



**Fall  
Edition  
Newsletter**

**A Message From The Mayor's Desk**

On several Sundays, The Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton has served as a supply Priest at my church, St. Philip's Episcopal Church. I love the words Rev. Kaeton uses at the end of the service when she states "Life is very short. Use the time wisely that you have been given to do good." It is in that spirit that I ask all our residents to focus on doing good things.

Our community has been wracked in recent months with the tragic loss of young persons to traffic accidents and gun violence. We are not alone with these issues. America is under stress right now. In many cases social media is challenging our youths to do some "dumb stuff" rather than acts of kindness. But Americans and the people of Laurel are resilient. We have been through two World Wars, Vietnam, Afghanistan and the Twin Towers attack in New York City, economic hardship, and the struggle for equal opportunity for all.

I applaud the efforts underway to help direct our young people in a new direction. Hopefully, Chief Danny Wright will be able to recruit the new police officers who will enable us to increase patrols and the number of officers on a shift. I look at portable speed bumps in the West Laurel neighborhood as temporary to help make that area safer while we increase the size of our police force. We have to get back to where police officers are our friends and not adversaries.

For our community to gain financial stability we need new residential areas and businesses added to our tax rolls. Most of you know that I am frustrated with the slow progress of this key initiative. The State just passed a bill to speed up the permitting process. I will reserve judgment on just how fast things change as a result of that new law. It took 11 months to get State approval to place our two new "Welcome to Laurel" signs on Rt. 13.

Quickly here is a rundown of the key things I get asked about daily:  
Britt's restaurant - Being rebuilt as owner is financially able. No grand opening date.

Rigbie Hotel - Plans filed with Town for new building. Apartments on upper floors and business on first floor.

Globe Building - Developer working with insurance company on cost of fire settlement. Plans to rebuild something - No construction start date.

WaWa Store - Developer searching property on Rt. 13 for site.

400 Unit residential development off Discount Land Road - At State for approvals. No construction start date.

200 Unit residential development east of Rt 13 behind the Exxon Station - Awaiting State approvals. No construction date.

In closing, focus on doing good things for your families and neighbors. As country singer Kenny Chesney sings "Don't blink, because 100 years go by sooner than you think." Unfortunately some of the young people in our area did not make it past their teens. We all need to work towards the day when all people get a chance to safely reach 100 years.

John J. Shwed  
Mayor, Town of Laurel

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**Disponibilidad de boletines informativos listos para español**

**Para hogares de habla hispana**

Tenga en cuenta que las copias del Boletín de la Ciudad de Laurel estarán disponibles en español en Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street. Los boletines informativos de la ciudad se publican trimestralmente con una edición de invierno, una edición de primavera / verano y una edición de otoño que se envía por correo a los residentes. Copias del Programa de Basura, Reciclaje y Desperdicio de Jardín también están disponibles en español en Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street.



**Town Property Taxes FY 2024**

Each year the town utilizes the Sussex County 1974 Tax Assessment for the town's annual real estate taxes and assessment for properties located in the Municipal Boundaries. The Mayor & Council adopted the Sussex County 1974 Tax Assessment at July's Mayor & Council Meeting. Once, the list is adopted the town may move forward with the annual tax billing.

**Sussex County Tax Assessment Adoption**

The Mayor & Council adopted the Sussex County Tax Assessment List on Monday, July 17, 2023, to allow the Court of Appeals to be held in August.

**Court of Appeals**

The Town of Laurel held their Court of Appeals on Monday, August 21, 2023. The Court of Appeals allows the public to appeal the assessment and the appeal will be sent to Sussex County.

**Property Taxes: Due Date**

Taxes were distributed by mail to all property owners in late August of this year.

**Listed Below Are Details Regarding Payment**

- 1% Discount if taxes are paid in full before September 30th.
- If payment is not received by November 30th a penalty rate of 5% per month is added.
- Retroactive to October 1st and 5% every month thereafter.

