



THE LAUREL LEDGER

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND



VOLUNTEERING: GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY!



Held in April every year, National Volunteer Month is a time to honor and appreciate the invaluable contributions of volunteers. It serves as a chance to highlight the importance of volunteerism and inspire more individuals to engage in their communities.

In 2025, the theme for National Volunteer Month is "Volunteers Make Waves." This theme acknowledges and celebrates the profound influence volunteers have in generating ripples of change, while promoting inclusivity, resilience, and well-being within communities.

Here in the City of Laurel, we recognize the invaluable impact our Volunteers have on the community through our Volunteer Laurel! Program. We have many knowledgeable residents sitting on our Boards and Commissions. And our volunteer database is filled with dedicated and involved people, whose mission is to provide help where they are able. Then we have a wonderful partnership with local schools, whose students community-driven determination to help out lands them opportunities to get Community Service Hours.

If any of these sound like you, be sure to contact us at laurelvolunteer@laurel.md.us or fill out an application at www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering!

As for the City, when we can have volunteers giving their time to help the City and others, it goes along way to help us with our budget. Did you know that the estimated value of a volunteer in 2025 is \$33.49 an hour? The more volunteers we have helping out at events and with local organizations, that allows employees to focus on other areas of their jobs. It's a win-win!

And just to name a few benefits for volunteers:

- Learn new skills and valuable work experience.
- Make new friends.
- Better physical and mental health.
- The knowledge that they give something back the community they live in.
- Improves a volunteer's confidence.
- Creates a sense of connection to others in the community.
- Shows a volunteer's commitment to their community, which could lead to opportunities.

National Volunteer Month is a wonderful reminder that even small acts of kindness can have a profound impact. So why wait? Take the first step today and discover the power of volunteering and sign up!



Larry T. Smith Garden Build



Day of Service Care Packages



Gude Park Cleanup

APRIL IS...EARTH MONTH



With the arrival of April, let's recognize that through everyone's efforts to Go Green, we can embrace the theme of this month's celebration: "Our Power, Our Planet."

The month of April, as well as ALL the months in the year, is the time to recognize the positive impact that can come about by raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable practices.

One way, sign up for the City's Organics Recycling (Composting) Program at www.cityoflaurel.org/1940/Get-Started-Today. Find ways to reuse an old piece of furniture or clothing in your closet. Plant a tree, vegetable garden, or flower garden on your property. Take part in a park or river cleanup. There are so many ways to become green and sustainable, so get started today!

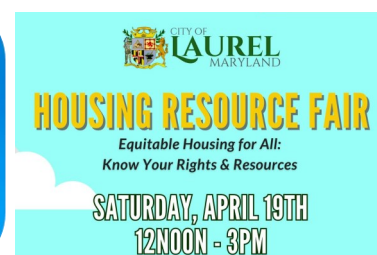
Speaking of cleanups, the City is proud to hold their annual Patuxent River Cleanup on April 5th, at 10am, at Riverfront Park. And the Earth Day Cleanup at Granville Gude Park on April 19th, at 10am. Get involved and mark your calendars today to make a difference in Earth Month this April!

...FAIR HOUSING MONTH

In 1968, the Fair Housing Act, part of the Civil Rights Act, was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Johnson to protect people from discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, disability, sex, and more, whether they rent or buy housing, or secure financing for housing.

The theme for this year is "Building Futures Together..." and now is the time to unite to ensure we all have the right and privilege of home ownership, if that is what you want, or to have a clean and safe roof over your heads whether you rent or buy.

If you would like to learn more about your rights for equitable housing or find more resources available to you, be sure to attend the City's Housing Resource Fair on April 19th, from Noon - 3pm at the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road. Experts will be on hand to answer your questions and give you information on how to stay in the know about fair and equitable housing practices.





It's Easy Being Green!



HOW CAN YOU HELP LAUREL BE SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN?

No Mow April: The City's 3rd Annual No Mow initiative is going on right now and allows residents to pause mowing their lawns during the month of April to allow flowering plants to help provide food for pollinators. Residents will be able to register on-line at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1889/No-Mow-April> and collect their yard sign from the **Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center**, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday; the **Laurel Armory** at 422 Montgomery Street, between the hours of 9am and 9pm, Monday through Friday, Saturdays 9am to 5pm and Sundays, 10am to 4pm; or the **Robert J. DiPietro Community Center** at 7901 Cypress Street, Monday through Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturdays, 9am to 5pm. Contact greenliving@laurel.md.us if you have any questions. Registration and yard signs are FREE, but registration and yard sign is REQUIRED to participate.

