



Juneteenth

THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 3, NO. 6 JUNE 2024

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SERVICES: FY2025 BUDGET

The FY2025 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program was adopted, without cuts to City services or an increase in City taxes, by a unanimous vote of the Mayor and City Council at the May 28, 2024, meeting.

The City's budget process officially starts in January each year, although administration of the budget is a year-round responsibility. Each Department is tasked with projecting and entering its operating budget, as well as any direct revenues, and CIP projects. The Department of Budget and Personnel Services prepares the full-time salary budgets and then compiles all of the budgets and works with the Office of the City Administrator to balance the budget and submit to the City Council, as required by law, by May 1st each year. The FY2025 balanced budget was submitted to the City Council on Friday, April 26, 2024.

The FY2025 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was the first Budget submitted by Mayor Sydnor. The largest priority of the balanced FY2025 Budget – totaling \$43,297,245 - is the continuation of services our residents deserve and expect. This requires the complete dedication of Laurel residents' tax dollars to fund the essential expenditures, compensation, employee insurance, property insurance, the Pension Fund contribution, debt service and the CIP, as well as contractual and legislative obligations including, but not limited to, the second year of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Laurel FOP Lodge 11 and the first year of the CBA with certain employees in the Department of Public Works. In the past year, recruiting, hiring, and retaining the City workforce has become increasingly robust which is attributed to the City's revitalized onboarding and orientation program, classification adjustments, and policy improvements. We look forward to a continued upswing in FY2025.

For FY2025, the City of Laurel Adopted Budget was presented without a tax rate increase, maintaining the City's real property tax rate since FY2009 of \$.71 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. However, any property owners with increased assessments will receive an increased real estate tax bill. The Personal Property tax rate will remain \$1.69 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate for the Special Taxing District is \$0.03 per \$100 of the full cash value assessment. The adopted budget continues all City services at FY2024 service levels.

The CIP includes continued funding of the renovations to 204 Ft. Meade Road for the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center; traffic signal upgrades; traffic-calming devices; sixteen (16) street improvement projects; vehicle replacements; and technology improvements, with a total of \$30,117,786. Funding for projects are provided through American Rescue Plan funds; state grants, speed camera net revenue and operating funds. To view the FY2025 budget, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION, SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND!

Join the City of Laurel Juneteenth Committee on June 22nd, from 3-7pm, at Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street, for their highly anticipated Juneteenth Celebration.

Juneteenth is the oldest known public celebration of the end of slavery in the United States, which happened on June 19, 1865, when word reached those still enslaved in Texas, that the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed 2 years before on January 1, 1863, and "that all persons held as slaves...shall be free."

This celebration recognizes and acknowledges the strides gained through determination, perseverance, education and greater opportunities for African Americans and that we work together to ensure all feel equally valued, equally protected and have access to opportunities that can help them thrive.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SATURDAY, JULY 6TH!



9:30AM Parade Check-In Begins
11:00AM Parade Begins, Judging Stand on 4th Street @ Domer Court
12:00PM Car Show Begins
3:00PM Family Fun Games on the Laurel Lake Field
5:15PM Music by Oracle
7:00PM Invocation, Flag Raising Ceremony, National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome & Introduction of Mayor and City Council and Special Guests
9:15PM Fireworks from the Lake

This year's theme is VOLUNTEERS! If you have a volunteer organization, we need you! Call 301-725-5300 ext. 2109 and sign up to be a Grand Marshal.



It's Easy Being Green!

GREEN HAPPENINGS IN LAUREL!

Come to Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center on June 6th, and get an update on the City of Laurel Sustainability Plan! There will be two sessions, so if you can't make one, you may be able to make the other! The first session will be from 10:30am - 12:30pm, and the second session will be from 5:30pm - 7:30pm, both in the Council Chambers. If you can't attend the Open House, then be sure to scan the QR code in the flyer and take the survey!

Mosquitoes: Buzzing and Biting!

With temperatures heating up, the City of Laurel will once again participate in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Program and the City's spray night will be Sunday. The program consists of two parts:

- **Larviciding** phase is limited to public rights-of-way and areas where there are large amounts of standing water.
- **Adulticiding** phase consists of City-wide evening spraying. The City is scheduled for Sunday evenings starting June 2024. Weather permitting residents can expect to see a truck out and about every three weeks.

If you find that you are experiencing a large mosquito population around your home or if you would like your property to be exempt from the program, visit https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx for more details. For more information, e-mail greenliving@laurel.md.us if you have any questions.

Farmer's Market News!!!

