

The Messenger



Spring & Summer Edition Newsletter

A Message From The Mayor's Desk

As the season of spring arrives, it brings with it a powerful reminder, that renew is always possible.

After the long cold months of winter the earth awakens, trees begin to bud, flowers push through the soil, and the days grow brighter and longer.

In the same way, our town has an opportunity to refresh, rebuild and grow stronger together.

Spring is not just what we see around us. It's about what we choose to nurture within us. It's a time to let go of what weighs us down and to embrace new hope, new ideas and new beginnings.

Let this season inspire us to work together, to clean up our town, to lift up our local businesses, to encourage our young people, and to show kindness wherever it's needed.

Small acts of care can blossom into something truly beautiful when we all take part.

As we move forward, let's carry the spirit of spring in our hearts.

A spirit of growth unity and possibility.

Together, we can make this town not only a place where we live, but a place where we really truly thrive.

A special thanks to public works for getting us through a harsh winter a job well done.

Thank you all of Laurel,

Here's to a season of renew, hope and brighter days ahead.

Love where you live.

Mayor Oliveras.

Inside This Issue:

A Message From The Mayor's Desk

Spanish Translation Availability

Town of Laurel's FY 2027 Budget

Special Event Request Forms

Know the Code

Town Hall Closing Days

Mayor & Council Meeting Dates

Planning & Zoning Meeting Dates

Board of Adjustment Meeting Dates

One-Laurel Meeting Dates

Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste (May, June, July, & August)

Police Department Update

One-Laurel Spring Community Clean-Up

Inaugural Laurel Heritage Day

Laurel Little League Opening Night

Trap Pond Partners Bike Rally

Trap Pond Partners Nature Festival

One-Laurel (Plein Aire Festival)

St. Phillip's Strawberry Festival

Laurel Public Library Block Party



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 of Laurel's
Special Event Request Form**

With the weather finally turning the corner it means, "Spring has Sprung!!!" Warmer weather leads to more outdoor activities with family and friends. If you wish to reserve one of the town's park you must submit a Special Event Request Form to Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street.

Registration Fee

The Town of Laurel requires a **\$50.00 Registration Fee** when the Special Event Request Form is submitted to the town office.

Town Services (Optionable)

- Electric: \$50.00 fee
- Trash Cans: \$25.00 per trash can after the 4th.
- Road Closings
- Police Services

(The Town Service Fee is Non-Refundable. Please review the weather before submitting payment.)

Approval Process:

Once the form is submitted to Town Hall the form is first reviewed by the Town Manager, Chief of Police, and the Public Works Director. Once the event is approved the individual is contacted with approval of their event.

"Please note forms are submitted on a first come first serve basis."

Special Event Forms Availability

Special Event Forms are available at:

1. Town of Laurel's website:
www.townoflaurel.net
2. Laurel Town Hall:
201 Mechanic Street

Town of Laurel Parks:

- Market Street Square Park
- Roger C. Fisher Laurel River Park
- Janosik Park
- Tidewater Park



Town of Laurel's: FY 2027 Budget

The Town of Laurel's Administrative Staff and Budget Committee are currently preparing and drafting the FY 2027 Budget for the Mayor & Council's and resident's review.

Availability of FY 2027 Budget

The FY 2027 Budget will be made available for public review in late May 2026. **The FY 2027 Budget will be available either at:**

- Town of Laurel's Website:
www.townoflaurel.net
- Town of Laurel's Facebook Page
- Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street

Public Hearing:

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at the Laurel Town Hall regarding the presentation of FY 2027 Budget for citizen's review.

Adoption & Approval of FY 2027 Budget:

- The proposed FY 2027 Budget will be approved by Mayor & Council in June 2026.
- The FY 2027 budget will be in effect beginning of the fiscal year of July 1, 2026.



**Bush, Grass, and Weed Highlights
(Highlights of the Code Listed Below.)**

Cutting or Removal of Weeds Required
Every owner of any area, lot or parcel of land shall cut, trim or otherwise remove or cause to be removed all weeds, grass, brush or vegetation **more than six inches in height** on any lot within the Town of Laurel unless said property is in agriculture production.

Notice

The Town of Laurel Code Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized to notify in writing via mail (**Certificate of Mailing**) the owner of the property, as determined by the official tax rolls of the Town of Laurel, to cut, remove, and destroy such grass and weeds, and/or remove and dispose of growing grass, cuttings, and other plants growing through, onto or over such sidewalks, driveways or streets from the subject property **within seven (7) calendar days from mailing of said notice.**

An owner of any property will be given only one notice per calendar year after which the Town shall cut the grass after each additional violation days.

