



# THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 3, NO. 10

OCTOBER 2024

## COMMUNICATIONS IS THE KEY TO STAYING IN THE KNOW!

Community Media Day, celebrated annually on October 20th, shines a spotlight on the importance of accessible, independent media platforms that foster free speech and inclusivity for citizen journalists, artists, and storytellers around the world. Founded in Brooklyn, New York, by Alease Annan through her work with Brooklyn Free Speech TV, this day has grown into a global celebration, empowering local voices and encouraging open dialogue across communities.



In the City of Laurel, the celebration of Community Media Day highlights the many opportunities available for residents to engage with local media. Residents can step into the spotlight by producing their own television shows on Laurel TV, showcasing their unique perspectives and talents. For those who prefer the auditory medium, starting a podcast is another fantastic way to connect with the community and share important conversations.

“As a City, we believe in giving everyone the platform to share their voice and their stories,” said Mayor Keith Sydnor. “Community Media Day is a reminder of how vital local media is in educating and empowering our residents. I encourage everyone in Laurel to take advantage of these resources to broaden their knowledge and discover all that Laurel has to offer.”

Additionally, the City of Laurel is committed to transparency and civic engagement, offering recordings of all Mayor and City Council meetings, as well as other important City gatherings. By making these accessible to the public, Laurel ensures that residents stay informed and actively participate in local governance, strengthening the values of accountability and involvement.

Laurel TV is also excited to share its plans for an upcoming rebrand, focusing on expanding its educational and community-driven programming. The rebrand will include more shows that spotlight local events, provide educational content, and highlight the stories and voices that make our City unique. This evolution reflects Laurel TV’s commitment to being a platform for learning, engagement, and fostering a deeper sense of community among all residents.

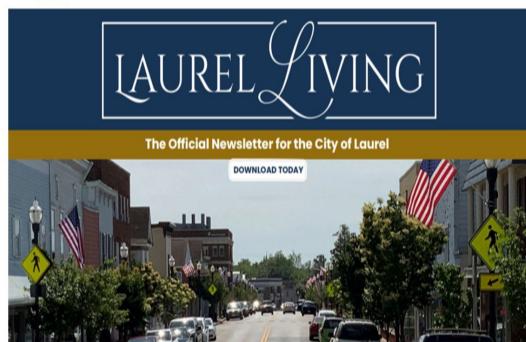
“Our goal with this rebrand is to ensure that Laurel TV becomes a true educational

and cultural hub for our community,” said Natalie Williams, Director of the Department of Communications for the City of Laurel. “We want residents to see Laurel TV as a resource to explore new ideas, learn about their local government, and highlight the diversity of our community by sharing their own stories.”

Also, we invite you to read our inaugural edition of “Laurel Living”, our new monthly newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed and engaged with the latest news, initiatives, and developments within our City. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/newsletter](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/newsletter) to read it today. Then visit [LaurelTV.org](http://LaurelTV.org) to learn more about our TV and Podcast studio. Together, we can build a more informed and engaged community.



SEPTEMBER 2024



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION: ANDY KOSTAS

As we mentioned in last month’s edition of the Ledger, volunteers are truly the heart and soul of any organization, particularly here in the City of Laurel. Last month, we had the pleasure of recognizing one outstanding volunteer, Andy Kostas!

Andy joined the City in May 2023, initially assisting at the Laurel Farmer’s Market, and his contributions quickly expanded. He became actively involved in various City events, including Black History Month, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Laurel Multiservice Center, garden builds, and much more! This year alone, he dedicated over 110 hours! On September 12th, at the Farmer’s Market, we bid farewell to Andy as he embarks on an exciting new chapter...he has enlisted in the United States military, committing himself to keeping the rest of us safe. We want to take this moment to express our gratitude to you, Andy, for all you have done for the City and for what you will now do for our country. Wishing you the best of luck in your future endeavors and stay safe!



As we send Andy off in style, this is a great time to remind everyone that we are working hard to bring you multiple opportunities for volunteering in the City of Laurel! Please take a moment and look at your schedules and see if you would have a few hours to give back to your community, then fill out our online volunteer application at [www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteerapplication](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteerapplication)! When you sign up, we add you to our database and send out emails letting you know of upcoming events and connecting you with local organizations in need. And mark your calendars for our Volunteer Laurel Fair coming in April of 2025!