Laurel Farmer's Market: Less than one month until Opening Day! The Laurel Farmer's Market will be back starting Thursday, May 1st, and will run every Thursday through October 16th, from 3pm - 7pm, at 378 Main Street. We are happy to be able to bring back many of your favorite vendors, as well as new vendors and food trucks! Residents can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers, yummy breads and sweets from bakers, locally-sourced meat and poultry, and organic handmade skin care products and candles, just to name a few! 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 being a vendor for the 2025 Market season e-mail greenliving@laurel.md.us. Follow us on Facebook at @LaurelMarketOnMain (formerly @TheLaurelQuillLot) and the Green Living web page for updates and a list of market vendors.



E-cycling Event: As part of the City of Laurel's on-going commitment to reduce landfill waste and promote reuse, repurpose, and recycle, Mayor Sydnor and Public Works are happy to bring back our April Recycling Event. Gather up your old, important papers, old electronics, lightly-used home goods, Styrofoam and old paint (for a fee) and come down to Public Works, 305-307 First Street, on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 8:00am - Noon. Check Public Works web page, www.cityoflaurel.org/169/Public-Works, for more details on this very popular event.

Follow us on Facebook at @SustainableLaurel. This is a place where we can share ideas, highlight upcoming events and residents can stay informed on all things Sustainable. And check out the new look of the Green Living web page at www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving!

¡GRACIAS POR VOLUNTARIADO!



El Mes Nacional del Voluntariado, que se celebra cada abril, es una ocasión para honrar y apreciar las invaluables contribuciones de los voluntarios. Es una oportunidad para destacar la importancia del voluntariado e inspirar a más personas a participar en sus comunidades. El tema del Mes Nacional del Voluntariado 2025 es "Los Voluntarios Generan Impacto". Este lema reconoce y celebra la profunda influencia que tienen los voluntarios al generar un impacto positivo, a la vez que promueve la inclusión, la resiliencia y el

bienestar en las comunidades.

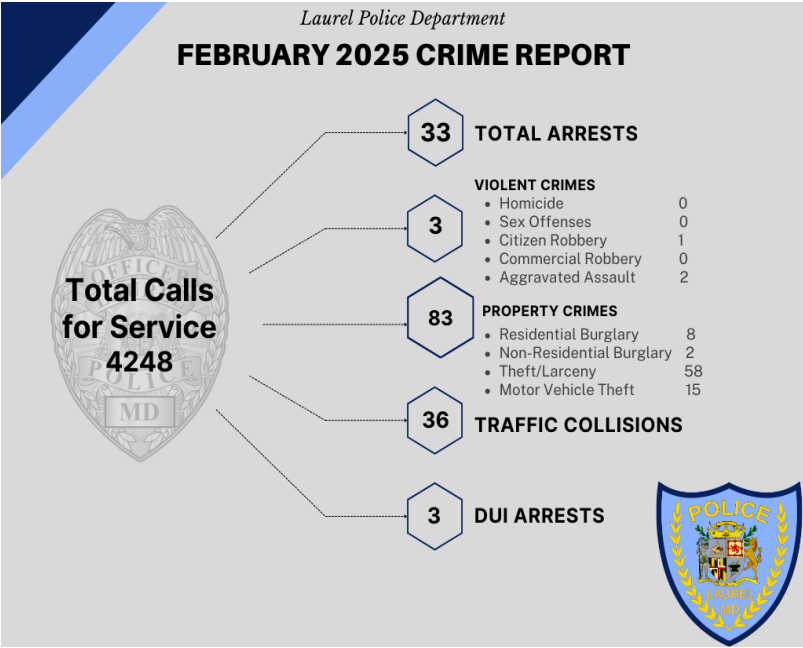
El Mes Nacional del Voluntariado es un maravilloso recordatorio de que incluso los pequeños actos de bondad pueden tener un profundo impacto. ¿A qué esperar? ¡Da el primer paso hoy y descubre el poder del voluntariado!