Thanks to grant funding from Maryland Market Money, the Laurel Farmer's Market is proud to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits so customers can purchase fresh produce and locally-made products at our market! Customers can bring their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card to our information table and we will charge the card for any amount requested in exchange for tokens that can be spent with eligible vendors. Through the Maryland Market Money program, the Laurel Farmer's Market will also match up to \$30 in SNAP benefits spent at the market – so a \$10 charge on a customer's EBT card will give them \$20 to spend! To learn more or donate, visit <https://www.marylandmarketmoney.org/>.

Learn more about going green on our Green Living webpage. <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green> and sign up for "what's new" to stay up to date on green initiatives!



You are Invited to a

Community Open House

The City of Laurel invites the community to provide input at an Open House regarding our city's first [Sustainability Plan](#).

There will be morning and evening sessions offered:

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Session 1: 10:30am - 12:30pm

or

Session 2: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Joseph R. Robison
Laurel Municipal Center
Council Chambers
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707

A brief presentation will be given at the start of each Open House session.

Michele Blair, Environmental Programs Manager
Greenliving@laurel.md.us / 301-725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org/1783/Sustainability-Plan-Our-Voice-Our-Future

- Learn about the plan process
- Engage with city representatives
- Provide input on the proposed plan & recommended actions
- Can't attend? Take our Survey!
<https://forms.office.com/r/1hd6WrybA8>



PRESUPUESTO Y SERVICIOS DE PERSONAL: PRESUPUESTO FY2025

El proceso presupuestario de la Ciudad comienza oficialmente en enero de cada año, aunque la administración del presupuesto es una responsabilidad durante todo el año. Cada departamento tiene la tarea de proyectar e ingresar su presupuesto operativo, así como los ingresos directos y los proyectos CIP.



El Presupuesto Operativo General y el Programa de Mejoras de Capital (CIP) para el año fiscal 2025 fue el primero presentado por el alcalde Sydnor. La mayor prioridad del presupuesto equilibrado para el año fiscal 2025, por un total de \$43,297,245, es la continuación de los servicios que nuestros residentes merecen y esperan.

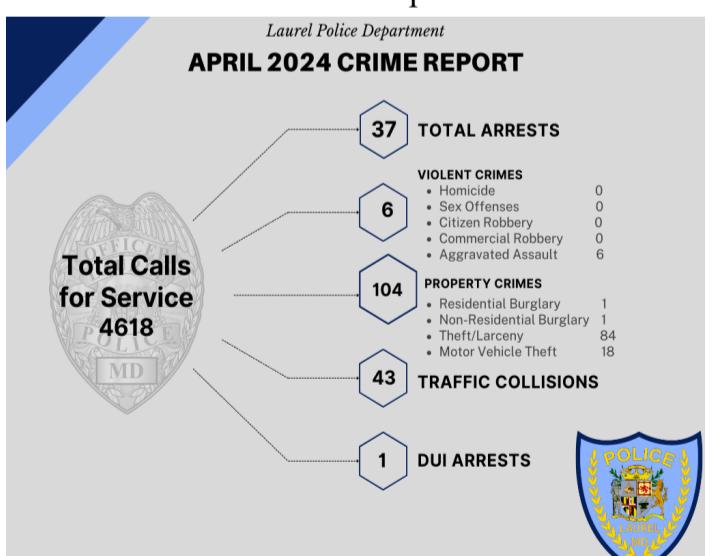
El Presupuesto Operativo General y el Programa de Mejoras de Capital para el año fiscal 2025 se adoptaron sin cambios por voto unánime del Alcalde y el Concejo Municipal en la reunión del 28 de Mayo de 2024.

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LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

APRIL 2024

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/crime-reports.



Laurel Council Connections

Legislation

Listed below are recent actions taken by the Laurel City Council. For further information on any of these actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at **301-725-5300 x2120** or at clerk@laurel.md.us. For the full agendas, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.

Adopted Legislation:

- Ordinance No. 2026 - to adopt the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Levy Property Taxes; and to Authorize the Collection of Such Taxes.

Bid Recommendations:

- Carroll Avenue Street Improvement Project LA 24-001 - Public Works - \$216,257.30

Appointments/Reappointments:

- Janice Blitz (Reappointment): Environmental Affairs Committee - 5/13/24 - 5/13/26
- Tommy Scaggs (Reappointment): Ethics Commission - 5/13/24 - 5/13/27

Free Summer Movies and Concerts

Movies begin at sunset.
Concerts are from 7pm - 9pm.



