

THE TOWN OF LAUREL
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
Laurel Town Hall
201 Mechanic Street
April 20, 2026
6:15 p.m.

1. Closed Session RE: Personnel Matters & Legal Matters
2. Opening Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Tribute Kyree Muse, Boys & Girls Club Youth of The Year
5. Mrs. Anne Marie Townshend, ROSSI Group RE: Zoning Ordinance
6. Mr. Joe Lawson, Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice
7. Mr. Charlie Kisler, HELP Initiative
8. Mrs. Amy Handy RE: Operation West Laurel Update, Community Gardens
9. Mrs. Michelle Harris RE: One Way Apostolic Ministries
10. Minutes –March 16, 2026
11. Department Head Reports March 2026
12. Old Business
 - 11th Street Update – Town Manager Smith
13. New Business
 - Delaware Park and Rec Grant – Town Manager Smith
 - Water/Sewer Connection Policy for Building Permit – Town Manager Smith, Public Works Director Foskey
 - Voting on any matters that may need be necessary from Closed Session – Town Manager Smith
14. Mayor and Council Comments
15. Citizens Comments
16. Adjourn

Note to the Public: In accordance with 29 Del. C. § 1004 (e) (2), this agenda was posted on April 13, 2026, 3:36 at p.m., at the time it was prepared by the Town Manager and at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. This agenda is subject to change to include the additional items including Executive/Closed Session or the deletion of items including Executive/Closed Session, which arise at the time of the meeting. Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83916697787?pwd=GgxTQgabyq0flMKsDQTEqjvt4jdTv3.1>

Meeting ID: 839 1669 7787

Passcode: 949731

NOTE: An executive session will be held prior at 6:15 p.m. with a regular session beginning at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDED ON APRIL 16, 2026, AT 1:33 P.M. TO INCLUDE MRS. MICHELLE HARRIS ONE-WAY APOLISTIC MINISTRIES.

Town of Laurel DSHA Technical Assistance for Housing and Land Use Reform

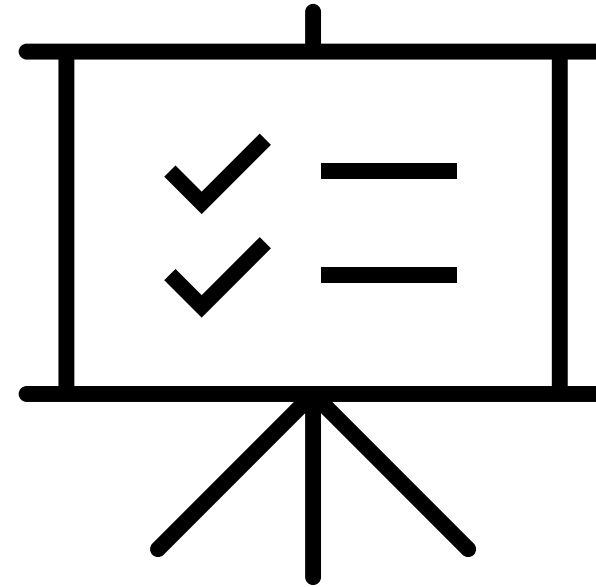
Town Council Meeting

April 20, 2026



Agenda

- Background
- Our Approach
- Housing Resources Committee (HRC)
- Participating Jurisdictions
- Housing Affordability in Laurel
- Chosen Reform
- Questions/Next Steps



Background



In response to Delaware's housing affordability crisis, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 442](#), creating the Affordable Housing Production Task Force.



The Affordable Housing Production Task Force released a [report](#) which recommended implementing zoning reform to allow more housing choices at a local level.

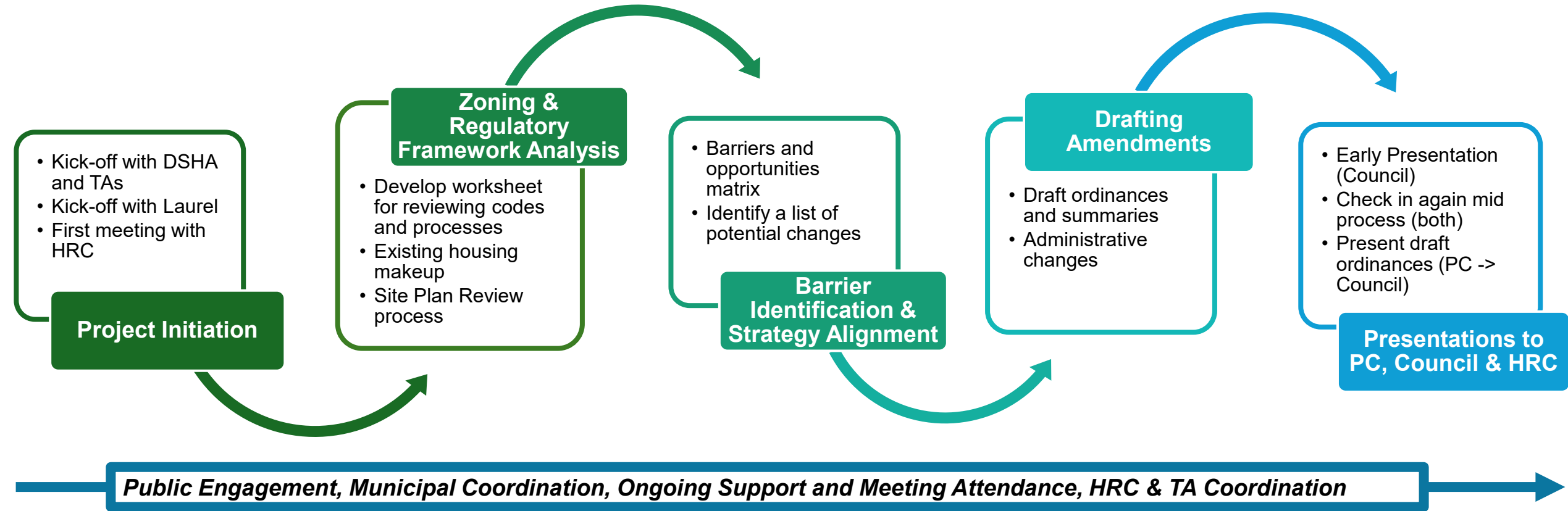


The General Assembly passed [Senate Joint Resolution 8 \(SJR8\)](#), directing the DSHA to create a pilot program to provide technical assistance for municipal governments related to zoning reform.



DSHA opened an application process for municipalities to participate in this [pilot program](#) where they could select zoning reform options and Laurel applied to participate.

Our Approach



HRC = Housing Resources Committee



Housing Resources Committee (HRC)

Advisory group of non-participating jurisdictions and state agencies who have deep understanding of local development processes

Role

- ✓ Support technical assistance (TA) providers and local jurisdictions
- ✓ Provide expertise and guidance on challenges and solutions
- ✓ Engage and convene TA providers and municipalities via monthly meetings
- ✓ Evaluate proposed solutions
- ✓ Support development of public engagement



Participating Jurisdictions & TA Providers

Rossi Group

- Newark
- Dover
- Lewes
- Laurel

Smart Growth America

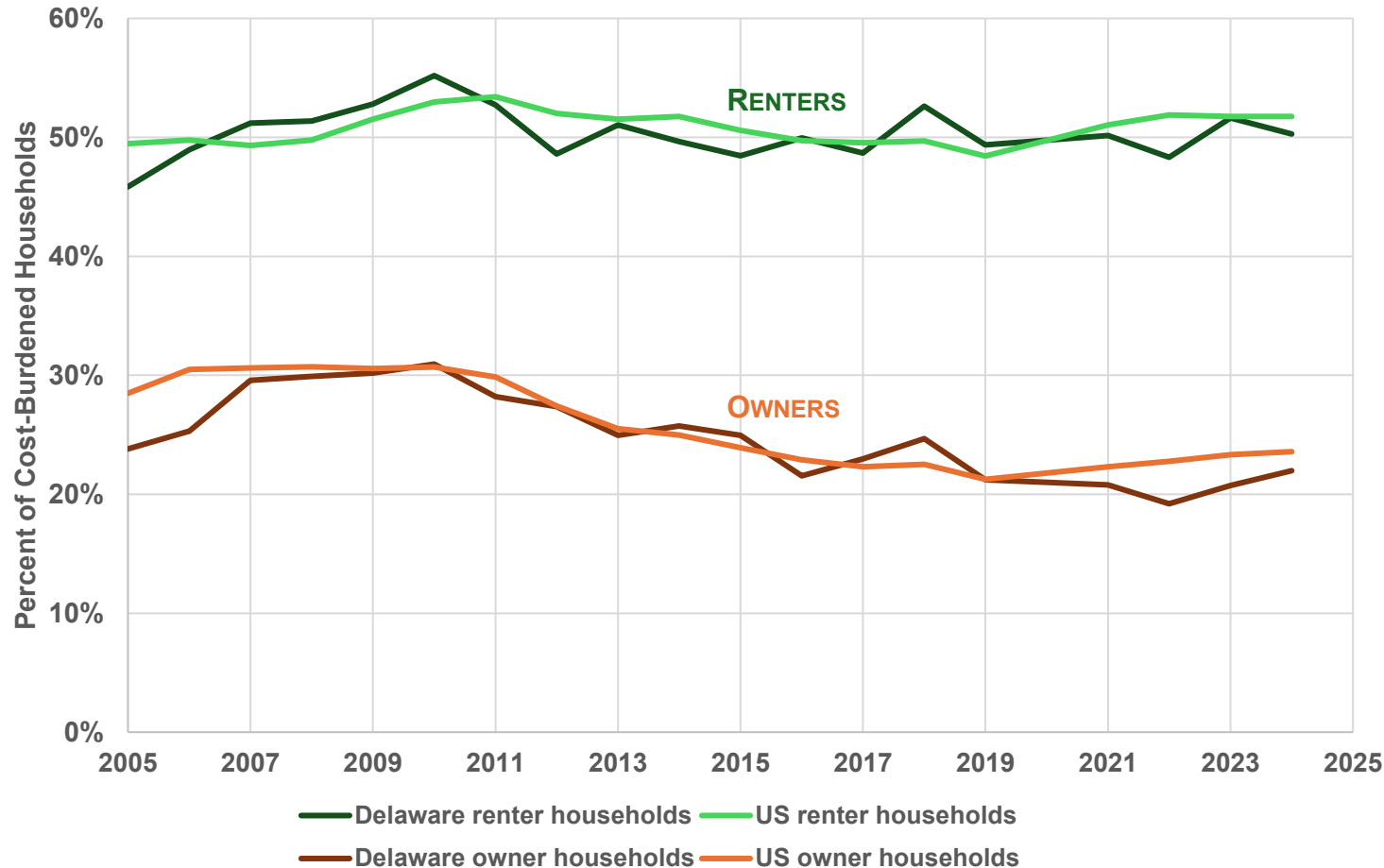
- Milford
- Rehoboth Beach
- Georgetown
- Bridgeville

