



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

# THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 2, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2023

## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

The Department of Information Technology is committed to providing the systems necessary to enable employees to achieve their goals and to assist the City in effective management, administration and services.

But they also are dedicated to bringing the best services to our residents. Which is why they are excited to announce that by March 2023, the City will have a new web site! With a focus on speed, interactivity, and accessible content, we hope that the new site will bring our public information and online services to more people than ever.

**Speed** – The new web site is designed mobile-first with modern web technologies, to ensure that both mobile and desktop devices receive the best experience possible. Content is responsively designed so that you get the same information in readable and easy to navigate formats optimized for your device size, and images and media are optimized so that they won't blow up your data plan.

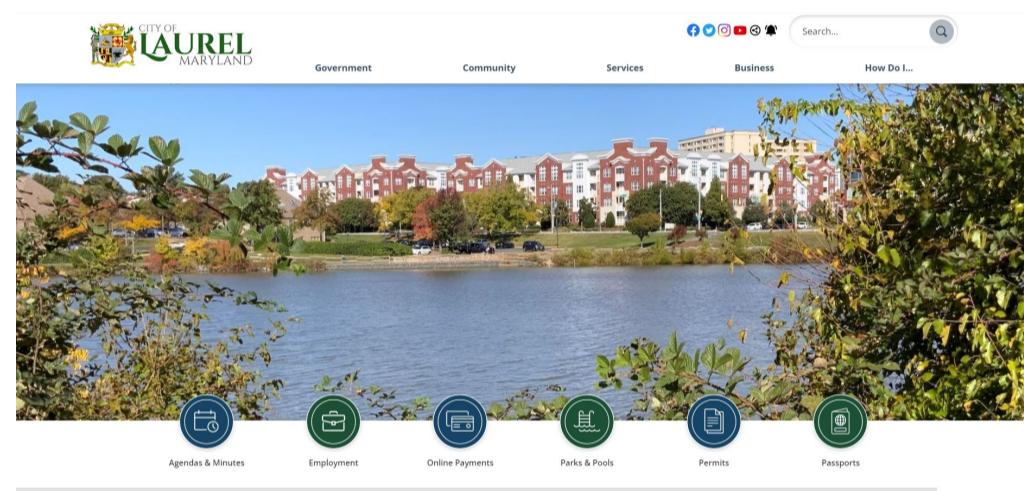
**Interactivity** – Many of our government services have online components, and we've

integrated many of those directly into the web site. Job applications, requests, issue reporting, surveys, and email/SMS alerts for live content like press releases and calendar events. All directly on the web site!

**Accessibility** – Most importantly, we've worked to review our content and design practices to ensure that the new web site is standards-compliant, follow best practices, and

prioritizes accessibility for all users. New content is designed to be ADA, WSAG2.1, and 508 compliant, so that every Laurel resident can get to the resources they need. Department web managers have been trained on maintaining those standards.

We look forward to hearing from you about what you think of the new design!



## READY FOR WINTER? LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING?

At the time of writing this article, we have not seen any snow yet, but as we all know, it can come a little later in the season. Here's a reminder of what Public Works does to prepare for snow if forecasted:

### Plowing and Salting

Be aware that when Public Works is preparing for a winter storm and during snowfall, the Snow Emergency Routes receive priority in their Snow Removal Operations. Then they take care of established hazardous locations such as hills, sharp curves and busy intersections. Once those priority areas have been taken care of, then they take care of side streets. PLEASE BE PATIENT. During a major snowstorm, snow removal can be a monumental task. City crews work around the clock to clear streets and to provide other City services, as well as clear parking lots and sidewalks at City buildings and other public service facilities. City crews do their best not to block driveways when plowing the streets. However, it cannot always be avoided, so when shoveling your driveway out, please DO NOT throw snow back into the street.

### When is a Snow Emergency in Effect?

The City's Snow Emergency Plan goes into effect whenever a Snow Emergency is declared for Prince George's County. Also,



the Mayor may proclaim or end a Snow Emergency.

