NO TAX INCREASE

Your Council determined over a decade ago that we would strive to make tax rate adjustments at re-evaluation years. Last year was a re-evaluation year and we adjusted taxes accordingly. The next re-evaluation year is not until 2028. To fulfill our commitment, we will not increase our tax rate for year 2024/2025.

We listened to resident’s major concerns and are committed to improve our deteriorating roads and storm water drainage. We have budgeted an additional $600,000, like last year’s commitment. All of us can recognize the changes. Our engineering consultant feels confident that we will be ahead of “roadway deterioration” by 2029 with this continued priority. While we can take pride in our roadway improvements, we are equally proud of the work that our maintenance crews and Parks and Greenways have achieved. Please walk our parks and trails and observer the beautiful landscaping at Laurel Green, Rhododendron Lake Nature Park or Town Hall. Have you observed the effects of the invasive vine removal along our major roads?

This coming year, 2025, is very significant as it will be our centennial year since the NC State Legislature granted incorporation. Our Centennial Committee is working to celebrate this event throughout 2025. Significant improvements are envisioned with the Ecusta Trail construction, Ecusta Crossing and Highway 64 improvements. Your Council wishes to thank all our wonderful volunteers and caring residents. We live in a magical community.

The Town of Laurel Park wishes to announce that Town Manager Alex Carmichael resigned June 30, 2024. Council is grateful that Mr. Carmichael completed the 2025 budget before making this announcement. The Town has advertised and is seeking applications for this position. The vacancy and job description for Town Manager was posted on June 14th and will remain open until the position is filled. Council wishes to thank Mr. Carmichael for his service to Laurel Park.

Our current Assistant to the Town Manager, Cara Reeves, will serve as Interim Town Manager. Should residents seek further information please contact: Cara Reeves at assistant@laurelpark.org or Mayor J. Carey O’Cain at mayor@laurelpark.org.

Respectfully,

Carey O’Cain
REVENUE
The overwhelming majority of the Town's revenue is collected from property taxes, sales taxes from purchases in Henderson County, and taxes on motor vehicles.

$0.395 per $100.00 of assessed value for a budgeted levy of $2,675,000

STORMWATER
$75,000 BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025
The monthly stormwater fee collected goes toward infrastructure improvement, street and gutter cleaning, and maintains the Town's permit with the State.

EXPENDITURES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$1,034,550</td>
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<td>Police</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fire</td>
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<td>Parks</td>
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<td>Sanitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHWAY 64 - $30,000
ROADS & POWELL BILL - $620,000

WHEN DOES THE FISCAL YEAR BEGIN AND END?
Under NC law, our fiscal year begins on July 1, 2024 and ends on June 30, 2025. All municipalities and counties follow this policy.

FISCAL YEAR 2025
$4,715,057 TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET
The Town of Laurel Park has entered into a new contract for solid waste (trash) collection and recycling with Maybin’s Garbage Services, locally owned and operated. Service will begin on Friday, July 5th, due to the Independence Day holiday. Going forward, normal service will remain on Thursdays.

Later this summer, all residents will receive a 65-gallon wheeled trash cart supplied (for free) by Maybin’s. Please note, if you’d prefer a 96-gallon wheeled trash cart, you may call the service line (828) 692-9872 to exchange sizes. Residential collection days will remain the same, but collection times may vary. Please continue to have all solid waste and recycling curbside by 7:30 A.M. If you choose to recycle with Maybin’s, two translucent blue bags can be placed next to your trash cart at the curb.

If your residence is MISSED please call Maybin’s customer service line at (828) 692-9872. If your issue is not resolved within one business day, you may reach out to the Town Hall Office at 828-693-4840 for additional assistance.

Additional services that are not covered under the standard contract include bulky waste, driveway service (rear-yard pickup) and double capacity (two bins). To learn more or to sign up for any of these additional services, please contact Maybin’s directly at (828) 692-9872.

When the time comes to replace your trash bins, below are some options to dispose of your current trash bins:
- Donate
- You can bring them to the Public Works Department at 500 Toms Drive and Maybin’s will collect them
- Use them as compost bins
- Sell them on Facebook Marketplace or similar platform

We are hopeful for a smooth transition and look forward to working with our new vendor moving forward.
Welcome to Town, Maybin’s!