McCormick/Taylor

- Sussex County

Housing Affordability in Delaware

Share of Cost-Burdened Renters and Owners (2005-2024)



Cost-burdened households:

Households who spend at least 30% of their total income on rent or mortgage payments and utilities.

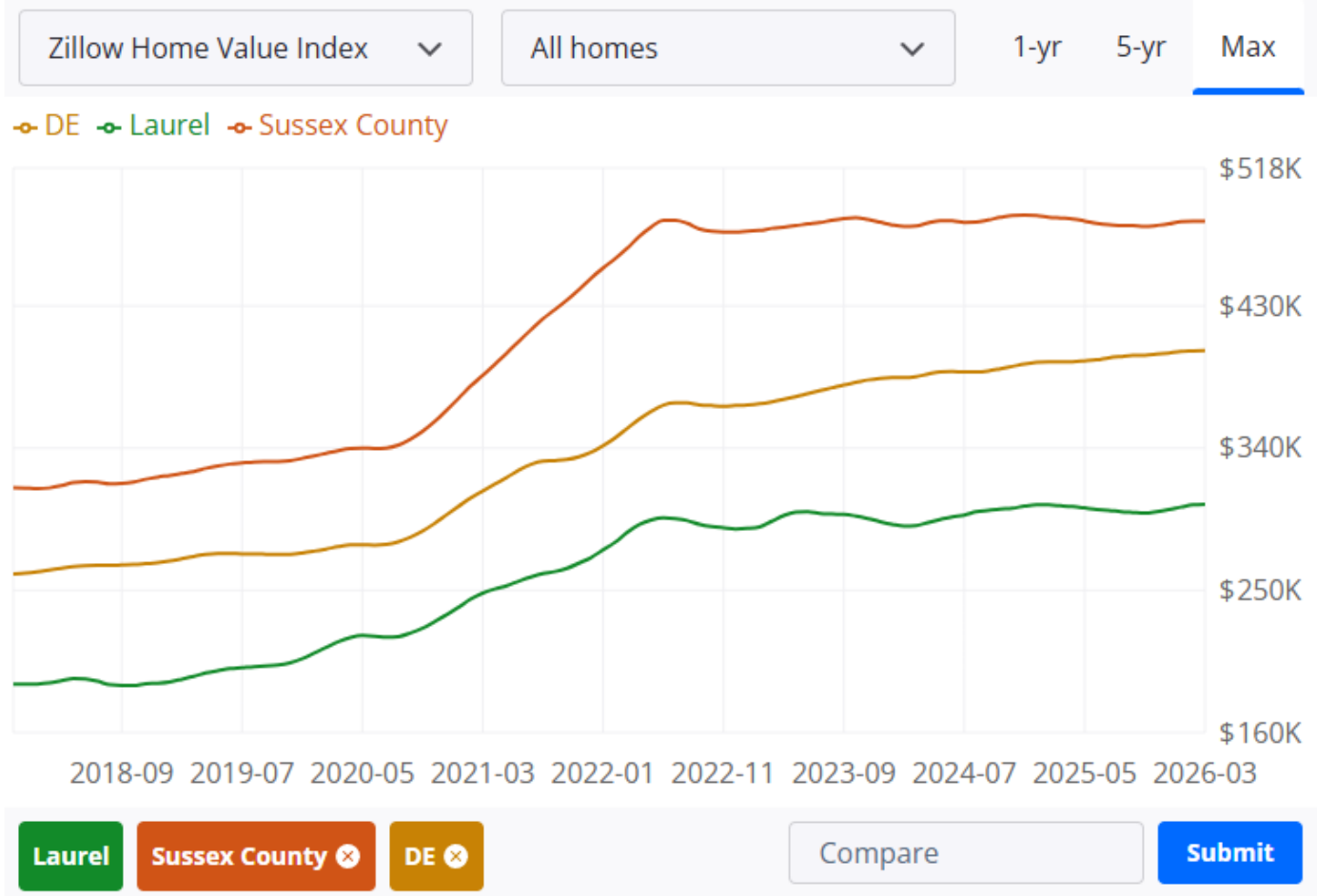
According to 2024 ACS data, 50% of renters and 22% of homeowners are cost-burdened in Delaware.

Median monthly housing cost in Laurel: **\$1,019**

An individual would need to make **\$3,397** a month to afford the median housing cost in Laurel

Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI)

- The **ZHVI** is a smoothed, seasonally adjusted measure of the typical home value and market changes across a given region and housing type.
- It reflects the typical value for homes in the 35th to 65th percentile range.
- **Laurel ZHVI: \$305,530**
- **Sussex County ZHVI: \$475,272**
- **Delaware ZHVI: \$396,207**



Laurel Rental Market (ZillowRentals)

- Average overall monthly rent in Laurel is **\$1,800**
- Average rent for a one-bedroom apartment \$1,723

Compare average rent in markets

Rent in Delaware is 6% higher than Laurel, DE.

Delaware

vs.