Snow Emergencies are announced on most local radio and television stations, as well as keep an eye out on the City's social media sites for snow announcements and updates.

### Coming This Spring!

Mark Your Calendars! The Department of Public Works will be hosting the April Recycling event on Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 8:00am to Noon.

They'll be providing Entertainment Electronics Recycling, Paper Shredding, Styrofoam Recycling, and Green Drop

Charity drop-off for City residents and businesses only. Official IDs with a city address must be presented to enter the drop off site.

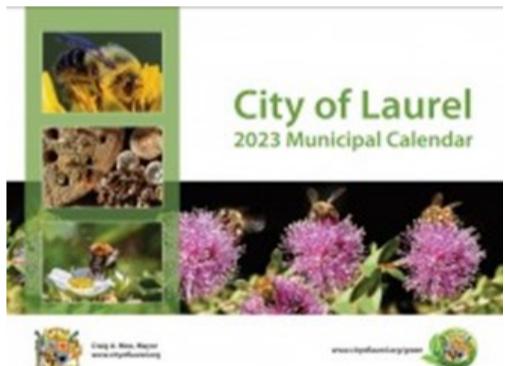
We will also provide extra Yard Debris collections on Mondays in May. This is in addition to Wednesday yard debris collections. Yard debris pickups are FREE! But residents must still call, email or submit online a request for yard debris pickups. The deadline for our Monday pickup is the Thursday before. The deadline for Wednesday pickup is the Monday before. For more information on how to prepare your yard debris collection, call 301-725-0088 or email Public Works at [dpw@laurel.md.us](mailto:dpw@laurel.md.us).

As if that's not enough to help you with your spring cleanup, the Department of Public Works will also host its Spring Construction Debris Drop Off event for residential construction material at their facility on Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 9:00am to 2:00pm for City residents only. Once again, official IDs with a city address must be presented to enter the drop off site. NO Commercial Debris will be accepted! To learn more about their services, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).



# It's Easy Being Green!

## THE CITY OF LAUREL 2023 CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE



This year's calendar has been "delivered" in a digital format and residents are now able to access the calendar on their phones and computers. Can't remember what date we are hosting Sustainable Saturday, the E-cycle/Paper Shredding/EPS Recycling/GreenDrop event? Use the "search" function in the PDF format to find the dates. Residents that would like to have a paper copy will find the calendar page right here in the **Laurel Ledger**. It is delivered to all residents on a monthly basis. The March calendar page will be in the February issue of the paper.

You'll find many tips to be Green, like Green Goals, an opportunity to help the environment and your pocketbook by taking on a green challenge. Or additional information about what "Green Living" is really about and what each of us can do to improve our community by taking care of our environment.

The **Green Living Map** will show you drop off centers for batteries/prescriptions/CDs and DVDs as well as locations of the EV charging stations. The calendar is full of useful information about how to prepare your recycling for collection, residential special pickup and yard debris collections. The calendar also highlights the adjusted trash/recycle/composting schedules when there are holidays or scheduled closures. Visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green/green-living-2023-calendar> to get your 2023 calendar today!

### 2023 Calendar in Your Pocket!

Another way to get the 2023 calendar is through the Recycle Coach app. You can carry it in your pocket and have it handy at all times! Residents who sign up for the free app can access the full calendar on their phones. You can also get tips for setting green goals, a listing of holidays, tips on how to recycle right, schedule changes, reminders about special events and more all at your fingertips! Visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green/recycle-coach>, to get started today!

### Green Goals:

**Compost:** By composting food waste and other organic material from your home with our curbside collection, you can help keep waste out of landfills and reduce methane emissions. As an end product, good compost can reduce the need for chemical fertilizers in your yard, save you water by enhancing the soil's water retention, and more. Sign up for the City's free composting program today at [dpw@laurel.md.us](mailto:dpw@laurel.md.us) or [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us).