**Town News**



**Town of Laurel:**

**FY 2024 Budget Highlights**

The Town of Laurel held a Public Hearing on Monday, June 5, 2023, at Laurel Town Hall. The citizens were invited to attend the hearing to listen to the presentation and to ask any questions pertaining the FY 2024 Budget. The Town of Laurel has achieved a balanced budget with the understanding of the increased cost to operate the various sectors of the municipal government. The town is continuing to see an increase of construction of new homes with at least four additional single-family homes and 28 town homes (14 units). The town is anticipating the construction of two sets of commercial storage units to begin during FY 2024. The P&Z Committee has approved multiple Preliminary Site Plans for the construction of a 400-unit residential development, a 180 unit planned mixed use development, and a 36-unit agricultural base workforce housing. The Delaware Courts have ruled that Sussex County must complete a re-assessment of all properties and the timeline for this is to be completed by 2025. With the following increases implemented in the budget, the town will be hiring two more additional police officers making the total number of officers 21.

**FY 2024 Budget Adoption:**

The Town of Laurel's FY 2024 Budget was adopted at Tuesday's, June 20, 2023, Mayor & Council Meeting.

**FY 2024 Budget Highlights:**

**Revenues:**

- Increase in real estate taxes of 30%.
- Increase of water rates.
- Increase of availability fee.
- Increase in rental and business licenses.

**Expenditures:**

- 5% increase in health insurance.
- Increase electric cost by 25%.
- Line item for MS4 expenses.
- Expenses for federal mandate of lead and copper testing for privately owned properties.
- Increase in water tower maintenance.

**FY 2024 Budget Available**

The Town of Laurel's FY 2024 Budget was made available at Laurel Town Hall or at [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net) for citizen's review.



**Town of Laurel's:  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Re-Cap**

**Firework Sponsorship Donation List 2023**

**MAJOR SPONSOR**

- Janosik Family Charitable Foundation Fund

**GOLD SPONSOR**

- Mountaire

**BRONZE SPONSOR**

- American Legion Home Inc.
- The Insurance Market
- Chet's Auto Body, Inc.
- American Legion Post 19
- Baynum Enterprises, Inc.
- Edward Jones - Melinda R. Tingle
- Laurel Community Hardware, Inc.
- Laurel Women's Civic Club
- George, Miles, & Buhr; LLC.

**BUSINESS SPONSOR**

- Seaford Subway, Inc.
  - Fulton Bank
- Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc.
  - Compass Energy, Inc.
  - Sussex Irrigation, LLC
- Eastern Shore Veterinary Hospital

**PATRON SPONSOR**

- Delmarva Digital
- Dave Smith's Exterminating, Inc.
- Carey Insurance Group, Inc.
- Odd Fellows Charity Lodge #27
- Lakeside Physical Therapy, LLC
  - Laurel Lions Club

**Other Sponsor**

- A.C. Schulte's of Delaware, Inc.
  - Dukes Lumber Company
  - DMC Farms, Inc.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July: Parade Award Winners 2023**

- Best Fire Department:** *Blades Fire Department*  
**Best Overall:** *Laurel Historical Society*  
**Best Decorated:** *Bill Eason "Mr. Sunflower"*  
**Best Civic:** *Laurel Alumni Association*  
**Best Animal:** *Laurel Saddle Friends*  
**Best Classic Car:** *1931 Chevy 4d Chase - Ronald Hurd*  
**Best Youth:** *East Coast Elite*  
**Best Float:** *Hastings & Haven Family*  
**Best Commercial:** *Coastal Bath Company*  
**Best Overall:** *Mopar Mobb*  
**Best Tractor:** *First State Antique Tractor Club - Kevin Willik*

**Town Projects**



**Operation West Laurel**

**What Is Operation West Laurel?**

Mrs. Handy and fellow residents attended the June's Mayor & Council Meeting explaining their purpose of Operation West Laurel. Operation West Laurel was established on April 15, 2023. Operation West Laurel was formed with the purpose to advocate and empower the youth and the residents with the help of partnering with local churches. The main purpose of Operation West Laurel is to inform citizens and residents, stressed the importance of apartment safety measures, and holding weekly community prayer walks. Their goal is to provide a safer, a cleaner, and a drug free community. With holding their weekly community prayer walks they have reached over to 200 people.

