

# LAUREL LIVING

The Official Newsletter for the City of Laurel

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## Inside this Edition



New Safety Sensors to Stop  
Trash Trucks and Street  
Sweepers in Their Tracks



Laurel Sets Precedent in  
Student Employment,  
Supporting Maryland's  
Blueprint



Craig A. Moe Laurel  
Multiservice Center Set to  
Open For Services

## A Message from Mayor Keith R. Sydnor

Welcome to the inaugural edition of "*Living Laurel*," our new monthly newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed and engaged with the latest news, initiatives, and developments within our vibrant city. This publication is part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and open communication, ensuring that every resident has access to the information that shapes our community. Through "*Living Laurel*," you will receive timely updates on city projects, budget decisions, community events, and more, all designed to keep you connected to what's happening in the City of Laurel.

I am pleased to announce that the City Council has officially approved the budget for the fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025), with no tax increases or cuts in city services. This budget reflects our community's shared priorities and our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for every resident.

Thanks to my administration's thoughtful discussions and diligent planning, we have allocated resources that will improve our city's infrastructure, economic development, public safety, and expand community services. Key initiatives include significant investments in our public schools, addresses the need for affordable housing and supports local businesses to help stimulate economic growth. We are committed to fiscal responsibility and ensuring that our city thrives in a way that benefits all who call it home.

I am grateful for the active participation of our community members throughout this process. Your input has been invaluable. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant Laurel, one that continues to grow and prosper while staying true to the values that make our city unique.

Thank you for your trust and support. Enjoy the read!

*Keith R. Sydnor*



## Proudly Serving You!



Office of City Administrator  
**Christian L. Pulley, CPM**  
City Administrator  
Ext. 2242



Office of the City Council  
**Sara Green, City Clerk**  
Ext. 2120



Office of the Mayor  
**Ana Navarro, Executive Asst.**  
Ext. 2124



Budget and Personnel Services  
**Michele Saylor, Director**  
Ext. 2248



Communications  
**Natalie Williams, Director**  
Ext. 2208



Community Resources  
and Emergency Management  
**Christina Cornwell, Director**  
Ext. 2232



Economic and Community Dev.  
**Monta Burrough, Acting Director**  
Ext. 2301



Fire Marshal and  
Permit Services  
**Danny Selby, Director**  
Ext. 2195



Information Technology  
**James Cornwell-Shiel, Director**  
Ext. 2240



Parks and Recreation  
**Bill Bailey, Director**  
Ext. 2233



Police Department  
**Russell Hamill, Chief**  
(301) 498-0092



Public Works  
**Tim Miller, Director**  
Ext. 3206





## *A New Era of Community Support Begins:*

### **Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center: Ready to Serve on September 10th**

The City of Laurel is set to open the new Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center on September 10th, expanding vital support for individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. This facility, which is located at 204 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, Maryland, will serve as a comprehensive resource hub, offering a safe space for adults to access essential services.

The center, named after former Mayor Craig A. Moe, who served Laurel for over two decades will provide a wide range of services, including meals, showers, clothing, personal hygiene kits, and laundry facilities. Additionally, personal-mail distribution services will be available to help individuals stay connected. A key feature is the reception desk, where staff members greet and guide visitors to the services they need.

The Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center also offers services through partnerships with community organizations. These include 19 transitional housing bedrooms, seasonal shelters, mental health and basic medical services, literacy and life skills training, and workforce assistance programs. These partnerships ensure that individuals not only receive immediate help but also have access to resources that can aid in long-term stability.

“The Craig A. Moe Multiservice Center is more than just a building—it’s a lifeline for those who need support the most,” said Mayor Keith R. Sydnor. “This center embodies our city’s commitment to supporting our most vulnerable residents. It provides essential services, but more importantly, it offers a pathway to a better future for many in our community. We are proud to honor Craig Moe’s legacy with a facility that reflects his lifelong dedication to serving others.”

Moe's tenure as mayor was the longest in the city's history, following six terms on the City Council. His public service began at sixteen with the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department, highlighting his early commitment to the community.

