



# THE LAUREL LEDGER

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



## FIRE MARSHAL AND PERMIT SERVICES: PREPARING FOR SPRING CLEANUP!

After a long and snowy winter, it's finally time to start prepping for going outdoors, hosting summer barbecues, and slightly obsessing over those home improvement projects that need to be finished before your barbecue or vacation.

Fire Marshal and Permit Services (FMPS) is charged with enforcing City Codes and Ordinances relating to building and property standards. These standards ensure the protection of the public health and safety. So, as you are prepping for the spring, please keep in mind a few tips from FMPS when tackling spring cleaning:



1. Test and change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Smoke detectors should be checked once every month to make sure they are functioning properly. You should also make sure your smoke detectors are not expired. The manufacture date for your smoke detector will be listed on the back of the detector. If your smoke detector was manufactured on or before 2015, it's time for a replacement.

2. Clean your dryer vents! This service should be performed annually. If you have noticed that your dry clothes are coming out of the dryer damp...it may be time to grab the vacuum, gloves, and dryer vent kit and get

busy. This annoying task will go a long way towards ensuring your family's safety.

3. Change your air filters! This service should be performed once every 3 months. This service will not only keep your family safe but will also help keep your HVAC systems running smoothly.

4. Speaking of, check your HVAC system! The best time to prepare for heat waves is before the heat wave. As we approach the summer months, you must take steps to ensure your protection from inclement weather amid heat waves and poor air quality. The best time to do so is during your spring cleaning.

5. Cut the grass. Grass in the City of Laurel is deemed excessive when the height of the grass is about 8 inches tall. However, for citizens who choose to enroll in the City's No Mow April, you will not be required to mow your yards until May 1. If you are interested in enrolling in this program, please be sure to reach out to our Sustainability Manager, Ms. Michele Blair.



6. Fill out a permit application! Before any work can begin on any property, the home-

owner/business owner MUST submit a permit application. All permit applications are reviewed by FMPS for compliance with all applicable zoning and property ordinances, building, fire, and life safety codes and regulations. This process can take up to 30 business days. Complicated or extensive projects, including those for properties in the Historic District, may take longer.



For more information about the type of work permits that are needed for your project, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/permits](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/permits).

And remember, before you take on a project that may begin to feel overwhelming or if you have any questions about a future project, we are here to help. Have all of your information ready when you call, whether that be your permit number, full address, or a full description of work. Having your ducks in a row allows us to provide seamless service. For more information about our Department, call 301-725-5300 ext. 2238.

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES! 36+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO LAUREL...



Over 36 years ago, a proud new graduate named Joanne earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation with a Therapeutic Specialty from Frostburg State University. And with that new degree, she embarked on her journey by accepting roles with Virginia and Fairfax County, firmly establishing her career centered on utilizing Parks and Recreation to foster connections within the community.

Fortunately for us, in 1989, this journey led her to the City of Laurel's Department of Parks and Recreation. Collaborating closely with her Parks colleagues, she played a key role in developing the vibrant and diverse Parks and Recreation programs we enjoy today. Her hard work and commitment to the citizens of Laurel culminated in her becoming the Director in 2016!

In her pursuit of ensuring the best for both citizens and employees, she took on the role of Deputy City Administrator in 2022. Throughout her tenure with the City, she has been at the forefront of our community's remarkable growth, overseeing park upgrades, playground construction, beautiful native plantings, and the completion of our newest facility, the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, among countless other initiatives (Be sure to catch more about Joanne's illustrious career on Laurel TV)!

The City of Laurel owes much of its thriving community spirit to Joanne's expertise. Thank you for all the wonderful memories, Joanne. Wishing you a long and joyful retirement!



## It's Easy Being Green!



RETURNS NEXT MONTH!  
SIGN UP TODAY!

### IT'S TIME TO PUT THE SPRING IN YOUR STEP!

**Help Our Pollinators to Thrive:** Early spring is a time where floral resources are often limited for pollinators, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. The City's **No Mow April** initiative allows residents to pause mowing their lawns during the month of April to allow flowering plants to help provide food for pollinators. If you live within the City limits of Laurel, register online at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green> for No Mow April and collect your yard sign from the Laurel Municipal Center (8103 Sandy Spring Road) 9am - 5pm, Monday through Friday; the Laurel Armory (422 Montgomery Street) 9am - 9pm, Monday through Friday, Saturday 9am - 5pm, and Sunday 10am - 4pm; and the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center (7901 Cypress Street) 9am - 9pm, Monday through Friday and Saturday, 9am - 5pm. Contact [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us) if you have any questions. Registration and yard signs are FREE, but you **MUST** register to participate, so sign up today!



**Farmer's Market News:** Are you as ready for the new season as we are?! The **Laurel Farmer's Market** will be back starting Thursday, May 1st, at 378 Main Street, and will run through October 16th, 3pm - 7pm. Many of your favorite vendors will be returning and you will see some new faces. Residents can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmers and bakers, locally sourced meat and poultry, organic handmade skin care products, candles and more! Music and cooking demonstrations are just a few of the special activities we have planned for our 2025 market season. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a vendor for the 2025 season, e-mail [greenliving@laurel.md.us](mailto:greenliving@laurel.md.us). Follow us on Facebook at [@TheLaurelQuillLot](https://www.facebook.com/TheLaurelQuillLot) and the Green Living web page for updates and a list of market vendors.