**Speed Bump Initiative**

While holding their weekly community prayer walks, they have encountered cars traveling a high rate of speed. They proposed to install speed bumps on West 7<sup>th</sup> Street and West 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the Mayor & Council. They completed a speed bump petition with over 150 signatures for the need of speed bumps. At July's Mayor & Council Meeting the Mayor & Council approved the speed bump initiative on West 7<sup>th</sup> Street and West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. ***The town must work with state for approval to install speed bumps on West 6<sup>th</sup> Street as this is a state-maintained road.***

**Speed Bumps on West 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

The town has approved to install temporary speed bumps on West 7<sup>th</sup> & West 6<sup>th</sup> Street that will be installed from the Spring to the Fall. Proper signage will also be posted to warn drivers of the speed bump ahead.

**Location:** Speed bumps will be located on West Seventh Street off of West Street, Elm Street, and Belle Avenue.



**Bid Award for Transite**

At May's Mayor & Council the Mayor & Council awarded a bid to Teal Construction Inc., in the amount of \$1,689,689.00 for Transite. The project will go through 7th Street, Center Street, and 8th Street to the railroad tracks.



### Light-Up Laurel Initiative Phase II

Light-Up Delaware is an initiative across the state to improve public safety. Mr. Charles Kinsler from Energize Delaware attended June's Mayor & Council to discuss Phase II of Light-Up Laurel. The town was involved with the 1st phase of this initiative with residents receiving LED light bulbs that help deter crime in high crime areas, reducing residents' utility bill, and building trust with neighboring residents. This initiative and the kits are helped funded by the government office to promote health safety measures.

#### What is Phase II?

The 2nd phase of this initiative is to install cameras in residential areas with no cost to the resident with the resident having control of the videos. The camera will be funded for two years by Light-Up Delaware and then after the two years the resident will be responsible to fund themselves. Residents will receive one camera per house and the residents will be taught how to download the app to their phone and how to operate the camera. The cameras will be solar powered. Mr. Kinsler shared that they go door to door and leaves door hangers that describe the program with a third-party contact.

#### Approval of Phase II.

Mayor & Council agreed this 2nd phase of the initiative will be beneficial to the town. Mayor & Council approved the Light-Up Laurel Initiative Phase II at June's Mayor & Council Meeting.



### Economic Development Update

The Town of Laurel's Planning & Zoning is continuing to meet with developers on proposed housing developments and commercial properties. This past summer the committee granted various preliminary site plan approvals and final site plan approvals to various developers. **Listed below are the projects that received either preliminary approval or final approval.**

#### Laurel Glen Apartments

**Location:** South Central Avenue

#### Who Are Neighborhood Partners?

Neighborhood Partners has provided housing and community development services since 1976 throughout Delaware and Delmarva. The mission is to "Strengthen Communities through Affordable Housing, Education, and Lending," guides our nonprofit programs and services. Neighborhood Partners provides comprehensive financial coaching and housing counseling to assist households to learn to manage their finances, improve their credit, and works towards housing independence and home ownership. These services will be available to our apartment residents as well. Residents must be employed in an agriculture field to be able to reside in the housing development.

#### Housing Development Features:

- 36 apartments are planned at a density of 9 units/acres.
- Property is zoned R-3 multi-Family and is a 4-acre site.
- Plan to build 8-1BR, 20-2BR, and 8-3 BR apartments. Each unit will have a front door and a washer and a dryer. Buildings will be 2-stories.
- Will seek financing from USDA/Rural Development and DSHA.
- A community building will be offered for property management and resident services. Building will be 3,600 square feet.
- Site has been designed for maximum open space, play area, and community feel. Security cameras will be installed.
- There will be a separate exterior storage building for residents. Storage buildings will feature a pitch roof, asphalt shingles, matching siding as the apartments, paved sidewalks, and landscaping.
- Appropriate landscape and buffering.
- Water and sewer services are available from the Town of Laurel and a privately maintained sewer pump station will be installed.
- Will have a shared entrance with Laurel Commons.
- The development will feature 80 parking spaces with 2.2 parking spaces required per unit.

#### Approvals & Public Hearings

- Concept Plan: A concept plan was presented to P&Z in December 2022 of the proposed development.
- Public Hearing: A public hearing was held on June 14, 2023, where residents could ask questions.
- Preliminary Site Plan Approval: The P&Z approved the Preliminary Site Plan with conditions on July 12, 2023.

