



# THE LAUREL LEDGER



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

## TEAM WORK: CITY OF LAUREL 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As we transition from 2024 to 2025, it's an ideal moment to reflect on the achievements your local government has made over the past year. Each City Department has made remarkable progress in executing its 2024 fiscal agenda, and we are eager to share these accomplishments with you. Our purpose is to demonstrate our commitment to being fiscally responsible with the resources you have entrusted to us. Let's work together in 2025, to help our community thrive!



### CITY-WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Mayor and City Council held a retreat in January 2024 to discuss upcoming City goals, along with Leadership Training for City Council members and Department Heads.
- ◆ Mayor Sydnor held 1st Annual Black History Essay Contest for Elementary, Middle and High School Students.
- ◆ Organized the 1st Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast event.

### CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

- ◆ Passed Ordinance No. 2030 to create the City's first Public School Employee Tax Credit for Prince George's County Public School employees owning property in the City of Laurel.
- ◆ Passed Ordinance No. 2032 to amend the City Code relating to the use of City Seals and logos.
- ◆ Passed Resolution No. 4-2024 approving a full rewrite of the City Council Standing Rules.



### OFFICE OF THE CLERK

- ◆ Served as Vice President of the Maryland Municipal Clerk's Association (MMCA) and selected to serve as 2025 Vice Chair of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee.
- ◆ Managed the City's Digitization of Paper Records project.
- ◆ Planned, implemented and oversaw the Council Vacancy nomination process and onboarded the selected Councilmember.
- ◆ Worked with the Board of Election Supervisors to draft amendments to the City Charter and Code.

### OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- ◆ Worked with City Departments to successfully implement the Public Works Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- ◆ Continued to grow Volunteer Laurel database and worked with schools Community Service Hours students.
- ◆ Nineteen residents successfully graduated from Laurel Citizens University, with numerous "students" becoming involved in City Boards, Commissions and Committees.



### BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

- ◆ Bookkeeping and record management for the LMSC non-profit.
- ◆ Implemented Human Resources Policy updates.
- ◆ Created standardized forms for budget requests.
- ◆ New risk management procedures for parade and public assembly permits and City Contractors.
- ◆ Implementation of workers compensation back to work sooner program.
- ◆ 5-year Renewal of the DROP program.
- ◆ Launched PNC Employee Financial Wellness Program.

### LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT

- ◆ Successfully managed recruitment efforts to fill nearly all sworn positions, leaving only three openings remaining, with sworn/professional staff representative of the communities we serve.
- ◆ In response to community concerns expressed over traffic-safety matters, a dedicated Traffic Unit was created to address traffic issues within the City of Laurel, which includes developing campaigns addressing speed, pedestrian, distracted driving, impaired driving, and other traffic issues.
- ◆ LPD has a new camera registry program that encourages individuals and businesses to register security cameras with the LPD, which then provides the Department with information regarding security camera locations and views to assist with investigations and keep our community safer.
- ◆ Graduated two successful Laurel Community Police Academy classes that continues to enhance community relationships.



## 2024 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED...



### COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Coordinated and hosted a Mental Health Awareness Event, fostering education and reducing stigma around mental health issues.
- ◆ Grand Opening of the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center on September 10, 2024.
- ◆ The Department successfully renewed the City's Community Rating System (CRS) to ensure residents maintain their 15% discount on flooding insurance.

### PUBLIC WORKS

- ◆ Resurfaced/Reconstructed nearly 2 miles of roadways being resurfaced or reconstructed.
- ◆ 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 and American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- ◆ Made tremendous strides in fleet modernization, prioritizing fuel efficiency, alternative energy solutions, and safety enhancements.
- ◆ Replaced approximately 65 High-Pressure Sodium light fixtures with new LED fixtures.



### PARKS AND RECREATION

- ◆ Replaced two pedestrian bridges at Riverfront Park.
- ◆ Opened both sides of the Laurel Multiservice Center.
- ◆ Replaced 6 HOA Playgrounds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.
- ◆ Completed the LED Conversion at Stephen P. Turney Recreation Complex.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Launched the inaugural edition of Laurel Living, the official monthly newsletter for the City of Laurel.
- ◆ Completed major audio and visual upgrades in the Council Chambers to modernize the Chamber's technology, enhancing both in-person and hybrid meeting capabilities.
- ◆ Collaborated with the Chesapeake Math and IT (CMIT) Academy North High School on their inaugural participation in the C-SPAN StudentCam Competition. Taught students interviewing, editing, video production techniques, and how to think critically, while enhancing their storytelling abilities.