During his administration, Moe oversaw key initiatives such as the redevelopment of Laurel Mall, the creation of the Affordable Housing Program, and the Main Street Economic Development Program. He also established the Winter Holiday Celebration Parade, a tradition that continues today. Moe’s legacy continues through this center, reflecting his mission to make Laurel a better place for all.

#### **SERVICES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS:**

FOOD PANTRY

19 TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UNITS

DROP IN DAY SHELTERING

SEASONAL OVERNIGHT SHELTERING

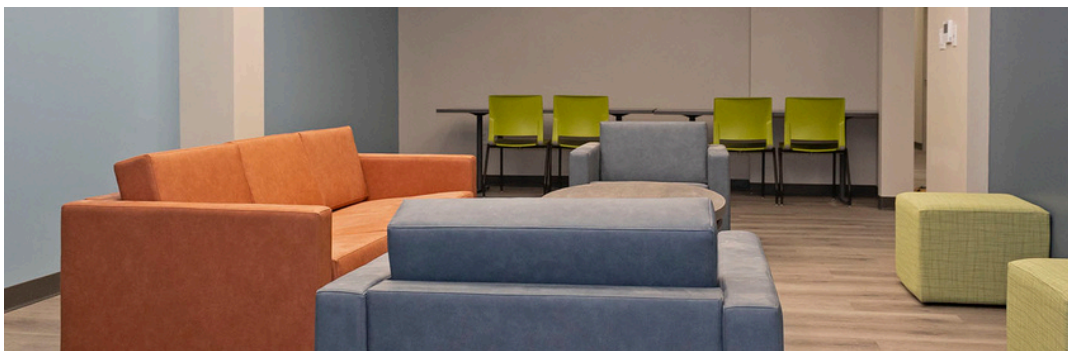
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING

BASIC MEDICAL SERVICES

WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING



#### **Video Watch**

Check out this video by Laurel TV on the development of the Laurel Multiservice Center.



## *Inspiring Local Students to Take Flight:* **Mayor Keith R. Sydnor Introduces Drone Certification Program for High Schoolers**

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor is excited to announce an innovative new program that will empower Laurel's youth to soar to new heights—literally. Starting in October 2024, the City of Laurel will launch a Drone Certification Program for high school students, in partnership with Alpha Aviator, a leading provider of drone training and certification. This initiative is exclusively available to City of Laurel residents and aims to equip students with cutting-edge skills in a rapidly growing field.

The Drone Certification Program offers a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience with drone technology, learn about aviation regulations, and earn their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilot certification. This certification will not only enhance their resumes but also open doors to exciting career paths in industries such as aerial photography, surveying, public safety, and more.

Recruitment for the program will begin in October 2024, with applications open to high school students who reside within the City of Laurel. The program will be conducted in collaboration with Alpha Aviator, a trusted partner known for its commitment to quality training and student success. Mayor Sydnor shared his vision for the program, stating, "This initiative is about more than just flying drones—it's about inspiring our young people to explore new possibilities and equipping them with the skills they need to succeed in the future. I'm proud that Laurel is leading the way in offering such a valuable educational opportunity to our residents."



## *First in Prince George's County, Maryland:* **City of Laurel Leads the Way in Student Hiring Under MD's Blueprint for Education**

The City of Laurel is proud to announce a groundbreaking initiative that positions the city as a leader in student hiring under Maryland's Blueprint for Education.

Starting in September 2024, the City of Laurel will welcome students to work in the Department of Information Technology, with an anticipation of additional students joining the Department of Communications and Department of Public Works in the near future. This marks the first time in Prince George's County that a local government has embraced such an initiative, reflecting Laurel's commitment to fostering educational growth and workforce development.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor expressed his enthusiasm for the program, stating, "This initiative is a testament to Laurel's commitment to education and innovation. By opening our doors to students, we are investing in their futures and the future of our community. I am confident that this program will serve as a model for other municipalities across the state."