#### Laurel Self Storage Sheds

**Location:** Discount Land Road

The property will feature a new climate control building along with 3 1-story self-storage buildings. The proposed site is 4-acres, and they will maintain the existing units with improvements. They will provide 6 parking spaces by the climate control building. The climate control building is 38,862 square feet and they're proposing 3 stories but may do 2 stories, which will reduce the square footage. The climate control building will feature an office inside and the entrance will be gated.

#### Approvals & Public Hearings:

- Public Hearing: A public hearing was held on December 14, 2022, where residents could ask questions.
- Preliminary Site Plan Approval: The P&Z approved the Preliminary Site Plan on December 14, 2022.
- Final Site Plan Approval: The P&Z granted Final Site Plan Approval on July 12, 2023.

## Town Projects



### Tidewater Park Update

During this past summer, Tidewater Park was heavily utilized with events including the Boys & Girls Club Music in the Park and the Town of Laurel's Farmers Market. The town is continuing to work on the completion of the park. This past summer a pavilion was constructed near the bioswale.

### What Is Tidewater Park?

Tidewater Park is a piece of the Ramble Project, where it will consist of a nature base playground. This park will be environmentally friendly due to its ability to produce a greener infrastructure and provide a stormwater management with a constructed wetland.

### Tidewater Park:

#### Features 3 Playground Areas:

- A 5 to 12 year's old play area.
- A 2 to 5 year's old play area.
- A sensory area.



### Town Hall Closing Dates

Please note Laurel Town Hall will be closed during the following holidays listed below.

#### Labor Day

- Monday, September 4, 2023

#### Columbus Day

- Monday, October 9, 2023

#### Veteran's Day

- Friday, November 10, 2023

#### Thanksgiving

- Thursday, November 23, 2023

#### Black Friday Thanksgiving

- Friday, November 24, 2023

#### Christmas Eve

- Friday, December 22, 2023

#### Christmas Day

- Monday, December 25, 2023

#### New Year's Day

- Monday, January 1, 2024



Sunday, November 5, 2023

## Town Reminder Dates



### Mayor & Council Schedule September - December 2023

Listed below are the scheduled Mayor & Council dates for September through December 2023.

#### September 2023

- Tuesday, September 5, 2023 \*
- Monday, September 18, 2023

#### October 2023

- Monday, October 2, 2023 \*
- Monday, October 16, 2023

#### November 2023

- Monday, November 6, 2023 \*
- Monday, November 20, 2023

#### December 2023

- Monday, December 4, 2023 \*
- Monday, December 18, 2023

#### Agenda's Posted

The Mayor & Council Agendas are posted one week prior of the scheduled meeting date. Agendas are posted at Laurel Town Hall and online at [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net).

#### ZOOM Dial-In Information

If you wish to attend the meeting virtually the ZOOM Dial-In Information is listed below on the agenda.

## Police Department Message



### Police Department Message

During this past July, the Laurel Police Department introduced a new member in their department "Therapy Dog Spooky." Spooky is a 1-year-old German Shephard who will be tasked in assisting the Laurel PD Mental Health Clinicians during their routine assignments. Spooky will be attending intensive therapy dog training academy before being deployed at the Laurel Police Department and Seaford Police Department. Although Spooky is still in training, she will be a frequent visitor at the police department to build confidence in various social situations. Once Spooky has completed her training the police department encourages the public to stop by and see her in action.

Laurel Police Department  
Address: 205 Mechanic Street  
Phone #: 302-875-2244

"Our Community, Our Commitment"

**Reminder Dates**



**Republic Service Recycle Change**

**Please note that your Recycling Pick-Up Day is every other Tuesday.** The recycling day change became effective June 6, 2023. Please review your monthly trash, yard waste, and recycle calendar below. If you have any questions, please feel free in reaching out to Laurel Town Hall at 302-875-2277.

**NOTE:** RECYCLING CAN NOT BE PLACED IN YOUR YARDWASTE CANISTER. IF SO, REPUBLIC SERVICE WILL NOT PICK-UP YOUR YARD WASTE CANITSER.

