

The Town of Laurel Park

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

Welcome Fall

WHAT'S INSIDE

Community Partner & Shred-It Event



Jump Off Rock Concerts

TRUNK OR TREAT!

EARLY BRUSH COLLECTION

HISTORICAL MARKERS

VOLUNTEER GARDENING DAYS

Recycle Informational Event

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

James "Jim" W. Ball, Jr.



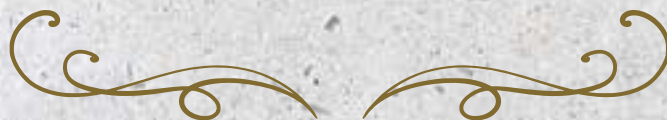
James W. Ball Jr., 71, of Laurel Park passed away on Friday, June 30th, 2023 at Mission St. Joseph (LTACH) from a heart attack. He was born in Bristol Virginia to the late Dorothy (Dot) Ball and James William (Jim) Ball. James W. Ball Jr. was a retired Lieutenant Colonel that served for the United States Army, as a helicopter pilot.

Jim also served 16 years as the first town manager of Laurel Park, NC. As well as 9 years on the Board of Adjustment in Laurel Park, NC.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Nancy S. Ball (Laurel Park, NC); daughter, Rhonda Selvig (Hendersonville, NC); grandchildren, Andreas & Ricardo Guevara (Orlando, FL), Daniela & Corey English (Hendersonville, NC), Lillian & Riley Selvig (Hendersonville, NC); sisters, Betty Ball (Bristol, TN), Martha Hinkle (Bristol, TN), Joyce Ratliff (Blountville, TN); sister-in-Law, Janice Vastine (Elizabeth City, NC) and brother-in-Law, Robert & Mary Benefield (Bossier City, LA).

Anyone that knew Jim, knew he was a wonderful man and community leader. He was the biggest fan of the Tennessee Vols as well as the Atlanta Braves. There was nothing that Jim loved more than spending time with his grandchildren. He will be missed very much by his many cousins, nieces, & nephews whom he loved dearly.

A celebration of life will be held from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at Hendersonville County Club, 1860 Hebron Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739



Please note the change of venue

Commissioner's Corner

Town Historical Markers

By Commissioner Paul Hansen

The Laurel Park Civic Association and the Friends of Laurel Park, with the support of the Town Council, adopted an historical marker program in 2010 which was started to identify specific sites on the mountain that were significant in the early development of Laurel Park. The fledgling history of Laurel Park (1890-1926) is an interesting and significant narrative that has been captured mostly in the early newspapers of the day, the French Broad Hustler, the Western Carolina Democrat, and the Times-News. There are also snippets of stories in books on local history such as: On the Banks of the Oklawaha (volumes 1-3) by Frank Fitzsimmons; Henderson County – A Pictorial History by Louise Baily and Jody Barber; A Partial History of Henderson County by J.T. Fail, Jr.; Kermit Edney Remembers – Where Fitz Left Off by Kermit Edney and pamphlets The Fleetwood Story by James H. Toms and A Short History of Laurel Park by Lincoln F. Parker. The Historical Marker project identifies people and places that contributed to the early days of the Town's development.

There are currently 19 markers installed at different locales around Echo and Jump Off Mountains. The walking trail map is being updated to show where they are located. One of the markers identifies the oldest structure in Laurel Park called "Woodlawn".



Another marker identifies an early reservoir built by the town of Hendersonville to deliver water to the nascent community that had wells that were failing or not supplying enough water.



The other existing markers are:

CCC Rock Walls
 Crystal Spring
 Echo Mountain Inn
 Fleetwood Hotel
 Jump Off Rock
 Laurel Park Railroad

Laurel Park SIGN
 Legend of Jump Off Rock
 Park and Amusement
 Ground
 Park Heights Tower
 Rhododendron Lake
 Swiss Railway

The Canal
 The Casino
 The Quarry Tract
 W.A. Smith
 The Retreat Hotel

An additional 3 markers are planned for this fiscal year. The suggested sites are:

The Pavilion and Laurel Park Inn at Rhododendron Lake
 Drakes Store
 Porter Military Boys Camp

Additional markers are planned for Poplar Lodge, Mount Crystal Baptist Church, Hendersonville Country Club (Ransier Pony Farm), and Glenn Rock Springs.

