



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 2, NO. 8

AUGUST 2023

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CREM)



In this edition, we will fill you in on the City's newest Department, Community Resources and Emergency Management (CREM)!

Led by Director/Emergency Manager, Christina L. Cornwell, CPM, CEM, who has over 24 years of experience in local and state government, which includes emergency management, CREM was created out of a need to help Laurel withstand the impacts of unexpected circumstances. By bringing together Emergency Management, Laurel Helping Hands, and the Multiservice Center, this Department is the Trifecta of community needs in the City's toolbox, meeting both the mental and physical needs of individuals, all while strengthening and engaging the whole community to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster situations.

Now, let's take a look at each division within CREM.

Emergency Management

The Division of Emergency Management plays a critical role in keeping the citizens of Laurel safe. The Division plans and prepares for emergencies, educates the public about preparedness, coordinates emergency response and recovery efforts and disseminates information during emergencies and disasters. As a part of its complex activities, the Division helps the community by assisting in the coordination of emergency management efforts and providing support to various City Departments.

Helping Hands

 The staff at Laurel Helping Hands is committed to providing collaborative counseling tailored to the individual needs of the client. Their Mission Statement is to strengthen families and help youth thrive by equipping parents with the skills necessary to meet the developmental needs of children up to 18 years, so that youth can maximize their potential at home, in school and in the community. But they also believe that, apart

from their families, children also need other functional adults in the community and so Helping Hands provides individual counseling to adults.

In addition to counseling, they provide crisis intervention and substance use screening for PGCPSS students who are suspended for drug-related infraction. They also make presentations on mental health topics to schools and other community groups.

If you are experiencing a life-threatening mental health crisis please call 988 or the Prince George's County Crisis hotline at 301-429-2185.

To learn more about the City's Youth Services Bureau, Laurel and County residents may call Laurel Helping Hands at 240-294-1304 for information or appropriate referrals related to child, family, and adult services within the community.

City of Laurel Multiservice Center

The mission of the Multiservice Center is to promote stability and self-sufficiency amongst vulnerable populations through the provision of human services. Such efforts aim to promote hope for the future, equity of service, and strengthening of community throughout the Greater Laurel area.

Where Did This Idea Start?

In 2014, Mayor Moe had the idea to bring all the resources and services to one location in the City. Then in 2015, that idea was brought to life through a feasibility study that was conducted to evaluate community needs within the City of Laurel and determine resource gaps. In 2019, the City of Laurel Homelessness/Community Services Task Force was established to create a plan of action for addressing homelessness within the Greater Laurel Area, to include identifying infrastructure that would meet the needs of the community. After a year of evaluating community need against available resources, they brought their recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, which highlighted a single resource site which would deliver multiple community needs, while limit-

ing transportation access barriers.

After the Task Force's presentation, the City purchased 204 Ft. Meade Road in 2020 for \$2.4 million with the purpose of developing a multiservice center, which would include a transitional housing program and relocate the current "Winter Haven" program. This Center will also be used for food distribution, education/job training, and so much more.



Maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation, this City-owned facility seeks to coordinate with various agencies and organizations in and surrounding Laurel to establish and sustain daily operations. By establishing a location where these services can be streamlined, it is our mission to provide equitable service, increased opportunity, and enhanced hope for the future through the establishment of individual independency.

The facility is currently undergoing renovations, which are being completed in phases. The first phase is the conversion of the existing gymnasium, two multipurpose rooms, and multiple storage rooms for equipment and emergency supplies. The second phase will focus on the resource center and short-term housing sections. Both phases of renovations are ongoing.

The City is excited for the services and operations the new CREM Department will bring to the Laurel community. Have questions? Call 301-725-5300 ext. 2232, email laureloem@laurel.md.us or follow their social media sites!

And keep your eyes open for some fun during this September's Emergency Preparedness Month!

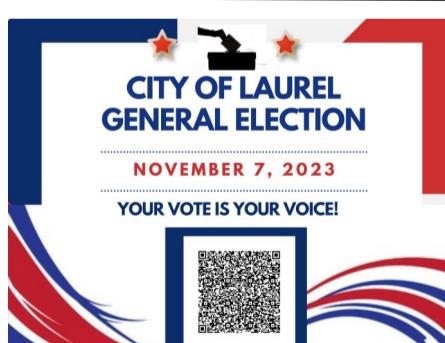
ELECTIONS ARE COMING!

