

2017 Annual Highlights

Laurel Municipal Center
8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, MD 20707
301-725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org
Craig A. Moe, Mayor



Message from the Mayor



Hello Laurel Citizens,

I am happy to present the City of Laurel 2017 Annual Highlights Report.

As you can see from this overview, your elected officials and City Staff have had a busy and productive year.

I invite you to visit our website, www.cityoflaurel.org, for a more detailed report and our Annual Budget Document.

We hope that our momentum will inspire you to become more involved with your City government. We have many opportunities available for volunteers of all interests and ages and I encourage you to join us!

Our citizens are key members of Team Laurel. We value your involvement and your input. With your help and participation, we will continue to be the great community we are.

Thank You!

Craig A. Moe, Mayor

Message from the City Council



Michael R. Leszcz
City Council President
At Large



Carl DeWalt
City Council
Ward 1



Valeri M.A. Nicholas
City Council
Ward 1



Frederick Smalls
City Council
Ward 2



Keith Sydnor
City Council
Ward 2

Dear Residents and Business Owners,

As your Council President, it's my job, working with my City Council Colleagues, to continue the efforts we have made on your behalf this year. We continue to support and share the vision of Mayor Craig A. Moe in his work on behalf of the City of Laurel. Though our shared vision for the City is an ambitious one, with your continued support, we will continue to meet your needs and expectations.

This year we will continue working very hard to keep the Laurel Regional Hospital (LRH) from closing and abandoning us. With the support of our entire community, the Laurel Regional Hospital became an affiliate of the University of Maryland Medical System on September 1, 2017, and is now part of the University of Maryland Capital Region Health System. Our beloved LRH hospital has a new name and is now known as the University of Maryland Laurel Regional Hospital. As we move forward in our efforts to redefine community healthcare in the City of Laurel and surrounding communities, we look forward to a complete restructuring and rebuilding of the entire Laurel Medical Campus. This effort cannot be accomplished without you; so keep letting your voices be heard!

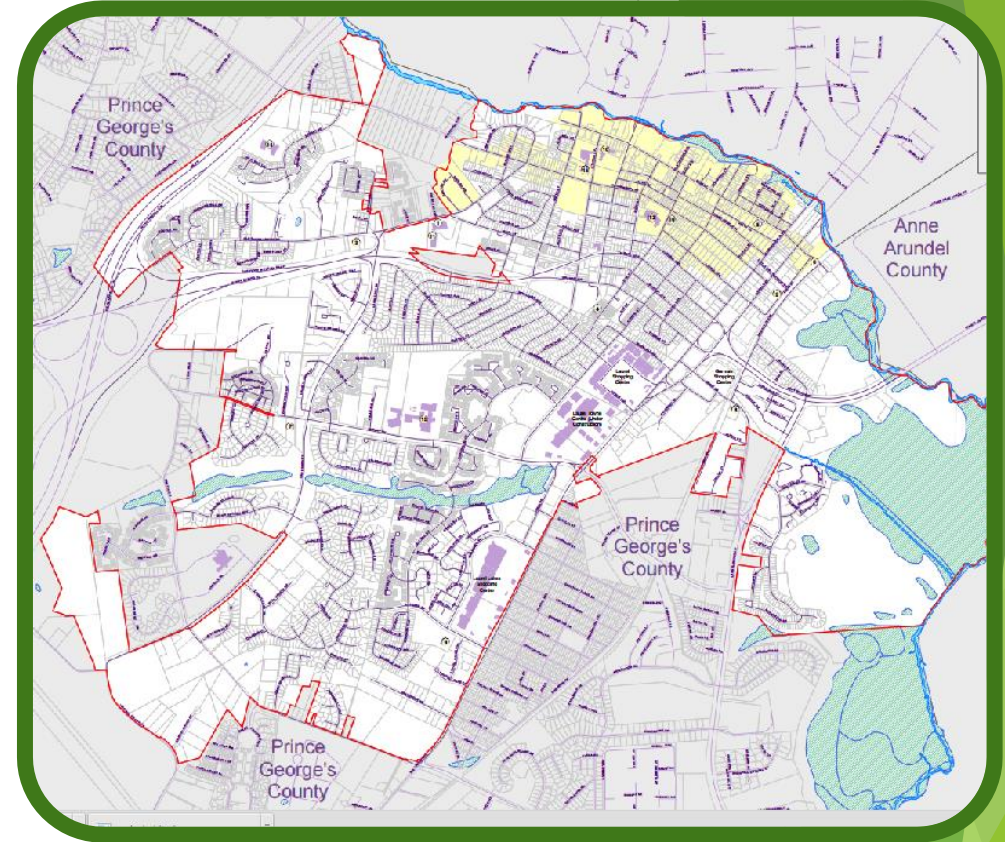
The Council also unanimously approved a formal Collective Bargaining Agreement with the sworn officers of our Laurel Police Department. This agreement is our second three year agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge No. 11, who represents these outstanding women and men.

