

The City of Laurel Ledger



VOL. 3, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2024

ENGAGE IN YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEER LAUREL!

As we all return from our summer vacations, now is the time to figure out how to add some time into your regular family routines to help out your neighbors! Volunteer Laurel is here to give you the resources you need to find those volunteer opportunities!

What is Volunteer Laurel?

The program aims to engage individuals with their community and local government, assist students in fulfilling their community service graduation requirements, support scouting organizations in meeting Merit Badge criteria, and match volunteers with City Departments and City-sponsored organizations based on their skills and interests.

Why Should You Volunteer?

Our time is precious and what time we have to spare outside of work, we more often want to spend it with family or relaxing. Volunteering presents an opportunity to acquire new skills, utilize existing expertise, explore new interests, connect with others, participate in initiatives that drive social change, and engage with the community!

Interested? Opportunities Abound!

If you are interested in volunteering, we are here to assist you in finding the right fit for your interests! Volunteers are essential for a variety of tasks, from helping with event set

ups to committees to landscaping work and special projects. Time commitments can vary from a few hours for a single project, to as much time as you can dedicate. Get to know your community by embracing new experiences, acquiring fresh skills, and expanding your network. Following are some of those opportunities to give you the chance to find your niche:

City of Laurel Boards, Commissions and Committees

The City of Laurel has some vacancies on their Citizen Boards, Commissions and Committees. This is a great way to give

service to your community with only a few hours a month of your time:

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian CAC:**
3-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Board of Election Supervisors:**
4-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Board of Trustees:**
4-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Clergy Advisory Council:**
2-year term - 2 vacancies
- **Education Advisory Committee:**
2-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Emergency Services Commission:**
5-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Historic District Commission:**
3-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Juneteenth Committee:**
No term limits - 2 vacancies
- **Laurel Arts Council:**
2-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Parks and Recreation CAC:**
2-year term - 2 vacancies
- **Persons with Disabilities:**
2-year term - 1 vacancy
- **Tree Board:**
2-year term - 3 vacancies
- **Laurel 4th of July Committee:**
No term limits - multiple vacancies
- **Laurel Multiservice Center:**
Laurel/Shower/Front Desk Attendants needed, along with Maintenance Help

Community Service Hours Needed?

For students that don't have the time to become an integral part of the volunteer fabric, have a lot on their plate with schoolwork, extracurricular activities and more, but need service hours for graduation, Volunteer Laurel keeps a database of students interested in helping at events the City's holds and can use volunteers. It's easy! Fill out a volunteer application online - www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering - and under the section of the type of volunteer work you would like to do, just say interested in Community Service Hours only, and we'll add your name to that database! When a volunteer opportunity arises, an email will go out and you can let us know if you are available to help and your name goes on the list of volunteers!

Want to Help, Don't Know Where to Start?

Volunteer Laurel also keeps a database of general volunteers and will send out an email to help with community projects, like the Larry Smith Garden Build we hosted in the picture below:



So again, go to www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering, fill out an online application and just let us know what type of work you are interested in, ie: outdoor work, helping with events, join a committee, etc., we can help!

We also have a comprehensive list of Community Organizations that are always looking for help on our web site! From Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services to Bernadette's House to the Laurel Women's Club and everything in between! Just go and visit www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering and check out the local organizations you can contact and help support their endeavors and you in turn can become engaged in your City!

To jump onboard the Volunteer Train, go online and fill out the application today! Questions? Reach out to 301-725-5300, ext. 2109, drop a line to ckoubek@laurel.md.us, or check out the list of volunteering options on our web site, so get onboard today to a front-row seat to the City of Laurel volunteering extravaganza!





It's Easy Being Green!

GREEN HAPPENINGS IN LAUREL!



WHAT CAN I COMPOST?

- Fruits and Vegetables
- Bread, Pasta, Grains (no raw dough)
- Meat (raw and cooked, including bones)
- Eggs, Eggshells, Seafood (raw and cooked, including shellfish, shells and bones)
- Dairy products (milk, butter, cheese) without containers
- Coffee grounds, Filters, and Loose tea
- Uncoated/Compostable tableware (plates, utensils)
- Pizza boxes (clean or "greasy")
- Grass clippings/leaves
- Kitchen paper products* (napkins, paper towels, paper bags)

*Leaping Bunny approved products



Organics Recycling (Composting) City of Laurel
Reciclaje de Productos Orgánicos (Compostaje)
For more information/ Para más información
<http://www.cityoflaurel.org/composting>
greenviving@laurel.md.us

Composting...Why It's Important!

