



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

The City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 2, NO. 5

MAY 2023

COMMUNICATIONS: STAYING CONNECTED

The City of Laurel has many events that happen throughout the year and one great source for staying in the know is through the Department of Communications. Read further to find out how you can learn about all the happenings in and around the City, or how you can get the information to the Department for dissemination to the public.

For Communications Director Audrey Barnes, a standing room only crowd at the City's recent Volunteer Fair was a perfect opportunity to explain how to get connected to the City's many different communications platforms so you never miss out on the news and special events happening in Laurel.



"If you would like to get City of Laurel press releases, including emergency notifications and volunteer opportunities, you should sign up to be added to our email distribution list," Ms. Barnes told the group. "Everything we send out will go straight to the inbox on your PC or your smartphone." The best way to get on the list is to send an email to laurelpio@laurel.md.us. You'll receive a welcome email back to let you know you've been added.

Another key way to stay on top of all things Laurel is through our many social media accounts. Number one on the list is the City of Laurel-government Facebook page.

"The Department of Communications keeps the City's Facebook page stuffed to the brim with information about our neighborhoods, businesses, and even State-wide things that affect us all," Barnes says.

Many other City Departments have Facebook pages too that you should LIKE and follow, including the Laurel Police Department, City of Laurel Department of Economic and Community Development, Laurel City OEM, and the City of Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation. We've also recently added Facebook pages for the City of Laurel Juneteenth and Pride Planning Committees. Most of the posts that go on the Facebook pages will also appear on the associated Instagram page too. There are some key sites you will definitely want to follow on Twitter, including @cityofLaurel, @laurelcityoem, @laurelpio, @laurelparksrec, @laurelpd, and @LaurelECD.



The City's public access television station, known as Laurel TV, is also a great way to be entertained and informed. Airing on Comcast Channel 996 and 71 and Verizon Channel 12, Laurel TV broadcasts all the government meetings and more than 70 individual stories about community news and events. If you miss a broadcast, you can view it on the LaurelTVOfficial YouTube channel.



"If you are not into social media and not a big tv watcher, we have a communications tool that would be perfect for you," Ms. Barnes said. "Our community events and media phone line number is 240-294-1307. We update it frequently with the latest news and event information. You can also leave your upcoming events on the line for us to review and post when appropriate too."

The bottom line is there are many ways to communicate with the City. Find one that works for you so you can enjoy all that Laurel has to offer.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESTIGIOUS PROGRAM



Laurel City Administrator Christian L. Pulley, CPM, has been selected to participate in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government training this June. The program, held through Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, focuses on developing productive solutions and continuing to build that bridge between residents and their City government.

Leaders from across the world will enhance their knowledge on topics such as

strategic management, negotiation, policy modeling and implantation through a combination of traditional and hands-on learning experiences.

City Administrator Pulley said, "This is an opportunity of a lifetime and I'm very excited! I want to thank the Mayor and City Council for being an advocate for professional development and allowing me to attend this training. By the end of this Program, I look forward to having additional skills in my toolbox to continue to be an effective leader, as well as build strong, resilient relationships with the Laurel community and beyond."



VOLUNTEERS WANTED
CALL 301-725-5300 EXT. 2109

It's Easy Being Green!

AND THE WINNER IS...



Laurel High School! Congratulations to the Green Team at Laurel High School (LHS) who won first-place honors in the 2023 Prince George's County Envirothon Competition. The Prince George's Soil Conservation District and the William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center hosted the event at the Schmidt Center on April 26th. The Envirothon is a competition geared towards students learning about the natural world. Envirothon teams are made up of 5 students who work together to study the five areas. These are: Aquatics, Soils, Wildlife, Forestry, and a Fifth Issue that changes each year. This year the Fifth Issue is Climate Change. These tests involve a combination of hands-on activities and knowledge-based activities. Each member of the Laurel High winning team won a \$1500 scholarship.

The Green Team has brought the composting program back to life at Laurel High School. Seniors Javier Fuentes, Kayla Collins, and Alison Ayala were the leaders of this effort and pulled together the student body, the school administration and have made this program a success once again. The Green Team created posters, a video (which you can see on Green Living), and captained school lunches to educate students about what is compostable. The program originally started in 2020 was derailed by Covid, but that didn't stop the determination of the Green Team to revitalize the program. Starting slowly and building momentum, LHS has diverted 12,932 pounds of organic waste from our landfill so far this year!

