

The Messenger



Fall Edition Newsletter

A Message From The Mayor's Desk

As summer's end approaches quickly there are lots of issues, and questions, and happenings going in the Laurel community. In the 1950's there was a popular police TV show called Dragnet. The lead investigator in that series was Sgt. Joe Friday. Whatever the case he was on, he was interested in "just the Facts." Technology has been both a good thing and a bad thing at times. Sometimes the information passed around on social media is not factual. If you want the facts as did Sgt. Joe Friday call and ask the Town government or attend a Town Council meeting and ask.

In just the last few weeks I have heard erroneous comments. Let me state factually the Laurel Wastewater Treatment Plant is owned by the Town of Laurel. The Laurel Redevelopment Corporation has no connection to the ownership or operation of the WWTP. Comments have been made that "someone is making a lot of money." I assure the readers that is simply not true. In small Towns in Sussex County Mayor and Council essentially serve as volunteers like the members of the Laurel Fire Department. We hold these positions to help our Town become continually better for all citizens. The Town conducts a full financial audit of its operations annually. The results are covered in person by the Certified Public Accountant at a Town Council Meeting.

Do our costs go up? Yes, but Mayor and Council and Town Staff try their very best to keep necessary cost increases to a minimum. Town Staff does a great job applying for grants and securing some. I would ask you to openly think about questions like these- Has the price of gallon of gas gone? Has the prices of food and lumber gone up? I believe you will answer "Yes."

I believe everyone in our community has the same basic interests. We want a safe, friendly, place to live with great services. To realize that vision, the Town of Laurel needs to create wealth. Wealth in the form of more units in its tax base. We must recruit new businesses and new housing. Laurel needs to "catch the wave" of housing demand facing Sussex County. This housing must be market driven so we attract our share of people looking to relocate to Sussex County. We have the first proposal of this type being processed the Planning and Zoning Commission. I look forward to the proposal reaching Mayor and Council.

I encourage all supporting groups to continue to develop ways to make Laurel a better for all. Congratulations to "One-Laurel," for sponsoring the mural painting project on the exterior wall of the former Dunbar Elementary School. I'd like to see this group reach out next to our Hispanic population which is growing. We need to embrace these residents and welcome them as part of "One-Laurel." In October, we should see some construction on the attractions in Tidewater Park on the property north of Broad Creek. Good changes are happening all around. Celebrate and "accentuate the positive."

-Mayor John J. Shwed

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Town News

BUDGET



Town of Laurel: FY 2022 BUDGET

The Town of Laurel held a Public Hearing on June 7, 2021. The town residents were invited to the public hearing to listen to the presentation and to ask any questions that they may have pertaining to the budget. The town was pleased to present a balanced budget with minimal increases. The town continues to grow with building construction with the partnership of Sussex County Habitat for Humanity. The town currently has received plans for a proposed 400-residential development. The Delaware Courts have ruled that Sussex County must complete a re-assessment of all properties by 2024.

FY 2022 Budget Adoption

The town adopted the FY 2022 Budget at June's Mayor & Council Meeting on June 21, 2021.

FY 2022 Budget Highlights

Revenues:

- Increase in delinquent taxes for tax sales.
- Increase per 1,000-gallon rate to \$6.00, which is an average of \$3.00 per month.

Expenditures:

- Increase in health insurance & pay increase for employees
- Added MS4 expense.

FY 2022 Budget Available

The FY 2022 Budget was made available to town residents either at Town Hall or at the town's website: www.townoflaurel.net for review.



Delaware Avenue Bridge Closed

The Delaware Avenue Bridge closed on May 20, 2021, for construction. The construction of the bridge is to take approximately 103 days for completion. The projected re-opening date is proposed for mid-September. Please continue to view for updates on the town's website and the town's Facebook Page regarding Delaware Avenue's Bridge Opening Date.



