

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

# *The Town of Laurel Park*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK



Original Bear photo by  
Bobbie Trotter

## For Everyone's Safety

Please be considerate of your Laurel Park neighbors

Please bring your trash cans in as soon as your trash and recycle have been collected. People are leaving their cans out 24/7 and they can attract bears or get knocked over by animals and wind. If they end up in the road, they cause traffic hazards to those who have to dodge them, risking accidents!



### Speeding is a constant issue



Please slow down. We know it's irresistible to speed through the twists and turns of Laurel Park Highway, but you aren't in the Grand Prix.

We want people to be able to ride their bikes and walk on safe roads.



### Christmas Tree Pick-Up

Christmas trees can be placed out the day after Christmas, up until January 14th to be picked up by Public Works. Any trees placed after January 14th will be resident's responsibility to remove.

### Did you know...

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



Give your stuff a second life by donating to Habitat, the Mission on 7th, a local Thrift Store, Salvation Army or Goodwill!

## Holiday Garbage Information



**Thanksgiving:** Scheduled trash collection services for Thanksgiving Day will move from Thursday, November 23rd to **Friday, November 24th.**



**Christmas:** Scheduled trash collection services for the week of Christmas will move from Thursday, December 28th to **Friday, December 29th.**



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

#### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

\*All garbage must be out by 7:30 AM. Pick up day is Thursday unless there is a holiday delay. Please check our website or Facebook page for delay announcements.

\*All garbage must be in cans lined in plastic bags or plastic bags of 20-30 gallons.

If your trash or recycling was out by 7:30 am but missed, please notify Town Hall by 10 AM on Friday by calling or submitting a form on our website [www.laurelpark.org](http://www.laurelpark.org).

**IF YOUR CANS WERE NOT OUT BY 7:30 AM, IT IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WASTE PRO TO COME BACK TO YOUR RESIDENCE. DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE TRUCKS WILL ALWAYS COME AT THE SAME TIME EACH WEEK! DRIVERS CHANGE AND ROUTES CAN BE FOLLOWED DIFFERENTLY.**

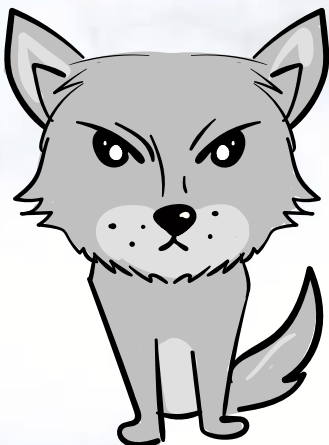
## What have the Laurel Park Police been up to?



On October 28th the Laurel Park Police Department hosted its successful second annual *Trunk or Treat* event at Laurel Green Park. During the event officers, town staff and other volunteers passed out over 1,000 pieces of candy to lots of happy faces!

We would like to thank Elizabeth Benoit Baxevanis, Girl Scouts of America, Julie Wilkie, Kaylee Johnson, Sofia Rodriguez, Commissioner Debra Bridges, Friends of Laurel Park, Valley Hill Fire Department, and other volunteers for helping to make this event a success.

A special Thank You to all the Laurel Park residents that donated bags of candy this year!! We hope to see everyone again next year!



**For everyone's safety  
Please keep your dogs contained in  
a fenced in area or on a leash at all times!**

The police are getting frequent calls about dogs being on others' property and have even been called to dog bite scenes.

**According to Laurel Park Ordinance 91.04 (Running at Large) All dogs and cats must be on an owner's property or on a leash.**

# Holiday Reminders from Henderson County!

## RECYCLE



Plain Gift Wrap



Plain Gift Boxes



Glass



Cards, Envelopes, & Catalogs



Cardboard Flattened Boxes

## DROPOFF (LOCATIONS IN RED)



Fresh Trees, Wreaths, & Garland  
*Mountain True Jackson Park Event*



Light Strings  
*Henderson County 4H Club or Convenience Center*



Electronics  
*Convenience Center*



Foam Packaging  
*Hard to Recycle Event*



TV and Computer Monitors  
*Transfer Station*



Plastic Bags & Plastic Wrap  
*Grocery and Retail Stores*

## REUSE OR DONATE



Gift Bags and Boxes



Ribbons and Bows



Artificial Trees



Decorations



Toys

## GARBAGE



Fancy Gift Wrap (Foil, Glitter, etc.)