This Council is very proud of each and every accomplishment revealed herein and we want to thank those responsible for all their hard work. We also would like you to know, that as your Elected Officials, we are making every effort possible to make sure that great things continue to happen in 2018 and the years to come.

Sincerely
Michael R. Leszcz
Council President

Snapshot of the City of Laurel

- Total Square Miles - 5.5
- 2017 Population - 26,000+
- Number of Businesses - 1,000+
- Dwelling Units - 11,707
- Full-time Employees - 237+
- Laurel has its own Full-Service Police Department.
- Laurel has its own Full Zoning Authority, a great tool for land-use planning.
- And its own Fire Marshal for fire code enforcement.



Office of the Mayor

As the Chief Executive of the City, the Mayor is empowered to approve or veto legislation, provide an annual budget for City services and have direct supervision of government administration for all citizens and businesses of the City.



Craig A. Moe
Mayor

301-725-5300 ext. 2125
LaurelMayor@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LaurelMayor



LouAnn Crook
Chief of Staff

301-725-5300 ext. 2125
LaurelMayor@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @COSLaurelMD

“We appreciate UMMS’ commitment to move forward and focus on continuity of service and modernization of the current facility,” Mayor Moe says. “And just as important, we appreciate the opportunity to have the community involved in shaping the future of healthcare here.”

*UMMS Takes Over Management of
Laurel Regional Hospital*

Office of the Mayor

Laurel Regional Hospital

The University of Maryland Medical System took over the managing of Laurel Regional Hospital in September of 2017. Mayor Moe continued the City's efforts on monitoring and working with the University of Maryland Medical System to bring quality medical services to the Laurel-Beltsville community.

Hosted Meetings

One of the main objectives of the Office of the Mayor is to stay in constant contact with local, state and federal agencies. The Mayor's Office continued to represent the City as a member of the National League of Cities Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee, the Governor's Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee and Radio Control Board, and FEMA Region III Advisory Council and the Mayors Chief of Staff was appointed to serve on the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee.

Government to the People

Mayor Moe's "Government to the People" initiative helps keep residents in touch with what's happening in Laurel through different programs. To fulfill this goal, the Mayor's Office hosted "City Hall in the Park" town meetings, which offers an informal setting for residents to meet with City Officials and management staff; hosted "My Time with the Mayor" Program that gives a one on one meeting with Mayor Moe to express any concerns and questions they may have and attended Neighborhood Watch Programs and Homeowners' Association Meetings throughout the City.

Mayor's Summer Jobs Program

The "Mayor's Summer Jobs Program," in its 9th year, employed 12 students ages 14 – 16 for 8 weeks in 2017. The Mayor's Summer Jobs Program is open to Laurel youth who are City residents. Youth in the program must have written permission from their parents or guardians to participate in the program and provide a Work Permit available from their school Guidance Office. The daily work schedule will vary depending upon the Department the position is assigned to, but in no case will exceed 20 hours per week on average.

Maryland General Assembly

Participated in and monitored the 90-day Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session in Annapolis, supporting legislation for Laurel and other municipalities.

Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Initiated the "Hometown Heroes Banner Program" to honor and recognize two great community heroes. The first was Lance Corporal Eugene Mills III on November 11, 2017, and the second banner was hung for SFC Donald R. Ault on December 23, 2017.

Wreaths Across America

The Mayor's Office was honored to partner with "Wreaths Across America" during the holiday season of 2017. A ceremony was held in the Council Chambers to remember our local veterans and then the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department's Honor Guard escorted over 300 volunteers and staff to Ivy Hill, where wreaths were reverently laid on our veterans' graves.





Carl DeWalt – Ward 1
cdewalt@laurel.md.us

Valerie Nicholas - Ward 1
vnicholas@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @ValerieNichola1

Fred Smalls – Ward 2
fsmalls@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @fredsmalls1

Keith Sydnor – Ward 2
ksydnor@laurel.md.us
keithrsydnor@gmail.com

Michael Leszcz – At Large
mleszcz@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LMikeStamp

Office of the City Council

The City Council is the legislative body of the City of Laurel and as elected representatives of the citizens, consider and enact resolutions, regulations, and ordinances for the protection of rights and privileges, peace and good government, and safety and health of all citizens.

Office of the City Council

Councilmember Michael Leszcz

Councilmember Michael Leszcz was appointed to the 2018 Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS) Federal Advocacy Committee. As a member of the committee, he will play a key role in shaping NLC's policy positions and advocate on behalf of America's cities and towns before Congress, with the new Administration and at home. The TIS committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC's federal policy positions on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports. Mr. Leszcz's appointment was announced by NLC President Matt Zone, Councilmember for Cleveland.

