



THE LAUREL LEDGER

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND



PUBLIC WORKS: WINTER STORM PREP AND GOALS FULFILLED

We’ve had a few winter storms already and Public Works has been hard at work making Laurel’s roads safe for travelers.

How Public Works Preps for Winter

Before a winter storm, the Department of Public Works pre-treats priority 1 and 2 roads with a brine solution, a new tool added to their resources last season, which helps mitigate snow and ice build up if used to treat within 48 hours.

During snow removal, emphasis is placed on Snow Emergency Routes, high-priority streets, and hazardous locations such as hills, sharp curves, and busy intersections. Once these high priority areas have been treated and cleared of snow, side streets are treated. Snow removal can be a monumental task, so we ask residents for patience. City crews work around the clock to clear streets and maintain regular services. While efforts are made to avoid blocking driveways when plowing, it cannot always be avoided. When clearing driveways, please do not shovel snow back into the street.

The City's Snow Emergency Plan goes into effect whenever a Snow Emergency is declared for Prince George's County. The Mayor may also proclaim or end a Snow Emergency.

Snow Emergencies are announced on most local radio and television stations, as well as on the City’s social media sites. When a Snow Emergency is in effect, residents cannot park on the even-numbered side of the street of snow emergency routes. ODD IS OK!

Busy Year for Public Works Street Resurfacing/Improvement Projects

The City of Laurel was able to resurface a record number of streets this past year. They included Little Montgomery Street, Virginia Manor Court, Fourth Street (Main Street to

Gorman Avenue), Fifth Street (Main Street to Montgomery Street), Park Avenue (Sixth to Seventh Street), “C” Street (Main Street to Fetty Alley), Park Avenue (Ninth Street to Phillip Powers Drive), Compton Avenue and Carroll Avenue. This year, one alley way was undertaken by the City which includes the alley running from Talbott Avenue to Compton Avenue, which should be completed the first of the year. Also, under contract is Lafayette Avenue and First Street resurfacing to be started in March, and Saratoga Avenue and a portion of Cypress Street under design to be bid in February. Nearly 11,300 linear feet (over 2 miles) of roadways were resurfaced or reconstructed in the City of Laurel in 2024, with more to come in 2025.

A sidewalk crossing was also installed at the end of Carroll Avenue, which has state of the art crossing signalization that includes a rapid flashing beacon, blinker illuminated pedestrian and crosswalk illumination.

City-wide Sidewalk Repair/Replacement

The City of Laurel undertook a long overdue list of sidewalk repairs in 2024 covering over 18,000 square feet and 2,000 linear feet of concrete curbing with the assistance of robust funding available in the Capital Improvement Project (“CIP”) and American Rescue Plan Act “ARPA” funding. Sidewalks that were replaced had been raised or lifted by tree roots or had cracked or broken pieces creating an uneven walking surface, deteriorated joints and surfaces, and handicap ramps where none existed, or where they existed but did not have detectable warning strips or where they did not meet current ADA standards for slope or directional orientation.

Fleet Modernization

This year, the City of Laurel made tremendous strides in fleet modernization, prioritizing fuel efficiency, alternative energy solutions, and

safety enhancements. Our team successfully introduced hybrid and fully electric vehicles to the fleet, reducing emissions and advancing the City of Laurel's sustainability goals. These upgrades were paired with state-of-the-art safety features, ensuring our operations remain secure and efficient. By combining sustainability, innovation, and safety, we continue to build a fleet that serves the community responsibly and effectively while paving the way for a greener and safer future, and enabled the City to reduce the gasoline budgeted for FY 2025 by \$45,000.00.



New LED light Fixtures

Approximately 65 High-Pressure Sodium light fixtures with new LED fixtures were replaced in the Greenview Drive, Creekview Drive, and Summit Lane area. In 2025, with the help from a \$26,000.00 Maryland Energy Administration Grant Award, the City of Laurel will replace 187 High-Pressure Sodium fixtures in the vicinity of the Villages of Wellington Development, Old Sandy Spring Road, Saratoga Avenue, Shannon Avenue and others, with 100w and 150w LED Pendant Fixtures. The work will be performed by BGE’s Division for Outdoor Lighting.

Coming This Spring!

Mark Your Calendars Now! Public Works will be hosting their Annual Spring April Recycling event on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00am to Noon. This event is for City residents only.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE SUCCESS!



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously stated, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Laurel responded to this question on January 20th during Dr. King’s Day of Service event, which was a great success and drew a large crowd! The reason for this success...YOU!

While we emphasize a volunteer activity to honor Dr. King’s dream, it wouldn't be complete without a program that underscores the importance of his legacy, which began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Girl Scout Troop 23039 and Cub Scout Pack 602; then the timeline of Dr.

King’s leadership during the Civil Rights Movement was highlighted, and Mayor Sydnor shared insights on Dr. King's contributions. Throughout the event, we were treated to beautiful music by the Laurel High School Choir, under the direction of Choral Director Kevin Lewis.