## City of Laurel Department Spotlight: Department of Public Works

### Safety first: Laurel Introduces Cutting-Edge Features to Stop Trash Trucks and Street Sweepers in Their Tracks

The City of Laurel is excited to announce a groundbreaking partnership with the Local Government Insurance Trusts (LGIT) aimed at enhancing the safety of the City's workers and employees.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) received a \$15,000 grant from LGIT to install advanced sensors on the backs of several trucks. These sensors, developed by Global Sensor Systems, feature backup protection technology that automatically applies the brakes when obstacles are detected, adding an extra layer of safety for drivers, pedestrians, and property. Inside the cab, drivers receive visual and audible alerts when the system is activated. According to Global Sensor Systems, the truck can back up normally if no objects are detected by the Search-Eye Sensors.

The installation process, which took place in August, began with mounting the sensors on the trucks and connecting the necessary machinery. Global Sensor Systems and the DPW collaborated to weld protective cases for the sensors onto the trucks. The system was then tested, successfully stopping the truck six feet away from three upright trash cans. Training was provided to all DPW truck drivers on how to use and troubleshoot the sensors, ensuring they could address any issues if the machinery malfunctioned.

While the braking system serves as an extra set of eyes, it does not replace spotters at the back of the trucks. If an obstacle is detected, the spotters still need to exit the truck to assess the situation. According to Global Sensor Systems' website, as long as the Search-Eye Sensors don't detect any objects behind the truck, the driver can back up as usual.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor personally tested the technology by sitting in the passenger seat of a truck reversing towards a trash can. The truck automatically stopped within six feet of the obstacle. "This is a great project for the City of Laurel, our workers, and the community at large," says Mayor Sydnor. "Safety is always a top priority, and this new technology represents a significant step forward in protecting our employees and residents.

By investing in innovative solutions like this, we're not only improving the safety of our operations but also setting an example for other municipalities to follow. I'm proud to see our city leading the way in adopting advanced technologies that make a real difference."



#### **Video Watch**

Want to see Mayor Sydnor put this new safety system to the test? Click to Watch!





## ***Laurel Leads by Example:*** **Pioneering Regional Emergency Training**

On August 29, 2024, the City of Laurel hosted a critical Emergency Preparedness Training in partnership with Baltimore Gas and Electric's Emergency Management Team. Nearly 40 key leaders from local governments, including representatives from the City of Laurel, City of Bowie, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Calvert County participated in the meeting. This training session focused on enhancing the preparedness of emergency management teams across the region.

The City of Laurel was proud to be at the forefront of this effort, demonstrating its commitment to leading in emergency preparedness and ensuring the safety and resilience of the community. "Laurel, once again, is leading by example, ensuring the well-being of its residents and neighboring communities," says Mayor Keith R. Sydnor.

## ***Historic Milestone:*** **Fort Meade Appoints First Female Garrison Commander after 107 Years**

Colonel Yolanda Gore is settling into her historic role as the first female garrison commander in the 107-year history of Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, after assuming command of the Army's second-largest post in early August.

Gore, the second person of color to hold this position, expressed her deep honor at becoming the 89th Garrison Commander of Fort Meade. "I'm excited about the prospect of meeting new people and taking on the challenges this role will bring. It's an exhilarating feeling to envision what lies ahead," she said in an Army release.

A native of South Carolina, Col. Gore has served in the Army since being commissioned in 2002. Before assuming her new role at the Army's home for intelligence and cyber operations, she served as the former strategic initiative chief for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at the Pentagon.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor congratulated Col. Gore on her historic appointment and expressed his eagerness to collaborate on City of Laurel initiatives that could benefit her staff of over 64,000 personnel. Col. Gore emphasized her commitment to engaging with the community stating "I'm eager to collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders to ensure we meet the needs of everyone at Fort Meade," she stated.

Colonel Yolanda Gore -- The City of Laurel salutes you!





## Laurel Golf Center

### Your Ultimate Family Fun Destination

Laurel Golf Center is a top-rated recreation facility in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area, offering a variety of activities for all ages.

