

The Town of Laurel Park

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL PARK

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LAUREL PARK WELCOMES NEW TOWN MANAGER



New Town Manager Alex Carmichael's first day with Laurel Park was on February 21. Mr. Carmichael comes to us from the Town of Montreat where he served as the Town Administrator for 5 years. "I am excited to join the Laurel Park Community. The residents have been warm and welcoming. The Council has a bold vision for the future and I am so pleased that I get to be a part of this moment in Laurel Park history," Mr. Carmichael said.

Mr. Carmichael was selected by the Town Council after an intensive interview process with 19 candidates. He earned his bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University and master's degree from Appalachian State University.

Alex and his wife Loren have three children. They love to camp and hike.

Commissioner's Corner

The pulse of our town is powered by an amazing community spirit.

Commissioner Deb Bridges

So many times, we talk about what makes Laurel Park such a wonderful place to live. We appreciate the natural woodland beauty that surrounds our homes as well as the peace and quiet in our neighborhoods. We hike the trails and walk along creekbanks watching for wildlife and exploring curious places. We enjoy taking our guests to Jump Off Rock for picnics and photos, and Laurel Green is a special place for both young and grown-up kids.

Laurel Park is a wonderful place to live because of other things, too – especially people...like friendly folks who say hello as they pass by on evening walks, neighbors that make sure your plants are watered and your cat is fed when you go out of town, the Good Samaritan that fixed your flat tire, the anonymous early-morning jogger who scoops up your newspaper and places it right outside your door, and good people who inspire you to always pay it forward.

I love hearing folks refer to Laurel Park as “our town on the mountain.” I think it resonates with many of us. It implies ownership as well as responsibility. It’s a possessive expression that hints at something special to be proud of and committed to supporting. It’s a claim we value and a spirit we embrace.

Reminder!

**Mulch Sale March 9th
Forms will be available on
our website and at Town
Hall starting at 9 am. Exact
cash or check only.**

Brush Collection

**Place brush out March 12-27
Pick up begins March 28**

Beginning the week of March 29th, Public Works will collect brush placed by the roadside for the spring brush collection. *Brush placed out after March 28th will not be collected.* This process takes about a month to complete, so please be patient!

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

Tips for a successful pickup:

- Place by the roadside, not obstructing traffic
- Limbs should not be more than 3 in. diameter
- The Town will not collect brush from a major landscape or clearing operation
- Brush may not be placed at any time other than the designated fall/spring pickup

Did You Know?
Laurel Park will be celebrating its 100th birthday in 2025. Look out for more information about opportunities to volunteer and donate in the next few months

Friends of Laurel Park

The Friends of Laurel Park (FLP) sponsored a first-time winter nature walk in February and are planning a full slate of monthly music events at Jump Off Rock from April 9 to October 5. FLP continues to work with the Parks and Greenways Committee on walking trail maintenance and development. Volunteers have also enhanced our website by highlighting the historic markers in the community. Citizens can now read the text from the comfort of their homes and discover some interesting town history of which they were not aware (e.g. a town quarry!). The FLP is also coordinating with the Town to develop plans for the Centennial celebration in 2025. Citizens can contact the FLP Board with suggestions for bands or other events. Check our website at: www.friendsof Laurel Park.org.

Parks & Greenways Board

Work has begun in creating a pollinator garden in Canal Park. As you start your spring garden maintenance, lifting, and dividing perennials, let us know if you have plants to share. We expect to have the ground ready for planting by the end of April. We are looking for the following donations:

*Autumn Joy Sedum *Bee Balm *Black-eyed Susan *Butterfly Weed *Columbine *False Indigo *Iron Weed *Joe Pye Weed *Mistflower *Purple Coneflower *Virginia Bluebells *Yarrow

Contact Judy Lyons (jjacksonjr@yahoo.com) or Joe Robustelli (robustja@gmail.com) for when they will be available. You are also invited to help in the planting. Further details will follow. Looking forward to a rewarding gardening season!