Mayor & Commission Award for Public Service

At April's Mayor & Council Meeting, Mayor Shwed Presented Miss. Layla Gainer the Mayor Commissioner Award for Public Service 2021, and a tribute. Mayor Shwed acknowledged Miss. Gainer for what she has accomplished at such a young age. During the year of 2020, Miss Gainer gave 150 hours of community service. The Mayor & Council encouraged Miss. Gainer to continue to be an inspiration to her community. Miss Gainer shared that her community outreach for youth is called "Sparkle On." Sparkle-On is an outreach to help spread kindness.

Listed Below is the Award Presentation:



New Traffic Patterns

Cooper Street:

At February's Mayor & Council Meeting the Mayor & Council elected to reduce the speed limit along Cooper Street between Fourth Street and Willow Street from 25 mph to 15 mph. At April's Mayor & Council Meeting an ordinance was passed to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph on Cooper Street.

Please note the speed limit went into effect of 15 mph on May 10, 2021.

Wolfe Street:

The residents of Wolfe Street submitted a request to Mayor & Council to reduce the speed limit on Wolf Street and they also recommended to make Wolfe Street a one-way street. A committee was formed of councilmembers, the Chief of Police, and the Town Manager to determine the pro's and con's of turning Wolfe Street into a one-way street. At May's Mayor & Council Meeting the Mayor & Council accepted the Committee Report to turn Wolfe Street into a One-Way Street. At June's Mayor & Council Meeting a public hearing was held to allow residents to voice their questions or comments. With no questions or comments, Mayor & Council elected to turn Wolfe Street into a one-way street in the direction from Tenth Street to Eighth Street. The one-way street became effective after 30 days of Mayor & Council's approval at June's Mayor & Council Meeting. **Please note the speed limit of 15 mph went into effect on May 10, 2021.**



Hope Hill House Dedication

In 2020, Sussex County Habitat for Humanity submitted a major subdivision for Planning & Zoning's review. The major subdivision consisted of 5 single family homes with a Town Centered zoning, located at West Front Street. Sussex County Habitat for Humanity submitted their Final Site Plan in April, where Planning & Zoning accepted their Final Site Plan. The construction will be phased in two years with two units being constructed in Summer 2021 and the next 3 units will be constructed the following fiscal year.

Hope Hill House Dedication:

On June 12, 2021, Sussex County Habitat for Humanity held a Hope Hill House Dedication where the major subdivision is located at. Vital Church partnered with Sussex County Habitat for Humanity to host a Rock the Block Event the same day in the afternoon. The Rock the Block Event helped 3 properties at Laurel Commons. The clean-up consisted of mulching, trimming, planting flowers, and more.



Town Property Taxes FY 2022

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.

Court of Appeals

The Town of Laurel held their Court of Appeals on Monday, August 16, 2021. 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.



One-Laurel: Pride & Ownership - Mural Day

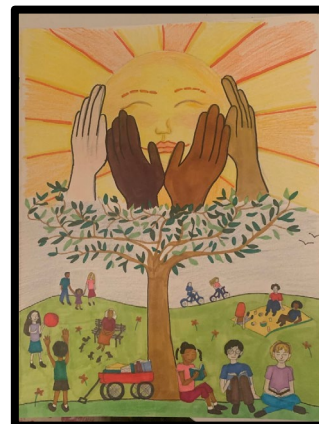
The One-Laurel Pride & Ownership group held a Community Mural Day on Saturday, August 28, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The community was invited to assist in painting a Mural representing "Pride & Ownership," on the side of Dunbar's Gymnasium facing West Sixth Street. The day also consisted of younger youth activities lead by the Boys & Girls Club. The younger youth activities included "Create Your Own Mural," and sidewalk art. The project was helped funded by donations in the residential and business community and a GoFundMe Page was created. The project was also helped funded by an Art Council Grant that was submitted by the Pride & Ownership Group.

How the Project Evolved?