REPEAT OFFENDERS:

Each violation increases by 25%.



Mayor & Council

May - August 2026

Listed below are the scheduled Mayor & Council Days for May through August 2026.

May 2026

- Monday, May 4th *
- Monday, May 18th

June 2026

- Monday, June 1st (Public Hearing FY 2027 Budget)
- Monday, June 15th

July 2026

- Monday, July 6th *
- Monday, July 20th

August 2025

- Monday, August 3rd *
- Monday, August 17th

(1st Meetings of Each Month are Held Open If Needed.)

Mayor & Council Agenda's

Please note agendas are posted one week prior to the regular scheduled Mayor & Council Meeting each month.

HOW TO ACCESS A MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA:

YOU HAVE THREE OPTIONS:

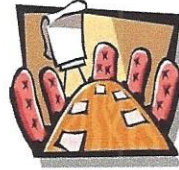
- (1.) Visit www.townoflaurel.net. Click on "Mayor & Council Tab," then Click on "Mayor & Council Meetings."
- (2.) Visit www.townoflaurel.net Scroll all the way down on the Home Page. It will be listed under "Community Events."
- (3.) A hard copy is posted at Laurel Town Hall inside the office on the Community Bulletin Board.

Mayor & Council Packet

If you wish to review a packet prior to the Mayor & Council Meeting they will be available online at www.townoflaurel.net the morning of the meeting effective April 20, 2026.

Please follow these instructions to obtain a packet online: Visit www.townoflaurel.net. Click on "Mayor & Council Tab," then Click on "Mayor & Council Meetings."

Reminder Dates



Town of Laurel Board of Adjustments

The Town of Laurel's Board of Adjustments meets the second Thursday of each month on as needed basis. The Board of Adjustment is made up of One Chairperson, three members with one vacancy.

The purpose of the Board of Adjustments is to hear variance requests that are not a permitted use within the zoning ordinance. A public hearing is held in front of the Board of Adjustments to determine if a variance request will be granted.



Town of Laurel Planning & Zoning Committee

The Town of Laurel's Planning & Zoning Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month on as needed basis. The Planning & Zoning Committee is made up of One Chairperson and 6 Planning Members.

The intent of the Planning & Zoning Committee is to uphold the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Laurel to protect the character of the town and to facilitate community economic development. The committee reviews various items including minor/major subdivision, concept plans, preliminary site plans, and final site plans. They also are responsible on updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan every 10 years.

P&Z Agendas

Please note agendas are posted one week prior from the regular scheduled P&Z Meeting if needed that month.

HOW TO ACCESS A P&Z AGENDA:

- (1.) Visit www.townoflaurel.net. Click on "Department Tab," then Click on "Planning & Code Enforcement."



**Town Hall Closing Dates
May - September 2026**

MEMORIAL DAY

- Monday, May 25, 2026

JUNETEENTH

- Friday, June 19, 2026

4TH OF JULY

- Saturday, July 4, 2026

LABOR DAY

- Monday, September 7, 2026

Organization Dates



One-Laurel Meetings
April 2026- August 2026
"YOUR'RE INVITED!!!"

One-Laurel is an organization that meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. One-Laurel was organized in early 2020 and where four focus areas were created to help create a more engaged and stronger Laurel community.

FOUR FOCUS AREAS

- Respect/Safety
- Pride & Ownership
- Race & Diversity
- Youth Engagement

APRIL 2026

- Wednesday, April 8th, Vital Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, April 22nd, Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building, 5:00 p.m.

MAY 2026

- Wednesday, May 13th, Vital Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 27th, Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building, 5:00 p.m.

JUNE 2026

- Wednesday, June 10th, Vital Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 24th, Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building 5:00 p.m.

JULY 2026

- Wednesday, July 8th, Vital Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, July 22nd, Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building, 5:00 p.m.

AUGUST 2026

- Wednesday, August 12th, Vital Church, 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, August 26th, Paul Laurence Dunbar Public Safety Building, 5:00 p.m.



Police Department Update

This spring the Laurel Police Department will be hosting an 8-week Citizen Police Academy beginning April 2026 to May 2026. All participants must have been pre-registered by March 25, 2026 to attend. Students will learn about various topics including:

- Response to Resistance & De-escalation.
- DUI & Alcohol Impairment.
- Criminal, Narcotic and Gang Investigations.
- Mental Health Response.
- School Resource Officers.
- Live K-9 Demonstration.
- DUI Simulator.
- Firearms Simulator.
- SWAT Presentation.

