

# *The Town of Laurel Park*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK



## THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN COMMISSIONER DEB BRIDGES

LAST FALL, LAUREL PARK TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT ASKING THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS TO CONSIDER RENAMING LP HWY. THE RESIDENT SUGGESTED THAT A DIFFERENT SUFFIX MIGHT BE EFFECTIVE IN SLOWING DOWN THE TRAFFIC UP AND DOWN THE MOUNTAIN. THE COMMISSIONERS THOUGHT THE REQUEST HAD MERIT.

INDEED, ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENT COMPLAINTS I RECEIVE FROM RESIDENTS IS THE UNSAFE DRIVERS WHO IGNORE THE 25MPH SIGNS ALONG LP HWY, ESPECIALLY UP TO JUMP OFF ROCK. AND WHILE CHIEF TROTTER AND THE LP POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE VERY DILIGENT ON PATROLS, SOME FOLKS CONTINUE TO IGNORE THOSE SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.

THE COUNCIL REALIZED THAT COMMUNITY INPUT WAS CRITICAL REGARDING THIS ISSUE. CHANGING LP HWY TO LP PARKWAY, LP DRIVE, WAY, TRAIL, ETC. WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF FEEDBACK FROM TOWN RESIDENTS. IN JANUARY, SURVEYS WERE MAILED TO RESIDENTS WHO LIVE ON LP HIGHWAY ASKING FOR THEIR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ON THE MATTER. OVERWHELMINGLY, THOSE SURVEYS REFLECTED THE DESIRE FOR NO RENAMING.

AS A RESULT, THE COUNCIL HAS CLOSED THE DISCUSSION AND MOVED ON.

I WANTED TO WRITE THIS COLUMN NOT ONLY TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S DECISION BUT TO ALSO THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY AND TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY SUBMITTING YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO YOU.

MAYOR O'CAIN AND THE COMMISSIONERS PLACE A HIGH VALUE ON THE SUGGESTIONS, INPUT, AND FEEDBACK FROM THE RESIDENTS WE AIM TO SERVE. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW "THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN" AND WE HAVE HEARD!



# FRIENDS OF LAUREL PARK

THE FRIENDS OF LAUREL PARK (FLP) HAVE A BUSY SPRING SCHEDULE PLANNED, WITH TWO MORE FREE JUMP OFF ROCK (JOR) MUSIC CONCERTS PLANNED, MAY 11 (12 RAIN DATE) AND JUNE 8 (9 RAIN DATE). FLP ALSO HAS A SPRING NATURE WALK PLANNED AT RHODODENDRON LAKE NATURE PARK ON MAY 4 LED BY TWO LOCAL NATURALISTS. WE ALSO SUPPORT THE MONDAY NIGHT YAM YOGA CLASSES AT JOR BEGINNING MAY 6 AT 6 PM. FLP WILL CONTINUE ITS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE JOR HALF MARATHON SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11. THE SPRING FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY, AND WE HOPE TO HAVE CONTINUING SUPPORT FROM OUR GENEROUS PAST SPONSORS AND DONORS. THE BOARD WILL BE SEEKING A NEW MEMBER TO FILL A RECENT VACANCY. FOR MORE DETAILS, CHECK THE WEBSITE: [WWW.FRIENDSOFLAURELPARK.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFLAURELPARK.ORG).

## Welcome

THE TOWN WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME TWO NEW EMPLOYEES IN OUR ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.



MS. CARA FARRELL IS OUR NEW ZONING ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN MANAGER.



MS. SHELBY GREENE IS OUR NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE.

STOP BY TOWN HALL AND MEET THESE LOVELY LADIES.



## GARBAGE & RECYCLE DELAYED

TRASH AND RECYCLE PICKUP WILL BE DELAYED ONE DAY THE WEEK OF MEMORIAL DAY, THEREFORE COLLECTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, MAY 31. IF YOU'VE SIGNED UP FOR BLACKBOARD CONNECT NOTIFICATIONS, WE'LL SEND YOU A REMINDER!

# Invasive Species Workday

The Invasive Species Committee will hold a Volunteer Workday with Will Coffee on Saturday, May 11th at 10:00AM at Town Hall. If you notice these signs please be extra vigilant. For volunteer information contact Chair Fain at robertfain1196@gmail.com



## MULCH

Mulch orders started March 14th, we will continue to accept orders in person until we sell out.. If you can't get here between work hours, please fill out a form, place it and your payment in an envelope (or staple check to form), drop it in the black drop box and we'll email you a receipt. The cost is \$60.

