



# THE LAUREL LEDGER

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND



## BUDGET AND PERSONNEL SERVICES: FY2026 BUDGET COMPLETE!

One of the responsibilities assigned to Budget and Personnel Services is collaborating with City Departments to develop a balanced budget.

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 Capital Improvement Program (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 it to the City Council as required by law by May 1st each year. The FY2026 balanced general operating budget and CIP was submitted to the City Council on Monday, April 28, 2025.

For FY2026, 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 FY2025 service levels.

The largest priority of the FY2026 General Operating Budget – totaling \$46,311,958 - 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 a few of the CIP projects, as well as contractual and legislative obligations including, but not limited to the third year of the current CBA with the Laurel FOP Lodge 11 and the second 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 FY2026.

The CIP includes funding of eight (8) street projects; traffic signal upgrades; traffic-calming devices; sidewalk and curb and gutter improvements; vehicle replacements; Anderson's Corner park project, and technology improvements with a total of \$24,752,872. Funding for projects are provided through American Rescue Plan funds; financing, state grants, cable subscription funds, speed camera net revenue and operating funds.

The FY2026 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Mayor and City Council at the May 28, 2025, meeting.



## CHANGES TO INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION...

The Laurel 4th of July Committee is thrilled to announce the upcoming Independence Day Celebration, set for July 5, 2025!

This year's Grand Marshals will be the Laurel High School State Champions! Alongside this exciting news, the Committee wants to inform you that this year's celebration will feature some changes.

Due to safety concerns stemming from rising temperatures and traffic issues related to closing the east and westbound lanes of Route 198 for the parade, the Laurel 4th of July Committee has carefully considered feedback from parade participants, volunteers, and City employees. As a result, they have decided to shorten both the day's events and the parade route.



This decision was not made lightly. Last year, several parade participants had to step out of the parade due to heat exhaustion. By starting the Celebration later in the day, which will help reduce the amount of time volunteers and City employees are out in the heat, and shortening the parade route by half, the Committee aims to reduce the distance participants must walk, which should help mitigate heat-related issues. Additionally, in light of recent national news regarding safety incidents at celebrations, we want to prioritize the safety of everyone involved, including first responders, managing the traffic on Route 198. While they understand this may cause some disappointment (and the Committee shares in that sentiment), they believe these adjustments are necessary for everyone's safety.

With that said, following is the schedule for the 2025 Independence Day Celebration:

- 2:00pm - Check In and Parade Line Up begins for parade participants on Marshall Avenue. (Parade will kick off from 4th Street and Marshall; Judge's Stand at Domer Court)
- 3:00pm - Parade Begins (Water Stations will be placed along the parade route from Marshall Avenue to Cherry Lane)
  - Vendors on Gude Park Field
- 4:00pm - Family Fun Games
- 5:15pm - Music by Oracle
- 8:45pm - Welcome from Mayor and City Council
- 9:00pm - Test Fire for Fireworks
- 9:15pm - Fireworks Begin



The 4th of July Committee thanks you in advance for your understanding and support. They look forward to seeing you on July 5th as the City of Laurel celebrates our Nation's birthday!



# It's Easy Being Green!

## SUSTAINABILITY WARRIORS!

Congratulations Laurel Students for being committed to change! Check out their achievements below:

- Laurel Elementary School: Elyssa Atkins, Green Team Coordinator - received their 5th Sustainable Bronze Award for 18 years of being a Green School from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.
- Laurel Elementary School teacher (and Laurel resident) Amy Dunham: received the Unsung Hero from the William S. Schmidt Center for her work connecting Environmental Literacy with Physical Education in PGCPS.
- Laurel Elementary School Building Supervisor (and Laurel resident) Marcus Comer: received an Unsung Hero award from the William S. Schmidt Center for his work with Composting at Laurel ES.
- Laurel High School: the students won the Envirothon competition for the 3rd year in a row, beating out all the other PGCPS High Schools. Onto regionals they go!
- Laurel High School: Nadisha Clayton, Garrison and Elizabeth Gallagher as co-Green School Coordinators, earned their 3rd Green School award from The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

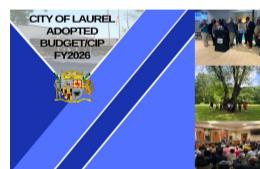
**Public Works is rolling, rolling, rolling out the curbside organics recycling kits**, which includes a kitchen countertop container, educational information that makes it easy for residents to sort out what can go into their compost carts, a refrigerator magnet and a roll of compostable bags, along with the locking outdoor cart. All foods, even expired products, paper napkins/paper towels, and pizza boxes are just some examples of what can be put in your composting cart, along with loose leaves and grass clippings. Still have questions? Come to the Laurel Farmer's Market Information Tent, open every Thursday, from 3-7pm, at 378 Main Street, and meet residents that are compost ambassadors to get some fun "hacks" and answer any questions. Click the QR code to go directly to the organics recycling page for more information.