This past January the department promoted the following officers to their respective ranks Lt. Jason Bauer (Administration), Sgt. Ashley Gardner (Criminal Unit) and Sgt. Matthew Porter (Patrol Unit). All three officers were recognized in a previous Mayor & Council for their promotion.

The police department will be partnering with the Laurel Women's Civic Club to hold a sticker drive/cookie bake an initiative to help fundraise for the K9 Program. The Event is scheduled for April 18th, 2026, from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Laurel Police Department.



National Police Week 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

TO

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026



Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 22, 2026



**NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
MAY 17-23, 2026**



TOWN OF LAUREL
TRASH, YARD WASTE & RECYCLE
APRIL 2026 – AUGUST 2026

APRIL 2026

East Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 1st, 15th, & 29th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 8th & 22nd

West Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 8th, & 22nd
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* Apr. 8th & 22nd

MAY 2026

East Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* May 5th, 12th, 19th, & 26th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* May 13th & 27th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* May 6th & 20th

West Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* May 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* May 6th & 20th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* May 6th & 20th

JUNE 2026

East Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* June 10th & 24th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* June 3rd & 17th

West Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* June 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* June 3rd & 17th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* June 3rd & 17th

JULY 2026

East Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* July 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* July 8th & 22nd
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* July 1st, 15th, & 29th

West Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* July 1st, 15th, & 29th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* July 1st, 15th, & 29th

AUGUST 2026

East Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 5th & 19th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 12th & 26th

West Side of Town Schedule:

- *Trash Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th
- *Recycle Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 12th & 26th
- *Yard Waste Pick-Up Dates:* Aug. 12th & 26th

Laurel's 1st Annual Heritage Day

Sat. April 11, 2026 10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m.

Front Street

Car Show - 10 a.m.

Charlie and The Cool Tones - 1100 a.m.

Mayor's Challenge - Family Friendly Activities

Vendors - Petting Zoo - Cornhole Tournament

Hist. Soc. Tours - Rosemont & Hitchens Homestead



Photo courtesy of Laurel Historical Society

For more info contact Laurel Town Hall 302-875-2277
Laurel - Where Great Things Come Naturally

Town of Laurel's Heritage Day 2026

Laurel Heritage Day CAR SHOW

Live Music, Food & Non Food Vendors



Sat. 4-11-26
10 AM TO 2 PM

Janosik Park, Front St, Laurel, De

1st 50 PLAQUES—30 TROPHIES

3 BEST IN SHOW

Early Registration 9 a.m.—Registration Fee: \$10.00

Contact Person—Will Warren 410-726-5617



LAUREL'S 1ST ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
JANOSIK PARK
10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

11 APRIL

CAR SHOW
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Early Registration:
9:00a.m.
Registration Fee:
\$10.00
Janosik Park, Front St.

11 APRIL

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
12:30 P.M.

Registration Fee: \$25.00
Minimum of 4 Teams
Single Elimination
CASH PAYMENTS ONLY

JANOSIK PARK, FRONT ST

11 APRIL

**CHARLIE & THE
COOL TUNES**
11:00A.M.

Janosik Park, Front St.

11 APRIL

**LAUREL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY TOURS**
10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Tour the Rosemont
& the Hitchens
Homestead.

11 APRIL

**MAYOR'S
"CLUCKING"
CHALLENGE**
11:30 A.M.

"CLUCK 'N CHUCK"
Janosik Park, Front St.

11 APRIL

**MORE ACTIVITIES
&
ENTERTAINMENT!!!!**

-Food & Non-Food
Vendors
-Petting Zoo.



LAUREL HERTIGATE DAY SPONSORS 2026

HONORING OUR PAST SPONSOR:

- Sussex County Councilman, Matt Lloyd

HOMETOWN ROOTS SPONSOR:

- Community Bank

MOMENTS IN TIME SPONSOR:

- Carey's Inc.
- George, Miles, & Buhr, LLC
- Media Choice

Town of Laurel Heritage Day Car Show Sponsors 2026

- CAREY'S, INC.
- BARRET MORRISON
- STEWART BAKER
- WZRD KUSTOM'S
- LAUREL REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
- DELMARVA DIGITAL



**ONE-LAUREL:
Sponsored
Spring Clean-Up**

Date: Friday, April 10, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: A spring clean-up will be held throughout various sectors within the town.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

They're looking for organizations and volunteers who would like to partake in this event.