Do you ask yourself how you can become a part of the Laurel community? One of the best ways is to take part in City elections!

The Mayoral and five City Council seats are all up for election this year and you can help decide who will be running your local government for the next few years. Election day is November 7, 2023, with Early Voting taking place on November 4, 2023. You also will have the choice of Voting by Mail! Make sure you are registered and that you live in the City limits of Laurel, so you can cast your vote!

For more information, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/clerk or call 301-725-5300 ext. 2120 or scan the QR Code. **Your Vote Is Your Voice!**

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WHAT'S NEW IN GREEN LIVING

It's been a busy summer here!



Our **Farmer's Market** is planning for its last four market days: August 17th, August 31st, September 14th and September 28th. Sign up for updates at greenliving@laurel.md.us and like us on Facebook – [@TheLaurelQuillLot](#). Don't forget that we can now accept SNAP/EBT – stop by the information tent to get your coupons and a reusable bag!

Speaking of bags..... Ordinance 2008 passed at the Mayor and City Council meeting on July 10th. Plastic bags are out – reusable bags are in! All stores will be required to charge at least \$0.10 for a paper bag – what this means to you as a customer is bring your own bag and avoid the charge! If you want more information about this legislation, where to get free reusable bags, what signage shoppers can expect to see at stores – e-mail greenliving@laurel.md.us.

Tip It or Toss It! To help keep the mosquito population down and avoid spraying in the City of Laurel, be proactive! Mosquitoes can thrive in only an ounce of standing water! Check out the YouTube video on best ways to reduce the mosquito population at <https://youtu.be/Ijna4TUUYzw>. For more information, visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/em/mosquito-control-program>.

Composting: We want to hear from YOU! With the City's curbside composting program becoming mandatory in 2025, what questions do you have? What more do you want to see from Environmental Programs concerning the composting program? What can I feed my compost bin? Why should I compost? How does composting help the environment? Send your questions to Michele Blair, at greenliving@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-5300.

Coming in September! It's back! **Sustainable Saturday** will be held on September 9th and we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act at the Laurel Quill Lot, 378 Main Street. The hours will be 11am to 2pm. You will be able to sign up for rebate programs, the City's composting program, learn about volunteer opportunities and enjoy some food. More information can be



FREE MOVIE AND PIZZA

Join Laurel Helping Hands for a viewing of **"Angst"** on **September 9th** at **Partnership Activity Center** from **5-7pm**. This is a film that highlights anxiety in young people and how to help those who are struggling. Register by calling Laurel Helping Hands at **240-294-1304**.

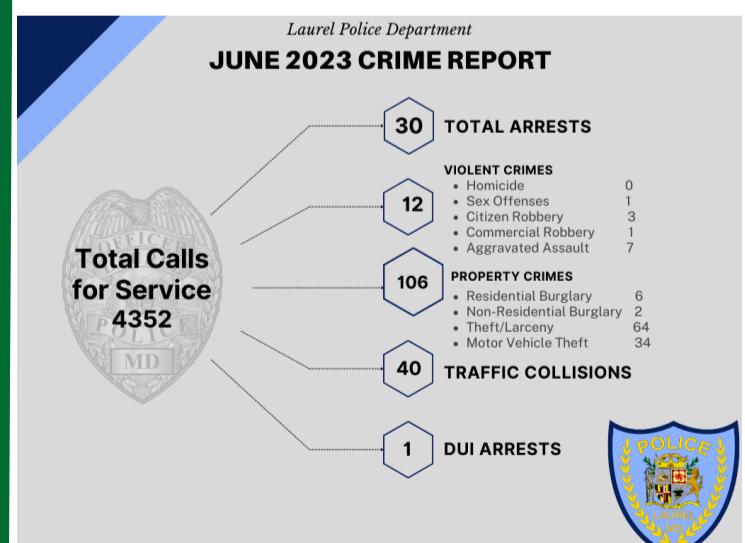
RECURSOS COMUNITARIOS Y GESTIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS (CREM)