2018 City of Laurel Elections

On November 13, 2017, the newly elected City Councilmembers were sworn into office. Mayor Craig A. Moe administered the Oath of Office. Councilmember Michael R. Leszcz was elected Council President and he appointed Councilmember Valerie M.A. Nicholas his President Pro Tem. The following Councilmembers were elected for a two-year term, which expires on November 11, 2019:

Michael R. Leszcz, Councilmember At-Large
Valerie M.A. Nicholas, Councilmember, Ward 1
Carl W. DeWalt, Councilmember, Ward 1
Frederick Smalls, Councilmember, Ward 2
Keith R. Sydnor, Councilmember, Ward 2



Council Assignments

At the Mayor and City Council Meeting on Monday, November 27, 2017, the following Council assignments were confirmed:

Historic District Commission – Council President Leszcz
Planning Commission – Councilmember Smalls
Environmental Affairs Committee – Councilmember DeWalt
Public Safety and Transportation – Councilmember Sydnor
Tree Board – Councilmember Nicholas

Meetings

The City Council is working diligently to go paperless and in 2017, they held 11 Regular Work Sessions, 5 Special Work Sessions, 2 Budget/CIP Work Sessions, 21 Regular Mayor and City Council Meetings, 2 Special Mayor and City Council Meetings and 3 Closed Sessions. The Laurel City Council also deliberated on over 43 Ordinances and 7 Resolutions in 2017.



Office of the Clerk

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to the City Council to provide assistance to the City Council and to maintain and preserve all required legislation in accordance with State, County and City Codes. The Clerk's Office also provides administrative and reporting coverage of the Mayor and City Council meetings.



Kim Rau
301-725-5300 ext. 2121
krau@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LaurelClerk

“Laurel Council Clerk, Kimberley A. Rau, MMC, says the City will use machines from New Jersey Electec Election Services, Inc. for the electronic voting machines and printing of paper ballots on the day of the Election, November 7, 2017.”

City Council Elections 2017

Office of the Clerk

Elections

Kimberley Rau, MMC, Clerk to the Council, with the Board of Elections, oversaw the November 2017 Elections. For Early Voting on November 4, 2017, we recorded 242 voters; on Election Day, we recorded 1, 276 voters and had 27 Absentee Voters. The newly elected Council was sworn in to office on Monday, November 13, 2017.

Clerk Association Meetings

In March, June, September and December of 2017, Kimberly Rau, Clerk to the Council, attended 4 Clerk Association Meetings. Administrative Assistant, Ana Navarro attended the Maryland Clerks Academy for her Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation.



Office of the City Administrator

The City Administrator directs and coordinates the general administration of the City government.

In addition to the day-to-day operations of the City government, the Office of the City Administrator is responsible for insurance management, budget preparation, emergency operations and other projects as assigned by the Mayor.



Marty Flemion
301-725-5300 ext. 2216
m Flemion@laurel.md.us

For Emergency Operations
Information,
Twitter: [@LaurelCityOEM](https://twitter.com/LaurelCityOEM)

“The media and public are invited to share in this momentous occasion as the City unveils monuments to Marcus Colbert, who was lost to us in January 2017; memorializes those lost at Pearl Harbor in 1941; and remembers and honors those Veterans who gave their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy.”

*Unveiling of New Memorial
Garden, May 2017*

Office of the City Administrator

Memorial Garden

The City Administrator's Office worked with the American Legion to create a Veterans' Memorial and to relocate the American Legion Pearl Harbor Memorial. The City Administrators Office also worked with the family of Marcus Colbert to create and dedicate a memorial honoring the life and line of duty death of our Public Works employee Marcus Colbert. These memorials were dedicated at a ceremony in the new Memorial Garden located at the Laurel Municipal Center.

Regional Transportation Agency

Continued to represent the City of Laurel at all Regional Transportation Agency meetings.

Laurel Regional Hospital

With the University of Maryland Medical System taking over Laurel Regional Hospital in September, the City Administrator's Office continued to participate in the Laurel Regional Hospital discussions and coordination to ensure quality health care for its citizens.

Tax Differential

Coordinated and participated in negotiations on the Tax Differential as a member of the County Task Force.

FY2018 General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Coordinated the development and presentation of the City's CIP and General Operating Budget.

Participated with the HEPAC Group

The Maryland Municipal League's (MML) Hometown Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee (HEPAC) is a critical committee within the MML, which provides leadership, guidance, and direction for all the municipalities within the State of Maryland regarding emergency management practices, guidelines and processes. The Mayor, who is the chairperson, the City Administrator, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Emergency Manager, represent the City of Laurel on this committee.



Office of the City Administrator

Community Events

Main Street Festival

The Mayor and City Council supports the Board of Trade with the Main Street Festival. The festival takes place every year on the first Saturday in May. Main Street is completely closed to traffic between Route 1 South and 7th Street allowing thousands of people to walk up and down Main Street to enjoy the food vendors, arts and crafts and to listen to the bands.

Independence Day Celebration

The City's 4th of July Celebration takes place on the first Saturday in July. The celebration is a daylong festival, which starts off with a parade, then consists of contests, music, food and of course a 45 minute firework display over Granville Gude Lake starting at 9:15pm.

