursday, November 24th to **Friday, November 25th**.



**Christmas:** Scheduled trash collection services for the week of Christmas will **remain on Thursday, December 22nd**.



**New Year's:** Scheduled trash collection services for the week of New Year's will **remain on Thursday, January 5th**.

#### Reminders

- All garbage must be out by 7:30 AM. Pick up day is Thursday.
- All garbage must be in cans lined in plastic bags or plastic bags of 20-30 gals.
- If your trash or recycling was missed, please notify Town Hall by **10 AM on Friday**, or submit a form on our website [www.laurelpark.org](http://www.laurelpark.org)

## ***Did you know...***

***The EPA estimates that around 75% of all waste is reusable or recyclable!!***

### **ONE MAN'S TRASH IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE**

In today's economy, it's more important than ever for people to have access to used clothing and all sorts of household goods. Instead of throwing away gently used garments and kitchen items, drop them off at a charity thrift store, Salvation Army, Goodwill, or a donation box in a parking lot. Habitat ReStore and the Salvation Army will even come and pick up your larger donated household items, so if you have a usable couch, chair, whatever...give them a call. ReStore will even take your *tools, paint, light fixtures, sinks, working toilets, leftover floor tiles, old doors, shutters, and even the cabinets from your kitchen and bath remodels!* They'll use the proceeds to build Habitat for Humanity homes.

***Think before you toss that toaster - if it works donate it so it can find a new home to love***



## What have the Laurel Park Police been up to?



On October 28th the Laurel Park Police Department hosted its first annual *Trunk or Treat* at Laurel Green Park. During the event officers, town staff and other volunteers passed out over 1,000 pieces of candy and had upwards of 200 visitors.

We would also like to thank the Friends of Laurel Park, The Hendersonville Library, Face Painting by Parties by Jewels, Savannah Rehman, Valley Hill Fire Department, and other volunteers for helping to make this event a success.

We hope to see everyone again next year!



## Our own Erich Junger receives Hunter Home Town Hero Award

The Hunter Automotive Group held their annual Hometown Hero Appreciation Event at Hunter Nissan on October 25th. The North Carolina Auto Dealers Association created the program to honor First Responders and volunteers. Hunter is one of 585 dealers across the state to participate.



Dr. Erich Junger is the Police Services Assistant for the Laurel Park Police Department. Dr. Junger assists with crime scenes, investigations, and evidence. He is a dedicated, hard worker with tremendous drive and is a compassionate person with a servant heart.

## Fall Brush & Leaf Information

The Town's Public Works crew finished brush collection in late October. It is too late to place any more brush out for this season. The next collection will be next Spring. Any yard debris needs to be bagged in paper bags.

**Loose leaf collection started on October 24th and will run through completion. The town has many streets to be serviced and this is a slow process, so please be patient with Public Works. Leaves should be placed in the right-of-way no later than December 4th. Once Public Works collects on your street, they won't necessarily return.**

Loose leaves may be piled on the right-of-way. Please make sure piles are free of limbs, rocks, and other objects that may injure employees and damage equipment. New leaf piles may not be placed in the right-of-way after December 4th.

Reminder, all bagged leaves must be placed in PAPER bags. Please do not include grass clippings, pampas grass, mulch, dirt, or rocks with the leaves, they will be rejected.

Although raking leaves can be a great workout (30 minutes can burn about 150 calories) most people want to complete this task as soon as possible. However, please do not take a short-cut disposal method of dumping your leaves down a storm drain or by placing loose leaves in a drainage ditch or in the gutter.

Other methods include using your lawnmower to reduce leaves to small bits that can be left on the lawn as nutrients for the soil, adding the leaves to your mulch or compost pile, or use them as a winter cover for your garden or kindling for an outdoor fire pit.

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### Or...Leave the Leaves

It's fall, the time of year when we enjoy the glorious colors and leaf blowers are revving up. But do we really need to remove every leaf from our gardens? From the pollinator perspective, the answer is "no." A neat and tidy garden is what it looks like—barren and devoid of shelter for bumble bees, mason bees, and so many other pollinators.

This fall, the Town of Laurel Park's Parks and Greenways Board is encouraging residents to "leave the leaves", a seasonal effort to provide habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators, and other invertebrates. As a Bee City USA affiliate, volunteers have been working to protect pollinators and spread the word across Laurel Park. Stay tuned, the Board will be creating a pollinator garden in the Canal Park.

Continued

Leaves and other decaying vegetation are an important part of the habitat that supports a diversity of wildlife. Overwintering bumble bee queens seek out leaf litter or soft soil to burrow into. Red-banded hairstreak butterflies lay their eggs on fallen oak leaves, which become the first food of the caterpillars. Woolly bears tuck themselves into leaf piles for winter protection before emerging as Isabella tiger moths as adults in spring. Not to mention the fireflies, rove beetles, millipedes, and so many other mini-beasts that live in or hunt through decaying vegetation—and of course, the robins, towhees, and sparrows that glean food on the ground.