laurel



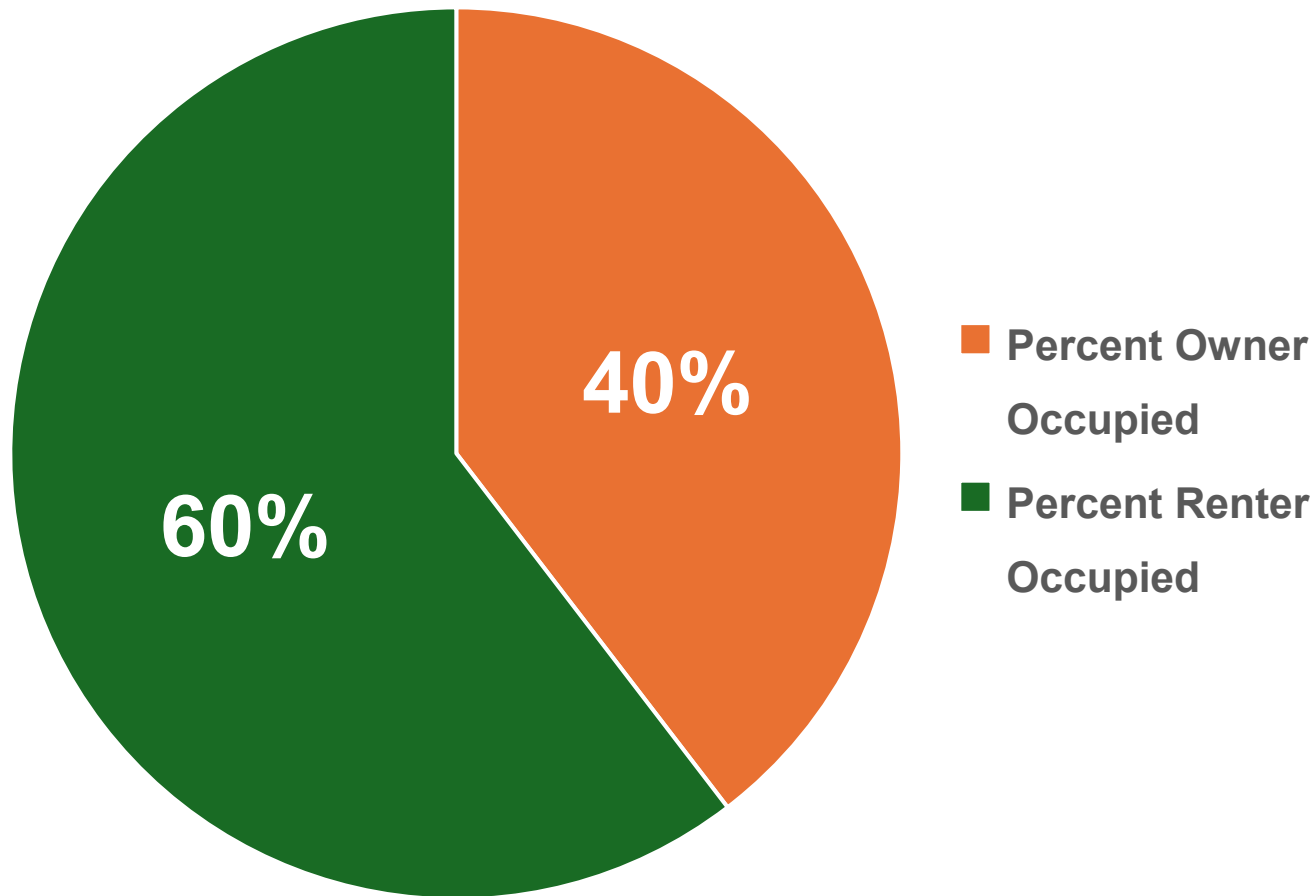
\$1,911

\$1,800

Laurel, DE average rent

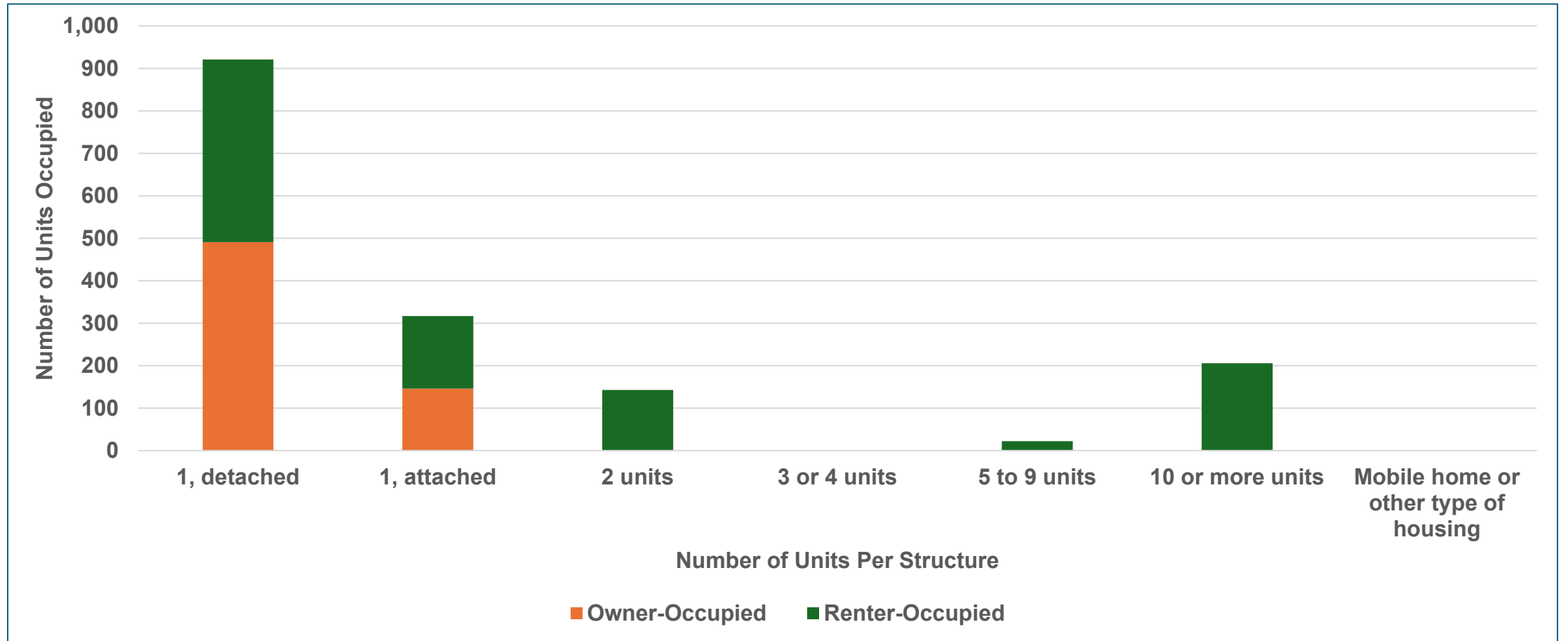


Owner and Renter Occupancy in Laurel



- Per 2024 ACS data, there are 1,710 housing units in Laurel, 1,609 of which are occupied housing
- According to the 2018 Comp Plan, there are 427 subsidized housing units (~27% of housing units)