Established in 1992, this family-owned center features a 56-bay driving range, 18-hole mini-golf course, and nine batting cages. With amenities like heated tees and free equipment rentals, it's perfect for practicing your swing or enjoying a day out with family. The center also hosts birthday parties and corporate events, making it a go-to spot for fun and entertainment in Laurel. For more information, visit [Laurel Golf Center](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WnkpQts_HWY).

[https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WnkpQts\\_HWY](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WnkpQts_HWY)



9801 Fort Meade Rd, Laurel, MD 20707

## Supporting Local Businesses



THE LAUREL BOARD OF TRADE  
SMALL BUSINESS. BIG IDEAS.

383 Main Street  
Laurel, MD 20707

Olive on Main  
Mediterranean Restaurant  
504 Main Street  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(240) 280-8560



Big City Body Art  
154 Lafayette Ave, Suite B  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(240) 482-6162



1-800 Water Damage of Laurel  
14723 Baltimore Ave, Unit G  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(443) 288-0977







### *Mayor's Summer Intern Program 2024*

## Local Youth Bring Fresh Energy to All Departments at City Hall

The City of Laurel Mayor's Summer Intern Program concluded its latest season, offering a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in local government operations. This year, interns were matched with their top three departmental choices, providing a diverse and enriching experience across various city departments.

The program was designed to give interns a comprehensive view of municipal governance and public service. Each intern was placed in a different department, allowing them to explore various facets of city management and discover their interests within public administration. Interns worked within departments such as Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Economic and Community Development, Communications, and more. This arrangement allowed them to experience the intricacies of their chosen department and understand how it contributed to the city's overall functioning.

Whether working on community outreach projects, assisting with research, or supporting event coordination, each intern gained hands-on experience and valuable insights into the workings of local government. Interns participate in meaningful projects and daily tasks, providing them with a realistic view of what it's like to work in local government. Each intern is paired with a mentor from their assigned department. These mentors provide guidance, support, and feedback, helping interns navigate their roles and make the most of their summer experience.

It was incredible to see how this year's interns grew and what new perspectives they brought to the City of Laurel. Their fresh ideas and enthusiasm made a positive impact, and we enjoyed celebrating their achievements throughout the summer. For more details about the City of Laurel's Summer Intern Program and to find out how you can get involved in next year's initiative, please visit our website at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).



### *My Time Inside the Communications Department*

My time working at the City of Laurel Communications Department this summer has been amazing! I used to think that this building was here for show and that there was nothing going on in here, but after I joined the Mayor's Summer Intern Program I learned how much fun it was. My mom persuaded me to give the program a chance because I really liked photography. I didn't expect much from here, but I got lucky and was put into the Communications Department where they don't only just do TV for Laurel TV, but I also learned about photography, videography, podcasts, and so many other things. ~**Abdulkamil Amusa, Junior, CMIT**



## *Shaping Our Community:* **Resident Input on Westside Business Survey**



Mayor Keith R. Sydnor is thrilled to introduce a new avenue for community involvement. We are exploring the possibility of establishing a new business within the Westside Community MXT Zone on Westside Blvd in Laurel, MD. To ensure residents had a meaningful role, we launched a community survey to gather their insights and feedback. Mayor Sydnor deeply values their contributions and is committed to incorporating their perspectives into the decision-making process for the community's benefit. Your input shaped the future of our community, and Mayor Sydnor is now reviewing the over 300 responses we received. He is taking into consideration your thoughts and ideas to create a vibrant area that reflects our shared vision.



## *Our National Night To Remember:* **A Celebration of Community and Safety**

The City of Laurel's National Night Out was a tremendous success, fostering a strong connection between the community and the Laurel Police Department.

Held in Granville Gude Park, the event featured an array of activities designed to bring residents and officers together. Attendees enjoyed lively dance sessions, engaging games, and creative crafts, all contributing to a festive atmosphere. The evening was not only about having fun but also about building trust and rapport between law enforcement and the community they serve. By participating in these interactive experiences, residents had the chance to get to know their local officers in a relaxed and positive setting.