El Departamento de Recursos Comunitarios y Manejo de Emergencias (CREM, por sus siglas en inglés) más nuevo de la Ciudad, dirigido por la Directora/Gerente de Emergencias, Christina L. Cornwell, CPM, CEM, fue creado por la necesidad de ayudar a Laurel a resistir los impactos de circunstancias inesperadas. Manejo de Emergencias, Helping Hands y el Centro Multiservicios Laurel conforman el Departamento. El papel de la División de Manejo de Emergencias es mantener seguros a los ciudadanos de Laurel al planificar y prepararse para emergencias, educar al público, coordinar los esfuerzos de emergencia y difundir información durante emergencias y desastres. Laurel Helping Hands se compromete a brindar asesoramiento colaborativo adaptado a las necesidades individuales del cliente, que incluye un grupo de apoyo para padres hispanos llamado Ayuda Par Padres y Madres. Y el Laurel Multiservice Center promueve la estabilidad y la autosuficiencia entre las poblaciones vulnerables a través de la provisión de servicios humanos, cuyo objetivo es promover la esperanza para el futuro, la equidad en el servicio y el fortalecimiento de la comunidad en el área metropolitana de Laurel. ¿Preguntas? Envíe un correo electrónico a laureloem@laurel.md.us. the Greater Laurel area. Questions? Email laureloem@laurel.md.us.

LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

JUNE 2023

To find out more about what's happening in your neighborhood, visit the Laurel Police Crime Reports at www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/crime-reports.



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. 2014** - to Repeal and Replace Laurel City Code Chapter 17, Traffic, and Providing for an Effective Date.
- **Ordinance No. 2015** - Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 and to Provide an Effective Date.
- **Resolution No. 7-2023** - to Pay Tribute to the Honorable Joseph R. Robison by Renaming the Laurel Municipal Center as the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center.

Bid Approvals:

- **Resurfacing Outdoor Tennis and Basketball Courts** - Parks and Recreation - \$408,166.47
- **Laurel Avenue Improvement Project** - Public Works - \$200,000
- **Compton Avenue Improvement Project** - Public Works - \$147,692.99
- **Fleet Acquisition** - 2024 Freightliner 10-ton Dump Truck - Public Works - \$247,490
- **Fleet Acquisition** - T76 Bobcat Track Loader - Public Works - \$79,750.64
- **Cybersecurity** - IT - \$214,490.11
- **In Car Camera System** - IT - \$370,551.25
- **Fleet Acquisition** - 2020 Ford Transit Passenger Van - Public Works - \$49,935

For the full list of approved Bids, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/clerk/meetings.

Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments:

- **Joseph DiGiovanni**, Tree Board - Appointed 7/10/2023
- **Rian Reed**, Education Advisory Committee - Reappointed 7/10/2023
- **Abisola Ude**, Education Advisory Committee - Reappointed 7/10/2023
- **Rhonda Whitley**, Youth Services Commission - Reappointed 7/10/2023



COUNCIL OFFICE

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

Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

August 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ On Hiatus. All Mayor and City Council Meetings and Work Sessions are CANCELLED.

August 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ On Hiatus. All Board and Commission Meetings are CANCELLED.

September 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ Sept. 6th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ Sept. 11th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ Sept. 25th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)

September 2023 Boards and Commissions

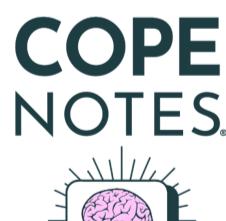
- ◆ Sept. 12th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ Sept. 19th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ Sept. 28th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)
- ◆ Sept. 26th - Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)

City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **August 11, 2023 - Free Outdoor Concert: Dupont Brass** - 7pm - Gude Park
- ◆ **August 17 & 31, 2023 - Laurel Farmer's Market** - 3-7pm - 378 Main Street
- ◆ **August 19, 2023 - Murder Mystery Train Ride (Senior Trip)** - Departure at 5pm; Cost: \$115
- ◆ **August 22, 2023 - Beach Day in Ocean City (Adult Trip)** - Departs at 6:30am; Cost: \$35/resident, \$40/non-resident.
- ◆ **August 26, 2023 - Community and Culture Day** - 2 - 5pm, McCullough Field - Celebrate and learn about the different cultures, food, community groups and more!
- ◆ **Adult Softball Leagues** start at the end of August! Call 301-725-7800.
- ◆ **Sept. 4, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed In Observance of Labor Day.** Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **2023-2024 Preschool Registration** - Classes begin September 5th & 6th
- ◆ **Sept. 9, 2023 - Doggie Dip Day** - 10am-12pm; Greenview Drive Pool. \$5/dog

For more information, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks!