Occupancy by # of Units* per Structure

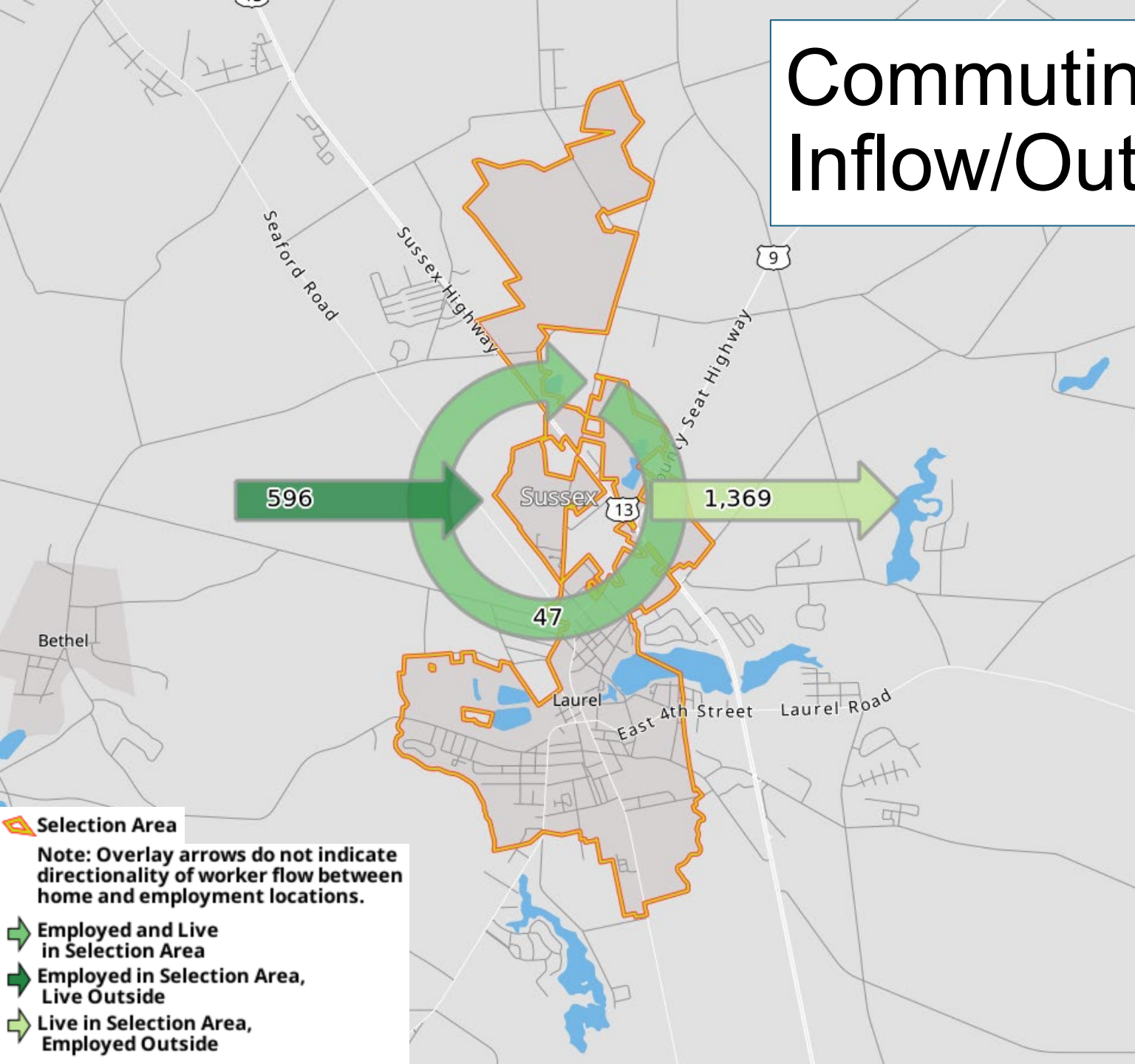


**A housing units refers to a house, a condo, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied*

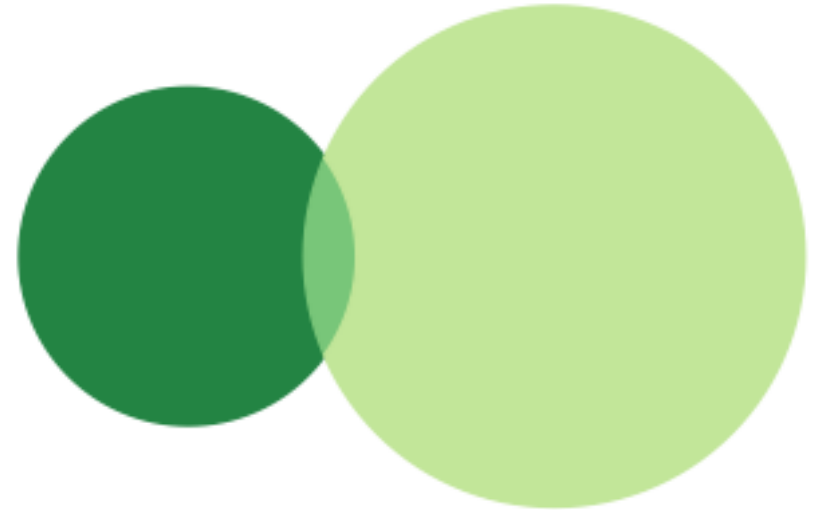
2024 ACS, 5-Year Estimates



Commuting Patterns: Inflow/Outflow of Workers



Inflow/Outflow Job Counts in 2023
All Workers



- 596 - Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- 1,369 - Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside
- 47 - Employed and Live in Selection Area

Selection Area

Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.

- Employed and Live in Selection Area
- Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside

Chosen Reform

- **Allow ADUs and/or “missing middle” housing types as permitted in residential zones**

Additional Reforms Available

- Allow manufactured and/or modular homes placed on permanent foundations as a permitted use where single-family detached homes are permitted
- Create pre-reviewed design plans for “missing middle” housing types
- Increase buildable density for housing by reducing minimum lot sizes and bulk standards
- Increase building heights for multifamily housing and/or mixed-use developments
- Establish an inclusionary zoning program to address affordable and workforce housing needs
- Allow higher density, mixed-use with residential in commercial zones or employment centers
- Reduce parking requirements in areas zoned for residential and mixed-use to promote walkable communities and provide more affordable development opportunities



Additional Reforms Available – Town Council Feedback

Reform	Support	Opposed	Undecided
Manufactured/Modular Homes	-	-	-
Pre-Reviewed Designs	-	-	-
Buildable Density	-	-	-
Building Heights	-	-	-
Inclusionary Zoning	-	-	-
Higher Density Mixed-Use Residential	-	-	-
Reduced Parking Minimums	-	-	-

Questions?

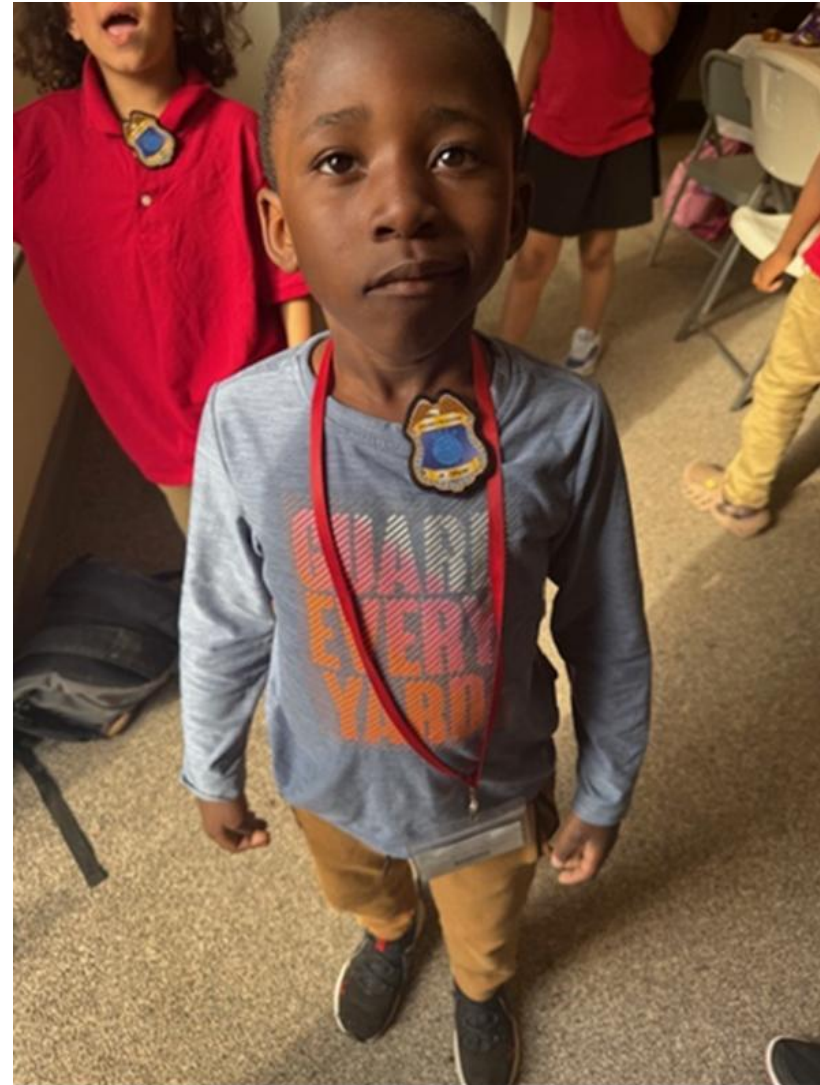




Town of Laurel Council Briefing

Project: Safe Neighborhoods

April 20, 2026



Objectives: Project Safe Neighborhoods

1. **Improve** public safety by installing energy-efficient lighting **outside** the home (i.e. Lights-ON Delaware Strong) which will contribute to the reduction in criminal activity (Milford Case Study).
2. **Lower** energy bills by installing energy efficient measures **inside** the home in partnership with Energize Delaware's Home Energy Checkup & Council (**HEC2**) Program.
3. **Educate** residents for Emergency Response situations
 - a. Register for Smart911.Com
 - b. Complete Medical Prescription Card Information
 - c. Develop an Emergency Evacuation Plan (Home | City)
 - d. Identify vulnerable residents for a future Senior Roll Call Service
4. **Build** a referral system (Clearinghouse) that qualifies residents based on need and eligibility and shares resident details with program service providers using smart data exchange methodology
5. **Integrate** into existing networks of community and faith-based partnerships
6. **Increase** neighborhood engagement and trust building by educating residents about social media resources (Next-door, Camera Registration, Facebook, Anonymous Reporting)
7. **Create** jobs in Home Performance, Weatherization and Energy based trades

Home Energy Check & Counseling (HEC2)

Walk-through Checkup:

An Energy Specialist, whom is a BPI-Certified Energy Specialist, will perform a walk-through Checkup of the home to identify energy efficiency opportunities in the customer's home.

Installation of energy-saving measures:

With the customer's permission, the Energy Specialist will install an established total incentive cap based on participating utility requirements for Direct Install Measures in the client's home at no cost to the customer.

- LED lamps
- Bathroom Aerator
- Kitchen Aerator
- Showerheads
- Water heater pipe insulation



Lights-ON Delaware Strong

HELP All Measures - Lights-ON

35.6k New Lights Installed	3.8k Solar Flood Lights Installed	286.5k Total Lights Watts	1.4M Power Reduction (kWh)
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20.1k
Homes Serviced

3.9M
Annual Energy Savings (kWh)

\$547.2k
Annual Energy Cost Savings



WE INSTALL HIGH EFFICIENCY LIGHTING ON THE EXTERIOR OF HOMES. • 38,000+ bulbs–20,000+ homes • Light up neighborhoods–Drive down crime • No charge to residents • Energy Cost Savings of \$547K+ Annually.