There will be a limit of 6 loads, but we will likely have some left over, so feel free to check back after we've delivered to everyone and buy more.

**\*\* Please be patient with the mulch processing time. The vegetation must reach 130 degrees in order to break down and compost, and your order may not be delivered until late May- June.**

Order Forms are available at Town Hall, just outside of the main entrance, inside at the counter, or on our website.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can report road and sign issues on our website?

Just go to

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

and choose the "How Do I" dropdown.

There you can choose

"Report street/road issues".

## BOARD OPENING

WANT TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND LIVE IN

THE LAUREL PARK ETJ?

WE HAVE AN OPENING!

PLEASE CONTACT

TOWN CLERK AMIN-

[TAMIN@LAURELPARK.ORG](mailto:TAMIN@LAURELPARK.ORG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

# SPEED SIGN UPDATE FROM POLICE CHIEF BOBBIE TROTTER



The Laurel Park Police Department has been utilizing a speed sign for some time now. We want to get out some data we have learned.

As I am learning the signs functions and data collection, I set the offenders to record from 6 above the 25-mph limit, so anyone over 31 mph to 99 mph. This would allow us to see the fastest record speed.

According to the data collected, while the sign was positioned lower Laurel Park Highway, (just below Hydrangea Drive) out of 936 drivers in a 24-hour period, 674 drove in excess of the posted limit 25 mph. This range consists of limits of between 26 mph and 41 mph. The average speed being 35 mph.

The data collected while the sign was higher on Laurel Park Highway (just past McCarson Drive) out of 253 drivers in a 24-hour period, 153 drove more than the posted limit 25 mph. This range consists of limits between 26 mph to 45 mph. The average speed being 37 mph.

This data is based on a typical weekday. The time frames of the heaviest traffic of course were AM going to work, and PM arriving home.

When looking at the data for weekends and events, there was not much of a spike in traffic and the speed limit was slightly lower. The last Music On the Rock and the day of the Eclipse did not produce any influx of traffic and the speed limit was actually more closely obeyed.

So what I have learned...I and the officers know we have a speeding problem, but now we are more aware of the issues and the timeframe that we need to put more efforts into. We have heard several residents state, "Our speeding problem is a police problem." I have always agreed with that statement. I would like the residents and the Council to understand, most of the time we have one officer on patrol and only one officer certified for radar. We have calls for service, security checks, house checks, and investigations. Understand we cannot be everywhere all the time. I am not excluding myself; I have not pulled over a vehicle in some time and my badge is not broken. I will also dedicate time to these efforts as well. Next plan of action, more traffic stops with citations.

**Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 2-3 pm at Town Hall**



## CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

**DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AND WOULD CONSIDER FORMING COMMUNITY PERFORMING ENSEMBLES FOR LAUREL PARK'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN 2025?**

**LET'S MEET UP TO TALK ABOUT IT!**



# Valley Hill Fire & Rescue wants you to stay Lightning Safe this Spring!

## Lightning Safety: What You Need to Know

- **NO PLACE OUTSIDE** is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building or a metal topped vehicle.
- Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

## Indoor Lightning Safety

- Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

If you think your house has been struck by lightning call 911 immediately and have the fire department respond.

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

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DO YOU ENJOY WALKING THE BLUE, RED AND YELLOW TRAILS/FOOTPATHS THROUGHOUT LAUREL PARK? IF YOU WALK AND NOTICE SOMETHING THAT MAY NEED MAINTENANCE, SUCH AS A BROKEN RAILING OR CROOKED SIGN, PLEASE CALL JUDY LYONS AT 828-595-3036. SHE WILL FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT SO THAT REPAIRS CAN BE MADE.

IF YOU NEED MAPS OF THE TRAILS/FOOTPATHS PLEASE VISIT TOWN HALL.

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**COMING SOON**  
**A BRAND NEW USER-FRIENDLY TOWN WEBSITE!!**  
**SAME ADDRESS, JUST BETTER. KEEP AN EYE OUT!**

MAY - JUNE 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING  
VOLUNTEERS



## ARBOR DAY PLANTING

RESIDENTS OF  
LAUREL PARK  
CELEBRATE ARBOR  
DAY 2024 BY  
PLANTING TREES  
IN CANAL PARK!



## EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

IF THE ROADS OF LAUREL PARK LOOK A LITTLE LESS  
LITTERED RECENTLY, YOU CAN THANK THE TEAM THAT  
HELPED OUT IN THE EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEANUP ON  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH. SPONSORED BY THE LAUREL PARK  
BEE COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

SUSAN BROOKS  
STEPHANIE AND EDWARD EAVES  
PAT LA SALLE  
DENISE LAYFIELD  
KAREN AND JOHN MONROE  
JOE ROBUSTELLI

THANKS FOR KEEPING LAUREL PARK LOVELY!

**IF YOU LOVE OUR TOWN PARKS AND WOULD LIKE TO  
VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP BEAUTIFY LAUREL  
PARK, PLEASE CONTACT JOE ROBUSTELLI,  
ROBUSTJA@GMAIL.COM**

**COMING SOON!!**

**OPENING OF LITTLE LAUREL GREEN STAY TUNED**

LAUREL PARK, NC



# CALENDAR

- May 5-11 Municipal Clerks Week
- May 11 JOR Half Marathon & 10 K Race
- May 11 FLP Jump Off Rock Concert (rain date May 12)
- May 12 Mother's Day
- May 12-18 Police Week
- May 14 Volunteer Workday @ 2PM Site TBD
- May 16 Police Community Class @ 6 pm @ Town Hall
- May 20 World Bee Day
- May 19-25 Public Works Week
- May 27 Memorial Day- Town Offices Closed (Trash Delayed)
- May 28 Volunteer Workday @ 2PM Site TBD
- May 31 Trash Picked Up
- June 4 Volunteer Workday @ 2PM Site TBD
- June 8 FLP Jump Off Rock Concert (rain date June 9)
- June 18 Volunteer Workday @ 2PM Site TBD
- June 20 Police Community Class @ 6pm @ Town Hall
- July 4 Independence Day- Town Offices Closed (Trash Delayed)
- July 5 Trash Picked Up



THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE HANDLES THE WATER AND SEWER SERVICES FOR LAUREL PARK.

FOR YOUR HOME SERVICE OR TO REPORT WATER LEAKS IN THE STREET, PLEASE CALL: M-F 828-697-3052

AFTER BUSINESS HOURS AND WEEKENDS 828-891-7779

# Public Meeting Schedule

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

## Town Council Work Session

May 16 @ 9:30 am  
June 13 @ 9:30 am - Budget Public Hearing

## Town Council Regular Meeting

May 21 @ 9:30 am - Budget Workshop  
June 18 @ 9:30 am - Budget Adoption

## Planning Board

May 14 @ 3:00 pm  
June 11 @ 3:00 pm

## Zoning Board of Adjustment

May 16 @ 4:00 pm

## Parks & Greenways Board

May 14 @ 9:30 am  
June 11 @ 9:30 am

## Parks & Greenways Site Meeting

May 23 @ 4:00 pm  
June 27 @ 4:00 pm

\*Site to be determined

## Bicycle Committee

June 10 @ 3:00 pm

## ABC Board at the ABC Store

May 28 @ 8:30 am  
June 25 @ 8:30 am

## Invasive Species committee

May 1 @ 10:00 am  
June 5 @ 10:00 am

## Centennial Committee

May 13 @ 11:30 am  
June 10 @ 11:30 am

## Bee Committee

May 21 @ 4:30 pm  
June 18 @ 4:30 pm

## Town Contact Information

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

**Police Office** **692-9399**  
(Admin)

**Police Non-Emergency** **697-3025**

**Valley Hill Fire** **692-2581**

**Mayor:** J. Carey O’Cain

**Mayor Pro Tem:** Paul Hansen

**Commissioners:**

George W. Banta

Kristin Dunn

Deborah Hinson Bridges

**Town Manager:** Alex Carmichael

**Town Clerk:** Tamara Amin

**Finance Director:** Kirk Medlin

**Zoning Administrator:** Cara Farrell

**Police Chief:** Bobbie Trotter

**Public Works Director:** Brandon Johnson

## Stay in the Laurel Park Loop!



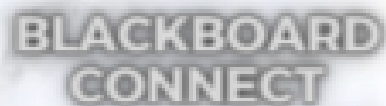
Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on our website

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

Click on the "Government" tab then choose "Agendas and Minutes"



Find us on Facebook at Town of Laurel Park, North Carolina



Follow this link and sign up to be notified of trash day changes, Town emergencies and special events by email or text

<https://laurelparknc.bbcportal.com/>