National Night Out

National Night was created to inform the public about various police and community programs such as drug prevention initiatives and neighborhood watch groups to keep people safe and to fight crime in neighborhoods. Events consist of demonstrations from the Laurel Police Department, Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, Laurel Rescue Squad, Prince George's County Bomb squad and as well as lots of activities for children.

Trick or Treat on Main Street

The Laurel Board of Trade's Trick or Treat on Main Street is scheduled the Thursday before Halloween from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Costumed children can visit participating Main Street merchants who will be handing out treats.

Risk Management

Risk Manager was appointed to Maryland PRIMA Board member. The Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) is a non-profit association offering risk management educational programs, management information and publications to people involved with public sector risk management across the United States. Maryland PRIMA holds three meetings a year at various locations throughout the state.

Risk Manager was appointed the Vice Chairman of Public Employee Safety Association. The goal of PESA is to promote health and safety through accident prevention programs, professional meetings and group discussions of mutual safety and health concerns. PESA conducts education and training programs on accident prevention for the purpose of reducing personal injuries and illness.

Risk Manager became and appointed member of the LGIT Risk Management Committee, which reviews and monitors risk management and loss control issues and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees to limit the liability of the Trust and its members. The committee issues the Risk Management Policy Statement and Risk Management Guidelines.

Held a Welding and Gas Tank Training course from Laurel Bottle and Gas, where key personnel from Public Works and Parks and Recreation were trained on how to safely handle gas tanks and how to weld.

Received a CPR/AED training grant for 100 employees and 6 employees training certifications for CPR/AED; received a training grant from LGIT to train 100 police officers in AED/CPR and eight employees were trained to become a certified trainers in CPR and AED. This allows any City employee to have the opportunity to be trained 24/7.



Emergency Operations

Volunteer and Donations Management Program

This new program is a cooperative partnership between the City of Laurel and the First Baptist Church (FBC) of Laurel. This program designates the FBC as the designated distribution center for both volunteers and donated items to support major disasters/incidents within the City. The church uses Ready/Church Volunteers along with City employees to support this critical emergency operation.

Emergency Operations Center - Redesigned

This comprehensive project included completely redesigning the City of Laurel's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This new state-of-the-art facility provides the space, systems, and resources to effectively support the incident commanders and first responders during all major events and incidents within the City. Multiple new technology systems greatly enhance the EOC personnel's ability to provide quick and efficient resources in the response to and recovery from major disasters and incidents within the City.

Rehab/Canteen Vehicle

This new 2017 Freightliner truck has been custom designed to provide both rehabilitation and canteen services for first responders at major police or fire incidents. Additionally, this vehicle is used to support many major events within the City and provides a valuable resource during extended disasters. This vehicle can be used as a portable kitchen and can be used as a food distribution unit during disasters to feed the citizens of the City.



Budget and Personnel Services

The Budget and Personnel Services Department's responsibility to the City of Laurel and its citizens is to ensure that adequate controls exist in order to protect the City's funds and maintain adequate and accurate records of all financial transactions. They strive for the performance level necessary to achieve a favorable certified audit in order to maintain our current "A" bond rating and eligibility for Federal grant funds. The Department must maintain strict cash controls, diligent monitoring and reconciliation of monies to maintain adequate cash flow.



Michele Saylor
301-725-5300 ext. 2236
msaylor@laurel.md.us

Small Business Saturday is a national campaign supporting a day to celebrate small businesses, showing residents of towns across the Nation that you can find that special gift at the local clothier on Main Street!

*Small Business Saturday
2017*

Budget and Personnel Services

Employee Benefits

This year Human Resources had several major responsibilities on the agenda starting with Employee Health, Dental, and Vision Insurance coverage, as well as Life Insurance that needed to be bid out. Also contracts were analyzed for employee impact and impact on the City's budget. A new contract was negotiated with the Actuary for the Pension Plans; and we negotiated a new 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Laurel Police Department that was finalized, and ratified by the Mayor and City Council. Additionally, a new representative for deferred compensation was sought and hired.

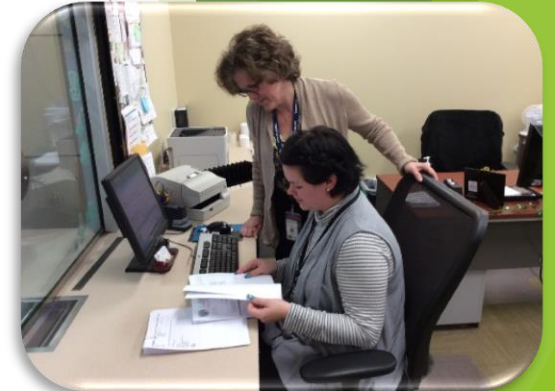
Special Programs

The Department of Budget and Personnel Services is responsible for administering the Employee Awards Program; the Mayor's Summer Job Program; and Annual Benefits Fair. 2017 marked the 22nd Annual Employee Awards Program. We collected nominations, voting was done by Department heads and a luncheon was organized, as well as handed out plaques to the recipients. In its 9th year, the Mayor's Summer Job Program employed 12 students for 8 weeks; and we organized the 20th Annual Benefits Fair for employees.