Contact Laurel Town Hall at 302-875-2277 for more information.



Paint Laurel Plein Air

The Fifth Annual Paint Laurel Plein Air will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026 (rain or shine) in historic Laurel, DE. All artists working en plein air in oil, acrylic, pastel, and watercolors will be setting up their easels to capture this historic town and surrounding picturesque natural areas on a spring day. There will be artists coming from four different states.

This event will give artists an opportunity to display their artwork during a "wet paint" art walk and sale along the Broad Creek in Janosik Park.

Friday, May 8th

- Artist Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m. with an artist reception/dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. in Janosik Park located on Front Street.

Saturday, May 9th

- Artist check-in reopens in Janosik Park at 7:00 a.m.
- Artists may paint anywhere within the Laurel area identified on the provided map.
- Artists are asked to stop painting at 11:00 a.m. and return to Janosik Park.
- A community art walk featuring the finished pieces will begin at 11:30 a.m.



**St. Phillips Church
"17th Annual Strawberry Festival"**

DATE: Saturday, May 16, 2026

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: 600 S. Central Avenue,
Laurel, Delaware 19956

FEATURING:

- Breakfast: Scrapple Sandwiches
- Strawberry Desserts & Ice Cream
- Lunch: Hot Dog & Hot Dog Meal
 - Fresh Strawberries Sold
 - Vendors and Crafters
 - Bake Table
- Entertainment & Community Participants

WANTED!
LAUREL LITTLE LEAGUE
OPENING
APRIL 17TH, 2026 • 6PM
SELL YOUR GOODS & SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS!
Snacks & Desserts | Jewelry | Local Goods
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE!
TO SIGN UP, CLICK THE LINK ABOVE

Community Events



Laurel Public Library
Connect. Create. Inspire.

FREE EVENT

Come Celebrate Our

10th ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Saturday, June 13
11:00 - 1:00

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

TRAP POND PARTNERS
22ND ANNUAL
FAMILY GET-IN-GEAR

BIKE RALLY

SAT, May 2nd 2026



TICKETS
\$15 PER RIDER OR
\$35 PER HOUSEHOLD

REGISTRATION ONLINE
OR DAY OF AT THE
BALDCYPRESS
NATURE CENTER
9-10AM

START TIME:
10:30AM

BRING YOUR BIKE
LIMITED LOANERS AVAILABLE

RIDERS RECEIVE FREE T-SHIRT
GUARANTEED TO ALL PRE-REGISTERED

registration & info: TrapPondPartners.com

TRAP POND PARTNERS

5TH ANNUAL

NATURE FESTIVAL

APRIL 18, 2026
SATURDAY | 11-3 PM

Nature Exhibitors
Crafters & Vendors
Food Trucks
Family Fun
Live Music
Alcohol for Sale

Trap Pond State Park
Laurel, Delaware

FREE ADMISSION
WITH PARK ENTRANCE FEE

WWW.TRAPPONDPARTNERS.COM

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

JASON BEACH, TRAP POND

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

MORE DETAILS TO COME!!!

Community Events

9th Annual Laurel Fire Department CASH BASH



SATURDAY JUNE 6, 2026

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM
FIRST CASH DRAWING AT 6:00PM**

\$30 PER TICKET

**INCLUDES ENTRY FOR
CASH GIVEAWAYS, FOOD, BEER, AND
DJ ENTERTAINMENT**

MUST BE 21 TO ENTER • MULTIPLE CHANCES TO WIN

CASH GIVEAWAY EVERY 15 MINUTES!

DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

6:00PM	\$2,000	7:00PM	\$2,000	8:00PM	\$2,500	9:00PM	\$2,000
6:15PM	\$500	7:15PM	\$500	8:15PM	\$500	9:15PM	\$500
6:30PM	\$750	7:30PM	\$750	8:30PM	\$750	9:30PM	\$750
6:45PM	\$500	7:45PM	\$500	8:45PM	\$500	9:45PM	\$500

10:00PM \$4,500!!!

**CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF LAUREL FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE TICKETS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 302-875-3081
THE LAUREL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THIS EVENT DUE TO LACK OF TICKET
SALES. IN THE EVENT OF CANCELLATION, TICKETS WILL BE REFUNDED.**

4th of July

FIREWORKS

TOWN OF LAUREL

Saturday, July 4th
Fireworks Begin at Dusk

AMERICA'S "250TH" CELEBRATION

2nd Annual Broad Creek BASH

Formerly known as Broad Creek Bike and Brew



Features:

- All routes begin and end in Laurel and feature designated rest stops with restrooms, snacks and beverages.
- Rides include historic attractions, beautiful waterways, The Woodland Ferry, Trap Pond State Park and More
- Finish Party at Janosik Park on Broad Creek featuring craft beer, live music, food trucks and vendors.
- Interactive map with historical stops plus photo app locations throughout the ride
- Charitable giving benefits local non-profit groups
- Event is Rain or Shine. Extreme weather could force cancellation

Saturday, August 22, 2026

7 a.m onsite registration begins for bike ride-
start times to be determined

After Party begins at 10:00 am at Janosik Park

Bike Ride: Laurel Elementary School

815 S. Central Ave, Laurel DE, 19956

5K Run/walk: More details to come!

For more information:

Contact the Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce

Email: admin@westernsussexcoc.com

(302) 629-9690

www.westernsussexcoc.com/broad-creek-bike-brew












**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
CLASS OF 2026**










**"Wishing You The Best In
Your Future Endeavors."**

I SPY SPRING



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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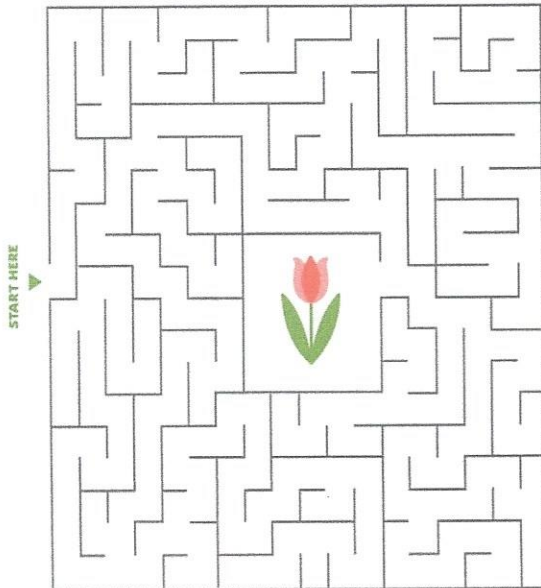
OUTDOOR SPRING SCAVENGER HUNT

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 
ROCK
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
SQUIRREL
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
CLOUD
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 
BIRD
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
GREEN LEAF
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
YELLOW FLOWER
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 
PUDDLE
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
STICK
<input type="checkbox"/> | 
BUTTERFLY
<input type="checkbox"/> |

SPRING MAZE

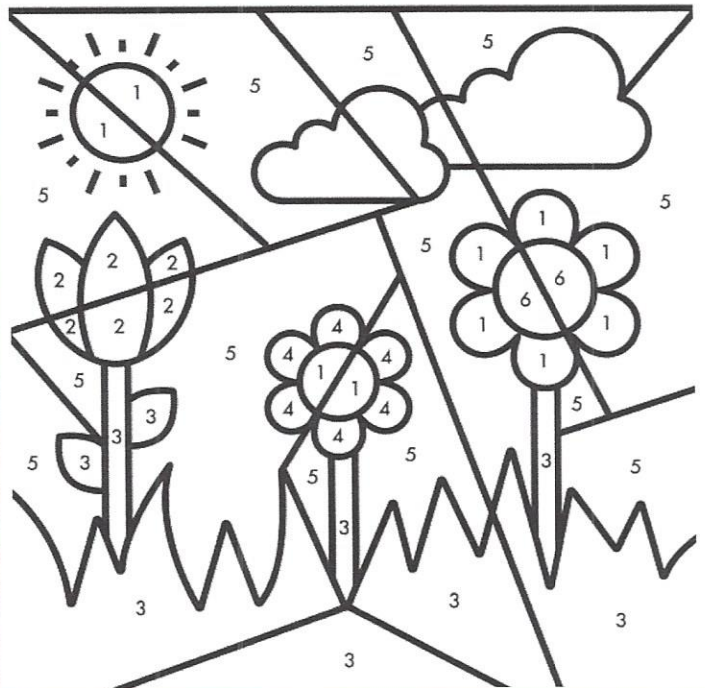
Find your way through the maze to reach the flower in the center.

Happy Spring!



SPRING COLOR BY NUMBER

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1 = YELLOW | 4 = PURPLE |
| 2 = PINK | 5 = BLUE |
| 3 = GREEN | 6 = ORANGE |





Spring & Summer Edition Newsletter 2026

Town of Laurel
201 Mechanic Street
Laurel, Delaware 19956