



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

# THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 2, NO. 6

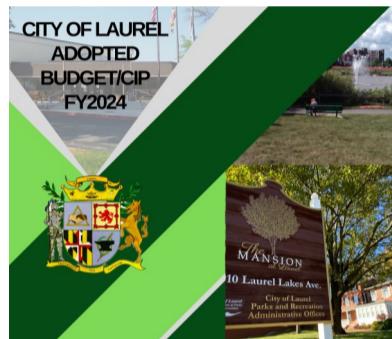
JUNE 2023

## BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SERVICES: FY2024 BUDGET...APPROVED!

The City's budget process officially starts in January each year, although administration of the budget is a year-round responsibility. Each Department is tasked with projecting and entering its Operating Budget, as well as any direct revenues and CIP projects. The Department of Budget and Personnel Services prepares the full-time salary budgets and then compiles all of the budgets and works with the Office of the City Administrator to balance the budget and submit to the City Council as required by law by May 1st each year. The FY2024 document was submitted electronically to the City Council on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

The FY2024 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program was the final submitted by Mayor Moe. The largest priority of the balanced FY2024 Budget – totaling \$41,341,675 - is the continuation of services our residents deserve and expect. This requires the complete dedication of Laurel residents tax dollars to fund the essential expenditures, compensation, employee insurance, property insurance, the Pension Fund contribution, debt service and the CIP, as well as contractual and legislative obligations. With the return to more normal operations, the Administration and City Staff continue to adapt to the many changes result-

ing from the pandemic. Recruiting, hiring, and retaining the City workforce continues to be a challenge as we face growing compensation budgets and adjust policies and procedures as a result in changes to Federal, State and Local codes, policies, and laws. The Administration and City Staff continue to ensure that City operations thrive despite growing costs, as well as challenges posed by delays and shortages of some goods and services.



For FY2024, the City of Laurel Adopted Budget was presented without a **tax rate increase**, maintaining the City's real property tax rate since FY2009 of \$.71 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation; however, any property owners with increased assessments will receive an increased real estate tax bill. The Personal Property tax rate will remain \$1.69 per \$100 of

assessed value. The tax rate for the Special Taxing District is \$0.03 per \$100 of the full cash value assessment. The adopted budget continues all City services at FY2023 service levels.

The CIP includes continued funding of the renovations to 204 Ft. Meade Road for the Laurel Multiservice Center; traffic signal upgrades; traffic-calming devices; conversion of small power equipment from gas to battery; Londonderry Court, Fenwick Court, Van Dusen Road, Laurel Avenue and Carroll Avenue street improvements; stabilization of the dam ruins; Main Street and Greenview Pools improvements; vehicle replacements; and technology improvements with a total of \$37,995,817. Funding for projects are provided through American Rescue Plan funds; state grants, speed camera net revenue and operating funds. The FY2024 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was adopted without changes by a unanimous vote of the Mayor and City Council at the May 22, 2023 meeting.

To view a copy of the FY2024 Budget and CIP document, visit the City's website at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).

## LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT: CONNECTIONS, CONVERSATIONS and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT!

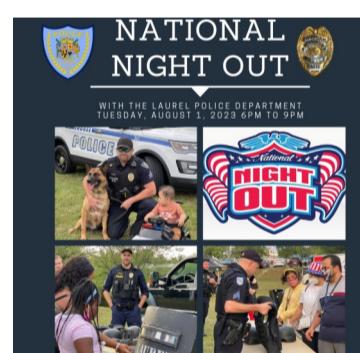
As this summer begins, the Laurel Police Department is as committed as always to connecting with the community we serve.

There are many opportunities this summer to get to know the women and men of the Laurel Police Department.



To kick off the summer, join us for family fun at the 2nd Annual Laurel Block Party! To celebrate the first official summer break weekend for the kids in Prince George's County, we will be hosting a Block Party at the Towne Centre at Laurel on June 24th from 12pm to 3pm.

Food, family fun, games, DJ and dancing, Kona Ice truck and much more can be enjoyed at this free event for all!



National Night Out is held annually on the first Tuesday in August. This year's National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, from 6pm to 9pm at Gude Park. This event focuses on the relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while fostering a true sense of community and fellowship involving all aspects of the community at large. This is a free event for all!

Are you going on vacation? We provide House Checks while you are out of town. Please call us to schedule a house check at 301-498-0092.

The 2023 Laurel Citizens Police Academy will graduate on June 22, 2023. This 12-week

long class brings hands on experiences to citizens to better understand policing. This class has had the opportunity to have open, honest, and engaging conversations on all the important topics affecting law enforcement today.

Stay tuned for the dates of future Laurel Citizens Police Academies!