Online Payments

Partnering with the IT Department, Budget and Personnel Services, brought online payments to residents in 2017 for special refuse pick up. This improves convenience for citizens, as well as the potential to reduce paperwork of walk in and mail in payments.



Communications

The Department of Communications provides information to residents, businesses, and employees within Laurel and the greater Laurel area. They develop, prepare, and coordinate the release of official news advisories and disseminates news on the City's website, **cityoflaurel.org**, the public access television station, Laurel TV and its companion website **LaurelTV.org**, the mobile My Laurel App and through outreach on Social Media sites. They work closely with other Departments in the City to spread news about the Mayor's Government to the People program and other activities in and around the City of Laurel.



Audrey Barnes
301-725-5300 ext. 2208
abarnes@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LaurelPIO

“Viewers will be able to watch their local Main Street Festival parade from the comfort of their own home and then can come on down to Laurel’s Main Street for some tasty food, finger-snapping, toe-tapping music and lots of great gift choices for Mom.”

Laurel TV's First Live Broadcast of the Main Street Festival Parade, May 2017

Communications

Live Broadcasting

Laurel TV did the first LIVE broadcast of the Main Street and the City of Laurel's new Memorial Garden was unveiled LIVE.

Launch of College Intern Program

Laurel TV now has a fully-sanctioned Internship Program with the University of Maryland. We welcomed 3 interns for 2017.

Award Season Success

Laurel TV picked up 2 more Telly Awards and 2 Hometown Media Awards, with our first Silver Telly going to Joyce Jackson for her program, "Athletes Serving Athletes."

Community Media Day

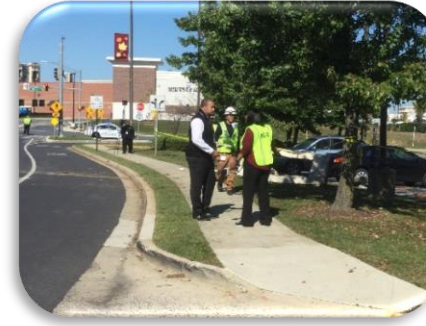
The Mayor issued a Proclamation for Community Media Day and community partners helped us create award-worthy local programming were honored at the October 11th City Council Meeting.

City of Laurel Passports

Our Passport Office had a record setting year for the City's Passport Office. We are happy to report that residents are taking advantage of the longer hours on Tuesday nights.

Community Media Day

In 2017, the Department produced 60 local programs aired on Laurel TV; broadcast over 67 Government meetings Live on Laurel TV; Laurel TV staff, freelancers and volunteers produced nearly 50 news stories; fifteen active volunteers gave over 640 hours for Laurel TV productions; and sent out nearly 200 press releases, public service announcements and public safety announcements informing the public of happenings in and around the City of Laurel.



Economic and Community Development



Christian Pulley
301-725-5300 ext. 2252
cpulley@laurel.md.us

The Department of Economic and Community Development maintains and oversees the built environment within the City of Laurel. The department is responsible for zoning compliance, subdivision and development review, historic preservation review, economic development, affordable housing, and implementation of the City's Master Plan. These activities are intended to improve the life quality in the City. Department staff strive to provide these services in a timely and efficient manner while promoting high-quality development which is compliant with State of Maryland regulations and statutes.

"This campaign is geared towards highlighting economic factors within our community that give multiple reasons as to why businesses should open their doors in Laurel!"

*First Discover Laurel Day,
October 2017*

Economic and Community Development

Economic Development

Discover Laurel Day

The Department continues to focus on economic development initiatives for the City of Laurel. In an effort to celebrate the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA's) Economic Development Week, the Department hosted "Discover Laurel Day." An event that brought together members of the business community, including business owners, business organizations, commercial real estate agents, and shopping center management representatives. Participants of the event toured vacant commercial properties located within shopping centers. The half-day event created connections for members of the Laurel business community and demonstrated the City's commitment to economic development. The Department plans to have an annual event during MEDA's economic development week and other events throughout the year.

Second Saturdays

The Economic Development Coordinator from the Department works with the Laurel Board of Trade to coordinate the Second Saturday events on Main Street. The monthly events started small, however have gained more attention and participation throughout the year. The event provides small home based businesses a platform to retail their goods within the City's Main Street community. Second Saturday's events have also generated more foot traffic on Main Street, as well as visitors to the already established businesses.



Zoning Applications

The Department reviewed 23 zoning applications for approval. All applications were approved by the Planning Commission, Board of Appeals or Mayor and City Council. As a result, the City will see its first Royal Farms, bed and breakfast hotel, rooftop dining establishment and medical cannabis dispensary.

