

The Messenger

Winter Edition Newsletter

A Message From The Mayor's Desk

I hope each and every one of you had a great Holiday Season with family and friends. Whether you celebrated Merry Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza or some other faith, all faiths celebrate a promise of a brighter future, a triumph of light over darkness, love and compassion over evil. The retailer Macy's simply asks us to "Believe". I believe a brighter future for Laurel is now quickly becoming a reality.

In 2023 you should see positive changes in several areas of the community. In the Route 13 corridor, a developer is working with DELDOT to secure entrances off the highway for a new convenience store, and a new housing development is working its way through State approvals. The Globe Building on Market Street is being renovated and people are waiting to see what businesses start up in the former Napa auto parts store and the former Habersham Peddler Store on North Central Avenue. If you travel cross town you will see a nice facelift being applied to a long abandoned former neighborhood bar building on West 6th Street.

Kudos to Town Manager Jamie Smith and Public Works Director James Foskey for getting new, attractive "Welcome to Laurel" signs installed on Route 13 north and south of Town. I am pleased to report that our Federal delegation has advised us that money for the next phase of Tidewater Park across from Pizza King is included in the \$1.7 trillion bill that has passed the Congress and is expected to be signed by President Biden. I want to remind everyone that we are working on new sidewalks that will connect our parks along Broad Creek from the Mill Dam on the East to Roger Fisher Park on the West. Completion of the renovation to the former Dunbar School into a new Police Station will take us a little longer than we hoped because inflation has significantly increased the cost. And, in keeping with our pledge to our people, we are not going to raise taxes to pay for the renovations. The plan is to complete that task with grant funding.

Congratulations to the Laurel Bulldog Football Team and Coach Joey Jones for winning their second consecutive State Championship. I was proud to join the parade of cars and trucks who welcomed the champions home. Only in a small town like Laurel would this happen. People in our Nation's urban centers would not understand. This spirit is what makes Laurel unique.

Thanks to all the groups and individuals who believe and are helping to create this new, bright future for Laurel.

Mayor John J. Shwed

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Disponibilidad de boletines informativos listos para español

Para hogares de habla hispana

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



Building Better Neighborhoods

Community Block Development Grant Why Hold A Public Hearing?

The Town of Laurel's Mayor & Council held a Public Hearing on Monday, November 7, 2022, pertaining the CDBG Funding. Mr. Mike Jones from Sussex County Development Office was in attendance to present the funding to Mayor & Council and to town citizens. The purpose of holding a public hearing is for Mr. Jones to explain the funding and to allow Mayor & Council and town citizens to ask any questions they may have pertained the funding.

What is CDBG Funding? CDBG Funding is funding that is funded through the Delaware State Housing Authority where both Kent and Sussex County competitively apply for. The purpose of CDBG Funding is to assist households who are considered low to moderate income levels for housing projects.

CDBG Funding Requirements

- An applicant must own and reside in their own home to receive funding.
- An applicant's taxes both town taxes and county taxes must be current along with insurance.

Town of Laurel's: CDBG Funding

In the last 10 years, the Town of Laurel has received \$420,000 in funding helping 45 households. During this fiscal year, the town has received \$105,000 and they're currently 12 households on the waiting list.



Special Use Permit Update

The town's Planning & Zoning Committee recommended to Mayor & Council to adopt the proposed amended Special Use Permit Zoning Ordinance in allowing all special permitted uses to be classified as permitted uses under R-1, R-2, & R-3 zoning.

Public Hearing

A Public Hearing was held on Monday, September 19, 2022 where Mayor & Council and town citizens were given an opportunity to ask any questions pertaining the proposed zoning amendment.

Home Occupation Definition:

As any occupation, profession, enterprise, or activity conducted solely by one or more members of a family on the premises, which is incidental and secondary to the use of the premises for dwelling, provided that no commodity is stored or sold, except such as it is made on the premises and there shall be no group instruction, assembly or activity and no outside storage or display material on the premises.

A home occupation shall not be interpreted to include nursing homes, convalescent homes, rest homes, restaurants, tearooms, tourist homes, or similar establishments.

Special Use Permit Procedures

Listed below are the Special Use Permit Procedures, that had to be adhered to secure a Special Use Permit for residential zoning.

- Special Use Permit Fee: \$500.00
- A Public Hearing with P&Z Committee.
- Certified Mailings mailed to properties within 200 of feet of proposed property.
- Legal notice fees.

NOTE: The towns remaining zoning districts must still apply to the Special Use Permit procedures to receive a Special Use Permit.