Health & Safety Program

HELP All Measures - Health-ON

1.5k

Homes Serviced

1.1k

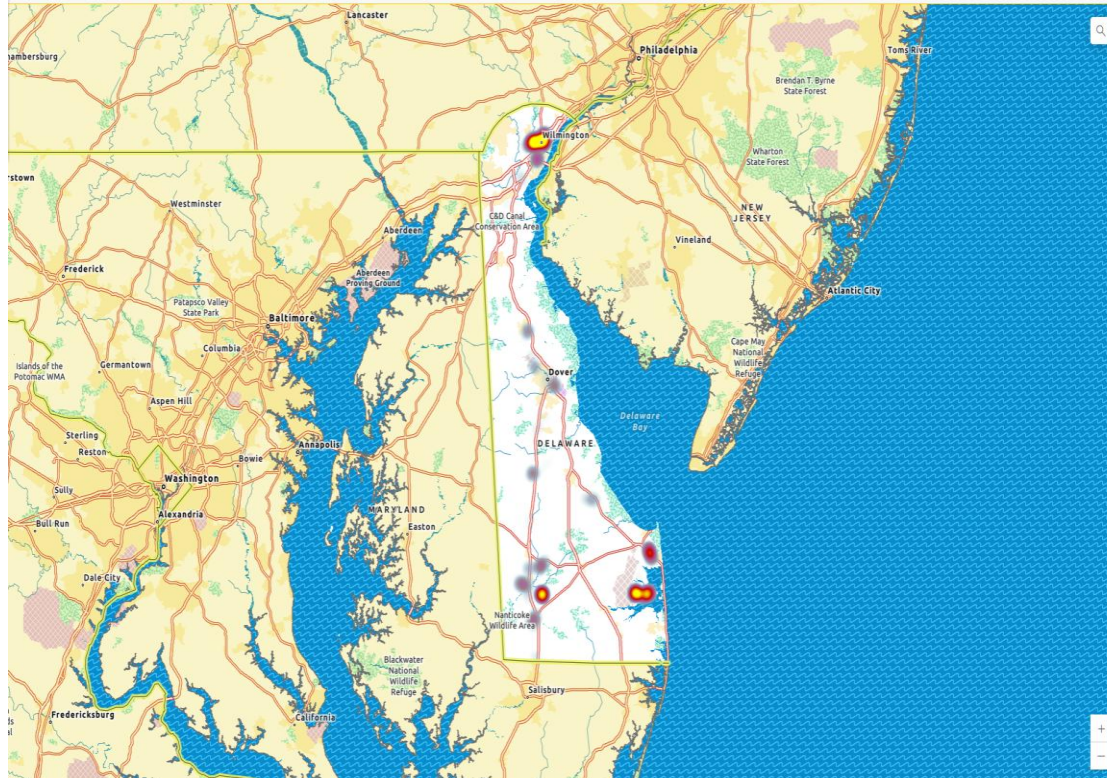
Smart 911 Enrollments

65

Projected HEC2 clients

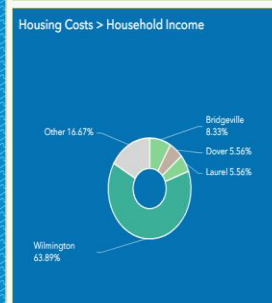
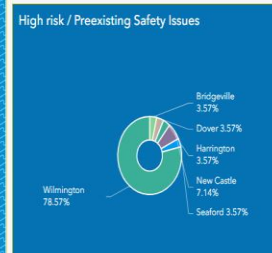
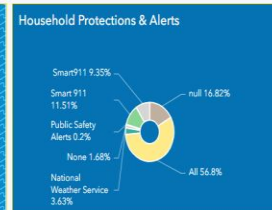
209

Call Center Inquiries



City of Dover, Delaware. Delaware FirstMap, New Jersey Office of GIS, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FICO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS | Esri, US Census Bureau

Powered by Esri



WE DISTRIBUTED OVER 1,500+ HEALTH & SAFETY KITS TO RESIDENTS OF DELAWARE.

First aid kits • Smoke & carbon monoxide detectors • High efficiency lights • Health information data cards • Testing for elevated blood levels for lead • Smart 911 registration • No charge for residents

Action Plan: Project Safe Neighborhoods

Phase	Milestone Activity	Proposed Target Dates
1	START	Laurel Town Council Vote Letter of Authorization
2	Ministerium Outreach - Intake, Enrollment, Installation & Education	April - May 2026
3	Integrate into existing networks of community and faith-based partnerships to facilitate community awareness and conduct intake & enrollment events	April– May 2026
4	Promote Jobs-ON Program to area residents and initiate internship onboarding process.	April- June 2026
5	Provide After Action Report to Town Council	July 2026

Points of Contact:

Bether Rojas
Chief Operating Officer
Phone: (302)841-3546
brojas@helpinitiatede.org

Melari Binet
Program Manager
Phone: (302)470-6163
mbinet@helpinitiatede.org

Charles Kistler
Executive Director
Phone: (302)236-7773
ckistler@helpinitiatede.org



Town of Laurel

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)

April 20, 2026

I. **Project Overview:** Provide Health & Safety measures to Laurel residents.

II. **Lead Agency:** HELP Initiative, Inc.

III. **Project Period:** April 2026 – June 2026

IV. **Geographic Area Served:** Town of Laurel

V. **Problem Statement:** Neighborhoods within the proposed service area continue to experience disproportionately high utility costs coupled with public safety and health concerns. The impact of this negative impact in historically under served neighborhoods erodes trust between residents and the local municipality including but not limited to code enforcement, utility provider, and Law Enforcement Agency.

VI. **Purpose and Goals:** The purpose of this “**Project Safe Neighborhoods**” (PSN) initiative is to contribute to the reduction in criminal activity and lower energy burden for residents as well as build trust in neighborhoods through education and behavioral change.

Primary Goals:

1. Improve public safety by installing energy-efficient lighting outside the home (i.e. Lights-ON Laurel Strong).
 - a. Need access to crime data in collaboration with the Laurel PD.
2. Improve Emergency Response to residents by registering them for
 - a. Smart911.Com
 - b. Prescription Information Cards
 - c. Emergency Evacuation Plans
3. Reduce energy burden by installing energy efficient measures (\$200+) inside the home.
4. Build and strengthen a sustainable partnership among neighborhood stakeholders including but not limited to the faith community and non-profit organizations (Children and Families First).
5. Increase neighborhood engagement and trust building by educating residents about social media resources
 - a. Next-door, Camera Registration, Facebook, Anonymous Reporting



VII. Target Focus Areas:

- Open Streets with residents struggling with utility bill payments.
 - Customer Service Manager – Utility Bill Payments
 - Geofenced area focused on neighborhood eligible homes.
- Organizationally Unified (HOA) – Manufactured Home Communities

VIII. Plan of Action:

A. Focus on Prevention and Education

- Utilize crime data and intelligence gathering to **identify** criminal hotspots and install **improved** outdoor lighting.
- Collaborate with Customer Service to **reduce** high energy costs and **improve** public safety through **education**.

B. Community Engagement and Trust Building

- Conduct community **intake & enrollment** events and listening sessions in targeted neighborhoods.
- **Collaborate** with faith-based leaders, residents, and advocacy groups toward a common goal with deliverables.
- Provide a **Clearinghouse Service** for resident referrals to other eligible programs (i.e., WAP, **DeLead Program**)

Client Referral Form (Sample Form)

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cd701b36e0b24b06a879e0c292f73dd2>





C. Workforce Development (Jobs-ON)

- Create job opportunities in the Town of Laurel using the *Project: Safe Neighborhoods Program* as a training ground for recruitment and placement in collaboration with employers in the building trades and home performance areas of expertise.

CI. Awareness Campaign – Safe Neighborhoods

- Post Card Handout
- Door Hanger Campaign
- Utility Bill Payment Interaction
- Town of Laurel Website

CII. Data Collection & Evaluation

- Identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Measure impact and outcomes
- Geospatially map critical data points

IX. Partnerships: Key partners will include: DOL Resource Center, State and Local law Enforcement Agencies, DOC Leadership in Transition, Community-based and Faith-based organizations, State Social Service Center, Boys & Girls Club, and Healthcare Agencies.

- Formal MOUs will define roles, responsibilities, and information-sharing protocols.

XI. Sustainability Plan: To ensure long-term impact, this Project Safe Neighborhood initiative needs to have the residents take ownership of their area of responsibility.

XII. Conclusion

Through strategic partnerships, focused public safety, and meaningful community engagement, this Initiative will contribute to the reduction in crime, reduce energy burden, improve public safety, and build trust between residents and municipalities. This proposed approach reflects best practices and offers a sustainable framework for long-term community engagement.



ATTACHMENT A:

SCOPE OF WORK

The HELP Initiative will Program Manage (PM) the **Project: Safe Neighborhoods** (Project) initiative for the Town of Laurel(Town). The Scope of Work (SOW) will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Pre-Launch

- a. Identify residents with high energy consumption levels (Customer Service)
 - i. Develop a referral process to the PM for residents in need
- b. Identify geofenced areas of concern within the Town for targeting safety & high energy usage residents
- c. Create a method for residents to access Project intake forms for intake and eligibility of program services
 - i. QR Code printed on Project Handouts
 - ii. Project Tablet with access to Intake Form within Town Hall lobby
- d. Accessible storage space (10' x 10') for Safety & Energy measures
 - i. Space alternatives could be provided by the faith community or community partners

2. Outreach & Community Awareness

- a. Website / Press Release
- b. Town point of contact information on Door Hangers to legitimize Project
- c. Schedule community outreach events in collaboration with partners and stakeholders

3. Launch

- a. Use resident information on the Intake Form to schedule Project appointments
- b. Provide the Town with a Project Status Report at end of period of performance
- c. Coordinate

4. Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Framework

- a. Data Tracking Spreadsheet
- b. Verify Measured Impact of Crime Data Hot Spots
- c. GIS Geospatial Mapping of outcomes and impacts



ATTACHMENT B:
DELAWARE ENERGY FUND

The **Delaware Energy Fund** was established through House Substitute 1 to House Bill 50 sponsored by **Representative Heffernan, Senator Hansen**, and other representatives and senators and signed by **Governor Matt Meyer** on July 16, 2025

The Delaware Energy Fund provides assistance to consumers whose household income is less than 350% of the federal poverty level and will be funded and administered by **Energize Delaware**, otherwise known as the **Sustainable Energy Utility**.