As part of the Laurel Park Centennial celebration in 2025, the Centennial Committee is planning to have a booklet produced containing interesting stories, pictures, and other information on Laurel Park's early history. The Friends of Laurel Park (FLP) recently held 2 Laurel Park history bus tours. These tours are held yearly and are open to residents. Check the FLP website for details on future tours.



Laurel Park's roots date to 1890 when W.A. Smith and Judge C.M. Pace purchased a 141-acre tract of land 1.5 miles west of Hendersonville.

In the succeeding 35 years, the area became an energetic “playground of Hendersonville” and was granted a town charter by the N.C. General Assembly in 1925.

The stories of those early years are quite fascinating, and as the Town prepares for its Centennial in 2025, a booklet is being prepared to tell that momentous history.



The official Laurel Park License Plates commemorating our upcoming Centennial in 2025 are on sale now at Town Hall and at Friends of Laurel Park Events. Cost is \$15 each and proceeds go toward Centennial Celebration events.

Cash (exact change) or Check only, please.

Paving Projects

On Wednesday, 8/16/23, the Laurel Park paving project Phase One commenced. Paving crews were mobilized and began paving improvements on Trellis Lane, Davis Mountain Road, Fairway Drive, Sunny Ridge Road, Silk Tree Road, Alta Circle, and Orchard Circle, in that order.

Phase Two is scheduled to begin in October. Please check our website for updates on where crews will be working and as always,

Please slow down and be mindful of signage, lane closures, and crews working in these areas!

Tax Bill Information

2023 tax bills have been mailed. If you have not received your bill, please call Henderson County Tax Office. You may need to update the mailing address. Property owners have until January 5, 2024 to pay without penalty. The 2023 tax rate for Laurel Park has been lowered to \$0.395 per \$100 valuation.

Reminder - all payments must be sent directly to Henderson County

Brush and Leaf Collection will be early this year due to excessive storm debris

Leaf Collection

OCTOBER 14 Begin Placing Leaves

DECEMBER 3 Last Day to Place

Leaf collection begins October 30th and goes through completion. Loose leaves may be piled on the right-of-way beginning October 14th. 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 out after December 3rd.

Leaf collection is a very slow and labor-intensive process, and the schedule is affected by weather and other Town activities. There are over 33 miles of roads to clear, by either blowing the leaves where possible & vacuuming up where necessary.

Thank you in advance for your patience!

Bagged leaves are collected first, so if you want your leaves picked up ASAP, simply bag and fill out the form on our website at www.laurelpark.org for collection within 3 business days.

Brush & loose-leaf piles cannot be mixed. If a leaf pile contains brush, it will not be picked up

Brush Collection

SEPTEMBER 1 Begin Placing Brush

SEPTEMBER 17 Last Day to Place Out

Beginning the week of September 18, Public Works will begin collecting brush. Every effort is made to collect brush quickly, but it is a process that takes approximately one month to complete throughout the Town. If we continue to experience severe storms, this may prolong the process as we clean up public areas.

Important Reminders

- Brush cannot be picked up if it is not by the roadside. It must not protrude into the roadway or obstruct traffic in any manner. Place piles parallel to the road.
- Limbs and branches cannot be more than 3" in diameter. Larger limbs will not be collected.
- The Town will not collect brush that results from major landscaping or land-clearing operations.
- Brush placed at any time other than the designated fall and spring collection will not be picked up, and the resident will be notified of the violation. **Brush placed after September 17 will not be picked up.**

Plastic bags don't go in your regular recycling bin.