1st and 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2022-3 1st Reading: Monday, October 17, 2022 2nd Reading: Monday, November 21, 2022



Records Pier Pond Closed

The pier will be re-opened when the completion of the new boat ramp is installed at Records Pond. The pier will close due to public safety as the deck is warping creating a safety hazard. Construction is scheduled for Summer of 2023. Fishing may still occur along the shore and at Records Pier parking lot. The tidal fishing pier below the pond also remains open. The project is managed by DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Town News

Know The Code



Planning & Zoning Update

The Town of Laurel's Planning & Zoning Committee are currently in the later stages of the up-and-coming housing developments in town that were mentioned earlier in previous newsletters. The P&Z currently met in the Fall of 2022 pertaining a proposed commercial development property. **Details listed below**.

Proposed Commercial Property

Former Property: Laurel Self Storage Sheds Location: 29285 Discount Land Road, Tax Map #232-12.00.63.01 Land: 3.9 acres

Proposed Commercial Property Features

- Currently has 6 self-storage sheds and they're proposing to include 3 additional self-storage sheds. A total of 9 self-storage sheds.
- Proposing to remove the trailer and construct a 3-story climate control building in front of the property.

P&Z Public Hearing

The P&Z Committee held a public hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, where town residents were allowed to ask any questions, they may have had pertaining the proposed commercial development.

P&Z's Preliminary Site Plan Approval

The P&Z Committee accepted the Preliminary Site Plan on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, with one condition of awaiting final annexation approval from the town.

Annexation Process

This property is currently going through the towns annexation process where they will be required to tie into town water/sewer and be subject to town taxes. The Annexation Process requires the Annexation Committee to recommend the annexation to Mayor & Council followed by a resolution of scheduling the public hearing, and lastly holding a 1st and 2nd reading.

Mayor & Council Annexation Public Hearing: Monday, November 21, 2022

1st & 2nd Annexation Readings: 1st Reading: Monday, November 21, 2022 2nd Reading: Tuesday, January 17, 2023

NOTE: P&Z meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month on an as needed basis. P&Z Agendas are posted one week prior on the towns website at www.townoflaurel.net.



Snow & Ice Removal

Just a reminder that snow or ice must be removed from the sidewalks and pavements within 24 hours after the falling snow has ceased.

The Town Manager is authorized to remove any accumulated snow and ice from any property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Laurel whose owner fails to remove accumulated snow or ice within 24 hours.

Just A Reminder

If possible, remove vehicles parked on the road to allow for plowing.

Reminder Dates



Mayor & Council Schedule January - April 2023

Listed below are the Town of Laurel's Mayor & Council Schedule for January 2023 through April 2023.

January 2023

- Tuesday, January 3, 2023*
- Tuesday, January 17, 2023

February 2023

- Monday, February 6, 2023*
- Tuesday, February 21, 2023

March 2023

- Monday, March 6, 2023*
- Monday, March 20, 2023

April 2023

- Monday, April 3, 2023*
- Monday, April 17, 2023

Mayor & Council Agenda's

Agenda's 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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 16, 2023

Presidents Day

• Monday, February 20, 2023

Town Projects

Town News



Tidewater Park Update

The Town of Laurel announced in September 2022 they submitted a Grant Application from the Delaware Park & Recreation Grant in the amount of \$62,425 for the construction of a pavilion. A match would be required with the utilization of CTF funds with the help of local legislators. The town also announced they could be awarded Senator Carpers EDA Project Funds if the budget is passed by the congress without any cuts to the EDA Program. Senator Carper visited Tidewater Park in late November.

What Is Tidewater Park?

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

Tidewater Park: Phase 2 & Phase 3

- Phase 2: "The Squirrel Council"
- Phase 3: "The Rainbow Crow"



Welcome to Laurel Highway Signs

When driving on Rt. 13 either from the north bound or the south bound side you will notice two newly constructed Welcome to Laurel Highway Signs. The signs welcome you to our town and they also thank you for visiting. The signs are black and feature the Town of Laurel's seal logo. The signs were installed this fall.

Signs Location:

Northbound Sign: Located near Johnny Janosik welcoming travelers to our town. Southbound Sign: Located near Camp Road welcoming travelers to our town.





Town of Laurel's ^{w5th} Annual Trunk or Treat" Trunk Vendors - 2022

Local Businesses, Organizations, and Charities

Laurel Public Library Laurel Elementary School Laurel Charge Laurel Lions Club Laurel Community Foundation The Insurance Market, Inc. Laurel Women's Civic Club (VOTED BEST TRUNK- 2022) Good News Club/Centenary Church Jen's Den Ebay Store

Laurel Fire Department Laurel Fire Department Auxiliary Josh Bailey State Farm Carey's Inc. Angel Oliver Vital Church/A Father's Heart Ministries Councilwoman Cheryl Martin Donation of Candy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY!!!