Please check the town website for more information.
The Friends of Laurel Park (FLP) have a busy summer schedule planned, with two events following our three spring Jump Off Rock concerts. We will host two free historical bus tours on July 20, at 9 and 11 am, meeting at the First Congregational Church on West 5th Ave. Registration is required, starting on July 6. FLP also is sponsoring a safe bike training class by Joe Sanders on August 17 at 10 am at Laurel Green Park. The class will be followed by two short bike rides in Laurel Park. The FLP happily announces that, with our financial assistance to the Town, a new water fountain was recently installed at Jump Off Rock Park. In addition, free Monday night Yam Yoga classes at JOR continue at 6 pm. The annual fund-raising campaign is underway, and we hope to have continuing support from our generous past sponsors and donors. FLP mailed out a survey form in April to assess the interests of residents in our activities and got a strong response (see the results on the website below). The Board is seeking a new member to fill a recent vacancy. For more details, check the website: www.friendsoflaurelpark.org.

The Town of Laurel Park’s Bee City Renewal has finally gone through, the Committee wishes to install signs around Laurel Park showing everyone that we are a Bee City USA Affiliate.

If you are interested in more information this link: https://youtu.be/JgH8t9ojfXgsi=eh4V2s5eT4q5aPUR. It talks about how Laurel Park's Bee City Committee is committed to educating our residents on ways to protect invertebrate pollinators in Laurel Park. Another helpful link is our website: https://www.laurelpark.org/parks/bee-pollinator-information.

Please stay tuned for future updates and events!
Adopt-A-Garden

The Town of Laurel Park’s Adopt-A-Garden Program is a volunteer program designed for interested individuals, groups, and businesses to be able to adopt a street side or public garden. The goal of the project is to provide adopters with an active role in the community by maintaining and improving the Town’s street garden, as well as providing a way to grow pride in the community. Anyone 18 years or older is eligible to adopt a garden; residents, non-residents, individuals, groups and clubs, organizations, businesses, etc.

If you are interested, please email garyand99@gmail.com.

A Friendly Reminder From Your Public Works Staff

For safety reasons, residents' bushes and tree limbs should be kept trimmed back as to not extend into town roadways. If Public Works staff performs this operation it is done with a large tractor mounted boom mower.

This equipment is primarily used for rough cutting of banks and road shoulders. It does not leave a clean cut on branches larger than ¼ inch in diameter.

Your hedges, bushes, and limbs will thank you for your attention on this matter!

Employment Opportunities

The Town of Laurel Park values its people, its strong sense of community, and its mountain environment. The Town envisions a future where balanced decision-making results in a quality community where people have choices.

Our Town is responsive to the needs of residents today and adapts to serve our neighbors of tomorrow.

Whether you are starting your career or have years of training and professional experience, the Town of Laurel Park has opportunities that are currently open:

- Town Manager
- Resident Services Representative
- Invasive Species Removal Technician
- Parks/Maintenance Technician

To learn more and apply, please visit our employment site at www.laurelpark.org.
State of the Town Dinner

Are you interested in celebrating with us? The Centennial Committee has been meeting and planning several activities for our big 100 Year Anniversary Celebration.

We would love your feedback!

Please visit our form to take the survey and let staff at Town Hall know if you want to get involved in planning, sponsorship, or more.
Valley Hill Fire & Rescue encourages everyone to follow these basic safety tips to avoid the dangers of heat exposure this summer.

- Stay inside during the hottest hours of the day.
- Dress lightly, avoid dark colored clothes.
- Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.
- Avoid drinking alcohol and beverages that contain caffeine.
- Properly supervise children during outdoor play, being sure to monitor them closely and frequently.
- Seek medical care right away if you become nauseous, start vomiting or experience cramps.
- **Never leave a person or a pet in a car in hot conditions.** People and pets can succumb to heat exposure, which could lead to heat stroke or even death. **Cars can become overheated quickly. It's never safe.**
A Message From the Planning Board Chair

This report goes out with a special thanks to this hard-working volunteer Planning Board of Laurel Park residents.