In the Fall of 2020, the Pride & Ownership Group requested preliminary approval from Mayor & Council to paint a mural on Dunbar's Gymnasium. Once, they received approval the Pride & Ownership Group reached out to Mrs. Dana Paternoster the art teacher at the Laurel School District to assist students in creating a mural that represented "Pride & Ownership." At the March 2021 Mayor & Council Meeting the Mayor & Council elected the community to vote on the mural that they liked best. One June 22, 2021 a Community Mural Night was held at Dunbar Gymnasium inviting the community to cast their vote. Paining #1 was selected overall and was created by Ms. Lily Hearn who is sixteen years old.

Ms. Lily's Hearn Synopsis of the Mural:

My inspiration behind creating this artwork were my own interpretations of the meanings of being a unified yet diversified community! In my mind, the Town of Laurel is the perfect example of a unified, yet diversified community and I drew great inspiration from my own experiences having lived here my whole life. I wanted to create a mural in which everyone who saw it could also see themselves, their friends, their families, and their neighbors and recognize that even with all of our differences, we are a beautiful thriving community when we are together and unified. I remembered growing up and enjoying exciting events at my school, block parties thrown by the town library or even simple days in our local parks, where I had the privilege to experience the entire community interacting together as one and those remain some of my favorite memories- I decided to draw those memories and exemplify them with bright colors and an exciting and welcoming atmosphere. I really wanted the idea that although everyone is different, we all are able to flourish together under the same sky. In the especially uncertain times of living through this current pandemic, I think creating a mural like this one is extremely important to symbolize and remind us what connects us all together- a wonderfulness found in each and every person in our town when we are unified as one.



NOTE: To the left is the mural that was selected by the community. This mural is displayed on Dunbar Gymnasium facing West Sixth Street.

Town News



Town of Laurel:

Planning & Zoning Committee Update

Delaware Storage Sheds

APPROVAL STEPS:

Minor-Subdivision Request & Concept Plan:

In April 2021 Delaware Storage Sheds submitted a minor-subdivision request on behalf of Bargain Bills and a Concept Plan. The minor subdivision submitted included a proposed 3 separate parcels and mini self-storage. Planning & Zoning approved the minor subdivision and Concept Plan on behalf of Delaware Storage Sheds.

Preliminary Site Plan:

In May 2021 Delaware Storage Sheds submitted a Preliminary Site Plan for Planning & Zonings review.

Public Hearing & Preliminary Site Plan Approval:

A public hearing was held in July 2021, where residents were invited to ask any questions, they had regarding Delaware Storage Sheds. With no questions or comments, Planning & Zoning approved Delaware Storage Shed's Preliminary Site Plan.

Next Step:

Once, Delaware Storage Sheds receives all state approvals they will submit a Final Site Plan for Planning & Zonings review.

Delaware Storage Sheds Details:

- Location: Rt 9 & Rt. 13
- Site will feature 14 buildings- 1 office, 3 large storage sheds, and 10 smaller storage sheds.
- Five parking spaces and one handicap parking space.

Village Brooke East - Residential Community

Details Include:

- 410 dwelling units:
 - 63 Single-Family Homes
 - 179 Town Homes Units
 - 168 Condominium Units.
- Location:
 - Discountland Road

APPROVAL STEPS:

Concept Plan:

A Concept Plan was submitted in April 2021 for Planning & Zonings review.

Preliminary Site Plan:

A Preliminary Site Plan was submitted in May 2021 for Planning & Zonings review. Planning & Zoning approved the Preliminary Site Plan in June 2021.

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing was held on August 11, 2021 for residents to ask any questions regarding Village Brooke East.

Next Steps:

A Final Site Plan must be submitted to Planning & Zoning for recommendation of approval from Mayor & Council.

Town Projects



Tidewater Park Update

During the Fall of 2020, the town announced that they were a recipient of a Delaware State Park Matching Grant in the amount of \$200,000. The town received the match by utilizing CTF Funds with the assistance of Senator Richardson, State Representative Dukes, and the Laurel Redevelopment Corporation. The grant will go towards the completion of Phase 1 at Tidewater Park.

What is Phase 1 at Tidewater Park?

