



OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL

THE City of Laurel Ledger

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NOVEMBER 2023

SHOP SMALL WITH ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD) maintains and oversees the built environment within the City of Laurel. The Department is responsible for zoning compliance, subdivision and development review, historic preservation review, economic development, affordable housing, and implementation of the City's Master Plan. These activities are intended to improve the life quality in the City. Department staff work to provide these services in a timely and efficient manner while promoting high-quality development which is compliant with State of Maryland regulations and statutes. The City of Laurel is the only jurisdiction in Prince George's County that has its own planning and zoning authority.

Planning and Zoning

ECD oversees the administration of the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC), including written and oral explanations and interpretations. This document serves as the City's zoning ordinance which determines the uses allowed in various zoning districts throughout the City. The City Planners will review permits and zoning applications to ensure compliance with the ULDC including use and occupancy, building, fence, deck, and sign.

Shop Small!

November 25th is Small Business Saturday! We encourage everyone to shop locally and support the small businesses throughout the City. Please follow our ECD Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LaurelECD

and our Instagram page at www.instagram.com/laurelecd for more information about Small Business Saturday, as well as other ECD events.



ECD offers a variety of services to support local businesses throughout the City. From startup, business expansion and relocation assistance to financial incentive programs, we offer services to aid individuals at every stage of their business. For more information, visit: www.cityoflaurel.org/work#Services.

Historic District Commission

The City of Laurel Historic District consists of seven individual, but contiguous districts, located in the northernmost part of the City, all of these districts fall under the design review authority of the Historic District Commission. If you live or work in the Historic District, any exterior work needs approval.

HOW TO APPLY

There are a few ways:

- Use the online e-permits system:

www.cityoflaurel.org/permits/permits/epermits. Email your application to ecd@laurel.md.us and all supporting documents.

- Mail in your application to 8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, MD 20707 Attn: Historic District Commission or
- Place your application in the drop off box at 8103 Sandy Spring Road Laurel, MD 20707

The City of Laurel offers a tax credit for approved and qualifying EXTERIOR preservation and restoration projects to structures located in the Historic District. Tax credits are for the materials of the work ONLY. Delivery and warranty fees are not included. The amount of the tax credit is ten percent (10%) of the total expense of the approved work, which must conform with the criteria as established by the HDC Certificate of Approval. An HDC Tax Credit Application must be obtained in order to receive a tax credit. For more information, email them at ecd@laurel.md.us or check out all HDC information at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/boards/commissions/historic-district-commission>.

If you have any questions for ECD staff, please contact us at ecd@laurel.md.us or 301-725-5300.

VOLUNTEER LAUREL! LIFTING UP COMMUNITY SERIES

What makes a strong community? The answer of course is the people! It's because of YOU, our residents, that we are growing our Volunteer Laurel program!

Over the next few months, we will share the importance of volunteering and ways you can connect with these opportunities through a series of quick articles. We anticipate this will give you more insight as to why we need your help building Laurel's Volunteer program!



Did You Know:

- In terms of monetary worth, volunteers are valued at \$31.80 per hour? That is up from \$29.95 in 2022!

What is the importance of this value? When we add the volunteer hours in 2023, we can multiple that by the given worth of a volunteer and then let you know how much time and money our valuable volunteers have saved the City residents in helping clean up and beautifying our parks, taking time out of their schedules to sit on Boards, Commissions and Committees to help make the City a better place to live, work and play and assist in events and programs so our residents can thrive!

How can you become a volunteer you ask?

Well, let us tell you! Visit our website at www.cityoflaurel.org and on the home page is a link to our Volunteer Laurel! program. Take a look at the volunteer opportunities available through the City and local organizations. Decide how much time you have to give, do your research and then call 301-725-5300 ext. 2109 to speak with the Volunteer Coordinator Carreen Koubek, to check out the next steps. OR, go to the website, fill out an online volunteer application and we can add you to our database. As we have a need for volunteers for different events, we will send out an email asking for help and if you can, just email us back. It's that simple! Thank you in advance for your consideration of helping grow Volunteer Laurel!

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It's Easy Being Green!

COMPOSTING REDUCES LANDFILL WASTE

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It is one of the most powerful actions we can take to reduce our trash, address climate change, and build healthy soil. By turning our food scraps and yard trim into compost, we can transform our waste streams into a beneficial, value-added soil amendment and use it to protect the environment and create resilient communities. (Environmental Protection Agency).

Fact or Fiction

Compost attracts rodents!

FICTION: Using the enclosed curbside composting cart with the locking lid is a sure-fire way to deter wildlife from snacking on organic waste.

Composting is too complicated!