New Land

The City annexed over 30 acres of raw land into the City for future development of a townhouse community and a new City owned athletic field.

Permits and Applications

In 2017, the Department processed 25 Zoning Applications; reviewed and issued 1,880 permits; approved 51 Historic District Certificates; and responded to over 200 requests for information on demographics, zoning and pending developments.



Fire Marshal and Permit Services

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services is charged with enforcing City Codes and Ordinances relating to building and property standards. The Department is responsible for protecting the public health, safety and welfare by enforcing the City's Building Codes. In the performance of these duties, the Department issues permits and performs inspections for all construction and development-related activities within the City of Laurel including building occupancies, signs, rental licenses, and electrical work.



Dave Cope
301-725-5300 ext. 2250
dcope@laurel.md.us

“With a recent rash of fires being reported, Mayor Craig A. Moe and Laurel Fire Marshal Dave Cope want residents to know they must be compliant with the updated Smoke Alarm Law that goes into effect on January 1, 2018.”

*New 10-Year Smoke Detector Campaign,
December 2017*

Fire Marshal and Permit Services

In-Office Accomplishments

The Department has hired three new employees including a housing inspector, a code enforcement officer, and an Administrative Specialist.

We have entered over 1300 rental licenses with updated emails and phone numbers in the effort to go paperless. We are also trying to get all of our renters registered to pay online or over the phone.

There were over 2,000 permits submitted to our permits coordinator and the department has brought in just under \$1 million just in permits.

Building Projects

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services completed the following projects: Guitar Center located in the new Towne Centre at Laurel, a re-model of the McDonalds on Baltimore Avenue, opened the Evolution at Cherry Lane Apartments, approved and getting ready for the opening of the AAA Car Care and finished the Colonial Estates II single family housing development. And there is more coming for 2018!

Inspections and Permits

One of the major jobs we do for the City of Laurel is perform inspections from electrical to health to fire and in 2017, we did 3,806 inspections. But it's not only inspections, but permits we issue as well from Commercial to New Construction to Residential and Use and Occupancy and more! In 2017, 1,457 permits were issued.



Community Outreach

- ▶ Installed smoke detectors in over 15 homes.
- ▶ Began to notify Laurel residents about the new smoke detector requirements that went into effect January 1, 2018.
- ▶ Completed another successful year for the Fire Prevention Month shows, which several staff helped to coordinate, setup and participate. Visited 4 elementary schools at Laurel, Scotchtown, First Baptist, St. Mary's and also performed at the DiPietro Center Day Care for a total of 880-950 kids.
- ▶ Attended the Main Street Festival and 4th of July Celebration and inspected booths.



Information Technology

The Department of Information Technology is committed to providing the systems necessary to enable employees to achieve their goals, to support computer training throughout the City, and to assist the City in effective management, administration and service operation and in delivery of its services; to provide the widest possible access to computer systems; and, to provide appropriate support in the use of these systems.



Kevin Frost
301-725-5300 ext. 2310
kfrost@laurel.md.us

Information Technology (IT)

Security

In the Spring, IT deployed security cameras and public WIFI at Emancipation Park, as well as Cypress field in the early winter with coverage across the field and the playground.

In the Late Fall, we deployed a security camera and public WIFI at Alice B. McCullough field and visitors are receiving excellent WIFI coverage across all fields.

Upgrades

IT upgraded our City-wide telephone system during the Summer to the latest software, along with numerous upgrades related to network and mobile security in response to evolving cybersecurity threats.

If you haven't watched our local Public Access channel, yet, now is the time, since we upgraded their web streaming to high definition. Watch Laurel TV in high def, all Laurel, all the time!

And we completed a major upgrade of our Emergency Operations Center. IT is proud to let residents know that a new video distribution system allows city personnel to maintain full situational awareness of any incident within the City.



INET

In 2017, the City of Laurel connected our network to the Prince George's County Institutional Network (INET). Joining the INET gives us access to regional public safety information only available on the INET. We will also have additional internet bandwidth and access to the State of Maryland government intranet.

MyLaurel App

Our MyLaurel app continues to provide up-to-date information to our residents. This past year, over 2,100 people used the app for information and sending us citizen service request. Be sure to sign up and receive the emergency and informational notifications pushed out to residents on the app!



Parks and Recreation

The Department of Parks and Recreation is a full service agency that maintains and operates six facilities and 19 park sites encompassing over 222 acres of parkland. The Department offers a comprehensive program for Parks and Recreation to ensure the delivery of a variety of leisure services and facilities that enhance and enrich the quality of life for the residents of the City of Laurel.



Joanne Hall-Barr
301-725-5300 ext. 2307
jbarr@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LaurelParksRec

“From providing us places to play, get fit and stay healthy, to fostering new relationships and forging a connection with nature, our close-to-home community parks and recreation facilities provide essential services and improve quality of life.”