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# It's Easy Being Green!

## GREEN HAPPENINGS IN LAUREL!



### Organics Recycling (Composting)...Take It For a Test Drive!



Public Works crews will continue to deliver composting carts to select neighborhoods throughout the City. Residents can expect to receive: a kitchen countertop container; educational information; a refrigerator magnet and a roll of compostable bags, along with the locking outdoor cart. The information provided makes it easy for residents to sort out what can go into their compost carts...it is so easy! Remember, what goes in your mouth is compostable!

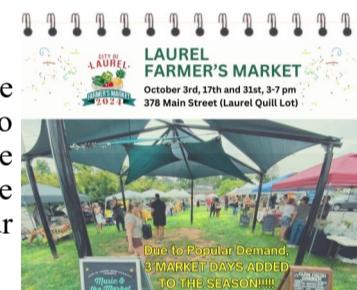
All foods, even expired products, paper napkins/paper towels and pizza boxes are just some examples of what can be put in your composting cart. Just finished mowing your lawn or raking leaves? Reminder that loose leaves and grass clippings are also acceptable in your curbside compost cart.

Composting is the number one way that individuals can reduce methane gas emissions at our landfills, reduce the cost of tipping fees and reduce trash overflow. Be on the lookout for the City's updated web site showcasing the City's curbside program, when residents can expect to see their cart arrive, new educational information, videos from our recent trip to the County's composting facility and a dashboard highlighting our success in reducing methane gas emissions at the landfill!

We want to improve the program and get feedback from residents on what they would like to see! Send an e-mail to [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us)

### GREAT NEWS!

Due to popular demand our Farmer's Market will extend its season into October! The final dates will be October 3rd, 17th and 31st. Make sure you come by and support our vendors that answered your call to come back for extra days. We will continue to accept SNAP/EBT benefits and participate in the Maryland Market Money program, giving our shoppers extra market cash to shop with! Stop by the Welcome Tent to get tokens. Be sure to check out our Facebook page, The Laurel Quill Lot, and our City web site at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1617/Laurel-Farmers-Market>.



Want to get the most recent information about the City's sustainability initiatives. Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558113916065>. This is a place where we can share ideas, highlight upcoming events and residents can stay informed on all things Sustainable. Also check out the new look of the Green Living website – [www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving).



### ¡LAS COMUNICACIONES ES LA CLAVE PARA MANTENERSE INFORMADO!

El Día de los Medios Comunitarios, que se celebra anualmente el 20 de octubre, destaca la importancia de plataformas de medios accesibles e independientes que fomenten la libertad de expresión y la inclusión de periodistas, artistas y narradores ciudadanos de todo el mundo. Fundado en Brooklyn, Nueva York, por Alease Annan a través de su trabajo con Brooklyn Free Speech TV, este día se ha convertido en una celebración global, que empodera las voces locales y fomenta el diálogo abierto entre las comunidades.

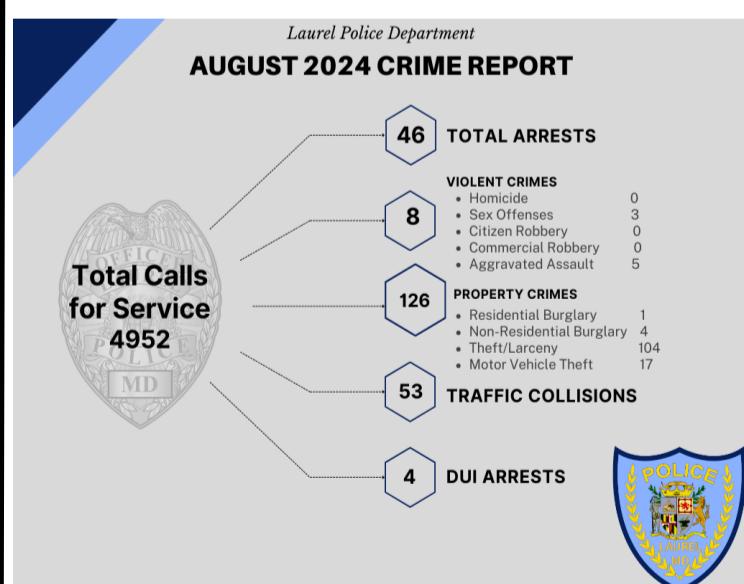
Laurel TV también se complace en compartir sus planes para un próximo cambio de marca, enfocándose en expandir su programación educativa y comunitaria. El cambio de marca incluirá más programas que destaqueen eventos locales, brinden contenido educativo y resalten las historias y voces que hacen que nuestra ciudad sea única. Esta evolución refleja el compromiso de Laurel TV de ser una plataforma para el aprendizaje, la participación y el fomento de un sentido más profundo de comunidad entre todos los residentes.