Phase 1 at Tidewater Park consists of the installation of the 2-5 years age group. The play areas will include, "How the Beaver Got it's Tail," and a "Turtle Sandbox."

Phase 1 Tidewater Park: Construction

The site work is expected to begin in mid-August 2021 and the installation of the playground will begin mid-September.

Tidewater Park:

Feature 3 Playground Areas:

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

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.



Janosik Park:

Shore Stabilization Grant

During the Spring of 2021, the town announced that they were awarded a Stormwater Planning Matching Grant in the amount of \$100,000 from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Economic Control (DNREC). The grant will be utilized for the design of the shoreline stabilization at Janosik Park. The grant was matched with the utilization of CTF Funds by Senator Richardson and State Representative Dukes.

Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste



**TRASH LIMITS FOR THE TOWN OF LAUREL
IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES**

This note is to inform you that the allowable Trash Limit in the Town of Laurel is as follows:

- Our 96-gallon Trash Container with an additional 30-gallon Personal Trash Container.

"OR"

- Our 96-gallon Trash Container and up to 4 bags.

There will not be any exceptions to this limit and Republic Services will adhere to it during our Trash Collection.

<u>September 2021</u>				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Yard Waste West Side of Town	2 Recycle West Side of Town	3 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	4
5	6	7 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	8 Yard Waste East Side of Town	9 Recycle East Side of Town	10 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	11
12	13	14 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	15 Yard Waste West Side of Town	16 Recycle West Side of Town	17 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	18
19	20	21 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	22 Yard Waste East Side of Town	23 Recycle East Side of Town	24 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	25
26	27	28 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	29 Yard Waste West Side of Town	30 Recycle West Side of Town	1 Trash Pick West Side of Town	

October 2021				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	2
3	4	5 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	6 Yard Waste East Side of Town	7 Recycle East Side of Town	8 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	9
10	11	12 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	13 Yard Waste West Side of Town	14 Recycle West Side of Town	15 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	16
17	18	19 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	20 Yard Waste East Side of Town	21 Recycle East Side of Town	22 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	23
24	25	26 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	27 Yard Waste West Side of Town	28 Recycle West Side of Town	29 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	30
31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!						

November 2021				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	3 Yard Waste East Side of Town	4 Recycle East Side of Town	5 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	6
7	8	9 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	10 Yard Waste West Side of Town	11 Recycle West Side of Town	12 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	13
14	15	16 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	17 Yard Waste East Side of Town	18 Recycle East Side of Town	19 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	20
21	22	23 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	24 Yard Waste West Side of Town	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!	26 Recycle West Side of Town	27 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town
28	29	30 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town				

December 2021				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Yard Waste East Side of Town	2 Recycle East Side of Town	3 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	4
5	6	7 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	8 Yard Waste West Side of Town	9 Recycle West Side of Town	10 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	11
12	13	14 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	15 Yard Waste East Side of Town	16 Recycle East Side of Town	17 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	18
19	20	21 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	22 Yard Waste West Side of Town	23 Recycle West Side of Town	24 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
26	27	28 Trash Pick-Up East Side of Town	29 Yard Waste East Side of Town	30 Recycle East Side of Town	31 Trash Pick-Up West Side of Town	Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Reminder Dates



Mayor & Council Meeting Dates

Listed below is the Mayor & Council Meeting Dates for the months of September 2021 through December 2021. Please note meetings have resumed back in-person at Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street. The town does offer a virtual option the Vast Teleconference System if you wish to call-in.

Mayor & Council Meeting Dates:

September 2021

1st Meeting: Tuesday, September 7, 2021
2nd Meeting: Monday, September 20, 2021

October 2021

1st Meeting: Monday, October 4, 2021
2nd Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2021

November 2021

1st Meeting: Monday, November 1, 2021
2nd Meeting: Monday, November 15, 2021

December 2021

1st Meeting: Monday, December 6, 2021
2nd Meeting: Monday, December 20, 2021

Agendas Posted:

Agendas are posted one week prior to scheduled Mayor & Council Meetings. Agendas are posted at Laurel Town Hall and posted on the town website at www.townoflaurel.net

Vast Teleconference System:

Dial-In Information

- Phone#: 1(302)-394-5036
- Conference Code: 334915

"First Meetings of Each Month Are Held Open If Needed."