"One Day, One Laurel:" Paint Laurel Plein Aire Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023 MORE DETAILS TO COME IN THE TOWNS SPRING & SUMMER 2023 EDITION NEWSLETTER. Please contact Laurel Town Hall at 302-875-2277 for any questions pertaining the event.

Town News



Town of Laurel's General Municipal Election 2023

The Town of Laurel will be holding their General Municipal Election in the spring of 2023. Please review the following General Municipal Election Rules and Requirements, in order to be eligible to vote in this upcoming Municipal Election.

General Municipal Election: Date & Time

DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2023 LOCATION: Laurel Fire Department TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Municipal Election Requirements

Who Can Vote?

- All residents who are citizens of the United States and a bona fide resident of the Town of Laurel for at least thirty days prior to the date of the General Municipal Election.
- Who are eighteen years of age, are eligible to register and vote.

How To Become a Registered Voter?

- The Town of Laurel will be utilizing the State of Delaware Sussex County Election Log for the upcoming election. If you are registered with the state, you will be eligible to vote. The town no longer requires separate registration.
- If you have any questions determining if you're a registered voter, please contact the Laurel Town Hall at 302-875-2277.
- The Registration Deadline to be a Registered Voter is Thursday, February 23, 2023.

Candidate Filing Forms

If you are interested in running for Town Office, a Candidate Filing Form must be submitted to the Laurel Town Office by *Thursday, February 16, 2023.* Forms are made available at Laurel Town Hall during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

General Municipal Election 2023: Open Positions for Re-Election

Listed below are the following positions that are opened for re-election at this year's coming General Municipal Election 2023:

- Mayor
- Council-At-Large
- Ward 1
- Ward 4

Board of Elections Appointments

Inspector: Edward Downes, Judge: Brent Boyce, Judge: Kathy Wootten, Clerk: Vatina Hooper, Clerk: Alexis Oliphant, and Department of Election Representative Tracey Wilkerson.

Absentee Ballot

If you are interested in voting by an Absentee Ballot, please contact the Laurel Town Hall at (302)-875-2277 for more information.

Town Reminder Dates





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.

	JANUARY 2	023	Tra	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 WEST SIDE OF TOWN	5 RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	6 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	7		
8	9	10 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	11 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	12 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	13 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	14		
15	16	17 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	18 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	19 RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	20 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	21		
22	23	24 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	25 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	26 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	27 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	28		
29	30	31 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN						

FEBRUARY 2023				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	WEST S	15 WASTE IDE OF WN	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	EAST S	22 WASTE IDE OF WN	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						

MARCH 2023				Tras	sh, Recycle	, Yard Wast	ce Schedule
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday 1 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN		Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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	YARD WAS EAST SIDE 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	YARD WAS WEST SIDE 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	YARD WAS EAST SIDE TOWN		23 REYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	24 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	25
26	27	28 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	YARD WAS WEST SIDE TOWN		30 RECYLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	31 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	

APRIL 2023				Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste Schedule					
Sunday	Monday Tuesday		Wednes	sday Thursday		Friday	Saturday		
							:		
2	3	4 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	5 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN		6 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	7 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	1		
9	10	11 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	12 YARD WASTE WEST SIDE OF TOWN		13 RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	14 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	1		
16	17	18 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	19 YARD WASTE EAST SIDE OF TOWN		20 RECYCLE EAST SIDE OF TOWN	21 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	2		
23	24	25 TRASH PICK-UP EAST SIDE OF TOWN	YARD WA WEST SII TOWN	DE OF	27 RECYCLE WEST SIDE OF TOWN	28 TRASH PICK-UP WEST SIDE OF TOWN	29/3		



History of St. Patrick's Day

Many of us celebrate St. Patrick's Day by sporting our green attire no matter how gaudy or how sightly the green can be to avoid the everlasting pinching. During St. Patrick's Day, many restaurants feature the infamous corn beef and cabbage along with Irish soda bread on the side. So, many may question, how did St. Patrick's Day involve and who is St. Patrick himself?

What Is St. Patrick's Day?

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that is annually held for the remembrance of St. Patrick's death in the 5th century. The Irish people honor this holiday for religious reasonings for the past 1,000 years. The Irish would celebrate this holiday by attending church in the morning and holding celebrations in the afternoon as this holiday falls during the Christian Season of Lent (History.com Editors, 2022).

Who Was St. Patrick?

St. Patrick was considered a national apostle and a patron saint of Ireland who was born in the 5th century. St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain and at the age of 16 he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave where he would later escape. After escaping he would return to Ireland where he was known for bringing Christianity to his people. One of the biggest legends St. Patrick was known for was explaining the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) on what we know today on a three leave Irish Clover (History.com Editors, 2022).