**RECYCLING IN DELAWARE**

**ACCEPTED IN BIN**  
Place only these materials loose, empty, clean and dry in your recycling cart or dumpster.



**NOT ACCEPTED IN BIN**  
Keep these items out of your recycling cart or dumpster.



**DSWA** Delaware Solid Waste Authority  
For More Information Visit: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) or call 1-800-404-7080

SEPTEMBER 2023				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	6 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	7	8 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	9
10	11	12 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	13 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	14	15 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	16
17	18	19 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	20 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	21	22 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	23
24	25	26 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	27 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	28	29 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	30

OCTOBER 2023				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	4 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	5	6 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	7
8	9	10 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	11 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	12	13 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	14
15	16	17 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	18 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	19	20 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	21
22	23	24 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	25 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	26	27 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	28
29	30	31 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE				

<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b>				<b>Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
			1 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	2	3 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	4
5	6	7 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	8 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	9	10 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	11
12	13	14 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	15 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	16	17 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	18
19	20	21 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	22 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	23	24 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	25
26	27	28 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	29 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	30		

<b>DECEMBER 2023</b>				<b>Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
					1 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	2
3	4	5 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	6 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	7	8 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	9
10	11	12 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	13 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	14	15 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	16
17	18	19 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE WEST SIDE	20 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	21	22 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	23
24	25	26 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE RECYCLE EAST SIDE	27 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	28	29 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	30
31						



**Town of Laurel & Laurel Police Dept.  
Presents the  
"6th Annual Trunk or Treat"**

The Town of Laurel and the Laurel Police Department are asking local businesses, organizations, and charities to help make this a "spook-tastic" event. We are inquiring local businesses, organizations, and charities to help participate and distribute candy to trick or treaters in our 6th Annual Trunk or Treat Event. The Town of Laurel wants to make this a fun and safe event where trick or treaters can travel safely to one vehicle to another.

**6th Annual Trunk or Treat Details:**

**Location:** Laurel Elementary School, Bus Parking Lot near Evergreen Drive.

**Date:** Saturday, October 28, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Line-Up:** Line-up will begin at 6:45 p.m. on Evergreen Drive.

**Businesses, Organizations, & Charities Needed!!!**

The Trunk or Treat Applications will be made available at the end of September for businesses, organizations, and charities to obtain.

**Applications Are Available Either at:**

- Laurel Town Hall  
201 Mechanic Street  
Laurel, De 19956
- Town of Laurel's Website under the Forms Tabs.  
**WEBSITE:** [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net)

**Application Deadline:**

The Application Deadline for businesses, organizations, and Charities to submit their applications by Wednesday, October 25, 2023.



**Town of Laurel's  
"TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT"**

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** Age Limit is 12 and under.



**Town of Laurel Presents:  
"Family Movie Nights"**

The Town of Laurel will once again be resuming their Family Movie Nights this fall at. Please continue to review the town's website and town's Facebook Page for dates, time, movie titles, and location.



**Town of Laurel's  
Fall Farmer's Market**

The Town of Laurel's Farmers Market has had a great inaugural summer season due to the commitment of the vendors and the patronage of visitors. The town has elected to hold a Fall Farmers Market. Make sure to come and visit the market this fall season!!!

**Fall Farmer's Market Details:**

**WHEN:** Saturday throughout September to November.

**WHERE:** Tidewater Park (Across from Pizza King)

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Fall Farmers Market Season:**

Please note the selected Saturdays for the Fall Farmers Market are still to be determined. For more information, please contact Laurel Town Hall.

## Community Events



### Town of Laurel's Annual Christmas Parade

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Make sure to visit the Town of Laurel's Christmas Parade to kick-off your holiday traditions.

**Date:** December 1, 2023

**Time:** Parade begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Parade Line-Up:** 6:00 p.m. on Evergreen Drive.

#### Pick-Up a Christmas Parade Application

- **Applications are either available:**
  - (1.) At Laurel Town Hall
  - (2.) Online at [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net)
- **Applications may either be dropped off or mailed to Town Hall.**

**Address:** Town of Laurel  
201 Mechanic Street  
Laurel, Delaware 19956  
ATTN: Christmas Parade

**Parade Route:** Parade will begin on Evergreen Drive and travel north onto Central Avenue Bridge.

#### **REMINDER:**

**"BRING YOUR CHAIRS & BLANKETS"**



### Town of Laurel's "Christmas Tree Lighting"

The Town of Laurel will be holding their annual Christmas Tree Lighting. This event will include Christmas caroling, Letters to Santa, games, and more! Please gather your family and friends to help kick off this year's holiday season. Details about the event are listed below.