Police Department Message



During the April Mayor & Council Meeting Chief Wright promoted the following officers to their new rankings: Sergeant Bryant, Patrolman First Class Karlik, Patrolman First Class Lieber and Patrolman First Class Parker. Chief Wright also presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the departments 2020 Yearly Statistics to Mayor & Council and town citizens. The town was proud to announce at July's Mayor & Council Meeting that they were a recipient of two grants that will help with the renovations at Dunbar. The town received a \$750,000 Bond Bill Money with the help of State Representative Dukes. The town was also awarded a Chesapeake Bay Grant in the amount of \$98,000. This grant will provide green streets, green jobs, and green towns for environmental projects. The police department held their first Laurel Police Youth Academy during the first week of August. The Youth Academy had 30 participants ranging from 6th to 8th graders. Participants learned about police culture, internet safety, K-9 demonstrations, CPR Certification, and more.

Laurel Police Department

Address: 205 Mechanic Street

Phone #: 302-875-2244

"Our Community, Our Commitment"



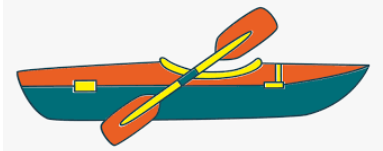
Town Hall Closing Days

Listed below are the Town Hall Closing Days:

Labor Day: Monday, September 6, 2021
Columbus Day: Monday, October 11, 2021
Veterans Day: Thursday, November 11, 2021
Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 25, 2021
Thanksgiving Friday: Friday, November 26, 2021
Christmas Eve: Friday, December 24, 2021



DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS:
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021



Broad Creek Kayak Excursions

During the February Mayor & Council Meeting Mr. McGowan from the Laurel Redevelopment Corporation presented a kayak launch proposal. Mr. McGowan explained that he reached out to Quest Kayak in establishing a rental kayak business in the Town of Laurel.

Details About the Kayak Excursions:

The self-serve rental stand allows individuals to retrieve their reserved rental kayak. The individual may reserve a rental kayak online where they will receive a key code to retrieve their kayak. A full staff will be staffed during the peak hours and for guided tours. The LRC received a Sea Grant from the University of Delaware to help with the start-up costs.

Guided Tours Fall Schedule:

During the summer season guided tours began in July and ran through the end of August. **Listed below are the Guided Tours Fall Schedule.**

September 2021

Thursday, September 9th, 2021
Time: 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

October 2021

Saturday, October 2nd, 2021
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Quest Kayak

For more information pertaining Quest Kayak please visit:
<https://www.questkayak.com/>

Community Events



**Town of Laurel & Laurel Police Dept.
Presents the
"4th 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 4th 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.

4th Annual Trunk or Treat Details:

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

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021

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

Application Deadline:

The Application Deadline for businesses, organizations, and Charities to submit their applications by **Wednesday, October 20, 2021.**

"PLEASE NOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & MANDATES. UPDATES OF ANY CHANGES OF COMMUNITY EVENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AND TOWN'S FACEBOOK PAGE. "



**Town of Laurel's
"Trick or Treat"**

DATE: Saturday, October 30, 2021

TIME: 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

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Community Events



Town of Laurel: Family Movie Nights

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

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Santa's Coming To Town

Santa will be coming to town this holiday season. Santa will be making his first appearance on December 3, 2021 the same night of the parade.

Dates & Times

Santa dates and times will be available at Town Hall or online at www.townoflaurel.net

Location

Santa will be at the Market Street Square Park.

"PLEASE NOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & MANDATES. UPDATES OF ANY CHANGES OF COMMUNITY EVENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AND TOWN'S FACEBOOK PAGE. "



The Town of Laurel's "Christmas Parade"

Come be a part of the Town of Laurel's Annual Christmas Parade this year. The parade features an array of holiday floats that adults and children are sure to enjoy. Details listed below.