Diverting food waste from our landfills is the easiest way for all of us to do our part in reducing harmful methane gas. Food waste and other acceptable organic materials, such as pizza boxes, napkins contaminated with food waste, dryer lint, etc.) that are brought to an organics recycling facility are made into organic compost. Using organic compost helps to retain water, reduce erosion, sequesters carbon, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.



Let's follow the example of the Green Team at LHS and join in the City's curbside composting program.

EV Charging Stations at City Facilities



Thanks to Blink and Paniagua's Enterprises Incorporated for making this happen! Blink is a well-known and respected leader in building EV infrastructure in this area.

The City of Laurel has partnered with Blink to provide additional EV charging stations to residents and we currently have three locations with two (2) charging stations: 312 Main Street, 8103 Sandy Spring Road (Laurel Municipal Center) and the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, 7901 Cypress Street. Look for two (2) more charging stations to be added at Sandy Spring Road and Cypress Street by the beginning of summer.



Farmer's Market Is Back!

We are happy to announce that by the time you are reading this article, the Laurel Farmer's Market will be opening. The season begins on May 11th from 3:00 to 7:00pm, every other Thursday, and will run until September 28th. Come join us and help support our local farmers and businesses! The Farmer's Market is located at 378 Main Street, formally known as the Quill Lot. Learn about all of these great Green Living initiatives and more at [www.CityofLaurel.org/green!](http://www.CityofLaurel.org/green/)



MANTENTE CONECTADO

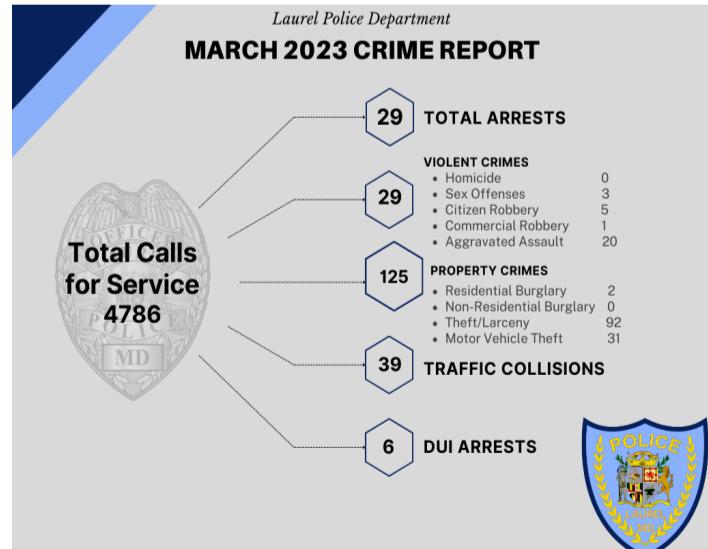


La Ciudad de Laurel tiene muchos eventos que ocurren a lo largo del año y una gran fuente para mantenerse informado es a través del Departamento de Comunicaciones. Si desea recibir comunicados de prensa de la Ciudad de Laurel, incluyendo notificaciones de emergencia y oportunidades de voluntariado, debe registrarse para ser agregado a nuestra lista de distribución de correo electrónico.

La mejor manera de ingresar a la lista es enviar un correo electrónico a laurelpio@laurel.md.us. Otras formas clave de mantenerse al tanto de todo lo relacionado con Laurel son a través de nuestras numerosas cuentas de redes sociales, Laurel TV, o llamando a nuestra línea telefónica de eventos y medios de la comunidad al 240-294-1307.

LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

MARCH 2023



Laurel Council Connections

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. For the full agendas, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.

Approved Ordinances/Resolutions:

- **Ordinance No. 2009** - An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Granting a Non-Exclusive Cable Television Franchise to Comcast of Maryland, LLC., to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Cable System within the City of Laurel, Maryland, Pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 5 of the Laurel City Code, and to Approve a Cable Franchise Agreement.