**Recycle Coach:** Do you have questions about what can go into your blue cart? Not sure when the next yard debris or special pick up is? Sign up for Recycle Coach! You can type in your question (what do I do with batteries? Plastic containers? When is my collection day?); you can download our digital calendar right on your phone; you can set up reminders about collections, holiday schedules and special pickup days! It is free and easy! Find the app on the City's web site at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/green>, download it and start using the Recycle Coach app today!



**Sustainable Laurel**  
Government Organization

Want to get the most recent information about the City's sustainability initiatives. Follow us on Facebook at [@SustainableLaurel](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableLaurel). This is a place where we can share ideas, highlight upcoming events and residents can stay informed on all things Sustainable. Also check out the new upcoming look of the Green Living web page at [www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving](https://www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving)!



### ¡GRACIAS POR LOS RECUERDOS!

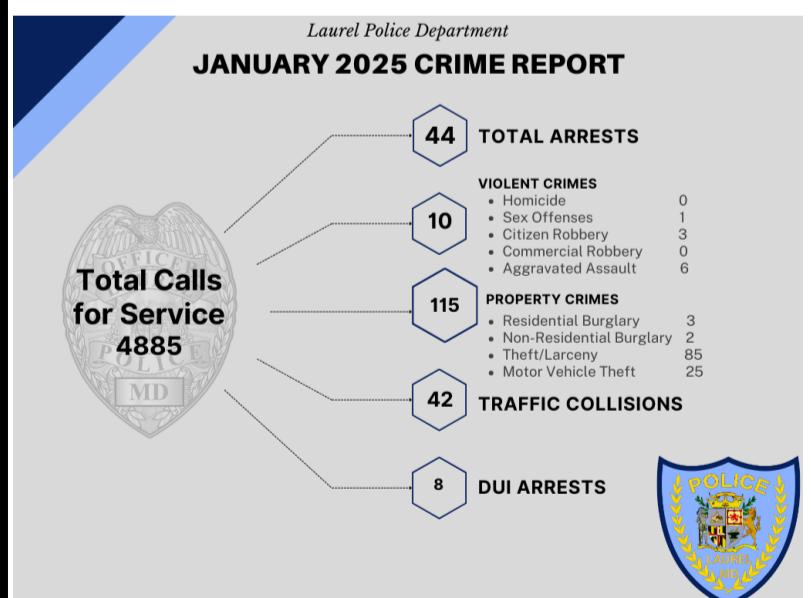
Hace más de 36 años, la joven Joanne recibió su recién firmada Licenciatura en Ciencias en Especialidad Terapéutica y Recreativa de la Universidad Estatal de Frostburg. ella hizo algunas paradas en Virginia y el condado de Fairfax, consolidando su trayectoria profesional llevando diversión a las familias. Y por suerte para nosotros, en 1989, ese camino la llevó al Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la ciudad de Laurel. La ciudad de Laurel no sería la comunidad próspera que es hoy sin la experiencia de Joanne. Gracias por tantos recuerdos maravillosos, Joanne. ¡Nostras deseó una larga y feliz jubilación!



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### LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT JANUARY 2025

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at [www.cityoflaurel.org/1896/LPD-Crime-Reports](https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1896/LPD-Crime-Reports).



# Laurel Council Connections

## Legislation

Listed below are recent legislative actions taken, if any, by the Laurel City Council during the past month of Mayor and City Council meetings. For further information on any of these legislative actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at **301-725-5300 x2121** 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. 3-2025 - declaring support for the Preservation of the Federal Tax Exemption of Municipal Bonds.

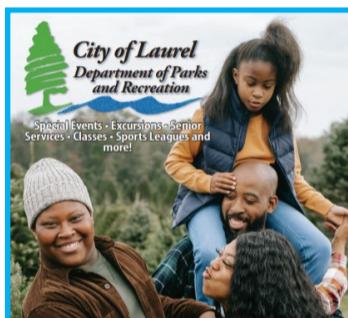
### Bid Recommendations:

- No Bid Recommendations in February.

### Appointments/Reappointments:

- Nadol Hishmeh (Appointment) - Master Plan Committee - 2/10/25 - 2/10/27
- Tanéa Brown (Appointment) - Senior Residents and Persons with Disabilities CAC - 2/24/2025 - 2/24/2027
- Yolanda Pearson (Appointment) - Juneteenth Executive Committee

## Parks and Recreation Winter Brochure



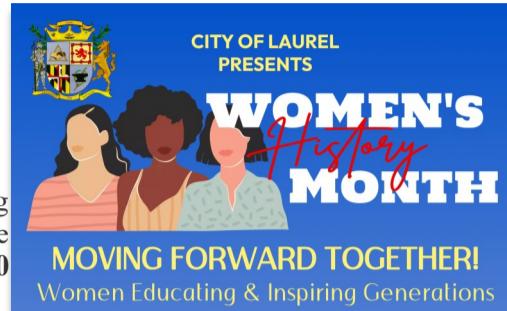
Parks and Recreation offers a wide range of programs for you and your family, covering health, lifestyle, and so much more! Explore all the options available online at [www.cityoflaurel.org/parks](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks).