Neither the Garbage companies, nor the County Convenience Center want them!

Grocery stores and Walmart have bins at the entrances for your various plastic bags.

What kind of bags to recycle?

CLEAN AND DRY:

- Grocery/Shopping Bags
- The Bag your Newspaper comes in
- Fruit and Veggie Bags (Except for Cellophane* see below)
- Cereal Bags
- Bread Bags
- Plastic Wrap on Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Amazon Bubble Envelopes (paper labels cut off and thrown away)

Do not put Cellophane (thin, crunchy outer wrap on packages, some produce) in *any* recycling. While other plastics are made from oil, Cellophane is derived from natural sources, such as wood, so **it is biodegradable and you can compost it - who knew?!!**

If you don't compost, just put it in the trash and it will biodegrade in the landfill.

For more information, attend the November 2nd Recycling Information Event at The First Congregational Church (see below) or go to <https://abagslife.com>



Try adopting a rule that if you can carry your purchases through the store without a bag, you can carry them to your car without one, too. Or better yet, take your own bag!

BREAKING NEWS

THE HENDERSON COUNTY CONVENIENCE CENTER NOW ACCEPTS CLEAN STYROFOAM ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH!
TAKE YOUR FOAM PACKING BLOCKS AND EGG CARTONS AND GIVE 'EM A SECOND LIFE.



Friends of Laurel Park

The Friends of Laurel Park hosted a CPR class at the Valley Hill Fire & Rescue station in July and another sold out historical bus tour of our Town in August.

We will complete the music festival season at Jump Off Rock concert with two final concerts.

September 16 - The duet of Two Step Too, and food will be available from the Flat Rock Bakery Pizza food truck.

October 6 - The finale will feature the popular band Autumnwud. Concerts begin at 5 pm at the Park

On November 2, from 4:00-5:30, a Henderson County coordinator will offer information about current recycling policies, as well as disposal of hazardous materials. This will be held at The First Congregational Church on 5th Avenue.

For more information, check our website at: www.friendsoflaurelpark.org.



THE LAUREL PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
WILL BE HOSTING THEIR SECOND
ANNUAL
TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US FOR FAMILY FUN IN THE LAUREL
GREEN PARKING LOT
ON SATURDAY, OCT 28, 2023
FROM 5-7PM
(NO RAIN DATE)

PARKING FOR THE EVENT WILL BE LOCATED ACROSS THE
STREET AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1735 5TH AVE W, LAUREL PARK, NC 28739

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF THE EVENT BY
DECORATING A CAR, HANDING OUT CANDY OR MAKING A
DONATION, EMAIL OFFICER MOORE AT
AMOORE@LAURELPARK.ORG BY OCTOBER 1ST

*WE ARE ALSO ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF CANDY AT TOWN
HALL. YOU MAY DROP OFF ANY WRAPPED CANDY AT THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT OR TOWN HALL OFFICE
M-F 9:00AM - 5:00PM



THE LAUREL PARK BEE COMMITTEE

As an Official Bee City USA, Laurel Park has committed to conserving pollinators of all kinds. Our goals are creating and enhancing pollinator habitats, reducing pesticide use, and hosting Pollinator Awareness events.

The Laurel Park Bee Committee was host to the successful showing of the wonderful film *My Garden of a Thousand Bees* by veteran wildlife cameraman Martin Dohm, who undertook the filming of all the bees he could find in his tiny Bristol, England garden during the COVID lockdown.

The Bee Committee is searching for other films about bees, and pollinators in general, to raise awareness of their plight within our community and around the world. Please check the Town website, Facebook and the newsletter to find out about any future film showings!



You are what you eat!

One out of every three bites of food we eat, from almonds to strawberries and soybeans, are pollinated by bees. Bees and other essential pollinators around the globe have been dying at alarming rates. Last winter beekeepers reported losses of 40-90% of their hives, one of the worst years since the global bee die-off began. Habitat loss, high temperatures and degradation are reducing food sources.