Tissue Paper



Plastic Packaging



Plastic Trays and Lids



Paper Plates, Towels, & Napkins



Paper and Plastic Cups



Aluminum Foil, Pans, & Plates



HENDERSON COUNTY RECYCLES



[www.hcrecycles.org](http://www.hcrecycles.org)

## 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 30th 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 3rd. 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 3rd.

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.

**UPDATE**

### INVASIVE VINES

Will Coffee and Todd Gizzi have made considerable progress saving trees along Laurel Park roads and rights of way from the harmful effects of invasive vines on tree health. This work is made possible by a generous financial gift from a Laurel Park resident which is now almost fully expended. Continuation of this work for the remainder of this fiscal year will depend upon the receipt of additional gifts from other concerned residents.

We invite and welcome your support of this work. Checks may be made payable to Town of Laurel Park and annotated For Vine Removal. The long term success of this effort to protect and preserve the Laurel Park forest will depend upon the attention residents direct toward invasive vines on their own property. Will (480-688-7366) and Todd (269-599-7438) are available for employment toward this privately contracted work. You can contact them at these numbers.

We appreciate the interest and efforts Laurel Park residents continually make toward making Laurel Park a "De-vine" place to live.

Leaves are not litter.

They are food  
and shelter for butterflies, bees,  
moths, and more. Tell friends  
and neighbors to just:

#leavetheleaves



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 information.

*Thank you for your service*

Laurel Park Council wishes to thank Robert Dulmage for his dedicated service on the ABC Board over the last six years. Mr. Dulmage has devoted his time and professionalism to help our local ABC store grow and improve to better serve our residents.

## 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 (Must reside in ETJ)
- Board of Adjustment - 1 vacancy (Must reside in ETJ)

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)

Biking and Footpath Maps now available on our website and at Town Hall



Don't forget to pick up a new high-quality metal LP license plate at Town Hall or any Friends of LP event! They are only \$15 and all proceeds go to our Centennial Celebrations in 2025.



## Stay tuned for details on the reopening of our improved Laurel Green Park!

### VALLEY HALL FIRE & RESCUE WANTS YOU TO: 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

*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 stop in or send an email to Carol at [customerservice@laurelpark.org](mailto:customerservice@laurelpark.org)



## The Parks and Greenways Committee Congratulates Joe Sanders

**In October the Parks and Greenways Board recognized Joe Sanders as the first recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award.**

**This annual award will recognize citizens who have personally contributed to making our greenspace enjoyable and sustainable for the future.**

The residents of Laurel Park thank Joe Sanders for all he does to help make our community a better place. Joe has served on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Steering Committee and has been instrumental in our Bluebird Nesting program.

Since moving to Henderson County in 1982 Joe has built more than 500 Bluebird nest boxes. Some of his projects have included working with the Young Naturalists 4-H Club, working with Boy Scouts to build and install the nest boxes on Bluebird trails as their Eagle Scout projects, installed nest boxes in Jackson Park and the Oklawaha Greenway. Joe also teaches two classes at the NC Arboretum; one on building nest boxes and the other on how to monitor the nest boxes.