**Date:** Date to be determined

**Location:** Market Square Park

#### **REMINDER:**

**BRING YOUR CHAIRS & BLANKETS!!!**



### Santa's Coming To Town

Santa will be coming to town this holiday season. Santa will be making his first appearance on December 1, 2023, the same night of the parade.

#### Dates & Times

Santa dates and times will be available at Town Hall or online at [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net).

#### Location

Santa will be at the Market Street Square Park. (The Santa House)

## Santa's Top 10 Cookie List



### Santa's Top 10 Cookie List

The Christmas tree is light, the stockings are hung, the fireplace is crackling, and the kitchen is filled with the sweet aromas of cookies baking. Children all around the world are patiently awaiting for Santa's arrival on December 24th. Santa each year and his reindeers travel the world in one night delivering toys to children worldwide where children leave Santa an array of cookies and milk to help him complete his overnight journey. Santa isn't a picky eater by no means, but he does have his top favorite cookies, but he will surely be glad to consume any type of cookies you leave out for him.

#### Santa's Top 10 Cookie List

- (1.) **Chocolate Chip:** Santa prefers them to be extra soft with extra chocolate chips.
- (2.) **Sugar Cookies:** Santa wants you to get creative with different cookie cut-outs and sprinkles.
- (3.) **Peanut Butter Cookies:** don't hold back on the peanut butter Santa prefers them extra-peanut buttery.
- (4.) **Gingerbread Cookies:** Santa's prefers these cookies to be assembled with a gingerbread family.
- (5.) **Pizzelles:** These cookies are an Italian cookie and Santa sure does have a sweet tooth for these cookies.
- (6.) **White Chocolate Macadamia Nut:** Santa is in awe of this combination of the sweet undertones of the white chocolate with the nuttiness of the macadamia nut.
- (7.) **Oatmeal Raisin Cookie:** Santa craves this cookie for nutritious value to help in complete his world trip journey on December 24th.
- (8.) **Snickerdoodles:** Santa adores the slightly soft middles and the crunchy edges that are dressed with the cinnamon and sugar mixture on top.
- (9.) **M&M Cookies:** Santa surely loves the various colors distributed throughout these cookies.
- (10.) **Double Chocolate Cookie:** Santa surely loves this decadent cookie that maybe adorned with either white chocolate chips or dark chocolate chips.



**National Fire Prevention Week 2023**

While many of us remember our yearly visits while in elementary school to our local fire departments where we toured the fire department and learned about fire safety. Many of us may ask how did Fire Prevention Week begin and how did it evolve? In 1922, the NFPA supported the public observance of Fire Prevention, and it wasn't until 1925 when President Calvin Coolidge dedicated Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week is one of the longest- running public health initiatives in our country where children, adults, and teachers dedicate a week of learning about fire safety. Our local fire departments play a vital role doing fire week prevention as they dedicate their service in teaching our youth the importance of fire safety. Each year Fire Week Prevention is held on the week of October 9th for the remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871. The Great Chicago Fire killed more than 250 individuals, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,00 acres of land (NFPA, 2020).

**Fire Prevention Week: 2023 Theme Cooking Safety**

This year's Fire Prevention Week Theme is Cooking Safety. Did you know that the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries are cooking fires. It's important to note that unattended cooking is one of the major causes of cooking fires at home. As the grilling season is behind us now and with more individuals and families returning to their stove tops and oven it's important to begin reinforcing cooking safety tips with everyone in your household. **Please review the PDF below as it gives important safety tips pertaining cooking safety.**