The widespread use of neonics (pesticides) in gardens, lawns and landscaping is a key factor in the decline. Unfortunately, some supposedly "bee friendly" seedlings and plants that are sold in many local nurseries and garden centers have been *pre-treated with neonicotinoids (neonics)*.

Please check your labels before buying these. To be safe, buy organic to avoid seeds and plants pre-treated with bee-killing pesticides!!

SPEAKING OF POLLINATORS...



The P&G Board recently spearheaded the design of two pollinator gardens at Canal Park. A big Thank You to the residents that donated and planted the gardens!

COME JOIN US! COMMUNITY PARTNERS DAY October 2, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm First Congregational Church Parking Lot

Come meet and greet community partners who serve Henderson County with a broad array of services. Come learn about the organizations and perhaps find a cause to volunteer your time and talents

We will also have onsite:



Shred-it :

Secure Destruction of unwanted documents



Laurel Park Police Department
Unused Medication Disposal



Valley Hill Fire Department
Fire Safety Information



LAUREL PARK, NC



PISGAH
LEGAL SERVICES



Sponsored by Local Government
Federal Credit Union



Hosted by the Town of Laurel Park

Invasive Species Committee

The Parks and Greenways Board has created an Invasive Species Committee to educate and encourage Laurel Park residents to partner with the Town to save and protect our Laurel Park forest.

Driving up Laurel Park Highway you have likely noticed a number of trees within the Town right of ways cleared of the threat posed by ivy and other invasive vines. Initially undertaken by volunteers, Will Coffee and Todd Gizzi have come aboard on behalf of the Town of Laurel Park to assist these efforts. Their work is made possible, and funded by, the generous gift of a Laurel Park resident. You can support this effort with a financial gift and a check made payable to the Town of Laurel Park and annotated for Ivy Removal.

Will Coffee comes to Hendersonville via Flagstaff, Arizona where he worked for the National Park Service. A desire to be closer to family and the uniquely rich bio-diversity of this area drew this botanist and ecology professional to WNC. He is a proud Arizona State Bachelor of Science graduate who has served a hitch with the Peace Corps in Mexico.

Michiganer Todd Gizzi has come across the Pacific Ocean and the continental United States from exotic Hawaii to live in beautiful WNC. Since moving to Laurel Park, he has developed a deep interest in the Blue Ridge Mountain ecosystem.

Will and Todd are keen to share their knowledge about dealing with invasive species with any interested Laurel Park residents. They are available to contract with homeowners to clear vines from trees on your own property. Contact Will at 480-688-7366 and Todd at 269-599-7438. Stop and visit if you see them alongside Laurel Park's streets and lanes.



Todd Gizzi (L) and Will Coffee



STAY INFORMED

Keep up with what's happening in town by going to www.laurelpark.org. There you'll find meeting minutes, ordinances and you can sign up for Blackboard Connect, our message system that calls you and tells you about special events, trash holiday delays, town emergencies and more. You can also call us at Town Hall and we'll sign you up.

LAUREL PARK VOLUNTEER GARDENING DAYS

- September 5 9:00 AM - RLNP*
- September 6 10:00 AM - RLNP*
- September 19 9:00 AM - Laurel Green**
- September 20 10:00 AM - Laurel Green**

- October 3 9:00 AM - Site TBD
- October 4 10:00 AM - Site TBD
- October 17 9:00 AM - Site TBD
- October 18 10:00 AM - Site TBD

*Rhododendron Lake Nature Park
 **If Steam Restoration is complete

FOR "SITE TO BE DETERMINED" CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES FOR UPDATES



VALLEY HILL FIRE & RESCUE WANTS YOU TO PLAN AHEAD

IN LESS THAN 30 SECONDS, A SMALL FLAME CAN TURN INTO A MAJOR FIRE.