Jump Off Rock Half Marathon & 10k

The Inaugural Jump off Rock Half Marathon & 10k presented by Hunter Subaru takes place in Hendersonville, NC on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

Both races are point-to-point, with separate start and finish areas. The half marathon starts at the highest peak in the Town of Laurel Park at the historic landmark - Jump off Rock in Laurel Park. The 13.1 course is beautiful and scenic, with breathtaking views, and will be one of the fastest downhill half-marathons in the south with a net elevation loss. Registration is now open. Limited in-person entries will be available for both races.



Stay in the Laurel Park Loop!



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



Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on our website www.laurelpark.org Click on the "Government" tab then choose "Agendas and Minutes"



All public meetings are now on ZOOM. Email staff for the link to the meetings or visit laurelpark.org

Laurel Park Wins Budget Award

The Town of Laurel Park is pleased to announce we have received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 year. This is the first time Laurel Park has received the GFOA award.

The award represents a significant achievement by the city and reflects the organization's and staff's commitment to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a:

- Policy document
- Financial plan
- Operations guide
- Communications devise

According to GFOA, there are over 1,700 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

VHFD Reminds You to Test Your Alarms

Daylight Saving Time starts on March 13th and as we move our clocks forward, we should replace batteries in our smoke and CO alarms and test them.

- Test your smoke alarm and if it does not make a sound, replace the battery and try to test again. If the alarm still does not make a sound, the alarm should be replaced.
- If your alarm chirps, replace the battery. If the alarm still chirps after the battery has been replaced, this means the smoke alarm has reached the end of life and needs to be replaced.
- It is recommended to replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- If there are gas appliances in your home, you need a carbon monoxide alarm.
- Test your carbon monoxide alarm and replace the battery at least once a year.



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

Laurel Park Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities

Both the Parks & Greenways Board and the Friends of Laurel Park host activities and projects to beautify and maintain our wonderful outdoor spaces. No doubt you have seen volunteers planting, pruning, and trailblazing. We are always looking for volunteers to help in making Laurel Park a special place to live, work, and play. Please contact any or all of the following resident leaders if you are interested in helping.

- Adopt-a-Garden: Judy Lyons (jjacksonjr@yahoo.com)
- Parks Clean-up/Renovation: Judy Lyons (jjacksonjr@yahoo.com)
- Walking Trails: Jenny Brown (jenprior@hotmail.com)
- Invasive Vines: Sally Buchholz (tatebuc@gmail.com)
- Birdhouse Monitoring/Maintenance: Anne Hartig (anneholt.hartig@gmail.com)

CALENDAR

March 9
 March 12-28
 March 22
 March 29
 April 15
 May 14

Mulch Sale
 Place Brush by the Roadside
 Budget Retreat
 Spring brush collection begins
 Good Friday - Town Offices Closed
 Jump Off Rock Half-Marathon & 10k Race

Public Meeting Schedule

Town Council Regular Meeting

March 15 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person
 April 19 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person

Town Council Budget Workshop

March 22 @ 9 am at Hendersonville County Club

Town Council Work Session

March 10 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person
 April 14 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person

Parks & Greenways Board

March 8 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person
 April 12 @ 9:30 am via Zoom and in Person

Planning Board

March 8 @ 3:00 pm via Zoom and in Person
 April 12 @ 3:00 pm via Zoom and in Person

ABC Board - at the ABC Store

March 22 @ 8:30 am
 April 26 @ 8:30 am

Zoning Board of Adjustment

March 10 @ 4:00 pm via Zoom and in Person

Town Hall 693-4840

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Mon - Fri

- Tax Collection (prior to 2018)
- Sanitation
- Zoning

Hendersonville Water 697-3025

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:

Deb Bridges

George W. Banta

Kristin Dunn

Town Manager: Alex Carmichael

Town Clerk: Tamara Amin

Finance Officer: Heather Smith

Assistant to the Manger: Halee Ratcliff

Police Chief: Bobbie Trotter

Public Works Director: Brandon Johnson



Town of Laurel Park
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