***National Fire Week Prevention:  
Sunday, October 8th - Sunday, October 13rd, 2023***

**Cooking Safety**

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

**“COOK WITH CAUTION”**

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

**If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...**

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

**If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...**

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

**Cooking and Kids**

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

**FACTS**

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

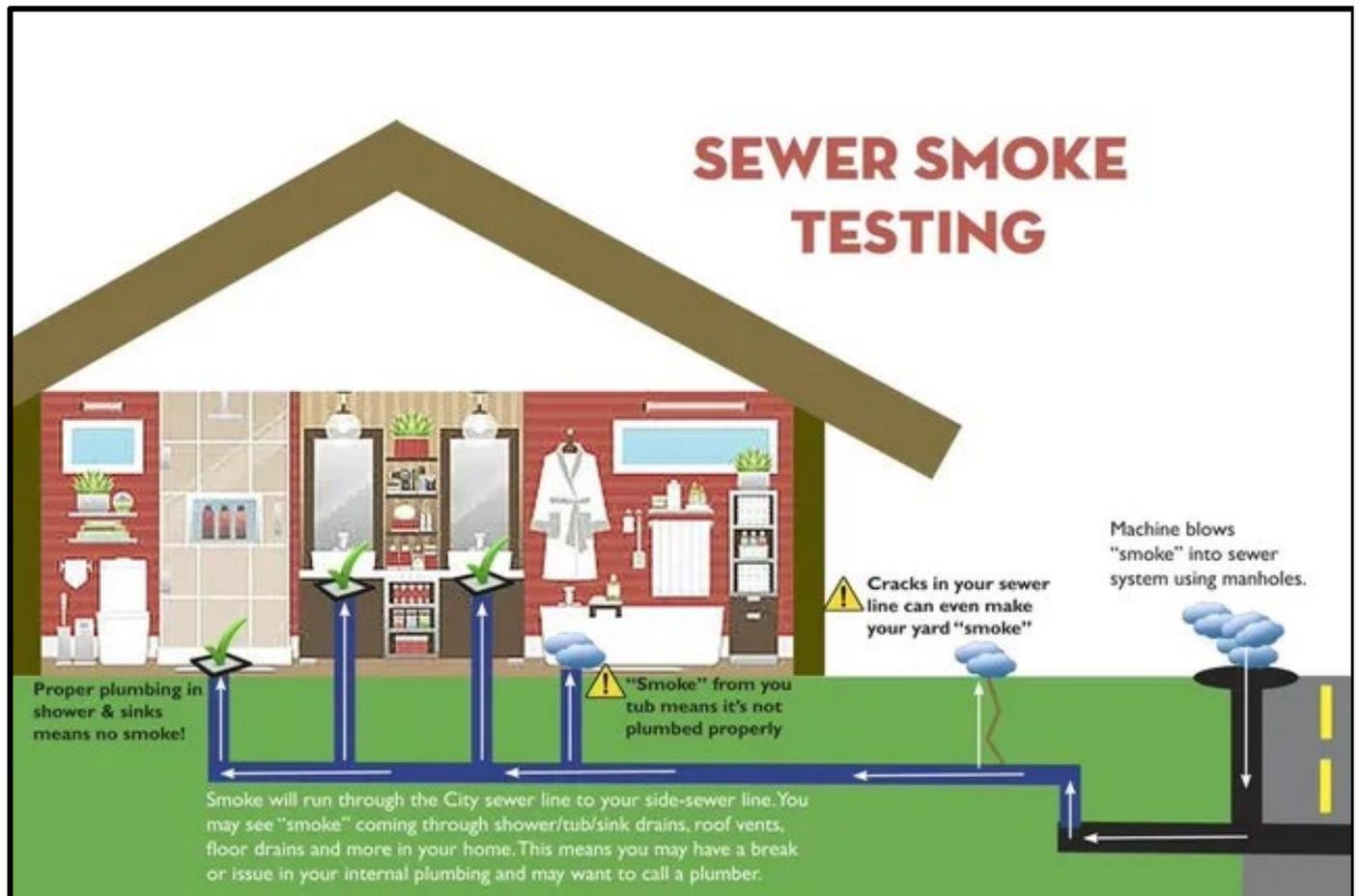
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## Smoke Testing Notice

Please note that the Town of Laurel will be completing a Flow Assessment for smoke testing in the early fall. At the time of this newsletter was published a day and time was yet to be determined. When a day is determined residents will be notified via on your town's utility bill, the towns Facebook page, and the towns website. If you have any further questions, please feel free in reaching out to Laurel Town Hall at 302-875-2277.

### What Occurs During Smoke Testing?



Fall Edition Newsletter 2023

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