FIRE CAN SPREAD RAPIDLY THROUGHOUT YOUR HOME, LEAVING AS LITTLE AS A FEW MINUTES TO ESCAPE ONCE THE ALARM SOUNDS. FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS IN MAKING A **HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.**

- DRAW YOUR HOME FLOOR PLAN.
- LABEL ALL THE ROOMS AND IDENTIFY THE DOORS AND WINDOWS.
- PLAN 2 ESCAPE ROUTES FROM EVERY ROOM.
- PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES FOR ANYONE WITH A DISABILITY.
- AGREE ON A MEETING PLACE WHERE EVERYONE WILL GATHER AFTER YOU HAVE ESCAPED. THIS WILL ALLOW ACCOUNTABILITY OF ALL SUBJECTS
- DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOME AFTER EXITING THE HOME
- **PRACTICE YOUR PLAN.**



For more information on making a Home Fire Escape Plan, contact Fire and Life Safety Officer Chris McDowell
828-692-2581 Ext 105

Get involved in the Laurel Park Community by Joining one of our Boards

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

- (3) Board of Adjustment members - (2) Live Within Town Limits, (1) Live in ETJ
- (4) Planning Board members (4) Parks and Greenways members
- (1) ABC Board member

To apply please contact Town Clerk Tamara Amin at tamin@laurelpark.org or visit www.laurelpark.org

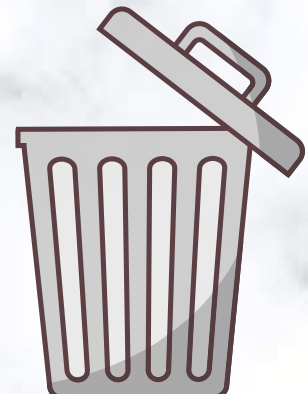


LAUREL GREEN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

WE KNOW YOU ARE ALL EAGER FOR LAUREL GREEN TO REOPEN. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY FACTORS DETERMINE WHEN THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED, SOME OF WHICH ARE OUT OF OUR CONTROL. WE'VE HAD SOME UNEXPECTED OBSTACLES AND ENGINEERING CHANGES TO OVERCOME BUT WE ASSURE YOU, THE PROJECT IS PROGRESSING AND THE PARK WILL REOPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GIVEN THESE OBSTACLES, WE HOPE TO HAVE THE PROJECT COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE WORK TO IMPROVE OUR TOWN

**Please note: Trash pickup is on
Friday the week of Labor Day**



CALENDAR

September 4		Town Hall Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 7 No Trash		**Trash pickup on Friday, Sept 8**
September 1- September 17		Place brush out for fall collection
September 18		Brush Collection begins
October 2 - 9AM-12PM		Community Partners Day (Shred-it, med disposal)
October 14 - December 3		Place leaves out
October 30		Leaf pickup begins and continues thru completion
October 28		Trunk or Treat

Public Meeting Schedule

Town Council Regular Meeting

September 19 @ 9:30 am
October 17 @ 9:30 am

Town Council Work Session

September 14 @ 9:30 am
October 12 @ 9:30 am

Bicycle Advisory Committee

October 9 @ 3:00 pm (Held every other month)

Centennial Committee

September 11 @ 11:30 am
October 9 @ 11:30 am

Parks & Greenways Board

September 12 @ 9:30 am
October 10 @ 9:30 am

Parks & Greenways Site Meeting

September 28 @ 4 pm - location TBD
October 26 @ 4 pm - location TBD

Invasive Species Committee

September 6 @ 10:00 am
October 4 @ 10:00 am

Planning Board

September 12 @ 3:00 pm
October 10 @ 3:00 pm

ABC Board - at the ABC Store

September 26 @ 8:30 am
October 24 @ 8:30 am

Board of Adjustment

September 14 @ 4:00 pm

Bee Committee

September 19 @ 4:30 pm
October 17 @ 4:30 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
Finance Officer: Kirk Medlin
Town Clerk: Tamara Amin
Assistant to the Manager: Jordan Jones
Public Works Director: Brandon Johnson



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