



MOVE  
WITH THE  
MAYOR®  
LAUREL

# THE City of Laurel Ledger

VOL. 3, NO. 5

MAY 2024

## WELCOME TO THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS!



The City of Laurel is pleased to announce the appointment of Former TV Journalist and Communications Professional, Natalie Williams, as the Director of the Department of Communications. Following a unanimous vote by the Laurel City Council on March 25, 2024, Ms. Williams assumes this position, bringing her wealth of expertise and dedication to serve our community. In her role as director, Ms. Williams will lead the Department's strategic vision, which includes Laurel TV and Podcast City Studios.

*"Today, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to the success of this remarkable community,"* says Williams. *"Having witnessed firsthand the vibrancy and resilience of Laurel, I am honored to assume this position and play a part in its continued growth. I believe that Laurel is a gem waiting to shine even brighter, and I am committed to leveraging my experience and passion for communications to highlight the diverse voices and experiences within our city."*

For more than 30 years, Williams has demonstrated visionary leadership and effective management in the journalism, public affairs, and integrated marketing communications fields. Her early experience in television and radio equipped her with invaluable skills, paving the way for an incredible career in education, healthcare, public policy, and government sectors.

Prior to joining the City of Laurel, Williams served as the Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs for Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT), where she was responsible for steering the organization's strategic vision and enhancing its standing through the implementation of targeted communication strategies. This encompassed the development and supervision of a multi-tiered communications plan, and the skillful management of public affairs endeavors, government connections, stakeholder engagements, media interactions, advocacy initiatives, public speaking/speechwriting opportunities, and special events.

Prior to joining MBRT, Williams served as Vice President of Advancement at Maryland University of Integrative Health where she oversaw various university operations, including marketing, internal and external communications, university relations, alumni services, development, and events management. During her tenure, she successfully developed and implemented a wide range of aggressive communication and marketing strategies that resulted in a historic number of new student leads and enrollment.

Earlier, she developed and successfully implemented management operation plans and strategic communication plans that improved the day-to-day operations of United Medical Center in her dual role as Corporate Secretary to the Board of Directors and Vice President of Public Affairs. Her efforts advanced the image of the hospital in the community, improved its value in the primary patient service area, and enhanced its reputation among area healthcare providers.

And she has served as a top aide to two members of the District of Columbia City Council, the seat of government that enacts laws on behalf of District residents. Natalie Williams's remarkable achievements and impact in the market stem from her extensive and diverse experiences crafted throughout her career. With adeptness, she has honed the ability to create and present information, effectively supporting the objectives at hand. Moreover, she generously imparts her knowledge to others, demonstrating her leadership by conducting workshops on various topics relevant to the communications industry.

Her work has been recognized by numerous awards, including two Emmy® nominations from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the "Best in Business Award" from the Public Relations Society of America/Nation's Capital Chapter.

## MAIN STREET FESTIVAL SATURDAY, MAY 11!



Join the Laurel Board of Trade at their 43rd Annual Main Street Festival for a day of family fun, with the parade kicking off at 9am, followed by a day of food, music and Mother's Day shopping (since Mother's Day is May 12th) until 4pm! Main Street will be completely closed to vehicular traffic between Route 1 South and 7th Street, so please plan your trip through Laurel accordingly that day.



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# It's Easy Being Green!

## GREEN HAPPENINGS IN LAUREL THIS SPRING!

**Our Voice, Our Future**  
Help Plan a Sustainable City of Laurel

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@laurelmd.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/HdF6WrybA8>

SCAN ME

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 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!

### New Sustainable Laurel Facebook/X Pages!

If you want to get the most recent information on Laurel's sustainability initiatives, be sure to follow us on Facebook at **@SustainableLaurel** and on X, formerly known as Twitter, at **@sustainablelrl**. We will post news on all things green and sustainable on these pages, so stay in the know and be sure to follow them!

### Farmer's Market News!!!

Our Farmer's Market is back! Come out and visit your vendors from last year and meet some "new" favorites. No need to worry about which Thursday is market day – the market is open from 3pm to 7pm every Thursday from May 2nd through



September 26th, except on the 4th of July, when we will be closed for the holiday. Be sure to check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/thelaurelquilllot> and our City web page at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1617/Laurel-Farmers-Market> for details about vendor specials and updates. You can also check out our Farmer's Market schedule at <https://trello.com/b/AGGKXjAP/scheduled-vendors> and see what vendors will be at the Market on each Thursday!

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!



### LA CIUDAD DE LAUREL DA LA BIENVENIDA A LA NUEVA DIRECTORA DE COMUNICACIONES



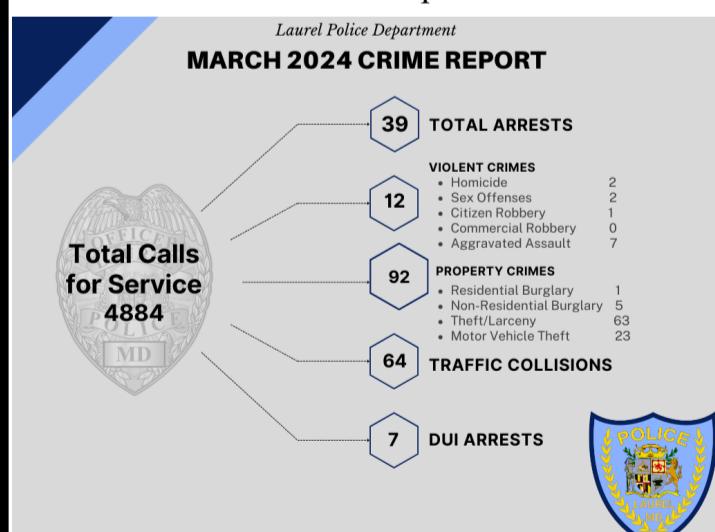
La ciudad de Laurel se complace en anunciar el nombramiento de la ex periodista de televisión y profesional de comunicaciones, Natalie Williams, como directora del Departamento de Comunicaciones. Luego de una votación unánime del Concejo Municipal de Laurel el 25 de marzo de 2024, la Sra. Williams asume este puesto, aportando su gran experiencia y dedicación para servir a nuestra comunidad. En su papel de directora, la Sra. Williams dirigirá la visión estratégica del Departamento, que incluye Laurel TV y Podcast City Studios.