Date: December 3, 2021

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
- 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.

"PLEASE NOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & MANDATES. UPDATES OF ANY CHANGES OF COMMUNITY EVENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AND TOWN'S FACEBOOK PAGE."



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

BRING YOUR CHAIRS & BLANKETS!!!

"PLEASE NOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS & MANDATES. UPDATES OF ANY CHANGES OF COMMUNITY EVENTS WILL BE MADE ON THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AND TOWN'S FACEBOOK PAGE."

Patriot's Day



**September 11, 2001
"20th Anniversary"**

In the words of Alan Jackson, "Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning, That September Day?" This September 11, 2021, marks the 20th Year Anniversary when our homeland was viciously attacked by terrorists. Many of us that day turned on the television and watched the broadcast of the towers crumbling to the ground, watching the debris and smoke fill the city air, watching individuals running frantically to safety, and watching the first responders running into the chaos to help those in need. Each year we remember and honor the victims of 9/11, so they will never be forgotten.

History of 9/11

On September 11, 2001, an Islamic group called al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes that ultimately led to an attack on U.S. soil. Two of the aircrafts crashed into the twin towers at the World Trade Center in New York, the third aircraft crashed into the Pentagon just outside Washington D.C., and the fourth aircraft crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The first attack occurred at 8:45 a.m. where an American Airlines Boeing 767 filled with 20,000 gallons of gas crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center. This air attack struck near the 80th floor of the 110-story tower leaving a large burning hole in the tower. The second air attack struck 18 minutes after the first attack when a United Airlines Flight 175 Boeing 767 struck near the 60th floor of the South Tower. The third air attack occurred at 9:45 a.m. where an American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the West side of the Pentagon Military Headquarters. This attack also led to a manifestation including the deaths of 125 military personnel and civilians and all 64 passengers on board. At 10:30 a.m. the North Tower collapsed leading to only 6 people surviving the time of their collapsed. The fourth hijack consisted of United Flight 93 where the aircraft was hijacked 40 minutes after leaving Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. The passengers and crews planned an attack on the hijackers as they knew the aircraft would not be returning to the airport. It's alleged that passengers and crew attacked the hijackers and entered the cockpit with a fire extinguisher. Flight 93 crashed at 10:10 a.m. in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. On September 11, 2001, approximately 3,000 lives were lost due to the four horrific terrorist attacks (History.com Editors, 2020).

9/11 Commemoration

Each year on the anniversary of September 9/11, a commemoration is held at the 9/11 Memorial Plaza where names of the victims are read out loud to honor them. The commemoration also includes six moments of silence to mark the times of the attacks and when the towers collapsed (9/11 Memorial & Museum, 2021) On September 14, 2001, President Bush declared 9/11 to be established as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on 9/11. A bill was passed on October 25, 2001, as September 11, 2001, a National Day of Mourning. Communities in the United States commemorate 9/11 by holding a moment of silence at 8:45 a.m. in honor of the first attack and laying wreaths and flowers on the graves of the loved ones lost that day. During this day, flags are lowered at half mass around all homes in the United States and government buildings (Patriot Day, n.d.).

**"WE WILL REMEMBER EVERY RESCUEE WHO DIED IN HONOR,
WE WILL REMEMBER EVERY FAMILY MEMBER THAT LIVES IN GRIEF,
WE WILL REMEMBER..."**

-President George W. Bush

History of Fruitcake



History of Fruitcake

During the holiday season, we play host to our families and friends to celebrate the holiday season each year. The holiday table is adjourned with our usual suspects of savory and sweet pairings. Like many of us our inner child begins to shine brighter during this joyous season because of the glorious sweets we've been craving all year long. We pile our plate with our holiday staples including cookies, candy, and fudge. Each year we look down at the dessert table and we notice a beautiful fruitcake that is waiting to be sliced into and each year we ask ourselves do we dare? During the holiday season, many people gift fruitcakes to their families and friends to enjoy now or later in the year. As we all know, the world is filled with either fruitcake lovers or fruitcake haters. As we begin to transition into the holiday season, we ask ourselves when and where did the fruitcake originate from?