Lo invitamos a leer nuestra edición inaugural de "Laurel Living", nuestro nuevo boletín mensual dedicado a mantenerlo informado y comprometido con las últimas noticias, iniciativas y desarrollos dentro de nuestra ciudad. Visite [www.cityoflaurel.org/newsletter](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/newsletter) para leerlo hoy.

### LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

#### AUGUST 2024

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at [www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community)



# Laurel Council Connections

## Legislation

Listed below are recent actions taken by the Laurel City Council. For further information on any of these actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at **301-725-5300 x2120** or at [clerk@laurel.md.us](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us). For the full agendas, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).

### Adopted Legislation:

- Ordinance No. 2029 - amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council for FY July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 and to provide an effective date.

### Bid Recommendations:

- Public Works - Fourth and Fifth Street Improvements (\$210,000 - E&R Services)
- Public Works - Compton Avenue Alley Improvements (\$80,000 - SFMA, LLC)
- Public Works - Virginia Manor Court Improvements (\$131,000 - E&R Services)
- Community Resources/Emergency Management - Back-up Generator Replacement Project - Phase I (Federal Grant: \$245,399.25; City Costs: \$25,831.50; Total Cost: \$271,230.75)

### Purchase Requisitions:

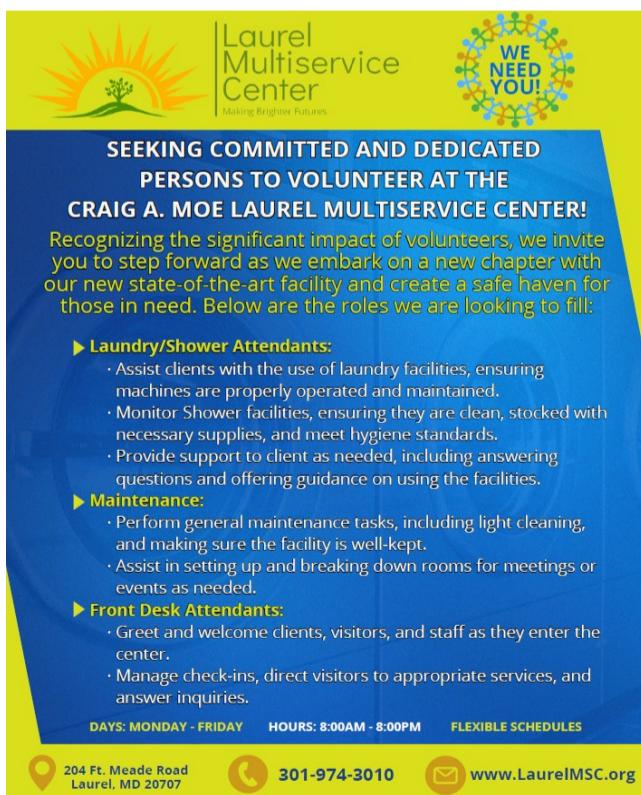
- Environmental Programs - Rehrig Vision Service Verification Hardware/Software (\$113,700)

### Appointments/Reappointments:

- Monta Burrough - Director of Economic and Community Development.
- Jimmy Rogers - Tree Board (9/9/24 - 9/9/26)
- Oscar De La Puente Historic District Commission (9/9/24 - 9/9/27)
- Stanley Spaulding - Planning Commission (9/23/24 - 9/23/29)

## Volunteers Needed!

Now that the doors have opened at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center (LMSC), they are in need of volunteers to help those who walk through the doors looking for assistance. If you have the time, please email [sprice@laurel.md.us](mailto:sprice@laurel.md.us).