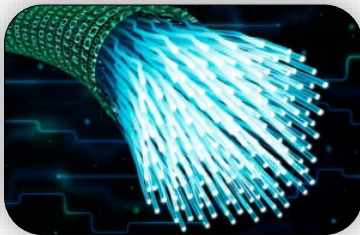


### FIRE MARSHAL AND PERMIT SERVICES

- ◆ Prepared and adopted Chapter 18 of the City Code.
- ◆ Fully digitized the Soil and Erosion program.
- ◆ Fully implemented multi-generational Fire and Life safety presentations.

### ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ ECD, along with the Mayor, initiated the 1st time Home Buyer Assistance Grant Program and Laurel Thrive Small Business Grant Program
- ◆ Kicked off the first Sustainability Plan and created residential Focus Groups to get input from the community.
- ◆ Corridor Center Subdivision Preliminary Plan was approved to allocate several homes for sale as "affordable." The project also is comprised of 293 residential units (Stacked townhouses, active adult villas, single-family townhomes inclusive of 12 live/work units).
- ◆ Hosted Small Business Saturday, Women-Owned Business and other Networking events.



### OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Launched the City's Youth Apprenticeship program for high school students interested in IT careers.
- ◆ Deployed new computer, security, and network systems at three facilities, including the new Laurel Multiservice Center.
- ◆ Migrated City phone systems to SIP for scalability and reduced costs.

### GREEN LIVING

- ◆ Created new composting campaign, rolled out composting carts to southside residents, with new educational materials, and deliveries will continue throughout the new year.
- ◆ Awarded technical assistance grant from Maryland Energy Administration; grant from Department of Energy for energy audits; and grant from Sustainable Maryland for Bigbelly Smart composting containers.
- ◆ Hosted Secretary of the Environment for a visual tour of our Sustainability Initiatives.
- ◆ Farmer's Market expanded to weekly Thursdays and became part of the Maryland Money Market Fund adding value to patrons using SNAP benefits. And held 1st Winter Market.



**The Mayor, City Council, City Staff are excited about 2025 and eager to collaborate with our Laurel community to ensure its continuing prosperity!**



# 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](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us). For the full agendas, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).

### Adopted Legislation:

- **Resolution No. 5-2024** - creating a Master Plan and providing an effective date.
- **Resolution No. 6-2024** - declaring a temporary moratorium regarding the processing of Zoning matters within the City of Laurel, Maryland and providing an effective date.
- **Ordinance No. 2033** - to amend the City of Laurel Police Retirement Plan to extend the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.
- **Ordinance No. 2034** - to amend the City of Laurel Police Retirement Plan to extend the Deferred Retirement Option Plan.

### Sole Source Purchase Recommendation:

- **Ongoing City-wide Replacement of Existing Street Lighting Project** - Department of Public Works

### Contract Continuation Recommendation:

- **Architectural and Engineering Firms** - Department of Public Works

### Bid Recommendations:

- **First Street Improvements** - Department of Public Works
- **Lafayette Avenue Improvements** - Department of Public Works

### Appointments/Reappointments:

- ♦ Michael Gray - Tree Board (12/9/24 - 12/9/26)
- ♦ Donica Sutton - Education Advisory Committee (12/9/24 - 12/9/26).



**City of Laurel**  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**  
**Monday, January 20th**  
**10:00am - 2:00pm**  
Joseph R. Robison  
Laurel Municipal Center,  
8103 Sandy Spring Road





**Our Voice, Our Future**  
City of Laurel Sustainability Plan

**You are Invited!**

**Sustainability Plan Launch Party!**

**Thursday, January 30th, 2025**

**Starts at 6pm**  
**Joseph R. Robison**  
**Laurel Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**8103 Sandy Spring Road**  
**Laurel, MD 20707**