Bicycling was what Joe turned to for fun and adventure. "The bicycle offered a wonderful way to have fun when my children got old enough to ride. Camping trips to Cades Cove and riding the loop road, and trips to the Virginia Creeper will always be some of my fondest memories of time with my children. When they went off to college, I had more time not only to ride but also to work to promote safe bicycling for all. The advocacy program in the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club provided the means to not only share that love of bicycling, but to help communities develop plans that help meet the current and future needs for safe bicycling. Safe bicycle routes can offer people the means to leave the car at home, reduce road congestion and pollution, and enjoy some exercise. A doctor friend once told me that if he could write one prescription to help people improve their health, it would be to "exercise, then repeat."

"Peggy and I love living in Hendersonville and since our house is so close to Laurel Park, we love riding and walking around your beautiful community. It feels natural to want to help make it a better place. We have been honored to help make that a reality."



### Parks & Greenways Committee



This year eleven residents volunteered to monitor 29 Bluebird boxes located throughout our parks.

From early spring to late summer, volunteers made weekly visits to the boxes recording nest building, egg-laying, and fledglings.

There were over 70 successful Bluebird egg hatchings in addition to a combination of 30 wrens and chickadees!

These findings are reported to the North Carolina Bluebird Society which is dedicated to the future of the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds that are native to NC.





The Friends of Laurel Park (FLP) are winding down at the end of a very busy season.

Our music series ended in early October with a record-setting turnout of more than 250 people to hear Autumnwud.

At the end of October, the FLP participated in the Laurel Park Police Trunk or Treat event, with a decorated car and, of course, some sweet treats.

On November 2, FLP is hosting the Henderson County recycling coordinator at the First Congregational Church on 5th Ave. from 4 to 5:30 pm. All are invited to find out about changes in materials accepted, those rejected, and more about community sustainability.

The FLP has recently updated their Welcome Packets for new residents which include new maps of footpaths in town and a lot of other useful information about town activities and resources. The maps are also available at Town Hall.

With the 2025 Centennial just around the corner, the FLP is engaged with the town's planning committee and events are being scheduled for each month of the year 2025.

Finally, the Friends would like to give a hearty Thank You to Chief Bobbie Trotter and the Laurel Park Police personnel for their excellent help with parking and security at all of our music events in 2023.

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 2  How to Recycle - 4:00-5:00 @ 1st Congregational Church
- November 10  Town Hall Closed for Observation of Veteran's Day
- November 20  Office Closed
- November 23-24  Town Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 24  Trash Pickup the 24th instead of the 23rd
- December 25-27  Town Hall Closed for Christmas Holiday
- December 29  Trash Pickup the 29th instead of the 28th
- January 1  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 16 @ 9:30 am  
December 14 @ 9:30 am

### Town Council Regular Meeting

November 21 @ 9:30 am  
December 19 @ 9:30 am

### Planning Board

November 14 @ 3:00 pm  
November 16 @ 3:00 pm Special joint meeting BOA & Planning Board  
December 12 @ 3:00 pm

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

November 16 @ 3:00 pm - Special joint meeting BOA & Planning Board  
November 16 @ 4:00 pm

### Parks & Greenways Board

November 14 @ 9:30 am  
December 12 @ 9:30 am

### Parks & Greenways Site Meeting

November - Holiday  
December 28 - Canceled

### ABC Board at the ABC Store

November 28 @ 8:30 am  
December - 26 @ 8:30 am

### Invasive Species committee

November 1 @ 10:00 am  
December 6 @ 10:00 am

### Centennial Committee

November - Canceled  
December 11 @ 11:30 am

### Bee Committee

November 21 @ 4:30 pm  
December 19 @ 4:30 pm

### Bicycle Committee

December 11 @ 3:00 pm

### 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
- Police Chief:** Bobbie Trotter
- Public Works Director:** Brandon Johnson
- Finance Director:** Kirk Medlin
- Assistant to the Manager:** Jordan Jones
- Town Clerk:** Tamara Amin



- Mayor:** J. Carey O'Cain
- Mayor Pro-Tem:** A. Paul Hansen
- Commissioners:**
- George W. Banta
- Kristin Dunn
- Debra Hinson Bridges