## The Mansion at Laurel

If you have a holiday party, bridal shower, wedding or company retreat, and you are looking for the perfect venue, call 301-725-7800 and ask about the **Mansion at Laurel**!



Scan the QR Code for the online volunteer application and start to get involved in your community today!



## Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

### March 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

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

### March 2025 Boards and Commissions

- March 11th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- March 18th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- March 25th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)
- March 27th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

### April 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

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

### April 2025 Boards and Commissions

- April 15th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- April 22nd - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- April 24th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)
- April 29th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)

## City Announcements & Events (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

- Patuxent River Cleanup - April 5th** - 10am, Riverfront Park, Avondale Street, Picnic Pavilions. Community Service Hours available - 301-725-5300 x2109.
- Eggstravaganza - April 12, 2025** - 12:00pm SHARP! Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Free event.
- Ecycle/Paper Shredding Event - April 19, 2025** - 8a - 12p, Public Works Complex, 1st Street. City Residents ONLY! Details at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).
- Earth Day Cleanup - April 19, 2025** at 10am, Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Community Service Hours available - 301-725-5300 x2109.
- Volunteer Laurel Fair - April 30, 2025** from 6 - 8pm, 204 Fort Meade Road. City and Local Volunteer Organizations on hand to discuss opportunities!
- Lakefest - May 3, 2025** from 11am-3pm at Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- Main Street Festival - May 10, 2025** from 9am - 4pm, Laurel's Main Street. Parade, Vendors, Music and Family Fun!
- To learn more or register for Parks and Recreation activities**, visit [www.cityoflaurel.org/parks](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks) or call 301-725-7800.



In the February 2025 edition of the Laurel Ledger, the calendar misdated the start of Ramadan as March 28, 2025, when it actually should have listed Ramadan as starting on February 28, 2025. The correction has been made to our online calendar. We apologize for the incorrect date.

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# Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



## No Mow April is back!



Volunteer Month



## April

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer brochure can be found online <a href="http://CityofLaurel.org/parks">CityofLaurel.org/parks</a> or you can pick up a copy from any City facility.		April Fool's Day 1	Virtual Work Session- 6pm 2 Tree Board - 6pm		3	4 Patuxent River Cleanup - Riverfront Park 10am - 12pm
6	7	8	9	4th of July Committee - 7pm	11	12 Passover Begins Eggstravaganza - Granville Gude Park 12pm SHARP!
13	Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	14 Planning Commission - 6pm Tax Day	15	16	17	18 Good Friday 19 Earth Day Cleanup Gude Park - 10am - 12pm Public Works Ecycle/ Shredding Event - 8am-Noon
Easter Sunday 20 <b>NATIONAL PARK WEEK - APRIL 21-27</b> Community Centers CLOSED	21	Earth Day 22 Historic District Commission - 6pm	23	Board of Appeals - 6pm	24	25 Arbor Day 26
27	In-Person Mayor/Council Meeting - 6pm	28 Master Plan Committee - 6pm	29	30 Volunteer Laurel Fair Laurel Multiservice Center 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.		Celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2025 - <a href="http://www.earthday.org">www.earthday.org</a> Yard Debris Collection Bulky Item Collection Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.



**PUBLIC WORKS**



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

## Community Resources and Emergency Management: Preparing Isn't About Luck!



Welcome to March, the month of St. Patrick's Day! However, remember that relying on luck won't help you navigate a disaster. Planning and preparation are essential.

How can you achieve this? It is vital to know the types of disasters that could occur in your area. First, assess the threat and hazard risks in your residential and work areas and how they can impact you. Identify ways to stay informed, which includes signing up for emergency alerts. If necessary, identify safe locations for evacuation.



Second, it is important to develop a clear plan for your family, and practice it regularly. In the event of a disaster, your family might not be together. Establish communication methods to reach each other, and create a designated family meeting spot that is both familiar and easy to locate.

Finally, build an emergency kit to ensure your readiness. After a disaster, you may need to rely on yourself for several days, so it's crucial to have sufficient food, water, and supplies. An emergency supply kit should include essential items that your household may require during an emergency.

And don't forget about your pets! Ensure they are microchipped and that your contact information is current. Include your pets in your emergency kit preparations as well!

It's been said that "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity," so make your own luck and ensure you and your family are prepared!

### CITY CONTACTS

[www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)

**MAYOR'S OFFICE**  
301-725-5300 ext. 2125



301-725-5300 ext. 2125

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**  
301-725-5300 ext. 2242



301-725-5300 ext. 2242

**LAUREL POLICE**  
Non-Emerg: 301-498-0092  
Emerg: 301-725-3000



301-498-0092

**PARKS AND RECREATION**  
301-725-7800



301-725-7800

**COMMUNICATIONS**



301-725-5300 Ext. 2208