Protecting these creatures is as easy as doing less yard work in the fall, and leaving a layer of leaves an inch or two thick. This protects beneficial insects from predators and insulates them from the elements. But keeping leaves in your yard doesn't have to be messy – you can rake leaves into piles and arrange them around trees or into garden beds. But be sure not to shred the leaves, as this could kill any insect eggs or larvae present. Beyond leaving the leaves, many insects use hollow stems as nesting sites, so keep these stalks until spring to provide habitat. In particular, "cavity nesting" bees, like mason bees, utilize these hollow stems!

Providing overwintering habitat is important, since many insect species across North America are experiencing declines, and some are at risk of extinction. Residential areas can provide essential habitat for our invertebrates. As a Bee City, we are joining other Bee City affiliates across the country in this initiative.

Leaving the leaves is just one way to help beneficial insects! These species will benefit even more from intentional habitat plantings in your yard, so contact the Laurel Park Park's and Greenways Board for information on the best local native plants for bees and natural enemies, and where to find them.

Along with providing habitat, eliminating pesticide use is another essential step to protect pollinators in your yard. Many beneficial insects are very sensitive to the lethal effects of insecticides, while herbicides eliminate the flowers they use for food and habitat. Home gardens can thrive without pesticides – only two percent of insects are considered pests! The vast majority provide important benefits like pollination, pest control, and providing food for other animals.

So, in addition to leaving the leaves this fall, consider forgoing pesticides and embracing the wildlife in your yard. The Xerces Society has resources on their website, including winter habitat creation and pollinator-friendly pest and weed control measures.

For more information, go to: <https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>  
<https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/yards-and-gardens>

## What to do with usable paint

Have some leftover paint in good condition? If so, then Habitat ReStore wants your paint to recycle into saleable paint! Here's the basic criteria:

- Is the can at least 3/4 full?
- Can it be stirred?
- Is the can rust free?



If you answered YES to these 3 questions, take it to any Habitat ReStore. Our local store is located at 222 West Barnwell St. They will also pick up any unwanted furniture donations. Call 828-696-9524 for more info.

*Are We Missing Something?*

If you have something you'd like to see in future newsletters on a regular basis or just once, let us know!

Just send an email to Carol at [customerservice@laurelpark.org](mailto:customerservice@laurelpark.org)

**Board of Adjustment**

The Board of Adjustment is most grateful to Mr. Jim Ball for his knowledgeable advice and guidance on the complex issues that the board addresses. We extend a sincere thank you to Jim as he steps down from the Board after 9 years of service. The Board also appreciates the willingness of Mr. Ray Goetsch to accept Council's continuing reappointment, which first began in 1999. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Rick Groves and Mr. Ron Bajakian, who have accepted Council appointments that will begin January 1, 2023.

**Laurel Park Position Available**

**Be part of an amazing team**

The Town of Laurel Park is accepting applications for a Full-Time Police Officer. The Town offers a highly competitive benefits package: NC Retirement, 401(k), medical, dental and vision insurance, paid vacation, holidays, family leave and sick leave.

For more information, please visit [www.laurelpark.org](http://www.laurelpark.org)

**Valley Hill Fire & Rescue: Prepare for Colder Weather**

It's not too early to begin preparing for the heating season. Use this checklist of safety tips and get ahead of the winter freeze.

- The furnace has been inspected and serviced by a qualified professional during the last 12 months.
- The chimneys and vents have been cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional. Check for creosote built-up.
- The wood for your fireplace or wood stove is dry, seasoned wood.
- The fireplace screen is metal or heat-tempered glass, in good condition, and secure in its position in front of the fireplace.
- Have a covered metal container ready to use to dispose of cooled ashes. The ash container should be kept at least 10 feet from the home and any nearby buildings, on a non-combustible surface.
- Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure they are working.

For any questions or additional information contact Fire and Life Safety Officer Chris McDowell at 828-692-2581 ext 105

**Laurel Park Volunteer Opportunities**

The Town of Laurel Park recognizes and celebrates the diversity of Laurel Park and encourages all individuals to apply to serve on Board-appointed committees. The Town of Laurel Park is accepting applications for the following vacancies:

- Planning Board - 1 vacancy
- Parks & Greenway - 1 vacancy

To apply, please contact Town Clerk Tamara Amin at [tamin@laurelpark.org](mailto:tamin@laurelpark.org) or visit [www.laurelpark.org](http://www.laurelpark.org)

# HOW TO RECYCLE LATEX AND ACRYLIC PAINT AT THE HENDERSON COUNTY CONVENIENCE CENTER

265 CONVENIENCE CENTER DR., HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28791 828-697-4505



## Paint Recycling Frequently-Asked Questions

Published on Henderson County North Carolina (<https://www.hendersoncountync.gov>)

## Paint Recycling Frequently-Asked Questions

*It is estimated that approximately 50% of the waste collected during municipal household hazardous waste events (HHW) is made up of only paint. This also mostly accounts for half the costs of recycling and disposal for HHW items. \*Product Stewardship Institute*

### [Can I leave paint products in front of the collection site if I don't see a staff person?](#)

Please do not! We ask that you do not leave any paint products outside of the collection facility at any time. It is important that citizens observe this request to help minimize accidental leakages that could harm environmental quality, humans, and wildlife.

