



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 3, NO. 1

JANUARY 2024

WORKING TOGETHER: CITY OF LAUREL 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 was a banner year for the City of Laurel! We are excited to share in this edition of the Laurel Ledger some of the accomplishments and progress each Department made toward improving the lives of Laurel residents and businesses. Every year, your City government and its staff works hard to give you the best services and understands the importance of being responsive to your concerns and this is evident in each of the listed highlights below. It shows how well we all work together to find solutions to the issues, questions and concerns you inform us about on a daily basis. If you are wondering what some of those highlights are, then please read on. To learn more about Laurel and all it has to offer, then be sure to visit our revamped web site (just one in the long list of accomplishments in 2023) at www.cityoflaurel.org. And let us say Thank You for all of your support that keeps Laurel a great place to live, work and thrive!

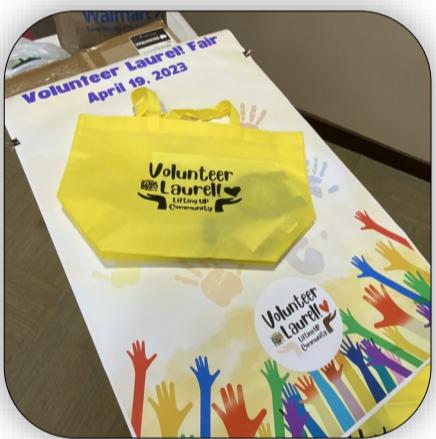


MAYOR'S OFFICE

- Received the 2023 Maryland Municipal League Achievement Award for Laurel Citizens University.
- Completed Phase 1 of the Laurel Multiservice Center, with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Gymnasium.
- For the 17th straight year, the City of Laurel was named a Banner City by the Maryland Municipal League.
- The City of Laurel completed a video through the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) TV/WebEdgeSociety, which focused on the City as a fast-growing community.

CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

- Held a successful and equitable City of Laurel General Election and held Early Voting successfully in both voting Wards for the first time.
- Passed seventeen (17) ordinances and adopted eleven (11) resolutions.



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- Completed City's First Strategic Plan (more to come in a future edition!)
- Successfully negotiated FOP Collective Bargaining Agreement and was approved by Mayor and City Council.
- Received \$2.5 million in non-matching bond funding from Maryland Department of General Services for the Engineering, Architecture and Construction of the Laurel Multiservice Center.
- Secured 1.2 million in State funding for FY24 and 1.2 million in FY 25 for Historic Dam Ruin Restoration project.
- Worked with Ethics Commission to have Ethics Ordinance updated and approved by Mayor and City Council (Ordinance No. 2013).
- Coordinated and held City's first Volunteer Fair.
- Implemented new pay scale for all City employees prior to the state's minimum wage raise.

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

- Developed a monthly, full-day orientation program for new employees to familiarize them with what each City Department does for the City and residents.
- Updated Ordinance No. 1927, the Veteran and Elderly real estate tax program, that approved 46 applications in its first five years, with Ordinance No. 2003, that processed 49 new applications this past summer, and reviewed property ownership and other documentation to verify the applicants eligibility.



LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Reinstituted Citizen's Police Academy and graduated two classes in 2023.
- Engaged the youth through the Second Annual Block Party at the Towne Centre at Laurel and held the first annual Youth Summit.
- Instituted a hiring bonus to recruit and retain high-level employees and committed to a succession plan that prepares the Laurel Police Department (LPD) officers to be executives and leaders within the agency.
- Worked with City Departments to revise Chapter 17 of the Municipal Code (Traffic and Parking) by using modern, clarifying and gender-neutral language and amended Chapter 18 of the Municipal Code (Nuisance Properties) so that the Chief of Police can order a summary closure of a business when it is necessary to avoid an immediate threat to public safety and/or community welfare.

2023 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED...



COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- ♦ Merged the Laurel Multiservice Center, Helping Hands, and Emergency Management to create the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management.
- ♦ Updated the Prince George's County and City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ♦ Successfully recertified the Community Rating System (CRS) program with FEMA.

PUBLIC WORKS

- ♦ Using ARPA funding, implemented a new Brine Operations System that was setup and installed a 6,100-gallon fiberglass tank in the DPW yard to store brine that is produced onsite, and retrofitted several DPW vehicles to deploy the brine during snow events.
- ♦ Implemented a cutting-edge Fleet Telematics Program that seamlessly integrated state-of-the-art cameras into the DPW vehicle fleet GPS features to empower the City to assess road conditions, enabling swift responses to other unforeseen events.
- ♦ Installed innovative storm drain grates strategically designed to prevent trash from entering waterways, effectively mitigating pollution that goes into the Bay.



PARKS AND RECREATION

- ♦ Phase 1 (Recreation Portion - Gymnasium) of the Laurel Multiservice Center opened.
- ♦ Replaced all gas-powered landscaping equipment, with all new electric equipment and electric charging trailers to help the environment.
- ♦ Completed and installed new state of the art LED lighting, pole cameras, push button emergency call stations around both lakes.
- ♦ Added Community and Culture Day to the list of City events.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ♦ Launched Podcast City Studios, the latest tool for disseminating information, emergency alerts, and entertainment news to the community and beyond.
- ♦ For the first time ever, the Department of Communications was able to broadcast the City's Fourth of July Fireworks LIVE, using a three-camera production system that was highly viewed and very well received by the community.
- ♦ Social Media engagement hit new milestones, with the City of Laurel-Government Facebook page hitting 14,000 followers, as well as notable growth on Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter) platforms.