If you have utility billing questions or utility metering questions, call your energy utility. This fund cannot assist with billing and meter related questions the way your local utility can assist. If you are unsatisfied with their response, you may reach out to the Division of the Public Advocate.

Website: <https://energizedelaware.org/delaware-energy-fund/>



ATTACHMENT C:

DELMARVA POWER CUSTOMER RELIEF FUND

Delmarva Power Customer Relief Fund – *available only to Delmarva Power electric/gas customers*

The **Delmarva Power Customer Relief Fund** is made possible through a one-time \$4.5 million charitable contribution from Exelon, Delmarva Power’s parent company, to the Delaware Energy Fund, and is designed to support limited to moderate income customers.

The **Fund** was established this year through collaboration with **Governor Matt Meyer, legislators, utilities,** and the **Sustainable Energy Utility (DBA Energize Delaware)**, who will manage the **Fund**, administer grants through the newly launched program, and assist eligible customers with applying.

If you have utility billing questions or utility metering questions, call your energy utility. This fund cannot assist with billing and meter related questions the way your local utility can assist. If you are unsatisfied with their response, you may reach out to the Division of the Public Advocate.

Website: <https://energizedelaware.org/delmarva-power-customer-relief-fund/>

The Town of Laurel
Mayor & Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2026

A Mayor & Council Meeting was held at Laurel Town Hall in the Mayor & Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The following persons were in attendance Mayor Carlos Oliveras, President of Council Chris Calio, Jim LaRue, RogJenea Fisher, George Lodato, Jonathan Kellam, and Donald Holden. Also, in attendance were Public Works Director James Foskey, Director of Code Enforcement Dan Hogg, Chief Robert Kracyla, Finance Manager Melissa Naselli, Recording Secretary Alexis Oliphant, and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Judge Ruffin was absent.

Mayor Oliveras stated Mrs. Bertine Alfreide from Seed of Hope is in attendance tonight to give a presentation. Mrs. Alfreide stated she is the Community Outreach Specialist of Seed of Hope where they specialize in youth trauma. They have mobile therapists who work with children from ages seven to seventeen. They offer free services throughout the state, and their goal is prevention and intervention. Mayor & Council thanked Mrs. Bertine for her presentation and time.

The Mayor & Council Regular and Closed Session Minutes of February 17, 2026, and the Mayor & Council Workshop Minutes of March 2, 2026, were presented for review. Councilman Lodato inquired if there was an update regarding Mrs. Barbers recommendation at the workshop to see if residents would be able to access their tax bill from the town website. Town Manager Smith stated Finance Manager Naselli reached out to the town's software company and they stated it would be compatible. She advised there will be cost associated and it would be discussed during the budget process. President of Council Calio made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of February 17, 2026, and March 2, 2026, as presented. Councilwoman Fisher seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

The February 2026 Department Head Reports were presented for review.

- Public Works Director Foskey stated 8th Street Watermain Transite Replacement Project is moving along.
- Town Manager Smith introduced Dan Hogg, Director of Code Enforcement. She stated he has over 30 years of experience in code enforcement, inspections, and plan review. Over the next few months, he will be reviewing our current ordinance to identify any areas where updates or improvements are needed. He will also be obtaining his DELJIS Certification to allow him to take persons to the Alderman's Court who fail to comply with codes and/or ordinances. The code enforcement department falls under the administration of the Town Manager due to the department being administrative and focusing on civil code compliance.

Director of Code Enforcement Hogg stated he has 35 years of experience in working in code enforcement and is looking forward in working with the town.

- Town Manager Smith stated Judge Ruffin is not in attendance, but her report was submitted for Mayor & Council's review. She advised Assistant Alderman Nick Mirro is in attendance tonight and he fill's in when Judge Ruffin is absent.
- Finance Manager Naselli stated she had no additions to her report.
- Chief Kracyla stated he attended the bi-weekly town hall meetings held at Hollybrook Apartments. The department has filled their final (21st) position and offered a conditional offer of employment to Gregory Catts. They're currently accepting applications for the upcoming Citizen Academy scheduled to begin April 1st through May 20th. He stated Seaford PD and Laurel PD have completed an MOU for our officers to participate in SWAT operations with Seaford PD. They have partnered with Sussex Technical High School to paint the acquired fleet vehicle from blue to black. They will be partnering with the Laurel Women's Civic Club to hold a sticker drive/bake sale to fundraise the K-9 Program. The event is scheduled for April 18, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. They have partnered with ECVN to install a flower garden at the department.
- Town Manager Smith stated a public hearing was held last week pertaining the Truitt Farm Retail where they're proposing five commercial pad sites. There next step is to receive all state agency permits and submit a Final Site Plan to P&Z for approval. She advised they will be meeting with WAWA on March 18, 2026, pertaining infrastructure on their site plan. She provided an update on the Mainstreet Program where funding was secured to complete a Mainstreet Assessment. She advised concrete has been poured at Janosik Park and the installation of the bricks and the lighting will follow. She stated hopefully this work will be completed prior to the town's Heritage Day but a back up plan will be made. She stated the State Revolving Drinking Fund is funding a grant application of \$100,000 for assessment management to the towns water drinking system. She advised a resolution is needed to more forward with the grant application and is asking for Mayor & Council's approval for Resolution 2026-2.

Councilman Kellam made a motion to accept the February Department Head Reports as presented. President of Council Calio seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Mayor Oliveras presented the Communication Committee Appointments. Mayor Oliveras appointed the following individuals to the Communication Committee: Councilman George Lodato, Mrs. Sharon Ardisana, President of Council Chris Calio, and Mrs. Cheryl Barber. Councilman Lodato stated he will be attending the Board of Education Meeting this week to see if anyone there would be willing to serve on the committee.

Mayor Oliveras presented the Emergency Operation Plan Information. Town Manager Smith stated and Public Works Director Foskey attended a Emergency Operation Plan Meeting at Sussex

County Emergency Center. She advised the town is responsible to implement an emergency plan and renew. The next step will be meeting with the Chief Kracyla, Laurel Fire Dept. and any other personnel who play an intricate role in the plan. The Sussex County Emergency Center is willing to help us update the plan for 2-hours at no cost. The plan will come in front of Mayor & Council once completed.

Town Manager Smith presented the following Upcoming Community Events. She stated a Spring Clean-Up Hosted by One-Laurel will be held Friday, April 10, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She advised volunteers are needed and more details will be provided once they're available. She stated the Inaugural Laurel Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Janosik Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The following events will be held a car show, Charlie & The Cool Tones, a Mayor's Challenge, a Cornhole Tournament, Laurel Historical Society Tours at the Rosemont & Hitchens Homestead, a petting zoo, and food/non-food vendors. She stated the 5th Annual One-Laurel Plein Aire Event will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Janosik Park. They currently have 30 painters registered for the event. She stated St. Phillips Strawberry Festival will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Town Manager Smith presented Resolution 2026-2, a resolution approving the pursuant of no match grant funding from the Delaware Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Asset Management Plan Grant Program. Councilman Holden made a motion to accept Resolution 2026-2. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Councilman LaRue thanked everyone for attending and thanked the town staff for their hard work. He stated he is looking forward to working with Director of Code Enforcement Hogg as he has a business within the town.

Councilman LaRue stated he will be resigning from his position as Councilman as he has purchased a property outside town limits.

Councilwoman Fisher provided an update on the Laurel Youth Council. She advised that she is working on the Laurel Youth Council Interview Panel and that she has been working with Dr. Nibblett the Assistant Principal at Laurel High School.

Councilman Lodato thanked the town staff for their hard work and welcomed Director of Code Enforcement Hogg.

Councilman Lodato inquired if the Mayor & Council would be willing to be sponsor in this year's upcoming 2nd Annual Broad Creek Bash taken place on Saturday, August 22, 2026. He proposed either a Silver Sponsor for \$500.00 or a Bronze Sponsor for \$250.00.

Councilman Kellam thanked the town staff for their hard work and welcomed Director of Code Enforcement Hogg.

Mayor Oliveras thanked Councilwoman Fisher for her hard efforts on the Laurel Youth Council.

Mayor Oliveras presented the following events:

- A garden installation will take place at the Laurel Police Dept. on April 25th. Volunteers are needed.
- A Town Hall Meeting at Little Creek will be held on March 23, 2026.
- Presented the ARK Tutoring Program at Little Creek.
- On March 25, 2026, a walkthrough will be occurring at Hollybrook.

Mayor Oliveras stated thanked everyone who has offered support and help throughout his first year of administration.

Public Works Director Foskey stated Will Warren from the Wheels and Heels Car Club will be organizing the Heritage Day Car Show. He wanted to thank Steve Breasure and Phil Shedaker for their hard work in obtaining donations. They have received \$800.00 in donations and the donors names will be listed on the car show trophies.

Councilman Kellam stated a June 19th Celebration at Jason Beach, Trap Pond will be held this year. Once more details are finalized he will share them.

Councilman LaRue stated a Celebration of Life for his wife Kathy LaRue will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Centenary Church from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Harris stated she is from Hopes Helping Hands, LLC and they're looking into opening a second practice and a second ministry within the town.

