

The Town of Laurel Park

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

TOWN CERTIFIES ELECTION RESULTS FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

On December 21, 2021, at the Regular Council Meeting, Mayor Carey O'Cain presented outgoing council member Nancy McKinley a commemorative paver for her 4.5 years of service to the Town of Laurel Park.

The Mayor swore in Deb Bridges as the newest member of Town Council. Deb won the seat in the November election, replacing Commissioner McKinley, who did not seek reelection.

Incumbents Paul Hansen and Kristin Dunn also won their seats in the municipal elections held in November.



Laurel Park welcomes Deb Bridges (left) as the newest member of Town Council



Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Hansen was sworn in



Commissioner McKinley was presented a paver for her service to the Town



Commissioner Dunn was presented her election certification

Commissioner's Corner

By: Paul Hansen
Laurel Green Park Makeover

In 1995, Laurel Park purchased a 4.1-acre aged apple orchard bounded by 5th Avenue West, White Pine Drive, Wash Creek, and an unnamed creek adjacent to Lakemoor Condominiums. This was the core that established the Town's 3rd park to be called Laurel Green Park (1. Crystal Spring Park and 2. Jump Off Rock Park.)

A grant from the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund allowed former Mayor George Knoff and his wife Phyliss, working with town residents and staff, to create a landscaping master plan showcasing a diversity of trees and shrubs that survive more or less intact 26 years later. In 2001, the "Mothers Committee" led by Denise Layfield and Kasey Gilliam raised funds, aided by an additional grant, for the creation of Little Laurel Green within the park. This is a play area for children that has swings and slides and a Le Corbusier inspired playhouse containing a climbing tower.

Earlier this year, with the assistance of Watermark Landscape Design and Robinson Design Engineers, the Town applied for a grant from the NC Land and Water Fund for the Laurel Green Geomorphic Restoration project to renovate the unnamed creek adjacent to Lakemoor Condominiums (now called "Laurel Green Creek").

The Town was notified by NCLWF that the application for the requested funds (\$187,963) was accepted (Town matching funds of \$201,636) and gave the authorization to proceed with the project (total project cost \$389,599) that will repair the degraded nature of the stream caused by years of stormwater runoff sourced further up the mountain. This project will make Laurel Green Creek an ecologically self-sustaining stream.

The Town also received an appropriation of \$217,000 from the NC State Budget, sponsored by NC Representative Tim Moffit, that will allow project "betterments" such as a connection to the Ecusta Trail, additional stormwater improvements utilizing more robust tree and shrub specimens, a trailside walking path, educational signage, and delineated play areas. A key focus of the project will be post-construction analysis of stream performance in an urban environment.

Town Council continues to seek grants and other sources of funds in order to stretch tax dollars to fund these critical projects.

Town Honors Officers with Advanced Certification

Two Laurel Park Police Officers received their advanced law enforcement certification from the State and were recognized at the December Council Meeting. To receive this certification, an officer must have a combination of experience, education hours, and training points. Laurel Park is proud to announce Assistant Chief Michael Capps and Officer Daniel Elliot both received this certification.

The Town is proud of these two officers for their dedication to the Town and the profession!



Chief Bobbie Trotter presents the certificate to Asst. Chief Capps at the December Council meeting



Chief Bobbie Trotter presents the certificate to Daniel Elliot.

Spring Brush Collection

PLACE BRUSH BY MARCH 12-27, PICKUP BEGINS MARCH 28

Beginning the week of March 28th, Public Works will collect brush placed by the roadside for the spring brush collection service. **Brush placed after March 29th will not be collected.** Every effort is made to collect brush quickly, but the process takes approximately one month to complete.

- 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.
- Limbs and branches should not be more than 3 in. diameter. Larger limbs will not be collected.
- The Town will not collect brush from a major landscape or clearing operation
- 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

Bagged leaves are collected first. Please use paper bags and submit your request through the Town website or call Town Hall for collection within 3 business days.

Christmas Tree Collection

The Town will collect Christmas trees placed by the roadside. All trees must be placed out by **January 6th** to be picked up by Public Works. Any trees placed after January 6th will be citizens responsibility to remove.



Mulch Sale

**MARCH 9th @ 9:00 AM
\$60 - 8 CUBIC YARDS**

The brush and leaves collected by the Town are composted and ground into mulch which is made available to residents. This is double-ground mulch, a good product for erosion control and landscaping needs. The Town doesn't profit from the mulch sale, but benefits by repeatedly using the same property to store yard waste.