Composting is the number one way that individuals can reduce methane gas emissions at our landfills, reduce the cost of tipping fees and reduce trash overflow. Be on the lookout for the City's updated web site showcasing the City's curbside program, when residents can expect to see their cart arrive, new educational information, videos from our recent trip to the County's composting facility and a dashboard highlighting our success in reducing methane gas emissions at the landfill!



Final Days for Laurel Farmer's Market!

We will miss you! Our Farmer's Market will be closing on September 26th! Make sure you come by to say farewell to your favorite vendors and meet some new vendors that will be joining us for the end of the season. We are very excited to accept SNAP/EBT benefits and are now participating in the Maryland Market Money program – giving our shoppers extra market cash to shop with. Stop by the Welcome Tent to get tokens. The Market is open every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. now through September 26th. Be sure to check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/thelaurelquillot> and our City web site at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1617/Laurel-Farmers-Market>.

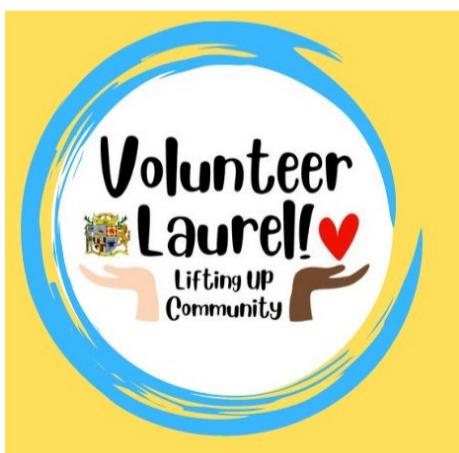
Last month for mosquito spraying! The Maryland Department of Agriculture will spray on Sunday evenings in Laurel, as necessary. If you find that you are experiencing a large mosquito population around your home or if you would like your property to be exempt from the program, visit https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx for more details. For more ecofriendly, proactive ideas like **Tip It or Toss It** to reduce the mosquito population, visit the Green Living page at <https://md-laurel.civicplus.com/1598/Informational-Videos> and while you're there, watch the **MDA's video** on the lifecycle of the mosquito.

Want to get the most recent information about the City's sustainability initiatives. Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558113916065>. This is a place where we can share ideas, highlight upcoming events and residents can stay informed on all things Sustainable.



VOLUNTARIOS EN LAUREL

Volunteer Laurel es un programa que tiene como objetivo involucrar a las personas con su comunidad y el gobierno local, ayudar a los estudiantes a cumplir con los requisitos de graduación de servicio comunitario, apoyar a las organizaciones de scouts para que cumplan con los criterios de la insignia de mérito y unir voluntarios con departamentos de la ciudad y organizaciones patrocinadas por la ciudad en función de sus habilidades e intereses. ¿Por qué debería ser voluntario? Tus tiempo es valioso y el tiempo que tenemos libre fuera del trabajo, ¡lo queremos pasar con la familia o relajándonos! El voluntariado presenta una oportunidad para adquirir nuevas habilidades, utilizar la experiencia existente, explorar nuevos intereses, conectarse con otros, participar en iniciativas que impulsan el cambio social y relacionarse con la comunidad. ¡Complete la solicitud en línea hoy mismo en www.cityoflaurel.org/volunteering!



LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

JULY 2024

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at www.cityoflaurel.org/police/community-info/crime-reports.



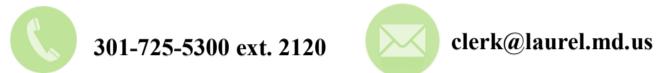
Laurel Council Connections

Legislation

Listed below are recent actions taken by the Laurel City Council. For further information on any of these actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at **301-725-5300 x2120** or at clerk@laurel.md.us. For the full agendas, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.



COUNCIL OFFICE



Adopted Legislation:

- No Legislation Adopted in August.

Bid Recommendations:

- No Bid Recommendations in August.

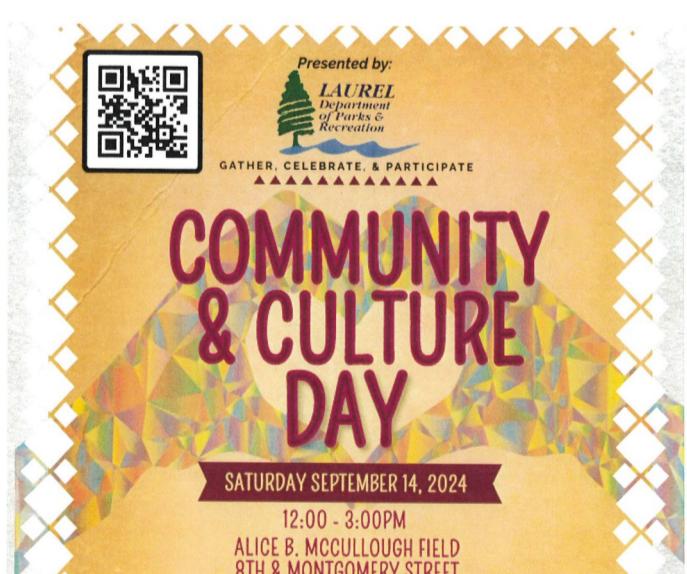
Appointments/Reappointments:

- No Appointments/Reappointments in August.