Mr. Carle Howard, resident of the Villas, inquired if Janosik Park will be ready for the Heritage Day and inquired why the Shoreline Stabilization Project at Janosik Park was not done simultaneously with the ongoing project.

Town Manager Smith stated she has reached out to Del-DOT and the walkway is expected to be completed prior to Heritage Day. She advised a silk fence will still be located on the walkway as well.

Mr. Jim Emrich stated he is on the Habitat for Humanity Board and they will be doing their 34th Home Blessing in the Town of Laurel on March 30, 2026.

Mr. Emrich stated he attended a ride-along for four hours with Officer Tindley where he witnessed community policing. He encouraged residents to take part of a ride-along.

Mayor & Council Meeting
March 17, 2026
Page. 5

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters.
Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Regular Session Recessed at 8:07 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

With there being no further business, Councilman Kellam made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Councilman Lodato seconded the motion. Vote was 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager

Recording Secretary

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT MARCH 2026

21 INSPECTIONS RESULTING IN 6 VIOLATIONS

10 PERMITS TOTALING \$27,607.25

NEW DIRECTOR GETTING ACCLIMATED

Town of Laurel Monthly Report for March 2026
Public Works Department
Prepared by James Foskey on April 14, 2026

Septage receiving station

Intake for March was 927,488 gallons - which resulted in income of \$60,420.74

- PW's department for the month of March. Staff continued to clean catch basins from debris along the streets to help with MS4 compliance and meter reads. Staff assisted with installation of new meter pit at Link Bank, edged all the parks and put mulch down, installed Military banners and the fountain in Market St. Park, Continued routine sewer jetting around town
- Water Plant- Staff performed monthly Bacteria & Fluoride testing of the Town's water system and reported to the State. Staff continued working with 120 Water for lead and copper compliance, and Hydro Corp for cross connection compliance. Staff replaced bands on caustic pums, worked with Delaware Rural Water on Cyber security, repaired leak at the Hypo injection, and replaced valves on chemical feed pump skids.
- Waste water-Staff continued routine maintenance at the WWTP facility, and provided monthly reports to the state. Staff also worked with Rural water on Cyber security, Staff replaced Pumps and control board at Culver Drive lift station, performed routine maintenance around the plant. Septage receiving frac tanks were cleaned and 19tons of solids were taken to the landfill.
- Transite Phase 4 water main replacement is near completion and paving has been scheduled for the week of April 21st. We are continuing to work with GMB on a new water treatment facility located at Dunbar, and various sewer and street paving projects.



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

1110 W. 6TH STREET, SUITE #1
LAUREL, DELAWARE 19956
Phone: 302-875-2244/ Fax: 302-497-3003



Robert F. Kracyla
Chief of Police

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL REPORT March 2026

- For the month of March 2026, the Laurel Police Department handled a total of 399 complaints/calls for service.

Complaint Breakdown

- Motor Vehicle Collisions: 17
- DUI: 10
- Felony Investigations: 19
- Misdemeanor Investigations: 75
- Follow-up investigations: 88
- Crime Prevention Checks: 22
- Other calls for service: 260

Crime Breakdown

- Felony Charges: 6
- Misdemeanor Charges: 31
- Fugitive Charges: 13

Traffic Breakdown

- Traffic Citations Issued: 92
- Parking Tickets: 2
- Warnings: 54

Assist Other Agencies

- Assist DSP: 34
- Assist other Police Departments: 4
- Assist Fire and EMS / Fire: 11

“Laurel...Our Community...Our Commitment”



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Robert F. Kracyla
Chief of Police

Warrants Generated/ Executed

- Felony Warrants: Generated 8 Executed 7
- Misdemeanor Warrants: Generated 6 Executed 5
- Search Warrants: Generated 10 Executed 10

Notable Incidents/ Investigative Updates

- Chief attended an FBI National Security Partners meeting in Dover.
- Chief attended the Rep. Danny Short meeting in Seaford with Lodato.
- Chief also met with the Mayor's Accountability Group in regards to the immigration incident at Town Hall.
- Chief had a meeting with Lauren Footman from ECVN regarding the garden installation at the PD.
- Chief and Lt. Bauer met with Don Daquila.
- Hollybrook Town Hall
- Chief attended the statewide Chief's meeting in Dover.
- Chief attended the One Laurel meeting.
- Chief and staff met with Town Manager over upcoming budget.
- Chief judged the state wide criminal justice competition held at Camp Barnes.
- Chief attended the dedication ceremony to Lt. Shelton at Elsmere PD.
- Chief attended a job fair at the library and also presented with Capt. Bryan at the closed session ref. K-9.
- Chief conducted an audit of the Sussex Co. Police Chiefs Assoc. in Rehoboth Beach.
- Chief attended a Town Hall meeting at Hollybrook.
- Chief had a mtg. with Mike Smith and Town Manager over FOIA.
- Purchased K9 Blitz, he and Patrolman 1st Class Adams began their 1st 12 week training process on March 23rd
- Officers were recognized that the annual awards ceremony.

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Robert F. Kracyla
Chief of Police

Upcoming Events

- We will be partnering with the Laurel Women's Civic Club to hold a sticker drive/cookie bake at the Police Department to fundraise for the K9 Program. Event is scheduled for April 18th, 2026 from 1pm-3pm.
- Laurel Police Department has partnered with ECVN (End Community Violence Now) to install a flower garden at the Police Department, to take place on April 25th.

"Laurel...Our Community...Our Commitment"

ALDERMAN COURT 35
ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE REPORT BY CATEGORIES
MARCH 2026

	26-Feb	26-Mar
TOWN FINES	\$99,936.78	\$98,853.57
VICTIMS COMP. FUND	\$16,725.35	\$16,523.75
COURT COSTS	\$41,653.20	\$40,694.73
VIDEOPHONE FUND	\$1,399.00	\$1,375.00
TRANSPORTATION FUND	\$39,078.30	\$38,223.75
COURT SECURITY FUND	\$43,986.01	\$43,123.39
STATE POLICE FUND	\$13,098.20	\$12,803.45
LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND	\$13,171.81	\$12,868.36
VICTIM RIGHTS FUND	\$514.40	\$508.40
AMBULANCE FUND	\$14,591.67	\$14,348.41
MAIL IN LATE FEE	\$6,598.84	\$6,538.84
RESTITUTION	\$608.15	\$608.15
TOTAL	\$291,361.71	\$286,469.80
3-10+ YEARS	\$133,248.92	\$133,922.85
TOTAL TO TOWN	\$141,589.98	\$139,548.30

LAUREL ADLERMAN COURT 35

MARCH 2026 - MONTHLY COLLECTION REPORT

	CHECKS & CASH	VISA/MASTERCARD/DEBIT	DISCOVER	EPAY - VISA/MASTERCARD/DEBIT	EPAY - DISCOVER	TOTAL
VIDEO PHONE	\$16.00	\$64.00	\$1.00	\$55.00	\$2.00	\$138.00
VCF	\$197.55	\$881.90	\$10.00	\$535.40	\$20.00	\$1,644.85
VRF	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
COURT COSTS	\$528.00	\$2,190.25	\$20.00	\$1,159.91	\$40.00	\$3,938.16
FINE	\$692.50	\$3,270.90	\$229.00	\$1,956.28	\$55.00	\$6,203.68
CT. SEC. FEE	\$533.00	\$2,016.40	\$30.00	\$1,613.22	\$60.00	\$4,252.62
TRANSP. FUND	\$369.50	\$1,248.70	\$14.50	\$1,006.50	\$67.00	\$2,706.20
DSP FUND	\$120.00	\$570.00	\$7.50	\$443.75	\$15.00	\$1,156.25
LOCAL LAW ENF. FD	\$120.00	\$576.50	\$7.50	\$437.74	\$23.95	\$1,165.69
EMS FUND	\$170.00	\$629.60	\$10.00	\$541.16	\$20.00	\$1,370.76
OVERPAYMENT						
APPEAL FEE						
TOTAL:	\$2,746.55	\$11,468.25	\$329.50	\$7,748.96	\$302.95	\$22,596.21

LAUREL ADLERMAN COURT 35

MARCH 2026 - MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION REPORT

		CHECKS OR CREDIT CARD RETURNS	
VIDEO PHONE	\$138.00		\$138.00
VCF	\$1,644.85		\$1,644.85
VRF	\$20.00		\$20.00
COURT COSTS	\$3,938.16		\$3,938.16
FINE	\$6,203.68		\$6,203.68
CT. SEC. FEE	\$4,252.62		\$4,252.62
TRANSP. FUND	\$2,706.20		\$2,706.20
DSP FUND	\$1,156.25		\$1,156.25
LOCAL LAW ENF. FD	\$1,165.69		\$1,165.69
EMS FUND	\$1,370.76		\$1,370.76
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$22,596.21		\$22,596.21
TOTAL FINE & COSTS			\$10,141.84
TOTAL BANK FEES			\$236.53
TOTAL COURT SECURITY FEE			\$4,016.09
TOTAL FINE & COSTS			\$10,141.84
GRAND TOTAL FOR DISTRIBUTION			\$22,359.68