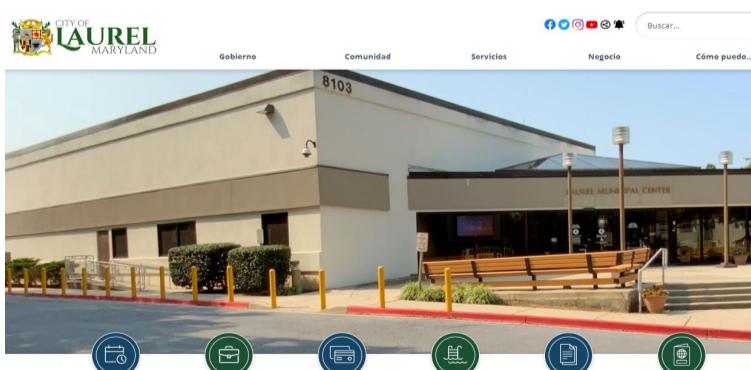
**Do a waste audit** at home or work. See what you're throwing away each week, and check what might be reused or recycled instead of disposed of.

**Bring Your Own Water Bottle** Did you know that, every year, the oil used to produce plastic water bottles in the U.S. alone is enough to fuel about 1,000,000 cars? Anything we can do to quickly and permanently phase out disposable plastic bottles would help protect ecosystems, save resources, reduce waste and deadly pollution, and save money.

**Eco-friendly Ice Melts.** The Winter season means ice and snow. Did you know that most ice melts are not safe for your property, pets and the environment? Explore environmentally friendly alternatives to the salt and ice melt.

### ¡PRÓXIMAMENTE NUEVO SITIO WEB DE LA CIUDAD!

¡El Departamento de Tecnología de la Información se complace en anunciar que para Marzo de 2023, la Ciudad tendrá un nuevo sitio web! Con un enfoque en la rapidez, la interactividad y el contenido accesible, esperamos que el nuevo sitio lleve nuestra información pública y nuestros servicios en línea a más personas que nunca.



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### OBRAS PÚBLICAS ESTÁ LISTA PARA EL INVIERNO

Tenga en cuenta que cuando se prepara antes de una tormenta de invierno y durante nevadas, las rutas de emergencia por nieve reciben prioridad en las operaciones de remoción de nieve del departamento de Obras Públicas. Luego se encargan de las ubicaciones peligrosas establecidas, como colinas, curvas pronunciadas e intersecciones concurridas. Una vez que se han atendido esas áreas prioritarias, entonces se ocupan de las calles laterales. POR FAVOR SEA PACIENTE.



# Laurel Council Connections

## Legislation

Listed below are recent actions taken by the Laurel City Council during past Mayor and City Council meetings. For further information on any of these actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at **301-725-5300 x2121** or at [clerk@laurel.md.us](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us). For the full agendas, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).

### Election of President and Pro Tempore:

- ◆ Honorable Brencis Smith, President
- ◆ Honorable James Kole, Pro Tempore

### Update on Affordable Housing Legislation:

Laurel City Council President Brencis Smith and members of the Laurel City Council have been working on enhancements to the City of Laurel's existing affordable and workforce housing policies and programs.

Council President Smith has always supported County-wide legislation to address affordable housing so that there would be a level playing field throughout our County instead of each jurisdiction having a different policy. This is important so everyone in and around our community will be covered.

Prince George's County recently introduced CB-007-2023 Rent Stabilization Act of 2023, Draft 2, that proposes to temporarily amend the Landlord-Tenant Code to limit a landlord's ability to increase rent for certain tenants above a certain amount; limiting increases to a certain amount; providing for penalties; providing that existing obligations or contract rights may not be impaired by the Act; and generally relating to rent restrictions for residential leases and rental dwelling units for a period of 6 months.

As there is currently no drafted legislation before the Mayor and City Council, and because the City of Laurel is not exempt from the Prince George's County Landlord-Tenant Code, it is in the best interest of the City Council to work with the Prince George's County Council with one City voice on CB-007-2023 Rent Stabilization Act of 2023.