## *Creating Safe Havens:* **Laurel's Summer Nights Program for Youth**

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor's initiative, the City of Laurel's Safe Summer Nights program, successfully fostered a supportive and inclusive environment for local youth. Running from 6 pm to 10 pm, the program aimed to ensure a secure space where young residents could enjoy their summer. "Our overarching goal is to create an environment where our youth can have fun while learning and growing," Mayor Sydnor remarked. The initiative effectively promoted community engagement by uniting youth, families, and local organizations. It provided youth development opportunities through mentorship, counseling, and skill-building activities.



## *Music In the Air:* **Laurel's Free Summer Concerts**

The Summer Concert Series at the Towne Center in the City of Laurel was a vibrant highlight of the season. Running Thursdays at 7 p.m. from July 11th to August 15th, the series brought together an array of talented performers. The J. Castro Band set the stage with their dynamic sounds, while Harmonie & Co captivated the audience with their soulful R&B music. Each week offered a unique musical experience, drawing residents and visitors alike to enjoy lively performances in a festive atmosphere.



# COUNCIL *Connections*



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. Visit [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) to find out more about your representative.

## Upcoming Legislation and Action Items

- **Ordinance No. 2029.** - An Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Provide an Effective Date
- **Bid Recommendation** - Fourth and Fifth Street Roadway Improvements- Department of Public Works
- **Bid Recommendation** - Compton Avenue Alley Improvements- Department of Public Works
- **Bid Recommendation** - Virginia Manor Court Street Improvements- Department of Public Works
- **Purchase Requisition** - Rehrig Vision Service Verification Hardware/Software- Environmental Programs
- **Bid Recommendation** - Back-up Generator Replacement Project Phase I- Department of Community Resources and Emergency Management

**Mayor and City Council Work Session, September 4, 2024 (In-Person)**  
**Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center**  
**8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707**



[Click Here to Watch the Latest Mayor and City Council Meeting - July 29, 2024](#)





## Laurel City Council Welcomes Adrian Simmons!

The City of Laurel is proud to announce the appointment of Adrian Simmons to the Laurel City Council. With a deep commitment to community service and a passion for local governance, Simmons brings a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives to the Council.

A long-time resident of Laurel, Simmons has been actively involved in various civic and volunteer activities, earning the respect and trust of fellow community members. His appointment reflects his dedication to improving the quality of life for all residents and his vision for a more inclusive and vibrant Laurel.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor expressed confidence in Simmons' ability to serve the city, stating, "Adrian has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to our community. His appointment to the City Council is a testament to his leadership and his unwavering dedication to making Laurel a better place for everyone."

Adrian Simmons was appointed to the Council by a majority vote following the vacated seat of Carl DeWalt. [Click here to watch his swearing-in ceremony.](#)





## James Kole, Council President, Ward 1

- Moved to City of Laurel in 2016
- B.S. Landscape Contracting/Horticulture - Penn State University
- MD/DC/VA Landscape Contractors Assoc., Former Board Member
- National Collegiate Landscape Committee - Member
- Elected to City of Laurel City Council - November 2021

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the first edition of Laurel Living. As one of your council members from Ward 1, I am excited to use this space to share updates and keep you informed and engaged. Your input means a lot to me and I want to hear from you. Please continue to share your ideas, concerns and feedback. I welcome your emails at [jkole@laurel.md.us](mailto:jkole@laurel.md.us). This is a brief newsletter, with limited space, so I encourage you to follow me on social media [@CouncilmanKole](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