The flyer for the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center (LMSC) features a yellow and blue design. At the top left is a sun icon with the text 'Laurel Multiservice Center' and 'Making Brighter Futures'. At the top right is a 'WE NEED YOU!' logo with stylized human figures. The center text reads: 'SEEKING COMMITTED AND DEDICATED PERSONS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER!'. Below this, a paragraph invites volunteers to help build a safe haven for those in need. It lists roles: Laundry/Shower Attendants, Maintenance, and Front Desk Attendants, each with a list of responsibilities. At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'DAYS: MONDAY - FRIDAY', 'HOURS: 8:00AM - 8:00PM', 'FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES', '204 Ft. Meade Road Laurel, MD 20707', '301-974-3010', and 'www.LaurelMSC.org'.



COUNCIL OFFICE



301-725-5300 ext. 2120



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

## Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### October 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ October 16th (Wednesday) - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)
- ◆ October 28th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

### October 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ October 15th - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ◆ October 22nd - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ◆ October 29th - Board of Appeals (CANCELLED)

### November 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ November 4th (Monday) - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6pm)
- ◆ November 4th (Monday) - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)
- ◆ November 25th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

### November 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ November 12th - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ◆ November 19th - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ◆ Board of Appeals - Date TBD (Check [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) for updates)

## City Announcements & Events (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **Breakfast with Santa (December 7th)** - Registration Opens October 1st - Cost: \$15/person.
- ◆ **Fall Leaf Vacuuming** begins **October 7th**. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/169/](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/169/) Public-Works for more details. To schedule yard debris pickup, please email [DPW@laurel.md.us](mailto:DPW@laurel.md.us) or call 301-725-0088.
- ◆ **Pride Day Celebration - October 12th, 11am - 4pm**, Granville Gude Park. Join the City of Laurel Pride Committee for an afternoon of fun!
- ◆ **Indigenous Peoples' Day - October 14th** - City/Passport Offices Closed. Trash/Recycling/Composting Collections will be adjusted that week. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) for details.
- ◆ **Electronics Recycling/Paper Shredding Event - October 19th, 8am - 12pm**, Public Works Facility, 305-307 First Street. **MUST** be a City of Laurel resident/business to participate. Details at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).
- ◆ **Halloween Spooktacular - October 25th, 6:30 - 8:00pm**, Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, 7901 Cypress Street. Find your costume and grab a treat bucket and enjoy Laurel Parks and Recreation's deck-out Halloween Hall!
- ◆ **Halloween in Laurel! October 24th, 6 - 8pm**, Laurel Board of Trade's annual **Main Street Trick or Treat** and **October 31st, 6 - 8pm, Trick or Treating** in the City of Laurel.
- ◆ **Harvest Moon Hayride - November 1st, 6:00 - 9:00pm**, Riverfront Park, Cost: \$4/pre-register or \$5/on site. Enjoy a brisk autumn hayride along the Patuxent River, ending at a roaring bonfire! Drinks, snacks & games aplenty!
- ◆ **Teen and Adult Trips** - If you have a teen between the ages of 13 and 18 or are an adult over 18 years of age, check out the Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure! Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/159/Parks-and-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/159/Parks-and-Recreation) for details!
- ◆ **Senior Services Trips and Events** - Laurel Senior Services has great trips and local events for our 55 and over group. Call 301-776-6168 for details.