As President of the City Council, at this time I have placed a pause on any other discussion on affordable housing updates to include rent control measures, and will work in partnership with Prince George's County Council on updating this section of the County Code.



## COUNCIL OFFICE



301-725-5300 ext. 2121

[clerk@laurel.md.us](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us)

## Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### February 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ February 13th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 27th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)

### February 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ February 14th - Planning Commission - CANCELLED
- ◆ February 21st - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 23rd - Board of Appeals - CANCELLED
- ◆ February 28th - Virtual Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)

### March 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ March 1st - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ March 13th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ March 27th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - Chambers - (6:00pm)

### March 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ March 8th - Virtual Emergency Services Commission (7:00pm)
- ◆ March 14th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ March 21st - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ March 28th - Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ March 30th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

## City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **Black History Month Program - February 12, 2023** at 3:00pm at the Laurel Municipal Center Council Chambers, 8103 Sandy Spring Road. (See Flyer)
- ◆ **My Time with the Mayor - February 13, 2023** at 4:00pm at the Laurel Municipal Center.
- ◆ **Free Friday Movie - February 17, 2023** at 7:00pm at Partnership Activity Center, "The Princess and the Frog"
- ◆ **Presidents' Day - February 20, 2023**
  - ◆ City/Passport Offices CLOSED. Visit [cityoflaurel.org/calendars](http://cityoflaurel.org/calendars) for adjusted collection details.
- ◆ **Teen Trip - Snow Tubing - February 25, 2023**. Call 301-725-7800 for details.
- ◆ **Teen Trip - "Little Shop of Horrors" - March 23, 2023** at 6:00pm. To register, call 301-725-7800.
- ◆ **Adult Trip - MGM Resort and National Harbor - March 25, 2023** at Noon. To register, call 301-725-7800.
- ◆ **To learn more or register for a Parks and Recreation League**, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities) or call 301-725-7800.

# Public Works Monthly Glance



National Women's History Month

**March**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 World Seagrass Day Virtual Work Session - 6pm 	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9	Solar Appreciation Day <b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
12 Daylight Saving Time begins	13 Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	14 International Day of Action for Rivers Planning Commission - 6pm	15 	16	St. Patrick's Day <b>17</b>	Global Recycling Day National Biodiesel Day <b>18</b>
19 World Rewilding Day Spring (Vernal) Equinox	20 National Renewable Energy Day	21 Historic District Commission - 6pm	22 World Water Day 	23 Ramadan Begins	24 Earth Hour <b>25</b>	
26	27 In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	28 Environmental Affairs Committee - 6pm	29 	30 Board of Appeals - 6pm	31	

**PUBLIC WORKS**



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

## Laurel Office of Emergency Management: Volunteers Wanted!

The Office of Emergency Management has two great opportunities for you to give back to your community: the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Greater Laurel Canteen Association.

**The CERT Program** educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as physical assessments, first aid, disaster preparedness, utility control and much more. By getting trained in CERT, you can get the skills needed to assist the City in events and emergencies.

**The Greater Laurel Canteen Association** is comprised of dedicated, civilian volunteers that assist in response efforts to provide meals, refreshments, and encouragement to our public safety personnel during emergency incidents and special events.

To learn more about these programs or to join, please contact Laurel's Emergency Manager, Chrissy Cornwell, at 301-725-5300 x2232 or email her at [ccornwell@laurel.md.us](mailto:ccornwell@laurel.md.us).



## CITY CONTACTS

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**



301-725-5300  
ext. 2125

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE**



301-725-5300  
ext. 2242

**LAUREL POLICE**



Non-Emerg:  
301-498-0092  
Emerg:  
301-725-3000

**PARKS AND RECREATION**



301-725-7800

**COMMUNICATIONS**



301-725-5300  
Ext. 2208

[www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)



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