



Spring & Summer Edition Newsletter

A Message From The Mayor's Desk

We are a town of winners and fighters.

As councilman Kellam says "we are a small town with a big heart"
We have fighters who passionately fight each day to improve our town.

We have Pastor Rob and the Vital Church who have given so much to our communities.

We have the One Laurel group, that meet twice a month, along with the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Mayor and Council representatives, our Town Manager, occasional guest groups and the public. They meet and collaborate to discuss ways to work together to improve safety, quality of life as well as address issues of concern.

We have the Laurel library who offer so much to the community.
Several years ago, they were named as library of the year.

We have fighters like Amy Handy and Operation West Laurel.
A group that has developed out of the need to unify, improve and inspire the community.

Their activities and dedication have been impactful.

We have fighters like the Laurel Historical Society, who continue to keep Laurel vibrant and it's wonderful history alive.

We have fighters like Laurel Pizzeria, Pizza King, Cheers, DC Auto and many other businesses that support our wonderful town.

Fighters like Laurel Redevelopment Corporation, who have through the years, and their partnerships, with various groups, Mayor and Council and our dedicated Town Manager Jamie Smith, have reshaped and restored much of what our town looks like today, using Laurel's natural beauty as well as protecting our natural environment. LRC a group of fighters who have a passion and vision to do much more for Laurel.

These are the fighters I want to applaud, along with the police chief and the entire police team, for the work and vision they see for our town. Finally, thank you Mayor Shwed, for your years of service and getting us to this point.

Welcome and congratulations Councilwoman RogJenea in joining the council, congratulations to both councilman Kellam, and councilman Bo on your re-election, and Thank you town manager Jamie Smith for all that you do and have done, as well as the entire Laurel team that keep our town running. Citizens of Laurel, these groups are made up of wonderful caring people that want to see a better Laurel, join them, together we all can unite, restore and re-energize Laurel.

Let's love where we live.

Together we can achieve more.

Mayor,
Carlos Oliveras

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General Municipal Election 2025 Results

The Town of Laurel held their General Municipal Election on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Laurel Fire Department Meeting Room from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Town of Laurel utilized the Sussex County Delaware Department of Election Registration Voting Logs. The following seats were open for re-election: the Mayor, Ward 3, & At-Large. Election results listed below.

MAYOR SEAT

- **Carlos Oliveras - 112 (ELECTED)**
- John Shwed - 105

WARD 3 SEAT

- **Jonathan Kellam - 72 (ELECTED)**
- Gregory Harris - 13

AT-LARGE SEAT

- **Donald Holden - 158 (ELECTED)**
- Laura Mackev - 56



Town of Laurel Dedication & Commitment Tribute Mayor John Shwed

At Monday's, April 21, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting former Mayor John Shwed was honored for his 22 Years of Service. Mayor Shwed was appointed to the Mayor & Council in April 2003 and served until April 2025. The town presented Mayor Shwed with a plaque and a tribute for his dedication and commitment to the town. State Representative Dukes presented a tribute from the House of Representatives for Mayor Shwed's dedicated service. Mayor Shwed presented his farewell remarks thanking many people including the late Johnny Janosik, Bob Thompson, Senators Carper and Coons, Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, several Delaware Governors, the Sussex County Council, late Senator Robert Venables, late State Representative Cliff Lee, late State Representative Biff Lee, current State Senator Bryant Richardson, and current State Representative Dukes for their support. Mayor Shwed thanked all the present and past town staff for their dedication and outstanding service to the citizens. He also thanked all the members of Town Council who he served with.



Town of Laurel:

Mayor & Council Office Swearing-In Ceremony

The Town of Laurel held a Mayor & Council Office Swearing-In Ceremony on Monday, April 21, 2025, at the Laurel Town Hall. Listed below are the newly sworn-in officials.

Mayor & Council Office Swearing-In Mayor Carlos Oliveras

- Ward 1
- Term Expires April 2027

Councilman Jonathan Kellam

- Ward 3
- Term Expires April 2029

Councilman At-Large Donald Holden

- Ward 3
- Term Expires April 2029

Councilwoman RogJenea Fisher

- Ward 2
- Term Expires April 2029

Mayor & Councilpersons Terms

The Town of Laurel's Charter states a Mayor serves a two-year term and Councilpersons serve a four-year term.