Bid Approvals:

- **Fleet Acquisition** - Purchase of a Ford 2020 Transit Van for Department of Parks and Recreation Senior Van Service - Department of Public Works - \$49,935
- **Video Detection Systems** - Three (3) intersections - Department of Public Works - \$95,041.25
- **Radio Grant** - Purchase of Twenty-seven (27) Motorola Next Generation N70 Public Safety Radios - Department of Information Technology - \$199,919.08 (funds obtained with help from Senator Chris Van Hollen. Funded through Justin Byrne Justice Assistance Grant)

Mayoral Appointments:

- **Nicole Gore**, Pride Day Celebration Committee - Appointed 4/10/2023
- **Former Mayor Robert J. DiPietro**, Board of Trustees - Retirement Plans - Appointed 4/24/2023
- **Jacki Ricks**, Board of Election Supervisors - Appointed 4/24/2023
- **Christina Cornwell**, Director, Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM) - Appointed 4/24/2023, Effective May 17, 2023



City of Laurel
Election Day
November 7, 2023



Council Member Keith Sydnor was recognized at a ceremony on April 15, 2023, as Zeta Phi Beta celebrated its 20-year anniversary. Zeta Phi Beta President Darkesha Moton presented the President's THRIVE Award to Council Member Sydnor for his dedication to country and community.

Mr. Sydnor serves on several City Boards and Commissions. His dedication to education is evidenced by his return to the classroom as a substitute teacher for Prince George's County, and he is a consistent, unwavering volunteer with many area organizations.

Mayor Craig A. Moe officially Proclaimed April 10, 2023, as Expand and Service Day in the City of Laurel and thanked the sisters of Zeta Phi Beta for their service to the community. City Administrator Christian Pulley, Deputy City Administrator Joanne Barr and State's Attorney for Prince George's County, **Page 3** Aisha Braveboy were in attendance to honor the Zetas and Council Member Sydnor.

COUNCIL OFFICE

 301-725-5300 ext. 2121  clerk@laurel.md.us

Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

May 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ May 22nd - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)

May 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ May 16th - In-Person Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ May 17th - Emergency Services Commission (7:00pm)
- ◆ May 23rd - Virtual Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ May 25th - Board of Appeals ***CANCELLED***

June 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ June 7th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 12th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 26th - Mayor and City Council Meeting ***CANCELLED***

June 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ June 13th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 20th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 27th - In-Person Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 29th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **Main Street Festival - May 20, 2023** - 9:00am - 4:00pm, Laurel's Main Street, Parade, Music, Vendors, Fun!
- ◆ **National Kids to Park Day - May 20, 2023**, from 3:00 - 7:00pm, Granville Gude Lakehouse, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- ◆ **City Hall in the Park - May 24, 2023** at 6:30pm at Discovery Community Park, Corner of Green Hill Avenue and Harrison Drive.
- ◆ **Laurel Pools Open May 27, 2023**, at 12Noon!
- ◆ **May 29, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed** In Observance of **Memorial Day**. Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **Bike Decorating Parade/Ice Cream Social** - June 2, 2023, at 6:00pm, Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery Street.
- ◆ **June 19, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed** In Observance of **Juneteenth**. Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.

Public Works Monthly Glance



PUBLIC WORKS

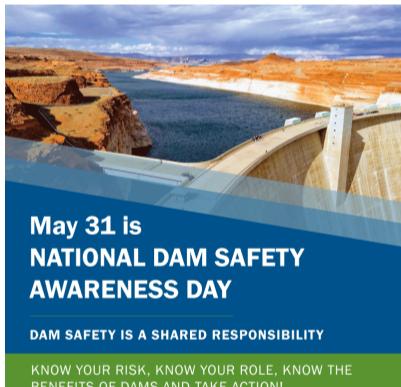


301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

Laurel Office of Emergency Management: Dam Safety, May 31st



Laurel has two (2) dams to the north: T. Howard Duckett, in conjunction with the Rocky Gorge Reservoir, and Brighton, in conjunction with the Triadelphia Reservoir, along with Van Dusen Dam and multiple water branches in the City. Because of this close proximity to our City, Laurel City OEM knows how important it is to be ready and stay in the know about dam safety.

National Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31st and seeks to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety, as well as what steps can be taken to prevent catastrophic dam failures. This year's theme is "Dam Safety is a shared responsibility. Know your risk, know your role, know the benefits of dams and take action."

Dam Safety Awareness Day was created in memoriam of the 2,220 people who lost their lives in the 1889 South Fork Dam failure near Johnston, Pennsylvania. The collapse of the South Fork Dam was a tragedy and is not an isolated incident. Proper maintenance, routine inspection, necessary upgrades, and implementation of an Emergency Action Plan can ensure optimal conditions, protecting public health, safety, and welfare.

For more information about Dam Safety, visit <https://damsafety.org/NDSAD>



CITY CONTACTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE



301-725-5300
ext. 2125

www.cityoflaurel.org

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE



301-725-5300
ext. 2242



laurelmayor@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
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