Community leaders, businesses, and residents then stood shoulder to shoulder to assemble care packages for chemo therapy patients at the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center’s Oncology Department. What was expected to take about two hours was accomplished in just 45 minutes! With over 200 care packages assembled, we owe deep gratitude to our partners: Sam’s Club, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Tau Delta Zeta Chapter, along with our City Departments and the residents of Laurel and nearby neighborhoods. We are delighted to share that, with assistance from Parks and Recreation, all care packages were delivered the following week and are currently being distributed to those navigating the challenges of living with cancer. We hope these packages provide them with the strength to continue their journey and serve as a reminder that we are here to support

them! Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to making this event such a success!



It's Easy Being Green!



THE CITY OF LAUREL UNVEILS ITS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN!



A big thank you to everyone that attended our Sustainability Plan Launch party on January 30th! It was great to reconnect with our founding focus group members and to see new faces that were drawn to the event to learn more about the Plan, how it was developed and how they can be part of this living document. Now the work begins to keep the momentum going! We will be forming additional focus groups to work on specific actions highlighted in the Plan. Everyone is welcome! If you are interested in participating in a work group, please contact greenliving@laurel.md.us. The full plan will be available on our Green Living Resource page at www.cityoflaurel.org/green.

Organics Recycling: 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! 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. Remember, loose leaves and grass clippings are also acceptable in your curbside compost cart. Don't want to wait!! Sign up using the on-line form and Public Works will deliver a full kit to your home. 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. Based on your feedback we now have smaller kitchen countertop containers and are introducing a smaller curbside cart!

2025 Municipal Calendars: Our calendars are digital and downloadable on the Recycle Coach app and we have printed calendars available. If you would like a printed calendar, contact 301-725-5300 ext. 2203.

Want to get the most recent information about the City's sustainability initiatives. Follow us on Facebook at @SustainableLaurel. 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 at www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving.

OBRAS PÚBLICAS:

PREPARACIÓN PARA EL INVIERNO Y METAS CUMPLIDAS

Ya hemos tenido algunas tormentas invernales y Obras Públicas ha trabajado arduamente para hacer que las carreteras de Laurel sean seguras para los viajeros. Antes de una tormenta invernal, el Departamento de Obras Públicas trata previamente las carreteras de prioridad 1 y 2 con una solución de salmuera, una nueva herramienta agregada a sus recursos la temporada pasada, que ayuda a mitigar la acumulación de nieve y hielo si se usa para tratar dentro de las 48 horas.

En 2024, Obras Públicas repavimentó más de 2 millas de carreteras, reparó 18,000 pies cuadrados de aceras y 2,000 pies lineales de bordillos, avanzó la flota de Laurel con vehículos híbridos/eléctricos y utilizó una subvención estatal para reemplazar 187 lámparas de sodio de alta presión con lámparas colgantes LED. y estos objetivos continuarán hasta 2025.

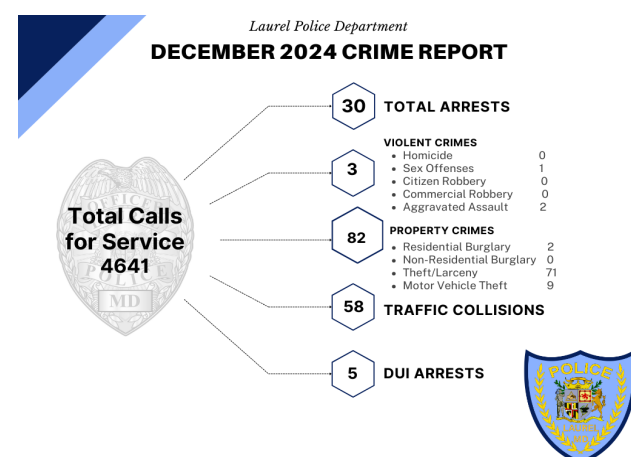
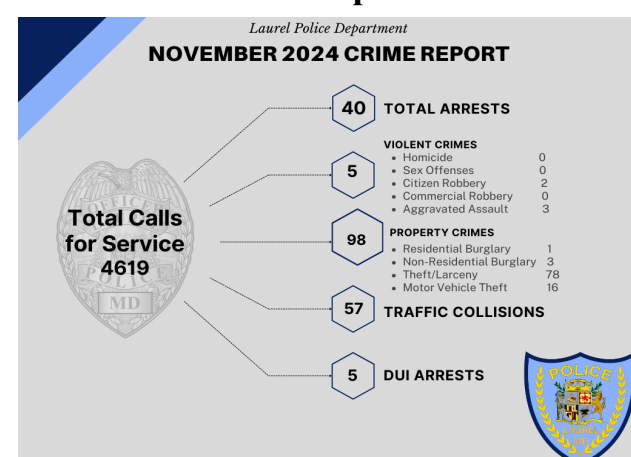
¡Marque sus calendarios ahora! Obras Públicas organizará su evento anual de reciclaje de primavera abril el sábado 19 de abril de 2025, de 8:00am - Mediodía. Este evento es sólo para residentes de la Ciudad.



LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at www.cityoflaurel.org/1896/LPD-Crime-Reports.



Laurel Council Connections

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:

- Charter Amendment No. 180 - amending Art. 400 "Administration" of the Charter of the City of Laurel to reflect the Dissolution of the Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management and establish two new Departments: the Department of Human Services and the Department of Emergency Management; and amending Sect. 469 to reflect the "Director of the Department of Emergency Management" and Sect. 470 "Director of Human Services."
- Ordinance No. 2036 - amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council for FY July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025; and providing an effective date.
- Resolution No. 1-2025 - to rename and expand the scope of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities.
- Resolution No. 2-2025 - authorizing the purchase of 7701 Old Sandy Spring Road for the purpose of acquiring real property for City operations.

Bid Recommendations:

- No Bid Recommendations in January

Appointments/Reappointments:

Master Plan Committee Appointments:

- ♦ Hon. Rick Wilson, Chair - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Hon. Frederick Smalls - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Calvin M. Burns - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Ursula Gnan - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Maria Gonzales-Jackson - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Garrett Jackson - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Stephen Slaughter - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Sophady Uong - 1/13/25 - 1/13/27
- ♦ Naomi McMillen (Appointment) - Board of Election Supervisors - 1/27/25 - 1/27/29
- ♦ Veronica Martin (Appointment) - Juneteenth Executive Committee
- ♦ Artesa Jones (Appointment) - Juneteenth Executive Committee
- ♦ Hon. Rick Wilson (Reappointment) - Planning Commission - 1/27/25 - 1/27/30
- ♦ William Wellford (Reappointment) - Planning Commission - 1/27/25 - 1/27/30
- ♦ Sean LeVere (Reappointment) - Community Redevelopment Authority - 1/27/25 - 1/27/28



Scan the QR Code for the online volunteer application and start to get involved in your community today!



Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

February 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ February 10th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)
- ♦ February 24th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

February 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ February 11th - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ♦ February 18th - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ♦ February 25th - Master Plan Committee (6pm)
- ♦ February 27th - Board of Appeals (6pm)

March 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ March 5th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6pm)
- ♦ March 10th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)
- ♦ March 24th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - (6pm)

March 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ March 11th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ March 18th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ March 25th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)
- ♦ March 27th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

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

- ♦ **Black History Month Celebration - February 8th** - 1 - 3pm, Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road.
- ♦ **Presidents' Day - February 17, 2025** - City/Passport Offices CLOSED. Visit cityoflaurel.org/calendars for adjusted collection details.
- ♦ **Free Friday Movie - February 21, 2025** at 7:00pm at Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street, featuring "Soul."
- ♦ **Women's History Month Program** - March 8, 2025 - 10a - 2pm at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road.
- ♦ **Eggstravaganza** - April 12, 2025 - 12:00pm SHARP! Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Free event.
- ♦ **To learn more or register for Parks and Recreation activities**, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks or call 301-725-7800.

CITY OF LAUREL MAYOR KEITH R. SYDNOR'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST



Black History Month Essay Contest for City of Laurel students -
Write an 800-word essay about music, cultural movement, or a person/organization that played a pivotal role in African American History. Deadline and details at www.cityoflaurel.org!

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

March						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 QR code to Green Living website for more information. Yard Debris Collection Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup. • Yard debris must be in paper bags or reusable containers. • Construction/renovation materials must be in a toter.	 Bulky Item Collection		 Global Recycling Day 18 = 03	 Hiring for Summer Positions Begins March 2025 Job Opportunities Laurel, MD cityoflaurel.org		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Virtual Mayor and Council Work Session - 6pm			Women's History Month Program - 10am-2pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Saving Time begins	Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	Planning Commission - 6pm				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
St. Patrick's Day		Global Recycling Day Historic District Commission - 6pm		Spring (Vernal) Equinox		Earth Hour World Water Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
In-Person Mayor/Council Meeting - 6pm		Master Plan Committee - 6pm		Board of Appeals - 6pm	Ramadan Begins	
30	31					
Eid al-Fitr						

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

Community Resources and Emergency Management: Winter Activity Safety

In an effort to reduce winter hazard incidents, it is important to keep safety in mind while playing and working in cold weather. Most incidents can be avoided by adhering to the following practical safety tips:

- Maintain proper hydration.
- Be aware of signs and symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia.



- Take frequent breaks while shoveling.
- If shoveling snow, lift with your legs, not your back.
- Whether you are shoveling or playing in the snow, dress warmly (coat, hat, scarf, gloves, thermal long johns, socks, boots).
- Walk Like a Penguin to prevent slips, trips, falls.

CITY CONTACTS



www.cityoflaurel.org

MAYOR'S OFFICE



301-725-5300
ext. 2125



laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

CITY ADMINISTRATOR



301-725-5300
ext. 2242



cadmin@laurel.md.us

LAUREL POLICE



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



lpd@laurel.md.us

PARKS AND RECREATION



301-725-7800



parks@laurel.md.us

COMMUNICATIONS



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