Support your mental and emotional health courtesy of the City of Laurel. Simply go to www.copenotes.com / redeem and enter the redemption code **LAUREL** or scan the QR code below for your free subscription! Learn more about it all at www.copenotes.com.

**This offer is available on a first come, first served basis.*

Public Works Monthly Glance



National Preparedness Month

The **Office of Emergency Management** plans and prepares for emergencies, educates the public about preparedness, coordinates emergency response / recovery efforts and disseminates information during emergencies and disasters. www.cityoflaurel.org/em

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Yard Debris Collection Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.	Bulky Item Collection				1	2
City Pools Close September 4th	3 Labor Day City Offices Closed Monday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Tuesday	4 Tuesday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Wednesday	5 No change to Wednesday collection Virtual Work Session - 6p	6 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	7	8 Doggie Dip Day - 10am Greenview Pool
	10 Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6p	11 Planning Commission - 6p	12	13 Laurel Farmer's Market: 3-7pm 378 Main St.	14 Greenpeace Day	9 Sustainable Saturday - 11am Quill Lot (Main St)
	17	18 Historic District Commission - 6p	19	20 My Time with the Mayor - 4pm, RJD Comm. Center 	21 Zero Emissions Day	16 World Cleanup Day National Cleanup Day Rosh Hashanah
24 Yom Kippur	25 In-Person Mayor and Council Meeting - 6pm	26 World Environmental Health Day Environmental Affairs Committee - 6pm	27 City Hall in the Park - 6:30pm Centennial Park	28 Laurel Farmer's Market: 3-7pm 378 Main St. Board of Appeals - 6pm	29 World Rivers Day International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste Sukkot Begins	30

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE FOR YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



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PUBLIC WORKS



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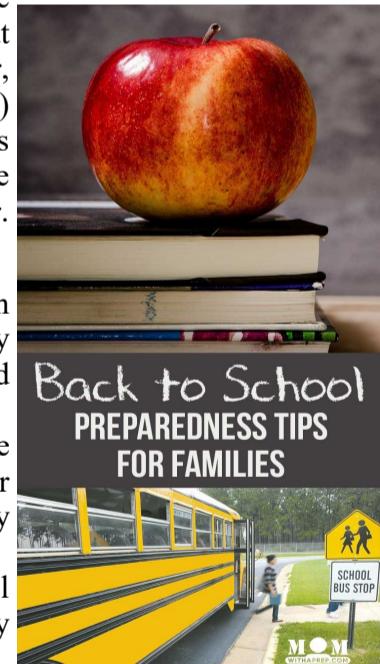


DPW@laurel.md.us

Laurel Division of Emergency Management: Back to School Preparedness Tips

As you start to think about all the back-to-school shopping you have to do in the next few weeks, be sure to think about school preparedness tips, too! Talk with your children about emergency preparedness and what to do if an emergency happens at school. During the school year, kids practice several drills such as fire drills (Evacuation), tornado or earthquake (Shelter in Place) and active violence (Lockdown). While it is important for your children to practice these drills, it is also important to take the time to prepare them for what they might experience if these events do take place. Emphasize how important it is that they listen and follow the instructions given by their teacher. The following are some other tips to help keep your child(ren) safe and informed:

- Find out about the school's emergency plans. Every school should have a written emergency plan with information such as protocols for contacting parents/guardians, where students will go if they must evacuate the building, how parents/guardians can contact the school during an emergency, and how they can reunite with their child(ren).
- Make sure the school has up-to-date emergency contact information for your child(ren). Notify the school of any address or phone number changes. Keep an emergency contact card in your child(ren)'s backpack, as well as any information for medications, allergies, or unique needs they may have.
- Talk to your child(ren) about the emergency after it happens. No matter their age, they may feel upset or have other strong emotions after an emergency. Helping children cope after an emergency can improve their mental health and express their emotions in future emergencies.



Visit https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/school-preparedness/emergency_preparedness.html for more information.

CITY CONTACTS



www.cityoflaurel.org

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

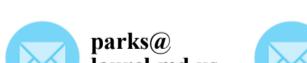
Non-Emerg: 301-498-0092
Emerg: 301-725-3000



lpd@laurel.md.us

PARKS AND RECREATION

301-725-7800



parks@laurel.md.us

COMMUNICATIONS

301-725-5300
Ext. 2208



laurelpio@laurel.md.us