FICTION: We make it so easy....instead of throwing your food waste and other acceptable organic materials into your trash can – use the countertop container with the bags provided and throw it in the curbside cart. Then, just roll the cart to the curb on your collection day!

Not all food is compostable.

FICTION: The City's curbside organics collection accepts meat, bones, seafood shells, spoiled food, and cheese just to name a few. Residents will receive a card listing the compostable items along with their carts. In addition to food waste, residents may also put leaves and grass clippings in their carts – no need to schedule an additional yard debris collection – just put out the curbside organics cart with your food waste mixed with grass/leaves out on your regular collection day.

Composting Reduces Landfill Waste and Trash Overflow.

FACT: Waste reduction is another benefit of composting, since it is generally made from waste (food scraps, organic byproducts, etc.) that is diverted from landfills and incinerators. This reduces the amount of waste disposed and upcycles those materials into a productive, environmentally beneficial product.

Composting Saves Money.

FACT: The City pays less per ton for organics waste delivered to our local compost processing facility than to the landfill. On average there is a \$50/ton savings. The more we compost, the more we save, which means the more we can invest in other programs! Signing up for curbside composting is easy – send an e-mail to DPW@laurel.md.us or greenliving@laurel.md.us – include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address. Your countertop container, a set of bags, along with an outdoor cart with a locking lid, will be delivered to your home within 7 business days!

Questions about our environmental programs can be sent to Michele Blair at greenliving@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-5300.



Compre en Pequeño, Compre Localmente

¡El 25 de noviembre es el sábado de las pequeñas empresas! Alentamos a todos a comprar localmente y apoyar a las pequeñas empresas en toda la ciudad. Siga nuestra página de Facebook de ECD (Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comunitario) en www.facebook.com/LaurelECD y nuestra página de Instagram en www.instagram.com/laurelecd para obtener más información sobre el sábado de las pequeñas empresas y otros eventos de ECD. O llame al Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comunitario al 301-725-5300 ext. 2302 para más información.

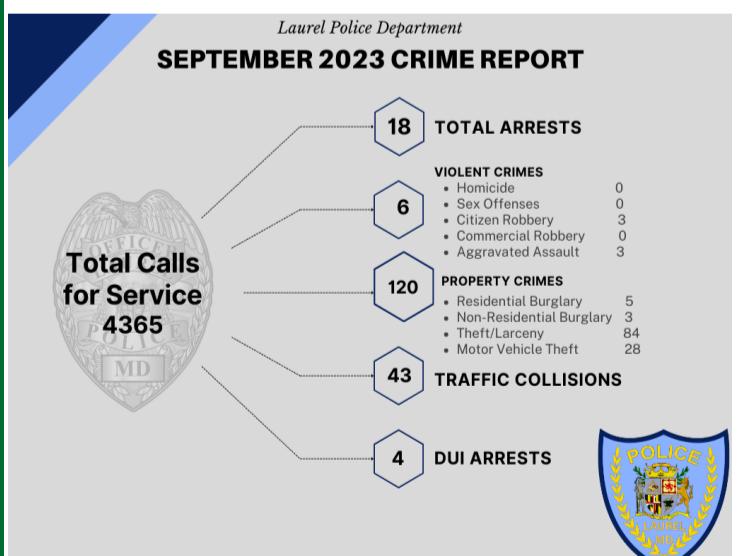
¡Laurel Voluntario! Programa

¿Qué hace que una comunidad sea fuerte? ¡La respuesta, por supuesto, es la gente! ¡Es gracias a USTEDES, nuestros residentes, que estamos haciendo crecer nuestro programa Voluntario de Laurel! ¡Visite nuestro sitio web en www.cityoflaurel.org y en la página de inicio hay un enlace a nuestro programa Voluntario de Laurel! Mira las oportunidades de voluntariado disponibles de la ciudad y las organizaciones locales. Luego complete una solicitud de voluntariado en línea y podremos agregarlo a nuestra base de datos. ¡Es así de simple!

LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

SEPTEMBER 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. 2012 - Text Amendment No. 263** - to Amend Unified Land Development Code, Chapter 20 "Land Development and Subdivision Regulations," to Update the Definition Section, the Use Table in the Commercial Zone, and to Update the Special Exception Section, all To Include Licensed Dispensary for Cannabis as a Special Exception Use in Certain Zones.
- **Ordinance No. 2018** - to Amend the Unified Land Development Code, Chapter 20 "Land Development and Subdivision Regulations," to Update the Design Guidelines for Historic District Commission and create for Sale Affordable Housing Section.
- **Ordinance No. 2019** - Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and to Provide an Effective Date.
- **Ordinance No. 2020** - to Amend Laurel City Code Chapter 18, Section 21, Nuisance and Providing for an Effective Date.
- **Resolution No. 9-2023** - to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan of Prince George's County as the City's Official Plan.