### [Is there a recycling fee?](#)

All liquid paint can be recycled for a fee of \$2 per gallon container, regardless of the size container or amount within. No charge for spray paint cans. Recycling paint can be costly for the Solid Waste Division and reduce the amount of funding available towards new recycling programs for the community. This minimal fee helps Solid Waste cover this program and ensure that paints are being properly recycled or disposed of. We appreciate your understanding.

### [If I have dried paint at home, can I bring that for disposal?](#)

We ask that you get rid of dried paint with your regular household trash. If it's **completely** solid and the lid fits tightly, it can be thrown away with regular trash as long as it is bagged.

### [Can I mix different kinds of paint together and bring fewer cans?](#)

We ask that you only mix good quality, latex or acrylic paints together *if you must*. **Never** mix oil-based paints or related items together, as these items are flammable. This ensures that the quality of paint we receive is high enough to be made into new materials or new paint.

### [How is the paint recycled? Can the containers also be recycled?](#)

Depending on the quality of paint received, latex and oil-based paints can be refined and start a whole new life as something else or new, usable paint. A variety of open landfill operations around the country can use bulked latex and acrylic paints as spray-on daily covers. High quality non-hazardous paints can be reformed into new paints after the color is refined or even be mixed into cement fill. Oil-based paints can be used as alternative fuel bases and as cement block fill once the volatile chemicals are removed.

A majority of paint containers are now made out of plastic or metal and can be recycled once they are emptied and cleaned out. Spray paint cans that are made of steel can also be recycled, as can the plastic caps. These items can be recycled at the Convenience Center daily as long as they are empty. Please be sure to remove plastic caps from metal cans.



The Friends of Laurel Park (FLP) completed their 2022 music festival series of 5 concerts at Jump Off Rock Park on October 8th. Our final concert featured the band AutumnWud, with a record turnout of more than 250! FLP is already planning for another series at JOR starting May 2023.

The Friends also conducted the first Historic Laurel Park Bus Tours in July.

On October 28, FLP will contribute to the new Laurel Park-sponsored Trunk or Treat at Laurel Green Park.

On November 12, an FLP program celebrating Fall Colors at Laurel Green Park will be led by naturalist Eric Young.

Winter plans are underway for programs on invasive species control methods and another Meet the Chiefs event.

Spring events will be announced in a future newsletter.

The FLP remains an active participant in planning for the 2025 Centennial events. Look for more information on the website: [Friendsoflaurelpark.org](http://Friendsoflaurelpark.org) or contact President Ed Mattern ([edmattern@att.net](mailto:edmattern@att.net)).





# CALENDAR



**November 11**

**Town Hall Closed for Veteran's Day**



**November 24-25**

**Town Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**



**December 23-27**

**Town Hall Closed for Christmas Holiday**



**January 2**

**Town Hall Closed for New Years Holiday**

## Public Meeting Schedule

(Please check back on our website for up-to-date meeting changes prior to attending)

### Town Council Work Session

November 10 @ 9:30 am in person

December 15 @ 9:30 am in person

### Town Council Regular Meeting

November 15 @ 9:30 am in person

December 20 @ 9:30 am in person

### Parks & Greenways Board

November 8 @ 9:30 am

December 13 @ 9:30 am

### Parks & Greenways Site Meeting

November Canceled

December 22 @ 4 pm

### Planning Board

November 8 @ 3:00 pm in person

December 13 @ 3:00 pm in person

### ABC Board at the ABC Store in person

November 22 @ 8:30 am

December TBD @ 8:30 am

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

Special Meeting/Public Hearing

November 29 @ 1:00 pm in person

### Centennial Committee

November 7 @ 11:30 am in person

December 12 @ 11:30 am in person

### Planning Board

November 8 @ 3:00 pm in person

December 13 @ 3:00 pm in person

### ABC Board at the ABC Store in person

November 22 @ 8:30 am

December TBD @ 8:30 am

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

November 10 @ 3:00 pm in person

## Town Contact Information

Town Hall 693-4840  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm Mon - Fri

Police Office 692-9399  
(non-emergency)

Police Non-Emergency 697-3025

Valley Hill Fire 692-2581

**Manager:** Alex Carmichael

**Town Clerk:** Tamara Amin

**Finance Director:** Heather Smith

**Assistant to the Manager:** Jordan Jones

**Police Chief:** Bobbie Trotter

**Public Works Director:** Brandon Johnson



**Mayor:** J. Carey O’Cain

**Mayor Pro-Tem:** A. Paul Hansen

**Commissioners:**

George W. Banta

Kristin Dunn

Debra Hinson Bridges