Sign-up is first-come, first-served beginning 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9th.

Forms will be available at Town Hall and online beginning at 9:00 am on March 9th. Only checks and exact cash will be accepted. Forms can be dropped off in the black box in the parking lot, or brought to the front desk at Town Hall.

The cost is \$60 for approximately 8 cubic yards and a limit of 5 loads per address. Delivery will be scheduled when the weather and Public Works schedule allows. Loads are typically delivered to the edge of the road. If a resident requests delivery to their property, they must indicate this at purchase. Canceled loads are charged a \$30 fee. This is to discourage residents from buying more loads than they need, and then canceling when delivery is scheduled.

Tax Reminder

Reminder: Taxes become delinquent on Jan. 6
Both Laurel Park and County taxes are paid to Henderson County. For questions call 828-697-5595

Friends of Laurel Park

The Friends' board of directors met in November to thank Nancy McKinley and present a gift to her for servicing as our Commissioner liaison. In that role, our new liaison will be Kristin Dunn, starting in January. We look forward to planning an even more event-filled year in 2022, with additional music events from Spring to Fall. We are also planning a winter nature hike in Lake Rhododendron with a family focus. The Friends continue to take active roles in the plans for the 2025 Centennial celebration and in developing walking trails. For more information, check the Friends' website at: www.friendsofLaurelpark.org.

Trail Maps - Coming Soon

You may have noticed trail marker signs around Town. There are currently 4 trails - Blue, Yellow, Green, and Red. Town staff is working hard to create maps of the trail system for residents and visitors. Once maps are approved by both the Parks & Greenways Committee and Town Council, maps will be made available at Town Hall and online. Parks & Greenways Walking Trail Committee has done a wonderful job creating and marking these trails that will be a great addition to the Town's park system.



Valley Hill Fire & Rescue: Portable Generator Safety Tips

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock, fire, and burns.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when using a generator:

- Never use a generator inside homes, garages, crawl spaces, sheds, or similar areas.
- Follow the instructions that come with your generator.
- Position the generator far away from windows, doors, vents, crawl spaces and locate it in an area where adequate ventilation is available.
- Never add fuel while the generator is running or hot.
- Many generator parts are hot enough to burn you, avoid coming into contact.
- Do not connect your generator directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet.
- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty outdoor-rated cords that are adequate for the appliance load.
- Do not use extension cords with exposed wires or worn shielding.
- It is recommended to install a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm.



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

CALENDAR

January 1
 January 6
 January 17
 March 9
 March 12
 March 27
 March 28

New Years Day - Town Offices Closed
 Last day to place Christmas trees out
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Town Offices closed
 Mulch Sale
 Begin Placing brush out for Spring collection
 Last day to place brush out for Spring collection
 Spring brush pickup begins

Public Meeting Schedule

Town Council Regular Meeting

January 18 @ 9:30 am in person and via Zoom
 February 15 @ 9:30 am in person and via Zoom

Town Council Work Session

January 13 @ 9:30 am in person and via Zoom
 February 10 @ 9:30 am in person and via Zoom

Parks & Greenways Board

January 11 @ 9:30 am via Zoom
 February 8 @ 9:30 am via Zoom

Parks & Greenways Site Meeting

January 27 @ 4 pm
 February TBD @ 4 pm

Planning Board

January 11 @ 3:00 pm via Zoom and in-person
 February 8 @ 3:00 pm via Zoom and in-person

ABC Board - at the ABC Store in-person

January 25 @ 8:30 am
 February 28 @ 8:30 am

Zoning Board of Adjustment

January 13 @ 4:00 pm in person and via Zoom

Town Contact Information

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

Public Works **692-7568**
 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Mon – Fri

City of Hendersonville Water/Sewer

Customer Service **697-3052**
 Leaks/Service Issues **697-3073**
 After Hours/Emergency **891-7779**

Police Office **692-9399**
 (non-emergency)

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
 Deb Bridges

Interim Manager: Mike Morgan

Town Clerk: Tamara Amin

Finance Officer: Heather Smith

Asst. to the Manager: Halee Ratcliff

Police Chief: Bobbie Trotter

Public Works Director: Brandon Johnson