Bid Approvals:

- Carroll Avenue Road Improvement - \$58,730
- Backhoe Loader Fleet Acquisition - \$159,263.26
- Mini Rear Loader Refuse/Compost Truck Fleet Acquisition - \$208,500
- Audio/Visual Upgrade of Council Chambers, Laurel TV Control Room and Meeting Room #4 - \$280,069
- Transition of Cellular Service to T-Mobile for Government - \$67,042.08

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

Mayoral Appointments/Reappointments:

- Zoe Roane-Hopkins - Arts Council
- Logan Staley - Bicycle and Pedestrian CAC
- Garry Fitzgerald III - No-Kill Community Animal Shelter
- Diane Sartor - No-Kill Community Animal Shelter
- Jennifer Shannon - Arts Council
- Wayne Dzwonchyk - Emergency Services Commission (Reappointment)
- Shirley Bell - Youth Services Commission - Reappointment
- Marjorie McCeney - Historic District Commission (Reappointment)

COUNCIL OFFICE

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

Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

November 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ November 9th - In-Person Special Mayor & City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ November 27th - In-Person Mayor & City Council Meetings (Swearing-In of New Mayor/Council) (6:00pm)

November 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ November 14th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ November 21st - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ November 28th - Virtual Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ November 30th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

December 2023 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ December 6th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ December 11th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ December 25th - CANCELLED

December 2023 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ December 12th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ December 19th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ December 28th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **November 10, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed In Observance of Veterans' Day.** Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **November 23 & 24, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving** - Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.
- ◆ **December 2, 2023 - Breakfast with Santa** - 9:00am at the Laurel Police Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street. Cost is \$15. Fills up quickly!
- ◆ **December 2, 2023 - Holiday Festival, Parade and Armory Illumination** - Parade kicks off at 3:45pm from the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center and ends at the Laurel Armory.
- ◆ **December 8, 2023 - Holiday Movie, Disney's A Christmas Carol** - 6:00pm at the Laurel Police Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th Street.
- ◆ **December 25, 2023 - City/Passport Offices Closed In Observance of Christmas.** Visit www.cityoflaurel.org for adjusted collections.
- ◆ Learn more about **Laurel Parks and Recreation's Adult Trips, Teen Club, Senior Activities and Classes** by calling 301-725-7800 or visit www.cityoflaurel.org



On behalf of the Mayor and City Council we're sending out a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all the Chief Judges, Election Judges and staff for their hard work and dedication in this year's General Election!

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

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Universal Human Rights Month							December
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
							1 World Pollution Prevention Day
							2 Holiday Illumination/Parade - 6-9pm - Armory
3	4	5	6 Virtual Work Session - 6p	7	8 Hanukkah Leaf Vacuuming Ends - Extension TBD	9	
			6p				Employee Holiday Party - Offices Closed 1-5pm
10	11 Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6p	12 Anniversary of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement Planning Commission - 6p	13	14 National Energy Conservation Day	15	16	
17	18 Historic District Commission - 6p	19	20 Winter Solstice	21	22	23	
			6p				
24	25 Christmas City Offices Closed Monday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Tuesday	26 Tuesday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Wednesday	27 No change to Wednesday collection	28 Anniversary of the 1973 Endangered Species Act Board of Appeals - 6pm	29	30	
31							



PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

Laurel Division of Emergency Management: Holiday Preparedness: Home Cooking Safety

What do you picture when you think about the Holidays? Tables of food, football games, family and friends, hours of cooking in the kitchen? With so much going on during the holidays, it can be easy to get caught up in the excitement and forget about safety precautions, resulting in accidental injuries or fires.

Cooking safety probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind when planning your holiday meals, but we hope we can change your mind. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Exercise caution and do your part to keep the holiday season safe and full of cheer:

- If deep frying your turkey, set up the fryer outdoors away from anything that can burn. The garage and deck don't count! And completely thaw the turkey before frying. A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter.
- Install a smoke detector near the kitchen.
- Never leave food you are cooking unattended.
- Keep kids and pets at least 3 feet away from the cooking area.
- Keep loose items – potholders, oven mitts, towels – away from the stove.
- For small grease fires, smother the flame by sliding the lid or a plate over the pan and turn off the stovetop.
- For an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed.
- Have a fire extinguisher in an easy access area close to the kitchen.
- Always call 9-1-1 if a fire starts and exit your home, closing the door behind you.



For more safety tips, visit NFPA.org. Happy Thanksgiving!

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 Ext. 2208



laurelpio@laurel.md.us