FIRE MARSHAL AND PERMIT SERVICES

- ♦ Completed over 1,926 inspections.
- ♦ Established a user-friendly platform for engineers, architects, developers and citizens to access adopted building codes standards and amendments.
- ♦ Cross trained the CBO and Fire Marshals on trade-various inspections.
- ♦ Integrated digital codes into daily use and Departmental operations.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ♦ Helped relaunch and operate the Laurel Farmers Market located on Main Street during the summer.
- ♦ Creation of Laurel Eats which puts a spotlight on the unique and diverse restaurants within the City.
- ♦ Continued updates to the Unified Land Development Code including the Historic District Design Guidelines and creation of the first for sale affordable housing ordinance in the City.



OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ♦ Expanded the City's fiber network to service Discovery Park, Gude Park, and Centennial Park for free public wireless internet and security surveillance.
- ♦ Launched a new City web site and mobile app for enhanced communication and information distribution.
- ♦ Converted all City facilities to SIP VoIP service for more stable, robust phone coverage.

GREEN LIVING

- ♦ Coordinated visit by Lt. Governor Aruna Miller to showcase the City's sustainability efforts.
- ♦ Passed: Ordinance No. 2010, establishing the requirements for all residents to divert organic waste from the landfill beginning in 2025 and updated Ordinance No. 2008's definition of a reusable bag, established a fee (retained by the business) for paper bags and determined an effective date and penalties for non-compliance.
- ♦ Completed the installation of Blink EV charging stations for public use at the 312 Main Street parking lot, the DiPietro Community Center and the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center.



Here's to a bright and prosperous year, as the Mayor, City Council and Staff work to make Community First in 2024!

Laurel Council Connections



City of Laurel Legislation

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

Adopted Legislation:

- ◆ There was no legislation passed in December.

Bid Recommendations:

- ◆ There were no Bid Recommendations in December.

Appointments:

- ◆ There were no Appointments or Reappointments in December.



Let's Talk, Community First Town Hall



Keith R. Sydnor
City of Laurel Mayor

Thursday
January 25
7:00 – 8:00pm

Joseph R. Robison
Laurel Municipal Center
Council Chambers
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

For More Information: www.cityoflaurel.org

Your Newly Elected Mayor and City Council will hold an open discussion with the residents of Laurel as they start the New Year running at an upcoming Town Hall Listening Session!

Mark your calendars today and come out to engage with your Elected Officials as they put the Laurel Community first in 2024 and beyond!

Connect with Mayor Keith Sydnor!



X @LaurelMayor

Instagram icon @CityofLaurelMayor

Email icon laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

COUNCIL OFFICE



301-725-5300 ext. 2121

clerk@laurel.md.us

Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

January 2024 Government Meetings

- ◆ January 16th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ January 22nd - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ January 25th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

February 2024 Government Meetings

- ◆ February 7th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 12th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 13th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 20th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 26th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ February 29th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

City Announcements and Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - January 15, 2024

- ◆ City/Passport Offices Closed. Visit www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars for adjusted collection details.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - January 15, 2024 - 10:00am - 2:00pm - Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Ft. Meade Road. Call 301-725-5300 ext. 2109 for volunteer opportunities.

Introductory Sustainability Plan Meeting - January 18th - 5:30pm - 7:30pm - Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road.

Senior Services: Cabin Fever Carnival - January 24th - 1:00pm at the Cabana. Visit cityoflaurel.org/senior-services for costs/to sign up or call 301-776-6168.

Town Hall Listening Session with Mayor Sydnor - January 25th - 7:00 - 8:00pm, Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center Council Chambers

FREE Indoor Movie - "The Super Mario Bros" - January 26th - 7:00pm at Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street.

Teen Trip: Snowtubing - February 3rd - Visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks to register or call 301-725-7800.

Adult Trip: Rod 'n Reel Resort and Casino - March 6th - 9:00am - 4:00pm. Visit cityoflaurel.org/parks to sign up or call 301-725-7800.

FREE Indoor Movie - "The Little Mermaid" - February 16th - 7:00pm at Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street.

Presidents' Day Holiday - February 19, 2024

- ◆ City/Passport Offices Closed. Visit www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars for adjusted collection details.

To learn more or register for a Parks and Recreation League, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities or call 301-725-7800.

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Groundhog Day	2 World Wetlands Day
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Indoor Movie Partnership Hall 7 p.m.	17
18 President's Day Monday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Tuesday City Offices Closed	19 Tuesday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Wednesday	20	21 No change to Wednesday collection	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Yard Debris Collection Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.	Bulky Item Collection



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

Division of Emergency Management: Severe Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter storms can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, sleet, heavy snowfall, ice, and high winds. These storms can cause disruptions to transportation, heat, power, and communications. With atmospheric changes resulting in warmer and shorter winters, we can expect heavier snowfall as a result of more moisture being stored in the atmosphere. Be prepared and have a plan for when you may be impacted by severe winter weather. Plan to stay indoors when possible and have emergency supplies that can last one to two weeks if a winter storm is approaching. Use the following tips to help you and your family prepare:

- Winterize your home. Insulate exposed pipes, clean chimney and caulk/weather strip doors and windows.
- If you must go outside dress properly. Keep extremities well covered and dry if possible.
- Set aside drinking water as you may lose access to clean drinking water if power goes out.
- Have a snow shovel and ice-melting products on hand. And shovel smart! Dress warm, move small amounts of snow, hydrate and take frequent breaks!
- Sign up to receive free emergency alerts from the City at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/230/Stay-Informed>.



Keep you and your family safe this winter! For more Winter Preparedness Tips, visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/winter>.

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



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