Finally, be proactive and don't provide the opportunity for a thief to steal from your vehicle:

- Lock your doors
- Take items with you
- Park in well lit areas
- NEVER leave a running vehicle unattended

If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to the Laurel Police Department at 301-498-0092.

# It's Easy Being Green!

## ORGANIC COMPOSTING LEGISLATION



Get ready for it! The Mayor and City Council have approved an ordinance that will make it mandatory for residents to separate their organic waste from the trash.

Organic waste is defined as food scraps, food waste, food-soiled paper, and compostable plastic. You'll also have to separate out green waste too. That's your leaves, grass clippings, and other landscape debris.

Laurel is the first municipality in the state of Maryland to introduce legislation that makes residential composting mandatory. It was approved by the Mayor and City Council at the May 22, 2023, meeting.

Don't worry though. You'll have some time to get used to the new rules. The ordinance doesn't take effect until July 1, 2025.

Mayor Craig A. Moe says, "This type of composting program will reduce the amount of money the City pays to process our waste. I congratulate the City Council for moving forward with this, and we will all work together to make sure the community is ready when the program begins in 2025."

You can expect an increase in how to videos; face-to-face community meetings (by request); composting and recycling tips on the City of Laurel Green Living resources page; and a new cart that will allow residents in condo communities to compost.

If you have any questions about the benefits of composting, how to sign up, education and outreach, or would like to have a presentation given to your HOA, contact Michele Blair, the City of Laurel Environmental Programs Manager, at [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us) or call 301-725-5300.

## FARMER'S MARKET AT THE LAUREL QUILL LOT

The Laurel Farmer's Market is open every other Thursday from 3:00 - 7:00pm, so come join us and help support our local farmers and small businesses! The Farmer's Market is located at 378 Main Street, formally known as the Quill Lot. And to stay up to date on all the vendors and events that go on at the Quill Lot, be sure to follow them on Social Media: Facebook - @TheLaurelQuillLot; IG - @ThelaurelQuillLot; Twitter - @laurelquilllot. Learn more about the Laurel Farmer's Market vendors at [www.cityoflaurel.org/green](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/green)!



## SERVICIOS DE PRESUPUESTO Y PERSONAL

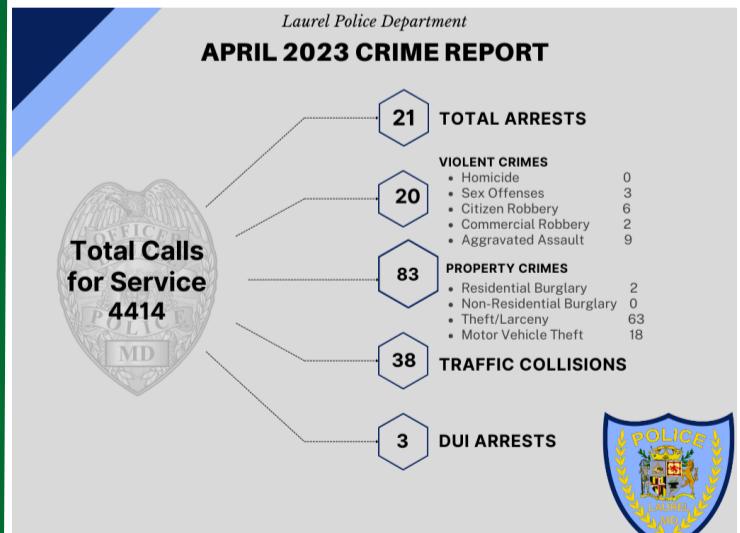
El Presupuesto Operativo General y el Programa de el Mejoramiento de Capital para el año fiscal 2024 fueron los últimos presentados por el alcalde Moe. La mayor prioridad del presupuesto equilibrado para el año fiscal 2024, que totaliza \$41,341,675, es la continuación de los servicios que nuestros residentes merecen y esperan. El Presupuesto Operativo General y el Programa de Mejoramiento de Capital del año fiscal 2024 se adoptaron sin cambios por voto unánime del alcalde y el concejo municipal en la reunión del 22 de mayo de 2023.

## DEPARTAMENTO DE POLICÍA DE LAUREL

Al comenzar este verano, el Departamento de Policía de Laurel está tan comprometido como siempre a conectarse con la comunidad a la que servimos. Hay muchas oportunidades para conectarse con las mujeres y los hombres del Departamento de Policía de Laurel este verano y puede encontrarlas todas en línea en [www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars).

## LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

APRIL 2023



# Laurel Council Connections

JUNETEENTH  
FREEDOM DAY

## 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).

### Approved Ordinances/Resolutions:

- **Charter Resolution No. 179** - to amend Section 357 to allow for Collective Bargaining for certain employees of the Department of Public Works, but per State law, does not become effective until 50 days after the date of approval unless it is petitioned to referendum by July 3, 2023.
- **Ordinance No. 2011** - Adopting the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for the FY July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 and to levy property taxes and to authorize the collection of such taxes.
- **Ordinance No. 2010** - to amend Laurel City Code, Chapter 7 "Garbage, Waste Weeds, Recycling, etc." to include the mandatory diversion of organics from the waste stream and providing for an effective date.

### Bid Approvals:

- **No Bid Approvals came before the Mayor and City Council in May 2023**

### Mayoral Appointments:

- **Ralphenia Tia Clark**, Board of Election Supervisors, Chief Judge, Ward 2 - Appointed 5/8/2023
- **E. Michael Greene**, Chairman, Board of Pension Trustees - Appointed 5/22/2023
- **David Johnston**, Board of Appeals - Appointed 5/22/2023
- **Michelle Keating**, Board of Appeals - Appointed 5/22/2023

## COUNCIL OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2121  [clerk@laurel.md.us](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us) 

## Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### June 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ June 12th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 26th - \*\*\*CANCELLED\*\*\*

### June 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ June 20th - Virtual Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 27th - Virtual Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 29th - Virtual Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

### July 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ July 5th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 10th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 24th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)

### July 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ July 11th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 18th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 27th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

## City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **June 17, 2023 - Juneteenth Celebration** - 12pm - 4pm, Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. See flyer.
- ◆ **June 19, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed In Observance of Juneteenth.** Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **June 20, 2023 - First Day of Camp and Summer Shenanigans** - Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) to register.
- ◆ **June 23, 2023 - Outdoor Concert** - 7:00pm, Granville Gude Park.
- ◆ **June 28, 2023 - Teen Trip - Luray Caverns**, from 8:00am - 8:00pm, \$20.
- ◆ **2023-2024 Preschool Registration** - Residents: Monday, June 26th; Non-residents: Wednesday, June 28th.
- ◆ **July 1, 2023 - Laurel Independence Day Celebration** - 11am - Parade; Car Show - 12pm; Music by Oracle - 5:15pm; Fireworks - 9:15pm
- ◆ **July 4, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed In Observance of Independence Day.** Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **July 26, 2023 - City Hall in the Park** - 6:30pm, Overlook Park.



Laurel City Council President Bencis D. Smith had the opportunity to represent and speak on behalf of the City of Laurel at the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center Ribbon Cutting ceremony last month on May 17, 2023. The Laurel Medical Center officially opened on June 4, 2023, "replacing the older facility on the same campus, representing phase 1 of a multi-phase plan to create a health and wellness destination campus" in Laurel.

Page 3



# Public Works Monthly Glance



## July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Yard Debris Collection Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.	 Bulky Item Collection					1 4th of July Celebration!
2	3 Independence Day	4 Virtual Work Session - 6p	5	6	7	8
		<b>CLEAN BEACHES WEEK - JULY 1-7</b>				
	International Plastic Bag Free Day	Tuesday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Wednesday	No change to Wednesday collection			
9	10 Global Energy Independence Day Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6p	11 Virtual Planning Commission - 6p	12	13	14	15
16	17 Virtual Historic District Commission - 6p	18 Muharram Begins	19	20	21	22
23	24 In-Person Mayor and Council Mg - 6pm	25 Environmental Affairs Committee - 6pm	26 Virtual Board of Appeals - 6pm	27	28 World Nature Conservation Day	29 Rain Day Ashura
30	31					

**PUBLIC WORKS**



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

## Laurel Division of Emergency Management: June is Pet Preparedness Month

Pets are important members of the family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan. To prepare for the unexpected, follow these tips with your pets in mind: Make a Plan, Build an Emergency Kit and Stay informed.

If you have a plan in place for you and your pets, you will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry when you need to make a decision during an emergency. If local officials ask you to evacuate, that means your pet should evacuate too. If you leave your pets behind, they may end up lost, injured or worse.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, such as food and water. Have two kits, one larger kit if you are sheltering in place and one lightweight version for if you need to evacuate. Review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Being prepared and staying informed of current conditions are important during an emergency. Be sure to pay attention to wireless emergency alerts and warnings sent by state and local public safety officials. To sign up for Emergency Notifications from Laurel, register at <https://bit.ly/AlertLaurelRegistration>.

Remember to ALWAYS bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Learn more at [www.ready.gov/pets](http://www.ready.gov/pets).



## CITY CONTACTS

### MAYOR'S OFFICE



301-725-5300  
ext. 2125



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

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



301-725-5300  
ext. 2242



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

### LAUREL POLICE



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



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

### PARKS AND RECREATION



301-725-7800



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

### COMMUNICATIONS



301-725-5300  
Ext. 2208



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