History of Fruitcake

Did you know fruitcake was created by the Romans, where their recipe included pomegranate seeds, pine nuts, and raisins that were mixed into a barely mash. Not until the Middle Ages the fruitcake recipe adapted to include honey, spices, and preserved fruits. It was noted that the Crusaders and hunters carried along fruitcake on their journey as they would be away from their home for an extended time. During the 1400's, the British began to crave the delectable fruitcake when dried fruits were first introduced from the Mediterranean the first time. In Europe in the 1700's, a ceremonial fruitcake was baked after the completion of the nut harvest. The fruitcake wasn't consumed until the following year to celebrate the beginning of the harvest season. The Europeans carried on with this tradition to bring luck each year doing the harvest season. Fruitcake also known as "Plum Cake," became banned in Europe as the dessert became sinfully rich (Stradley, 2021). The dessert became banned due to the high content of ingredients including sugar and butter which lead to a rich dessert (CBC Kids, 2021). Near the end of the 18th Century laws were created to help ease the restrictions on fruitcake. The fruitcake always made a special appearance at a Victorian Tea Party between 1837- 1901. Did you know it became a custom in England for unmarried people to sleep with a large dark slice of fruitcake under their pillow at night to dream of the person they're supposed to marry (Stradley, 2021). During the 19th Century fruitcake became the traditional wedding cake in England (CBC Kids, 2021).

What is Fruitcake?

Many of us just consider a fruitcake, as a heavy dense, dry tasteless cake filled with preserved fruit. A fruitcake takes preciseness to lead to a tender and moist crumb that people crave all year long. A fruitcake contains fruits and nuts that can be either dried or soaked in sugar that leads to a heavy and moist cake. Many of us hear the rumor that fruitcakes can last the test of time, which is true due to the sugar. There are many variations of fruitcakes, and many fruitcake recipes feature alcohol as an ingredient. They also use a cloth dampened with alcohol to preserve fruitcakes. Did you know that some people will whip up a fruitcake and they won't consume the fruitcake until the following year? (Stradley, 2021).

Hastings Brothers Mercantile



Hastings Brothers Mercantile

The Town of Laurel was once known for a thriving business corridor located in downtown on Market Street during the early and mid-1900's. One of the businesses that was located on the corner of Market Street was Hastings Brothers Mercantile founded in 1888. The mercantile was a well-known store that was constructed of brick with two stories pictured in 1902. The Hastings Brothers Mercantile was considered one of the most attractive stores in the town's business corridor. The mercantile provided high quality goods consisting of staple groceries, flour, canned goods, notions, dry goods, and tobaccos at a reasonable and fair price. Residents also had the opportunity to purchase shoes, which was one of the nicest shoe lines in the country during this time. One of the most popular goods purchased by housewives was the "Golden Star," which was a patent flour made in Harrington, Delaware. The mercantile was also known to purchase local farmers produce at a fair market price. (Delaware Pilot Supplement, 1902). The company principles were James A., Charles H, and Durand H. Hastings and the company title was James A. Hastings and Brothers. In 1909, brother Charles Hastings purchased the interest from his late brother James A Hastings.

Many of today's residents will remember Hastings Brothers Mercantile as Taylor Hardware Store owned by Chester Taylor. The mercantile located today would be located at the southeast corner of Market and Poplar Streets, across from Centenary Church on the west and the Good Samaritan on the north. Did you know Hastings Brothers Mercantile was used as a post office before the first formal post office arrived on Central Avenue in the 1930's. When passing by you will notice bars on the side windows on Poplar Street and that is the reason why. The second story also housed apartments for families to live in. As of now we currently do not have an exact date when Hastings Brothers Mercantile closed their doors.

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