**Mosquito Control Program begins in June** and our spray night is Sunday. As the weather starts to heat up, expect the mosquitoes to start biting! To help combat the spread of mosquito-born illnesses, the City of Laurel will once again participate in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Mosquito Control Program. This program consists of two parts: **Larviciding** phase is limited to public rights-of-way and areas where there are large amounts of standing water; and **Adulticiding** phase consists of City-wide evening spraying. 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](https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx) for more details.

## PRESUPUESTO Y SERVICIOS DE PERSONAL: ¡PRESUPUESTO DEL AÑO FISCAL 2026 COMPLETO!



Una de las responsabilidades designadas a el Departamento de Servicios de Presupuesto y Personal es colaborar con los Departamentos Municipales para desarrollar un presupuesto balanceado.

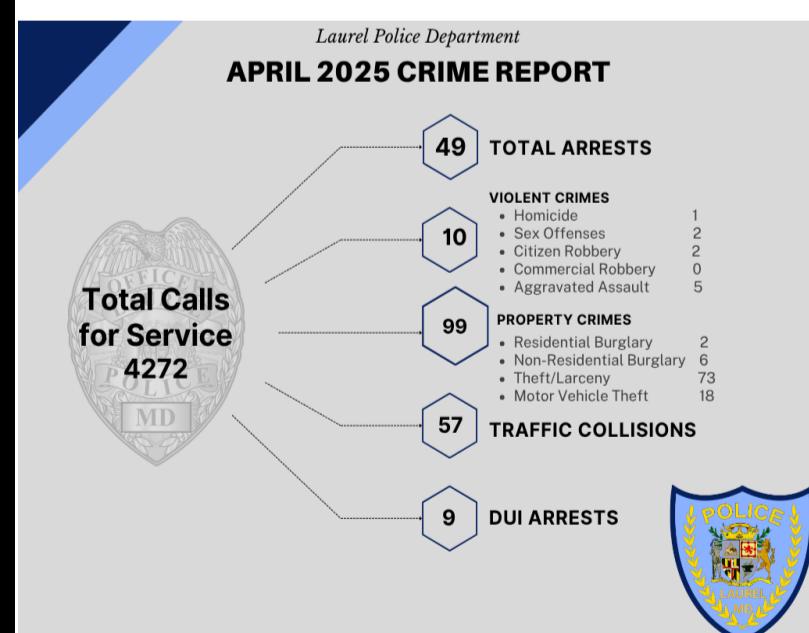
El proceso de presupuestario municipal comienza oficialmente en Enero de cada año, aunque la administración del presupuesto es una responsabilidad de todo el año. Cada departamento se encarga de proyectar e ingresar su presupuesto operativo, así como los ingresos directos y los proyectos del Programa de Mejoras de Capital (CIP). El Departamento de Servicios de Presupuesto y Personal preparan los presupuestos salariales de tiempo completo; luego, elaboran todos los presupuestos y trabajan con la Oficina del Administrador Municipal para balancear el presupuesto y presentarlo a el Consejo Municipal, según lo exige la ley, antes del 1 de Mayo de cada año. El presupuesto operativo general balanceado del año fiscal 2026 y el CIP se presentaron a el Consejo Municipal el lunes 28 de Abril de 2025.

El Presupuesto Operativo General y el Programa de Mejoras de Capital del Año Fiscal 2026 fueron aprobados por unanimidad por el Alcalde y el Consejo Municipal en la reunión de 28 de Mayo de 2025, por un total de \$46,311,958.

## LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

### APRIL 2025

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

- Charter Resolution No. 181 and Ordinance No. 2038 - Updating Election Laws. Visit <https://library.municode.com> for details.
- Ordinance No. 2041 - adopting the General Operating Budget/Capital Improvement Plan for FY2026; and to authorize the collection of such taxes.

### Bid Recommendations:

- Independence Day Fireworks - 4th of July Committee (3-year contract for \$108,500)
- Replace Gude Park Fountains - Parks and Recreation (\$84,048.80)
- Van Dusen Road Improvement Project - Phase I - Public Works (\$246,159)
- Van Dusen Road Improvement Project - Phase II - Public Works (\$299,708)
- Fleet Acquisition - Grapple Truck - Public Works (\$134,000 - Remaining purchase price on lease)

### Appointments/Reappointments:

- Hon. Michael Leszcz (Appointment) - Board of Pension Trustees - 5/12/25 - 5/12/29



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

### June 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- June 4th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- June 9th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- June 23rd - Mayor and City Council Meeting (CANCELLED)

### June 2025 Boards and Commissions

- June 10th - Planning Commission (CANCELLED)
- June 17th - In-Person Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- June 18th - Master Plan Committee (CANCELLED)
- June 26th - Board of Appeals (CANCELLED)