Para formar parte de la base de datos de voluntarios de la Ciudad, contáctanos en laurelvolunteer@laurel.md.us o completa una solicitud en www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering.



LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at 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. For the full agendas, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.

Adopted Legislation:

- **Ordinance No. 2039** - Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of 2 Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Provide an Effective Date.
- **Ordinance No. 2040** - Amending Laurel City Code Chapter 16 "Taxation", Article I, Section 16 -10 "Elderly and Veteran Tax Credit Program" and Providing an Effective Date.

Bid Recommendations/Fleet Acquisitions:

- **Bid Recommendation** - Automated Speed Enforcement Camera Program Contract - Laurel Police Department.
- **Fleet Acquisition** - 2025 Ford E-350 Service Body - Department of Public Works.

Appointments/Reappointments:

- ♦ **Eileen Stokes** (Appointment) - Board of Trustees - 3/10/25 - 3/10/29
- ♦ **Angela O'Neal** (Reappointment) - Laurel Arts Council - 3/24/2025 - 3/24/2028
- ♦ **Robert Windley** (Reappointment) - Youth Services Commission - 3/24/2025 - 3/24/2028



Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

April 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ April 2nd - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ♦ April 14th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ♦ April 28th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - (6:00pm)

April 2025 Boards and Commissions

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

May 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ May 1st - Virtual Budget Work Session (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 7th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Budget Work Session (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 12th - Possible Virtual Budget Work Session (5:00pm)
- ♦ May 12th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 28th (Wed) - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - (6:00pm)

May 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ May 13th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 20th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 22nd - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 27th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)

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

- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Earth Day Cleanup - April 19, 2025** at 10am, Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Community Service Hours available.
- ♦ **Housing Resource Fair - April 19, 2025** - 12:00 - 3:00pm, Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Ft. Meade Rd. Know your rights and find resources.
- ♦ **City Hall in the Park - April 24, 2025**, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street. Join the Mayor & Senior Management for City information!
- ♦ **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!
- ♦ **100 Father's Day Breakfast - June 14, 2025**, 10am - 12pm, Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Rd. Register at clerk@laurel.md.us.

JOB FAIR

 Saturday, June 7th 2025
10:00AM - 2:00 PM

Craig A. Moe
Laurel Multiservice Center

**204 FORT MEADE ROAD
LAUREL, MD 20707**

- Free Resume Assistance
- Free Professional Headshots



NEW! Parks and Recreation Spring/Summer 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.

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






PUBLIC WORKS

301-725-0088

DPW@laurel.md.us

Flooding is the number one natural hazard in Maryland. Flooding events occur across the State from the mountains in the West to the coastal plains in the East. Weather-related events such as severe thunderstorms and tropical storms can cause river swell and storm surge. In cold weather months, freezing temperatures can result in broken pipes and water mains. Throughout the month, local and state entities will provide resources and host virtual events aimed to educate you, your family, and community about flooding and how to prepare. For more information, visit the Maryland Resiliency Partnership web site at <https://md-resiliency-partnership-maryland.hub.arcgis.com/pages/faw>.

	Before a Flood	During a Flood	After a Flood
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify your home and property flood risk at msc.fema.gov/portal/home. Move valuables to higher shelves. Keep storm drains clear. Get plastic tarps and sandbags. Be ready to shelter in place, but identify escape routes to higher ground (mdem.maryland.gov/action/Pages/know-your-zone-md.aspx). Plan transportation to evacuate to safety, if needed. Plan for power outages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave immediately when evacuation orders are issued. Never walk through moving water. Six (6) inches of moving water can make you fall. Never drive through flood areas. One (1) foot of water can float many vehicles. If trapped inside, move to higher floors or roof. Call 9-1-1. Stay alert for mudslides. Dial 2-1-1 to find shelter or get assistance with resources. 	<p>WAIT UNTIL OFFICIALS SAY IT IS SAFE TO RETURN HOME!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beware of damaged structures and falling trees. Check for gas leaks and downed power lines. Listen for official announcements on the safety of public water. Be aware of potentially hazardous materials. If you have flood damage, file an insurance claim and/or contact a recovery assistance agency.

**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

 **laurelmayor@
laurel.md.us**

 **cadmin@**
laurel.md.us

 **lpd@**
laurel.md.us

 **parks@
laurel.md.us**

 **laurelpio@
laurel.md.us**