This is my first time writing for this newsletter as the new Chairman of the Planning Board. My first three years on this very talented team, we saw a steady stream of issues with building permits that consisted of setback variances and water mitigation. While our decisions had an immediate impact on the applicants, it was also our task to consider the effects of our actions on the neighbors. Most of the time, these decisions were not especially difficult or controversial when we had all of the information we needed.

Nevertheless, a few weeks ago we had to cope with a request for zoning for a parcel of land along the Brevard Road corridor east of the town center that is about to undergo significant change. The process included a public meeting with the property owners surrounding the parcel specifically invited to attend. It was clear that the people present at the meeting wanted the parcel to be zoned residential while the trendline was to make it a form of mixed usage in anticipation of the changes along Brevard Highway.

This dilemma was the most difficult task we have had in my brief tenure on the Planning Board. No matter what zoning we applied to the parcel, somebody was not going to like it. A wise mentor who did brave things in his life told me often “when you have a difficult decision to make, make it in favor of the future.” In a solemn ending to the meeting, we made a unanimous recommendation to the Council in favor of the future and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan approved eight years ago. The recommendation was for mixed usage zoning. Some number of the nearby residents may not like this, but our task is to consider the greater good of Laurel Park by encouraging responsible development that also increases the otherwise static tax base.

Over the next two years we will have the task of revising the Comprehensive Plan with strategies for the next ten years. The existing Plan was carefully done and much of it has been or is being implemented (Ecusta Trail, for example). Something I personally would like to see in the next Plan is an elevated concern for the effects of climate change besides the elaborate requirements for water run-off from our steep slopes. It is my sincere hope that we can strike a sustainable balance between preservation of the natural and social gifts of our town and the need to adjust to our changing environment. There will be lots of public meetings and some may be contentious, but it is my sincere hope that we will listen to each other and make wise decisions that will impact Laurel Park for many years.

We ask you to begin thinking about your vision of the future of Laurel Park. As change is inevitable, how do you see it happening? We look forward to hearing from you. Public meetings will be posted on the website and we invite your feedback.

Philip Wiehe

For questions please contact Town Clerk Amin @ tamin@laurelpark.org.
July 3, 2024
Fireworks at Hendersonville CC starting at 9:15 p.m.

July 4, 2024
Independence Day - Town Offices Closed (Trash Delayed to 7/5/24)

July 10, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening At Canal Park @ 10:00 a.m.

July 16, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening - Location TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

July 30, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening - Location TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

August 6, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening - Location TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

August 20, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening - Location TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

September 3, 2024
Laurel Park Volunteer Gardening - Location TBD @ 10:00 a.m.

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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
July 11 @ 9:30 am
August 15 @ 9:30 am

Town Council Regular Meeting
July 16 @ 9:30 am - Public Hearing
August 20 @ 9:30 am

Planning Board
July 9 @ 3:00 pm
August 13 @ 3:00 pm

Zoning Board of Adjustment
July 11 @ 4:00 pm - Public Hearing

Parks & Greenways Board
July 9 @ 9:30 am
August 13 @ 9:30 am

Parks & Greenways Site Meeting
July 25 @ 4:00 pm
August 22 @ 4:00 pm

*Site to be determined

Bicycle Committee
August 12 @ 3:00 pm

Invasive Species committee
August 7 @ 10:00 am

Centennial Committee
July 8 @ 11:30 am
August 12 @ 11:30 am

Bee Committee
July 9 @ 12:00 pm - Special Meeting *
July 16 @ 4:30 pm
August 20 @ 4:30 pm

*Meeting held at Layfield Residence

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 Temp: Paul Hansen
Commissioners:
  George W. Banta
  Kristin Dunn
  Deborah Hinson Bridges

Interim Town Manager: Cara R. Reeves
Town Clerk: Tamara Amin
Finance Director: Kirk Medlin
Zoning Administrator: Cara R. Reeves
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
Click on the "Government" tab then choose "Agendas and Minutes"

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/

LAUREL PARK, NC