Laurel Citizens University

Fall Sessions of the Laurel Citizens University will begin October 3rd!

Go online to sign up today at [www.cityoflaurel.org/lcu!](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/lcu)



Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

September 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ September 23rd - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

September 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ September 10th - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ◆ September 17th - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ◆ September 26th - Board of Appeals (CANCELLED)

October 2024 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ◆ October 2nd - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6pm)
- ◆ October 16th (Wednesday) - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meetings (6pm)
- ◆ October 28th - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting (6pm)

October 2024 Boards and Commissions

- ◆ October 15th - Historic District Commission (6pm)
- ◆ October 22nd - Planning Commission (6pm)
- ◆ October 29th - Board of Appeals (6pm)

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

- ◆ **9/11 Memorial Push-Up Challenge, September 11th, 9:11a-9:11p**, Report your push-up count by emailing laurelmayor@laurel.md.us and share your participation on social media using the hashtag #LaurelMDRemembers911.
- ◆ **Final Days for the Laurel Farmer's Market!** Join us **every Thursday until September 26th, 3 - 7pm**, at 378 Main Street, and check out our great local vendors!
- ◆ **Community and Culture Day, September 14th, 12 - 3pm**, McCullough Field, 8th and Montgomery Streets. Celebrate and explore different cultures! Call 301-725-7800.
- ◆ **Music at the Mansion, September 24th, 6:30-8:30pm**, The Mansion at Laurel, 13910 Laurel Lakes Avenue. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month!
- ◆ **Fall Leaf Vacuuming News!** Department of Public Works has a tentative leaf vacuuming start date of **October 7th**. Please ensure that leaves are raked to the gutter or placed in paper bags. Remove sticks, twigs, and litter from leaf piles. For yard debris, branches and twigs must be bagged, put in a rigid container, or bundled with string (each bundle should be no longer than 4 feet, no wider than 2 feet across and with sticks no thicker than 3 inches in diameter). Curbside leaf vacuuming is automatic, but yard debris is by request. To schedule yard debris pickup, please email DPW@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-0088.
- ◆ **Halloween News!** Mark Your Calendars! **October 24th, 6-8pm**, Laurel Board of Trade will hold their annual **Main Street Trick or Treat and Trick or Treating** in the City of Laurel will be held on **October 31st, 6 - 8pm**.
- ◆ **Senior Services Trips and Events** - Laurel Senior Services has great trips and local events for our 55 and over group. Call 301-776-6168 for details.
- ◆ **Laurel Citizens University (LCU) Coming This Fall!** October - November 2024! Learn about your local government from City Directors and staff! For more info, call 301-725-5300 ext. 2109. Register at www.cityoflaurel.org.

Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.



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Community Resources and Emergency Management: Emergency Preparedness Month!

With the arrival of September, Laurel's Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management welcomes Emergency Preparedness Month! This year's theme from Ready.gov is "Start a Conversation!" Gather your family before an emergency arises and talk about steps you've taken to prepare and encourage others to ask questions about preparedness actions that might work for your family.

To help that conversation along, Laurel's Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management will also focus on Emergency Notifications and ways you can receive them. Public safety officials use emergency alerts to communicate reliable instructions and information during emergencies. Instances of severe weather, threats to public safety, and police activity may warrant the use of emergency alerts.

Most State, County, and local governments will have their own emergency alerting systems. To make sure you receive emergency alerts during a time you will need them, sign-up for these emergency alerts today:

- State - Maryland Department of Emergency Management Alerts:** <https://mdem.maryland.gov/Pages/alert-systems.aspx>
- County - Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security:** <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832015#/signup>
- Local - City of Laurel:** <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/230/Stay-Informed>



However you decide to start, just make sure you start that conversation today and be prepared and ready by signing up for emergency alerts now!

CITY CONTACTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE

301-725-5300 ext. 2125

www.cityoflaurel.org

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

301-725-5300 ext. 2242

laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

LAUREL POLICE

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

lpd@laurel.md.us

PARKS AND RECREATION

301-725-7800

parks@laurel.md.us

COMMUNICATIONS

301-725-5300 Ext. 2208

laurelpio@laurel.md.us