Parks and Recreation Month 2017

Parks and Recreation

Youth Service Bureau

Laurel Parks and Recreation founded the City's new Youth Service Bureau, Laurel Helping Hands. A new Clinical Director and Counselors were hired and they are housed in renovated Armory space with a Counseling Center. Programs were developed that are being offered at Eisenhower Middle School. The City will receive grant funding from Prince George's County to partially fund the program.

Memorial Garden

We provided assistance with the addition of the American Legion Memorial, the relocation of the Pearl Harbor Memorial and installation of the Berlin Wall Memorial to the Municipal Center Memorial Garden, as well as added walkways to better view the memorials.

Improvements and Renovations

We are continuing work on storm water management improvements at Granville Gude Park as part of Prince George's County Clean Water Partnership. Phase 1 has been completed on Lake 1 and work continues on Phase II at Lake 2. And work has begun on other projects at Sweitzer Park.

We renovated the Route 1 Welcome to Laurel Brick Wall Sign to include repointed bricks, new club seals, added solar lights and re-landscaped the area.

Energy Savings Tree Initiative

We distributed over 100 trees to residents and planted 150 in the City's parks, as well as in our Departmental tree nursery for future use. Trees were provided by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Community Events

We added several new community events such as new Winter Holiday Festival, "Play By The Book" children's program co-sponsored by Stanley Memorial Library, Friday Family Fun Nights at the Armory Community Center, expanded the list of new Laurel Outdoors Club Teen Trips and collaborated with Laurel High School Art Honor Society to renovate several park benches to be installed as functional "Art in Public Places."

Participation Numbers in 2017

We found a lot of residents took advantage of our programs in 2017:

- ▶ Youth and Teen Classes, Programs and Clubs:
154 Offered; 2,850 Participated.
- ▶ Adult Classes, Programs and Leagues:
106 Offered; 775 Participated.
- ▶ Senior Programs, Classes and Trips:
202 Offered; 3,550 Participated.
- ▶ Special Events:
30 Offered; 2,900 Participated.

We look forward to bringing you more in 2018!



Laurel Police Department

The Laurel Police Department is a twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, full-service law enforcement agency providing law enforcement services to all citizens and visitors of the City of Laurel.

The primary services include police patrol of residential communities and businesses, response to emergency and non-emergency calls for police service and the investigation of all violent and property crimes.



Chief Richard McLaughlin
301-498-0092
rmclaughlin@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @richmlpd

“The City of Laurel Police Department and the State’s Attorney’s Office have been conducting a joint investigation to identify the person(s) responsible for the death of Brian Moses.

Today, the Media are invited to attend a Press Conference to announce the indictment of person(s) responsible for his death.”

Arrest Made in Death of Brian Moses after 12 Years

Laurel Police Department

Public Safety

Maintained the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) placed in all police vehicles to ensure the health and well being of the citizens of Laurel.

To increase public safety during emergencies, the Laurel Police Department designed and ordered a new SWAT jump out and transport vehicle, continued and increased personnel wear camera program 100% of Patrol officers.

Speed Enforcement Program

The Laurel Police Department maintained and added to the "Safe School Zone" automated speed program, as well as added additional Red Light Automated Enforcement Cameras.

Community Programs

During 2017, the Community Policing Unit was very active in the community, ran several successful programs, and continued to support/assist the other units within our Police Department on an increasing basis. We facilitated and maintained the Speed Camera program, as well as participated in several events each month. We increased our social media coverage by posting event details and photographs on various social media outlets, as well as in connection with the City social media accounts. The Community Policing Unit has continued to work diligently to improve/facilitate positive working relationships intra and interdepartmentally, as well as with the citizens we serve, despite being short staffed through the majority of 2017. We have added multiple events to our yearly itinerary to increase our community outreach as a whole. Both officers within the CPU unit are very well known and very well respected within the police department as well as within the city government and with the citizens we serve. Coordinated three Drug Take Back dates with coordination with the DEA Coordinated with Pathfinders for Autism the first Safety Squad Class which is a class having children with autism aged 8-12 interacting and learning with law enforcement.



Laurel Police Department

Patrol Division

Calls for Service January to October 15, 2017:

Calls for service including self-initiated calls: **46,175**

Adult arrests:	977
Juvenile arrests:	74
Traffic citations:	5,825
Equipment repair orders:	1,163
Warnings:	3,901
Parking citations:	2,211



CDS Seized

- ✓ Several Marijuana plants
- ✓ 8 pounds of packaged marijuana
- ✓ 96.5 grams loose marijuana
- ✓ 4.5 grams of Heroin
- ✓ 15 individual vials of PCP
- ✓ 3.5 ounces PCP w/several additional "Dipper" cigarettes
- ✓ 38 grams of crack cocaine
- ✓ 3 Fentanyl patches

*Assisted Howard County, Anne Arundel County with joint wire operation:

- ✓ 10 kilos cocaine
- ✓ 156 grams cocaine
- ✓ 1164 grams heroin
- ✓ 5 handguns
- ✓ 1 assault rifle
- ✓ \$306,137 money seized

*Assisted Howard County with burglary Search Warrant. This lead to the recovery of \$3000.00 dollars and hundreds of non-documented prescription pills: pending Ryan information

*Assisted CID with multiple search warrants

Arrests:

- ✓ 4 prostitution arrests
- ✓ 11 felony arrests for CDS PWID/DISTRIBUTION
- ✓ 13 misdemeanor arrests for CDS possession



Public Works

The Department of Public Works provides services that include residential and commercial refuse and recycling collection, street and sidewalk maintenance/repair, storm drain maintenance, tree management, engineering solutions for public safety, management of the Capital Improvement Program, which includes upgrading roads, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, maintenance of the automotive fleet, snow and ice removal and quick and effective responses to inclement weather damage. Our mission is to provide the best possible services to our residents in the most efficient, professional and economical way possible.



Rob Ferree
301-725-0088
robferree@laurel.md.us
Twitter: @LaurelPW

“The City sponsors this annual cleanup campaign to encourage and assist Laurel citizens in removing accumulated trash and in sprucing up the appearance of the City’s neighborhoods and streets.

Arrangements for a special pickup of bulk trash and yard debris can be made by calling the Department of Public Works at 301-725-0088.”

2017 Spring Cleanup Month

Public Works

Bowie Road Project

Public Works completed the installation of a new sidewalk, roadway resurfacing and new storm drain system on Bowie Road, which now has a continuous sidewalk from Route 1 to MD 197.

Lighting

Public Works installed and/or upgraded street lighting where needed, as well as conducted Citywide survey twice and reported approximately 100 malfunctioning lights to BGE for repair. They also installed new lights along Brooklyn Bridge Road to enhance public safety on a newly acquired street.

Pedestrian Safety

Public Works installed two Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) systems to enhance pedestrian crossing safety on Old sandy Spring Road by Sweitzer Park and on Montrose Avenue by Centennial Park. There were also 4 large cement planters with seasonal plants installed on Cypress Street.

Maintenance/Refuse and Recycling

In 2017, the Department maintained 248 vehicles and specialty equipment, along with the 9 LVFD and 5 LVRS apparatus; recycled 1,813 tons of recycling and 6,247 tons of trash; and processed 306 tons of items from Special Pick Ups and 262 tons of Yard Waste.



Employee Safety

After the tragic loss of Marcus Colbert, Public Works started working with the Regional campaign, "Slow Down and Move Over," and installed amber light safety bars to all refuse and recycling vehicles.

Purchased ANSI E mesh pants for laborers. The addition of the pants creates a ANSI III level safety uniform

Street Division

Removed 84 dying street trees and replanted 76 new trees throughout the City. Coordinated the removal of 2 trees and several large branches with BGE along Sandy Spring Road. Vehicular safety enhancement.



Standing Goals for the City of Laurel

- ▶ Continue to improve the long-term financial stability of the City of Laurel;
- ▶ Continue to add Public Safety Enhancements to better serve the residents and businesses in case of an emergency;
- ▶ Continue to promote Economic Development;
 - ▶ Continue outreach efforts through the Government to the People Program; and
 - ▶ Recruit and retain quality City staff.

Saying Goodbye...

January 23, 2017, was a dark day for the City of Laurel. **Marcus Colbert** was struck and killed on the job as he worked behind a City trash truck loading trash into the tailgate. He was the City of Laurel's first on the job fatality.

Marcus was a lifelong Laurel resident who started working for the City of Laurel in June of 2003 in the Parks and Recreation Department as a summer auxiliary employee.

He was hired by the Department of Public Works as a laborer in September 2005. Public Works Director Robert Ferree said, "Marcus will be remembered for his infectious smile, his willingness to help everyone, and his strong work ethic, helping other crews finish their routes without being asked."

Colbert caught the eye of residents too. He was always willing to stop and answer questions or take pictures. He was awarded a Meritorious Service Award at the City of Laurel employee awards luncheon in 2016.

Last Fall, a memorial was unveiled honoring Marcus, which is housed in the City of Laurel's Memorial Garden in front of the Laurel Municipal Center at 8103 Sandy Spring Road.

Please continue to keep Marcus' family in your prayers and remember to Slow Down to Get Around. Thank you Marcus for service to the citizens of Laurel. You will always be missed.





Thank You!

The Mayor, City Council and City Staff wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable 2018.

Please contact any of your elected officials or City staff if you have any questions or need assistance at 301-725-5300.

To stay up to date on the City of Laurel news by going to our website: *CityofLaurel.org*, Like us on Facebook: *City of Laurel – Government*, follow us on Twitter: *@cityoflaurel* and follow our Instagram account: *City of Laurel*



Also, to receive emergency notifications, sign up for Everbridge today, as well as the MyLaurel app, on the home page of our website at *CityofLaurel.org*!