Town of Laurel's: Mayor & Council

Mayor: Carlos Oliveras, Ward 1

President of Council: Chris Calio, At-Large Ward 4

Councilwoman: RogJenea Fisher, Ward 2

Councilman: Jonathan Kellam, Ward 3

Councilman: Donald Holden, At-Large Ward 3

Councilman: George Lodato, Ward 4

Council Ward 1 Seat: Vacancy



Town of Laurel Dedication & Commitment Tribute Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish

At Monday's, April 21, 2025, Mayor & Council Meeting former Councilwoman Robin Fisher-Cornish was honored for her 24 Years of Service. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish was appointed to the Mayor & Council in April 2001 and served until April 2025. The town presented Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish with a plaque and a tribute for her dedication and commitment to the town. State Representative Dukes presented a tribute from the House of Representatives for Councilwoman's Fisher-Cornish dedicated service. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and thanked everyone who she had the opportunity to work with.



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**

It's official spring has sprung with flowers in full bloom and the birds are just a chirping. With warmer weather approaching, it officially means more outdoor gatherings at our town parks. 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 2026 Budget

The Town of Laurel's Administrative Staff and Budget Committee are currently preparing and drafting the FY 2026 Budget for the Mayor & Council's and resident's review.

Availability of FY 2026 Budget

The FY 2026 Budget will be made available for public review in late May 2025. **The FY 2026 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 2, 2025, at the Laurel Town Hall regarding the presentation of FY 2026 Budget for citizen's review.

Adoption & Approval of FY 2025 Budget:

- The proposed FY 2026 Budget will be approved by Mayor & Council in June 2025.
- The FY 2026 budget will be in effect beginning of the fiscal year of July 1, 2025.



**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%.

Reminder Dates**Mayor & Council****May – August 2025**

Listed below are the scheduled Mayor & Council Days for May through August 2025.

May 2025

- Monday, May 5th *
- Monday, May 19th

June 2025

- Monday, June 2nd (Public Hearing FY 2026 Budget)
- Monday, June 16th

July 2025

- Monday, July 7th *
- Monday, July 21st

August 2025

- Monday, August 4th *
- Monday, August 18th

Mayor & Council Agenda's

Agendas are posted one week prior at Laurel Town Hall and the town's website at www.townoflaure.net

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

**Town Hall Closing Dates**

May – September 2025

Memorial Day

- Monday, May 26, 2025

Juneteenth

- Thursday, June 19, 2025

4th of July,

- Friday, July 4, 2025

Labor Day

- Monday, September 1, 2025



**NATIONAL
FRENCH FRY DAY**

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025

**Trash, Recycle, & Yard
Waste Schedule**

MAY 2025				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	7 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	8 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	9	10
11	12	13 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	14 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	15 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	16	17
18	19	20 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	21 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	22 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	23	24
25	26 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!!!	27 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	28 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	29 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	30	31

<u>JUNE 2025</u>				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	4 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	5 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	6	7
8	9	10 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	11 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	12 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	13	14
15	16	17 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	18 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	19 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	20	21
22	23	24 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	25 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	26 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	27	28, 29, 30

<u>JULY 2025</u>				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	2 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	3 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	4 HAPPY 4 TH OF JULY!!!	5
6	7	8 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	9 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	10 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	11	12
13	14	15 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	16 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	17 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	18	19
20	21	22 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	23 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	24 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	25	26
27	28	29 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	30 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	31 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN		

<u>AUGUST 2025</u>				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	6 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	7 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	8	9
10	11	12 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	13 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	14 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	15	16
17	18	19 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	20 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	21 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	22	23
24	25	26 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	27 YARD WASTE ENTIRE TOWN RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	28 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	29	30/31

St. Philip's Church's 16th Annual Strawberry Festival

600 S. Central Ave. Laurel, DE 19956



Saturday May 17, 2025

8 am to 2 pm

Breakfast - Scrapple Sandwiches

Strawberry Desserts & Ice Cream

Lunch - Hot Dogs or Hot Dog Meal

Fresh Strawberries Sold

Vendors and Crafters

Attic Treasures Table Bake Table

Entertainment & Community Participants



Paint Laurel Plein Air

The Fourth Annual Paint Laurel Plein Air will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 (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. In the past three years, more than \$10,000 worth of artwork was sold!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, May 9th

- 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 10th

- 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.



LAUREL PUBLIC LIBRARY

BLOCK PARTY!

JUNE 14, 2025
MARKET STREET
11AM-1PM

Cascading Carlos
DJ
Arts & Crafts
Family Fun
FREE FOOD
Local
Organizations & Vendors

GRAND PRIZE
DRAWINGS @ 12:45
MUST BE PRESENT TO
WIN

FREE EVENT

Laurel Public Library
Connect. Create. Inspire.



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201 Mechanic Street
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