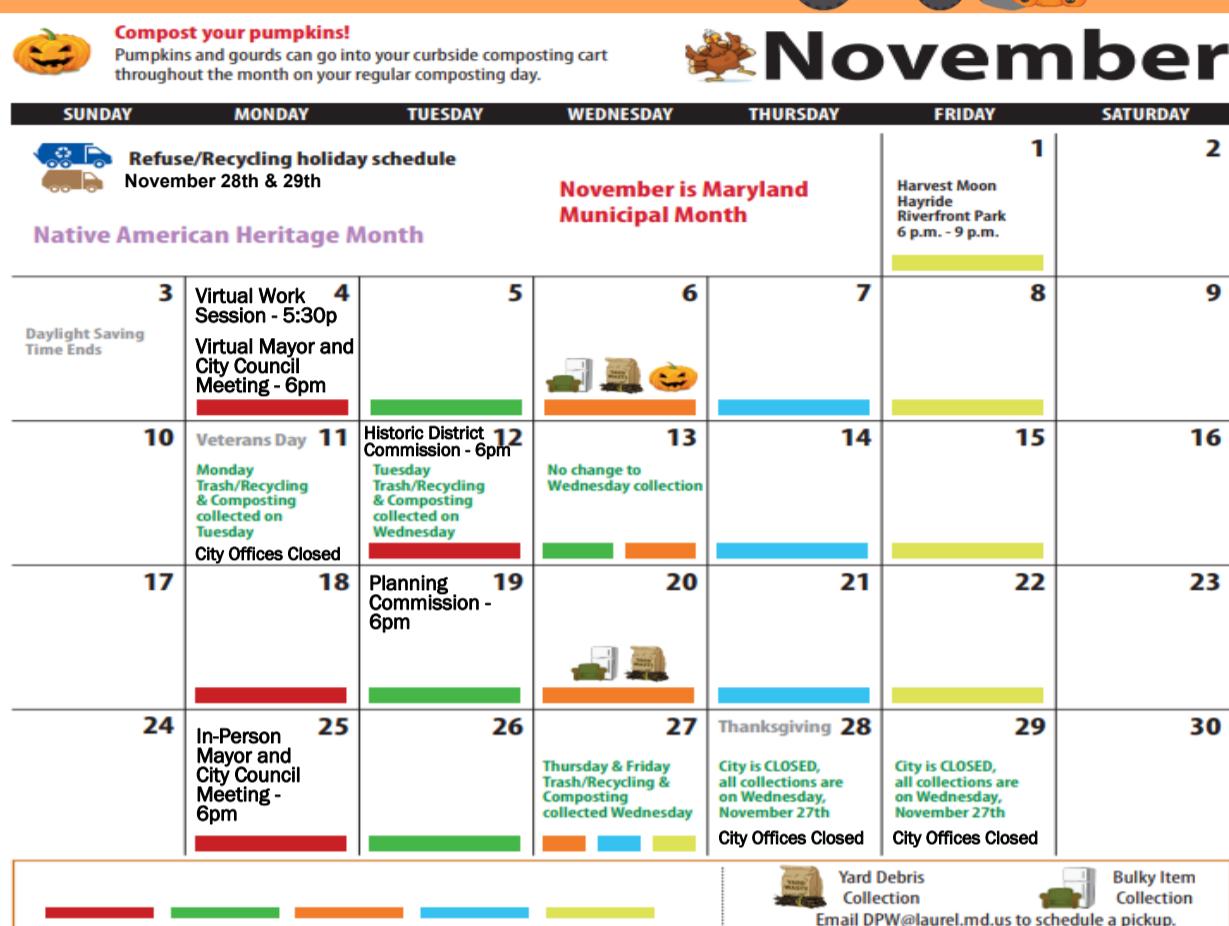
# Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



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**PUBLIC WORKS**



301-725-0088



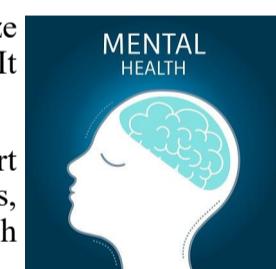
DPW@laurel.md.us

## Community Resources and Emergency Management: Importance of Mental Health!

October is a month filled with various observances, from Breast Cancer Awareness to Fire Prevention, which, depending on the situation, can often lead to feelings of stress and anxiety. This brings us to an important day in October that deserves our attention: World Mental Health Day is on October 10th!

Mental health refers to a state of well-being that allows individuals to handle life's stresses, recognize their potential, learn effectively, work productively, and contribute positively to their communities. It plays a crucial role in our overall well-being.

At any given moment, a variety of individual, family, community, and structural factors can either support or hinder mental health. While most people demonstrate resilience, those facing challenging situations, such as poverty, violence, disability, and inequality—are at an increased risk of developing mental health issues.



To manage stress, anxiety, grief, or worry, be sure to take breaks from news stories, including those on social media; eat healthy; get enough sleep; move more and sit less; limit alcohol intake; avoid using illegal drugs or prescription drugs in ways other than prescribed; avoid smoking, vaping, and the use of other tobacco products; make sure to get your annual physicals; make time to unwind; take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate; participate in activities you enjoy; connect with others; talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling; and connect with your community-based or faith-based organizations.

Mental health is one of the most prevalent health issues and is also highly treatable. However, the stigma associated with it often leads to it being one of the least addressed conditions. Let's take this opportunity to educate ourselves about mental health challenges and support those who are struggling. Remember, YOU ARE NOT ALONE! For further information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/index.htm>.

### CITY CONTACTS

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#### MAYOR'S OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2125

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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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