First St. Patrick's Day Celebrated?

Did you know the first St. Patrick's Day Celebration wasn't actually held in the homeland of Ireland but in America. According to History.com, the first parade was held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony to what we know as today as St. Augustine Florida. Irish Soldiers serving in the English Military a century later were homesick and they marched in New York City to honor St. Patrick himself (History.com Editors, 2022). The Irish American immigrant's population began to evolve by creating "Irish Aid," societies where they would hold annual parades featuring the infamous bagpipes and drums. The "Irish Aid," societies in 1848 decided to unite by hosting one formal parade in New York City. The New York City St. Patrick's parade is one of the world's oldest civilian parade and it is one of the largest parade in the United States with approximately 150,000 participants (History.com Editors, 2022).

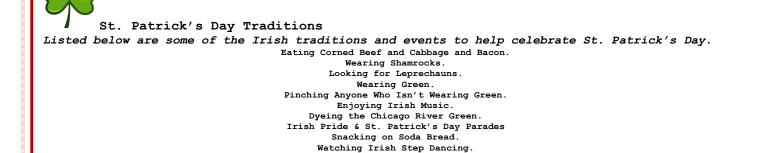
Irish in America

During the 19th century, many of the Irish American Immigrants consisted of the protestant middle class. During 1845, when the Great Potato Famine occurred in Ireland many of the people migrated to America to escape the famine. St. Patrick's Day is not only celebrated in America but also around the world (History.com Editors, 2022).

Luck of the Leprechaun

Once we notice a leprechaun, immediately we begin thinking about St. Patrick's Day and the Luck of the Irish. Did you know leprechauns means small-bodied fellows. Many of us think of leprechauns for their trickery or mischievousness, which they're still known as today by the Celtic Folklore (History.com Editors, 2022).

St. Patrick's Day Thursday, March 17, 2022



National Popcorn Day



Popcorn is that craveable snack that immediately hits our sweet or salty tooth, whether it being extra buttery, extra cheesy, or extra caramelly it's certainly an irresistible snack. Did you know that there is a day dedicated to popcorn to celebrate its simplistic existence in January. Before we begin how to celebrate National Popcorn Day lets first describe how popcorn became a well know snack for many of us today.

History of Popcorn

The Native Americans first introduced maize to the early Europeans where the Europeans began to refer to it as corn. The Aztecs in the early 16th were known to utilize popcorn as decoration in their headdresses worn during their ceremonies honoring their maize and fertility god Tlaloc. The early Spanish explorers were intriqued by the crop as it appeared to them as a white flower. During the middle of the 1800's, popcorn began to become more popular. A man named Charles Cretors was the inventor of the popcorn machine where he operated a candy store. He eventually began selling his popcorn in his horse drawn wagons on the streets of Chicago, during the 1900's. A man named Louise Ruckheim invented the loveable ball park classic snack the "Cracker Jacks," with adding in peanuts and molasses to the popcorn. In 1908, baseballs national anthem was created by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer where "Cracker Jacks," became an American icon snack. Many of us who go to the movies don't think twice of getting an extra-large bucket of popcorn with extra butter to take into our movie. Did you know popcorn wasn't exactly a sure success at the movies due to the cost of installing a popcorn machine within the theater. Mr. Glen W. Dickinson was the first to purchase and install a popcorn machine and soon after many theaters began to follow suit because they realized they could endure the costs and make a profit. Popcorn would soon become a snack where families could enjoy at their own home due to the invention of the microwave. Mr. Percy Spencer was credited for the creation of the microwave. Did you know Americans consume 13 billion quarts of popcorn each year leading any other county in the world with popcorn consumption. Nebraska is also the popcorn production leader as they are known as the cornhusker state (National Popcorn Day, 2022).

National Popcorn Day Thursday, January 19, 2022



Popcorn Fun Facts

- Popcorn is over 5,000 years old.
- Popcorn was once banned from movie theaters in the early 1900's.
- Microwaveable Popcorn was first introduced in 1945.
- Ideal Popping Temperature is 400 Fahrenheit.
- A full serving of protein requires 3 cups of popcorn.
- Popcorn is low in calories and fat.
- Popcorn is the state snack of Illinois.
- Un-popped kernels are referred to as "Old Maids."
- World's largest popcorn ball weighed 5,000 pounds.
- Orville Redenbacher sells the most popcorn.



HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE OUT OF "HOT CHOCOLATE?"



Town of Laurel 201 Mechanic Street Laurel, Delaware 19956