COUNCIL OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2120



clerk@laurel.md.us

Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

June 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ June 5th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 10th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 24th - Mayor and City Council Meeting (CANCELLED)

June 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ June 11th - In-Person Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 11th - Virtual Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 18th - In-Person Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ June 27th - In-Person Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

July 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ July 3rd - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 8th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 22nd - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)

July 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ July 9th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 9th - Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 16th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ◆ July 25th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- ◆ **Bike Decorating Parade and Ice Cream Social - June 7, 2024**, 6:00pm, Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery St. Bring your bikes and helmets for some family fun.
- ◆ **Laurel Police Summer Block Party - June 8, 2024** - 12 - 3pm, Towne Center at Laurel. Games! Music! Vendors and more!
- ◆ **FREE Concert in the Park - June 21, 2024**, from 7 - 9pm at Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. First performance by Spanglish American Band!
- ◆ **Juneteenth Celebration - June 22, 2024**, 3 - 7pm, Granville Gude Park.
- ◆ **FREE Summer Friday Flicks** - All movies begin at sunset. See schedule.
- ◆ **Casting with the Cops - June 29, 2024** - 9am - 12pm - Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Join Laurel Officers at the Lake for some fishing fun!
- ◆ **Independence Day Celebration - July 6, 2024** - 11am: Parade; 12pm: Car Show; 3pm: Family Games; 5pm: Oracle Band; 9:15pm: Fireworks (Weather Permitting)
- ◆ **To learn more or register for Parks and Recreation activities**, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities or call 301-725-7800.



Visit the City of Laurel web site
www.cityoflaurel.org, to
learn more about your local
government!

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

Social Wellness Month

Yard Debris Collection
Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.

Bulky Item Collection

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CLEAN BEACHES WEEK - JULY 1-7		1	2	3	4	5
		Work Session-6pm		Independence Day City/Passport Offices Closed	No change to Friday collection	Muharram Begins 4th of July Celebration!
	7	Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	8	Planning Commission - Environmental Affairs Committee - 6pm	11	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Ashura	Historic District Commission - 6pm	Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. At the Quill Lot	Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. At the Quill Lot	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26
	In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm		Touch-A-Truck Emancipation Park 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Board of Appeals - 6pm	Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. At the Quill Lot	Laurel Pride Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser - 6-9pm Register at laurelprie.org
	28	29	30	31		27
					Refuse/Recycling holiday schedule July 4th.	
					Mosquito Control Spraying on Sundays – June through September	



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



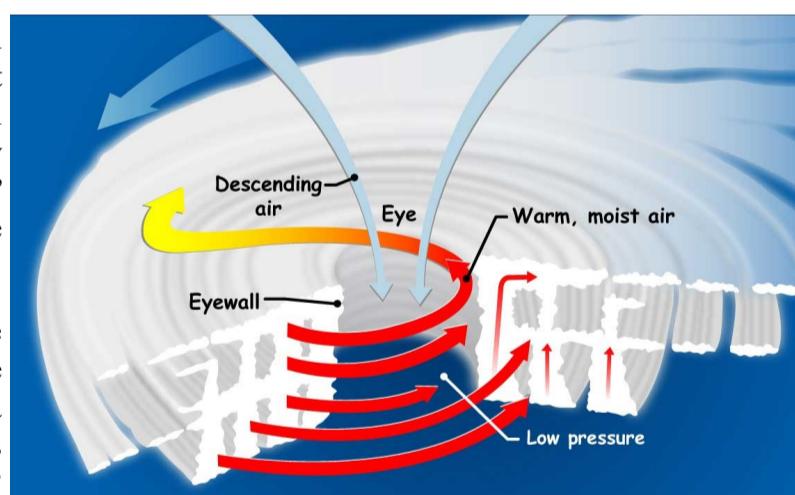
DPW@laurel.md.us

Community Resources and Emergency Management: How Do Hurricanes Form?

As we prepare for hurricane season, let's look at what a hurricane is and how they form.

A hurricane is a storm that forms over tropical or subtropical waters in a low-pressure zone. Warm ocean waters create warm, humid air that gets pushed upwards establishing a cycle that rotates and forms storm clouds. As this cycle repeats, the warm, humid air is continuously being pushed upwards into the atmosphere, creating "Hot Towers." These towers are cumulonimbus clouds that reach into the atmosphere and work to maintain the storm's intensity.

Hurricanes are possible because of the rotation of the earth, otherwise known as the Coriolis effect. This phenomenon creates the low-pressure zones along the equator for a perfect formation of a hurricane. Did you know the direction in which a storm rotates is determined by what side of the equator the storm has formed on? Hurricanes in the Northern Hemisphere spin in a counterclockwise direction, while hurricanes in the Southern Hemisphere (known as cyclones), spin in a clockwise direction.



For more information on hurricanes, visit <https://www.weather.gov/key/hurrweb>. To learn more about hurricane preparedness, visit <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.

CITY CONTACTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2125

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

301-725-5300 ext. 2242

LAUREL POLICE

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

PARKS AND RECREATION

301-725-7800

COMMUNICATIONS

301-725-5300 Ext. 2208

www.cityoflaurel.org



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