### July 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

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

### July 2025 Boards and Commissions

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

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

- Job Fair - June 9, 2025, from 10am - 2pm, Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road. Free
- 100 Father's Day Breakfast - June 14, 2025, 10am - 12pm, Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Rd. Register at [clerk@laurel.md.us](mailto:clerk@laurel.md.us).
- Juneteenth Celebration - June 21, 2025, from 3 - 7pm at Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- Parks and Recreation 60th Anniversary Celebration - June 27, 2025, 6-8pm, Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- Independence Day Holiday - July 4, 2025 - City/Passport Offices CLOSED. Visit [cityoflaurel.org/calendars](http://cityoflaurel.org/calendars) for adjusted collection details.
- Independence Day Celebration - July 5, 2025 - Help the City celebrate our Nation's Birthday! Parade: 3pm (Kicks off from 4th & Marshall); Vendors: 3pm; Family Fun Games: 4pm; Oracle - 5pm; Mayor & City Council Welcome: 8:45pm; Fireworks: 9:15pm.
- City Council Election Candidate Packets tentatively available by appointment beginning July 7, 2025. Contact the City Clerk's Office at 301-725-5300 ext. 2120, or [elections@laurel.md.us](mailto:elections@laurel.md.us), to schedule an appointment.
- Music at the Mansion - July 11, 2025 - 6pm at Gude Mansion, 13910 Laurel Lakes Avenue. Enjoy an evening of fun filled with music! 21 and over only.
- Touch-A-Truck - July 22, 2025 - Emancipation Park on 8th Street from 6:30 - 8:00pm. A variety of vehicles will be on hand to tour.

Scan the QR  
Code for the  
online volunteer  
application!



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## Public Works Monthly



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

July						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Refuse/Recycling/Composting holiday schedule July 4th.	<b>Organic's Recycling begins!</b>	Virtual Work Session-6pm	2 No change to Thursday collection	3 Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot	Independence Day Friday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Thursday Community Centers CLOSED
6	7	8	9	10 Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot	11 Outdoor Movie: Gude Park - 8:30pm	12
13	14 Virtual Mayor and City Council - 6p	15 Planning Commission - 6pm	16	17 Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot	18 Outdoor Movie: Gude Park - 8:30pm	19
20	21 Historic District Commission-6pm	22 Touch-A-Truck - Emancipation Park 6:30pm	23	24 Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot	25 Outdoor Movie: Gude Park - 8:15pm	26
27 In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm	28 Master Plan Meeting - 6pm	29	30	31 Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot	Mosquito Control Spraying on Sundays – June through September	

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

Laurel Pride Fundraiser Oliver's Old Town Tavern 1-4pm

Bike Parade Laurel Armo 6pm

4th of July Committee Meeting - 7pm

100 Father's Day Breakfast Multiservice Center - 11am - 3pm

Juneteenth Celebration Gude Park 12 - 4p

60th Anniv. Celebration Park - 6p

## PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

### Emergency Management: June is Pet Preparedness Month!

June is Pet Preparedness Month, which was established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This devastating hurricane highlighted the significant impact natural disasters can have on pets and their owners. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), when Hurricane Katrina hit, 44% of the people who chose to ride out the storm did so because they could not evacuate with their animals.

In an effort to enhance pet safety during emergencies, the City of Laurel Department of Emergency Management urges pet owners to develop a pet emergency plan, build a pet emergency kit, and understand how and when to evacuate or shelter a pet. Pet Preparedness Month is an opportunity for pet owners and responders to gain the knowledge and tools to better protect our furry, feathered, and scaly friends.



Pet Emergency Kit	Evacuating and Sheltering With a Pet
<p>A well-prepared pet emergency kit should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water and portable water dish</li> <li>3-day supply of food in airtight containers</li> <li>Medication and copies of medical records</li> <li>Cat litter, litter box, and waste disposal bags</li> <li>Leashes and harnesses</li> <li>Toy and blankets</li> <li>Current photos of your pet</li> <li>Emergency contact card</li> </ul>	<p>Prior to an emergency, identify pet-friendly hotels and shelters. Know and understand shelter-specific protocols regarding pets. Temporary and long-term options should be considered.</p> <p>Determine how to safely transport a pet, and ensure a leash and/or pet carrier is readily available. Map out multiple evacuation routes and conduct timed evacuation drills.</p> 

### CITY CONTACTS

#### MAYOR'S OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2125

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

#### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

301-725-5300 ext. 2242

[laurelmayor@laurel.md.us](mailto:laurelmayor@laurel.md.us)

#### LAUREL POLICE

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

[lpd@laurel.md.us](mailto:lpd@laurel.md.us)

#### PARKS AND RECREATION

301-725-7800

[parks@laurel.md.us](mailto:parks@laurel.md.us)

#### COMMUNICATIONS

301-725-5300 Ext. 2208

[laurelpio@laurel.md.us](mailto:laurelpio@laurel.md.us)