Durante más de 30 años, Williams ha demostrado un liderazgo visionario y una gestión eficaz en los campos del periodismo, los asuntos públicos y las comunicaciones integradas de marketing. Su trabajo ha sido reconocido con numerosos premios, incluidas dos nominaciones al Emmy® de la Academia Nacional de Artes y Ciencias de la Televisión y el "Premio al Mejor Negocio" de la Sociedad de Relaciones Públicas de América/Capítulo de la Capital de la Nación.

### LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

#### MARCH 2024

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at [www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/crime-reports](https://www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/crime-reports).



# Laurel Council Connections



COUNCIL OFFICE



301-725-5300 ext. 2121

clerk@laurel.md.us

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

### Adopted Legislation:

- Resolution No. 2-2024 - to create a Multicultural Advisory Committee and provide an effective date.
- Ordinance No. 2024 (Text Amend. No. 266) - to amend the Unified Land Development Code, Chapter 20 "Land Development and Subdivision Regulations to update the Use Tables in Commercial, Industrial and M-X-T Zones, to update Forest Conservation Article, to update Signs Section and update Definitions Section.
- Ordinance No. 2025 - to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Chapter 18, "Building and Building Regulations" of the Laurel City Code, Art. I - XIII, renumber sections and provide an effective date.

### Bid Recommendations:

- Parks and Recreation Bid Recommendation for Granville Gude Lakehouse Remodel - \$71,245.90
- Information Technology Bid Recommendation for Seventy (70) Toughbooks and In-Car Docking Equipment - \$508,490

### Appointments/Reappointments:

- Anthony Taylor (Appointment): Environmental Affairs Committee - 4/08/24 - 4/08/26
- Ursula Gnan (Appointment): Board of Appeals - 4/08/24 - 4/08/27
- Barbara Robinson (Reappointment): Environmental Affairs Committee - 4/08/24 - 4/08/26
- Sabrina Jones (Reappointment): Education Advisory Committee - 4/08/24 - 4/08/26
- Amy Dunham (Appointment): Parks and Rec CAC - 4/22/2024 - 4/22/2027
- Nancy Steinecke (Reappointment): Historic District Commission - 4/22/24 - 4/22/27

## National Kids to Parks Day

May 18, 2024; 3 - 7pm



## Government Meetings

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### May 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- May 13th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- May 28th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - Chambers - (6:00pm)

### May 2024 Boards and Commissions

- May 14th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- May 14th - Environmental Affairs Committee (6:00pm)
- May 21st - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- May 23rd - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

### June 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

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

### June 2024 Boards and Commissions

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

## City Announcements & Events

(Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- Main Street Festival - May 11, 2024**, from 9am - 4pm.
- Move with the Mayor: Mental Health Awareness Event - May 18, 2024**, from 10am - 1pm at Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Ft. Meade Road. An event to engage the public to break down the stigmas of mental health issues.
- City Hall in the Park - May 22, 2024**, from 6:30 - 8pm: Discovery Park.
- Pools Open May 25, 2024!** From Opening Day until schools let out, hours are 4-8pm on weekdays and 12-8pm on weekends. For more information, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/159/Parks-and-Recreation](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/159/Parks-and-Recreation).
- Lakehouse is Open for Business!** Open on Saturdays/Sundays until May 26th: 3 - 7pm. Then June 1st - September 1st open Saturdays/Sundays: 12 - 7pm. Come down and rent a Paddle Boat and enjoy an afternoon at the Lake!
- 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.
- Juneteenth Celebration - June 22, 2024**, 3 - 7pm, Granville Gude Park.
- FREE Concert in the Park - June 21, 2024**, from 7 - 9pm at Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. First performance by Spanglish American Band!
- To learn more or register for Parks and Recreation activities**, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks/adult-sports-activities) 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!

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# Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE . PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

**PUBLIC WORKS**



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

## Community Resources and Emergency Management: Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Preparedness Week is from May 5 – May 11, 2024, and highlights the importance of emergency preparedness during hurricane season, which starts June 1st and ends November 30th. Hurricanes and Tropical Storms regularly form over the Atlantic Oceans and pose a large risk to the East Coast. Being residents of Maryland, we may often think we are safe from these large storm systems, since as, geographically, we lie inland and rarely experience a Hurricane or Tropical Storm making landfall. Despite the unlikelihood of these storms directly affecting our area, we must continue to prepare for that slim chance it does happen. Even with the difference in the size and scope of these storms, the same planning and preparations methods remain the same.

The following tips can help you prepare for this and future Hurricane Seasons:

- Develop an Evacuation Plan** - Have an evacuation plan, identify where you will evacuate to, if needed, and what routes you can take to get there.
- Assemble Disaster Supplies** - Following a storm, you may be without power or access to food and water for several days. Prepare canned foods (include a manual can opener), bottled water, and necessities to ensure you and your family can survive.
- Be Insured** – If you live in a flood -prone area, make sure your home is insured! Following a disastrous storm, insurance is a critical resource to rebuilding and recovering.
- Strengthen Your Home** – Prepare your home to withstand the winds, rain, and flooding a storm can bring.



For more information about preparing for, withstanding, and recovering from a hurricane, 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

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