Town of Laurel 3/31/26
Finance Report - FY 2026

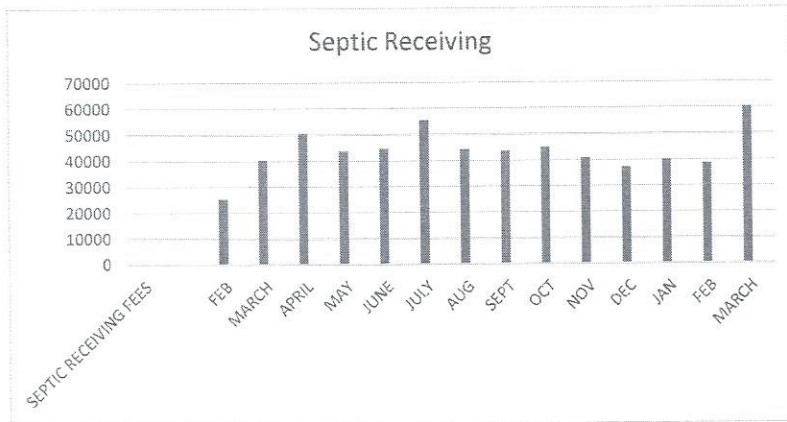
Budgeted Revenue as of March 31, 2026

Below are some revenue items & their year-to-date totals.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Realized</u>	
Alderman Court Fines	275000	94719	34%
Services Provided & Billed (through violations)	55000		0%
Building Permits	68000	21530	32%
Public Facilities Impact Fees	30000	17747	59%
Transfer Tax	160000	172836	108%
Dunbar Rental Income	60000	54160	90%
Water Fees (billed)	1030000	752150	73%
Wastewater Fees (billed)	1390000	995903	72%
Water Impact & Connection Fees		3000	
WW Impact & Connection Fees		4000	
Septic Receiving Fees (billed)	560000	405787	72%

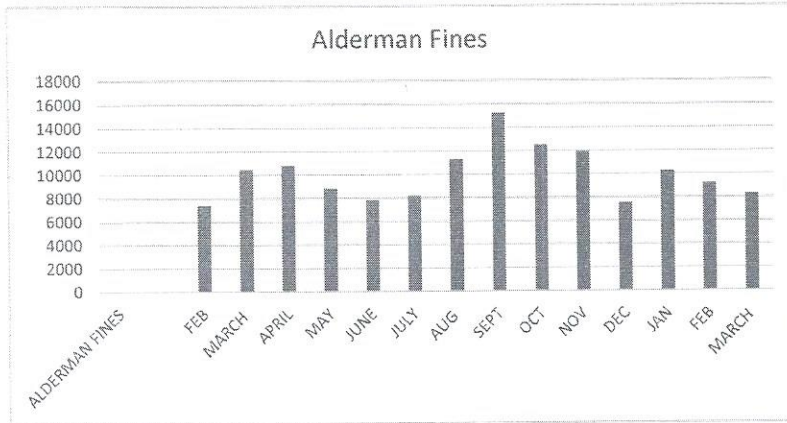
Budgeted revenue that is higher than average for this time of the year are in bold.

The following two graphs have been added to this report to show the trend of two major revenue items. The graph covers the past fourteen months.



SEPTIC RECEIVING FEES:

FEB	25444
MARCH	40306
APRIL	50599
MAY	43681
JUNE	44733
JULY	55590
AUG	44316
SEPT	43668
OCT	45058
NOV	40798
DEC	37249
JAN	40114
FEB	38574
MARCH	60420



ALDERMAN FINES

FEB	7425
MARCH	10445
APRIL	10817
MAY	8883
JUNE	7835
JULY	8251
AUG	11337
SEPT	15268
OCT	12538
NOV	11929
DEC	7544
JAN	10315
FEB	9243
MARCH	8290

	<u>YTD Donations</u>	<u>YTD Expended</u>
Police K-9	29340	1309



Town of LAUREL DELAWARE

Jamie Smith, Town Manager
201 Mechanic Street
Laurel, Delaware 19956
302-875-2277
laureltm@comcast.net

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

March 2026

- **Economic Development** – The town staff continues to work with a commercial and a residential developer for two properties along U. S. Route 13. The developer of McDonald presented an amendment to their preliminary plan, to include an additional three commercial businesses. Wawa is waiting on all final permits and then should be ready to move forward with construction. We are working with our engineers and the developers on the infrastructure plans to be able to give them approval and be ready to move forward once they receive all final approvals on their site plan. Continue to work with a developer for the development of residential property located on Central Avenue and the same developer is looking at developing property on Discount Land Road for the development of a mixed use residential parcel. The Promenade should be moving forward with site work in mid April to early May. Once site work is completed, construction of the homes will begin. Mr. Bobby Horsey who has presented a conceptual drawing for development along U. S. Route 13 and Camp Road.
- **TAP Funding Update** – In regards to the TAP Funding the Town received last year for the Ramble Walkway, the construction began and should have substantial completion by mid to end of April with final shortly after. Phase 1 of the Walkway install, is to begin at Roger C. Fisher Park. In order to completed this, a waiver and easement is needed from the Railroad company to go under the railroad bridge, due to the time it is taking to obtain the necessary easement. Contact has been made from the Railroad Company and they were supportive as long as we meet the requirements for a safety structure. However, it has been determined, it is almost impossible to meet the requirements of a safety structure.

The Ramble Committee has met and discussed the possibility of a board walk type pathway under the railroad bridge that would be closer to the water and allow the requirements for a safety structure. We will be speaking with another engineer who specializes in marine type construction. Additional TAP Funds are needed, we applied for this current year round, however was not awarded, the plan is to keep applying until funds are awarded. , There is required match amounts and some ground work that needs to be completed prior to the grant application can be submitted. This grant program is commitment for five years. Timeline for Phase II for construction to begin is most likely 12 months. Phase I work and design can be completed during Phase II construction as to not hold up Phase II was the easement is received. The contractor began work, however with the weather work has been at a standstill.

- Main Street Assessment – I have been working with Stephanie Moody and Teresa Lynch on a Main Street Program for Laurel. The first step is to apply for grant funding, which we received to complete the assessment. Teresa Lynch will complete the application for the assessment.
- Janosik Shore Line Stabilization – We have worked closely with the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance on the obtaining funding/grants for the implementation of the shoreline stabilization along Janosik Park. With the funding secured the next step is to go out to bid and obtained needed permits. I have been advised to obtain the required permits, it is taking over 12 months. The grant has been extended.
- MS4 – DNREC contacted me in early July to advise they were moving forward with working on a draft permit for MS4. They held a conference via Zoom to review the MS4 program. If you recall, back in 2016 we established an agreement with The City of Seaford and Sussex Conservation District to work as Co-Permittees which will allow costs of the MS4 Program to be shared. In light of MS4 moving forward once again, the Laurel/Seaford/SCD held a meeting on July 29th. We have adopted the Coalition agreement between Laurel and Seaford. We met in September to review the agreement and update on the MS4 status and had a follow up meeting in December. The town has since approved the agreement between the town and Soil Conservation to oversee the project. There is an opportunity for grant funding that will help cover the cost associated with MS4. The Coalition will be applying for the grant. The MS4 expenses are budgeted in the current budget. We have been working with an Attorney from Aqua Law who drafted comments on the latest draft of the Permit. We have yet to receive any updates on our comments however we did meet with DNREC in August and shared our concerns and the burden that MS4 could potential put on small municipalities such as Laurel and Seaford. There has been no further meetings or discussions on this topic, although there are no further updates at this time, I will still keep n the report to keep it at the forefront.

- One Laurel – Steering Committee is a two time a month morning coffee meeting. We continue to work with Boys and Girls Club on a Teen Initiative.
- Laurel Heritage Day – Scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm. The Laurel Historical Society will be opening Hitchens Homestead and the Rosemont as well as having some type of event(s) and has offered the property for vendors if necessary. We will be limiting vendors this year to make sure all are successful and we will also be looking for certain types of vendors to fit the theme of a Heritage Day.
- Meetings Attended –March 2nd Met with SRF Funding Group, Mayor and Council Workshop; March 4th Jason Beach/Juneteenth Planning Meeting; March 5th EOP Workshop; March 6th SCAT Steering Committee Meeting; March 10th Western Sussex Chamber; March 11th One Laurel, met with Drew Ellison RE Literacy Program, Planning & Zoning Meeting; March 13th Library Community Event Meeting; March 16th Mayor and Council Meeting; March 18th met with Developers of Wawa, Promenade Progress Meeting; Plein Air Meeting; March 19th Phase 4 Transite Progress Meeting; March 20th Jason Beach/Juneteenth Planning Meeting; March 23rd Rossi Group RE Zoning Ordinance Update Meeting; Laurel Downtown Main Street Assessment Meeting; March 24th Habitat for Humanity Dedication; March 25th DFIT meeting; One Laurel Meeting; March 26th met with developer on Central Avenue project; March 27th SEDAC Meeting; met with Reps of LRC; March 31st Budget Committee Meeting. .