- Learn about the Plan, and how it was created by and for the City of Laurel Residents
- Engage with City representatives about Plan implementation
- Participate in activities to engage with Plan material under the four Pillars: **People, Peace & Partnership, Planet, and Prosperity**

 People

 Planet

 Peace & Partnership

 Prosperity

## Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### January 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ January 6th (Monday) - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6pm)
- ♦ January 13th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)
- ♦ January 27th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

### January 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ January 14th - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ♦ January 21st - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ♦ January 23rd - Board of Appeals (6pm)
- ♦ January 30th - Master Plan Committee (6pm)

### February 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ February 5th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6pm)
- ♦ 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)

## City Announcements and Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ♦ **Health Fair - January 18th** - 10am - 1pm - Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road. Vendors, Demos, and more!
- ♦ **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - January 20th** - City/Passport Offices Closed. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars) for adjusted collection details.
- ♦ **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - January 20th** - 10am - 2pm - Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road. Call 301-725-5300 ext. 2109 for volunteer opportunities.
- ♦ **FREE Indoor Movie - "Paw Patrol (2023)" - January 24th** - 7pm, Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street.
- ♦ **Sustainability Plan Launch Party - January 30th** - 6pm, Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road
- ♦ **Black History Month Celebration - February 8th** - 1 - 3pm, Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road.
- ♦ **Presidents' Day Holiday - February 17th** - City/Passport Offices Closed. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/calendars) for adjusted collection details.
- ♦ **FREE Indoor Movie - "Soul" - February 21st** - 7pm, Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street.
- ♦ **To learn more or register for a Parks and Recreation Classes/Events**, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/parks](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks) or call 301-725-7800.



Visit the City of Laurel web site at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org), to learn more about your local government!

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

QR code to Green Living website for more information.

Black History Month


February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Refuse/Recycling/Composting holiday schedule February 17th				Yard Debris Collection	Bulky Item Collection	1
Groundhog Day World Wetlands Day	2	3	4	5 Virtual Work Session - 6pm	6	7
						8 Black History Month Program - 1-3pm 204 Ft. Meade
9	10 Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	11 Planning Commission - 6pm	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 President's Day Monday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Tuesday City Offices Closed	18 HDC - 6pm Tuesday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Wednesday	19 No change to Wednesday collection	20	21 Indoor Movie Partnership Hall 7 p.m. "Soul"	22
23	24 In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	25 Master Plan Committee - 6pm	26	27 Board of Appeals - 6pm	28	

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

PUBLIC WORKS 301-725-0088 DPW@laurel.md.us

Community Resources and Emergency Management: Winter Hazards Safety

Travel Safety	Indoor Heating Safety	Carbon Monoxide Safety
<p>Reduce your risk of being involved in a winter-related traffic incident by winterizing your vehicle, practicing safe driving techniques, and building a car emergency kit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Winterize your Car<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Test your battery; check your tire pressure and treads; and keep your gas tank half-full</li></ul></li><li>Safety Driving Techniques<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Slow down</li><li>Increase following distances</li><li>Steer in the direction of a skid</li></ul></li><li>Car Emergency Kit<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Include the following items in your kit: jumper cables, flares, ice scraper, blanket, and sand or cat litter</li></ul></li></ul> <p>For more information, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.</p>	<p>Space heaters account for approximately 1/3 of home heating fires and 80% of home heating fire deaths annually. Adhere to safety precautions when using indoor heating equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keep flammable items 3 feet away from heating unit.</li><li>Clean and inspect equipment annually.</li><li>Turn off heating equipment before going to bed or leaving the house.</li></ul> <p>For more information, visit the National Fire Protection Agency.</p> 	<p>Carbon monoxide (CO) is often referred to as the "silent killer" as it has no smell, taste, or color. Protect yourself and family by practicing indoor heating safety, understanding the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, and installing CO detectors. Symptoms of CO exposure and poisoning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Headache</li><li>Dizziness</li><li>Nausea</li><li>Vomiting</li><li>Mild Confusion</li><li>Shortness of Breath</li></ul> <p>If you are experiencing symptoms of CO exposure or poisoning, seek medical care immediately or call 911. If you are unsure about exposure to CO, contact poison control 24 hours every day at 800-222-1222.</p>

CITY CONTACTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2125

laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

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

301-725-5300 Ext. 2208

laurelpio@laurel.md.us

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