**Click here to watch my full interview on Laurel TV.**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!

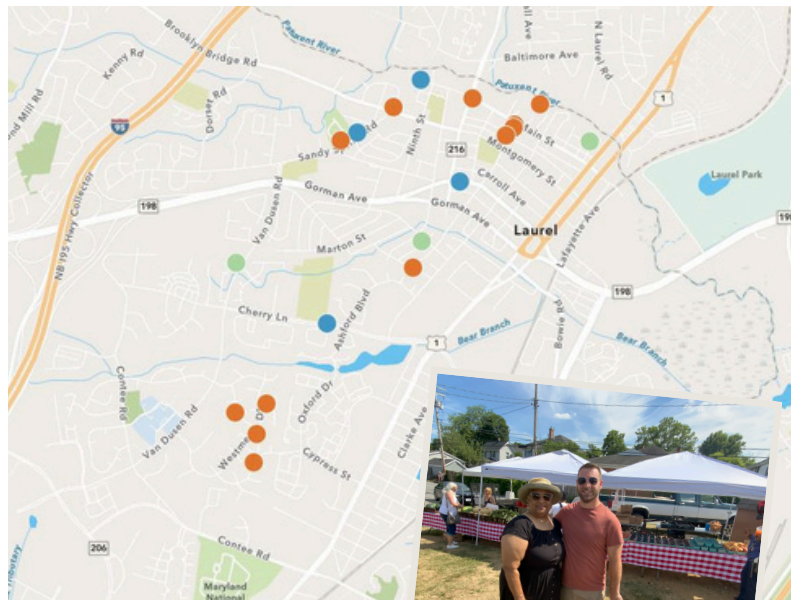
- The new version of MyLaurel App is seeing increased usage. This version has some differences from the previous App, but still offers the same great ability to report concerns directly to various City Departments. The MyLaurel App is the fastest way to receive corrections or feedback to reported items.
- The Farmer's Market on Main Street continues to grow with regular and semi-regular vendors. The market will continue every Thursday until September 26th.

### RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** *There has been an increase in Spotted Lantern Fly, especially along the river. What can the City do about it?*

**Answer:** Spotted Lantern Fly are new to Laurel this year. They are a highly invasive species from Asia, which evolved in the same habitat as Tree of Heaven, another highly invasive species.

Tree of Heaven has been growing in Riverfront Park for many years. With many mature trees near the path, it is not uncommon to see large clusters of this colorful insect. While they may look gross, these flying bugs generally do not kill the trees and they do not bite. These bugs will eventually become food for local wildlife. Spraying them is not cost effective and may harm other species.



Increased MyLaurel App usage in Ward 1.



James at the Farmer's Market

### Upcoming Ward 1 Events:

- 9/13 Laurel Pride Drago Bingo @ 7pm**  
Barkman Kaiser Public Safety Complex-Activity Center  
811 5th Street, Laurel, MD 20707
- 9/27 Music at the Mansion @ 6:30pm**  
Gude Mansion  
13910 Laurel Lakes Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707
- 10/12 Laurel Pride Day @ 11am**  
Granville-Gude Park  
8300 Mulberry Street, Laurel, MD 20707





## Christine Johnson, Council Member, At-Large

- Elected to first term on Laurel City Council on November 7, 2023
- Resident of the City of Laurel since 2002
- B.S. Sociology - University of Maryland College Park
- 2nd Vice Chair, Woman's Club of Laurel

Dear City of Laurel Residents,

As your At-large council member, I'm excited to introduce myself to you through this first edition of our community newsletter! As someone deeply committed to our neighborhood, I'm eager to keep you informed about local developments, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement. This newsletter is a space where we can stay connected and work together to enhance our community. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas as we embark on this journey together. Please feel free to reach out via email at [cjohnson@laurel.md.us](mailto:cjohnson@laurel.md.us) or via my Facebook page, **Friends of Christine M. Johnson**. [Click here to watch my full interview on Laurel TV](#). Let's make the City of Laurel an even better place to call home!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!



- Let's stay diligent as a community during the back-to-school transition. We should expect increased traffic around school zones and focus on pedestrian safety, enforcing school zones, and managing parking. Additionally, school funding, teacher shortages, and student mental health resources are key areas we should focus on this new academic year.
- As flu season approaches, we should see an increase in vaccination drives and public health campaigns to prevent outbreaks. Ongoing concerns about COVID-19 variants and vaccination rates will continue to shape local health efforts. As a community, let's do what we can to practice and promote safe and healthy behaviors.



The City is providing a contribution to *Angels Havinn* to provide school supplies for local children during the back-to-school community pop-up.

## RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** Will there be a Women's History event in 2025?

**Answer:** Yes, it will be held on Saturday, March 8th. More details will be forthcoming, but save the date and plan to attend!



Brand new voter signed up at the summer voter registration drive.

## Upcoming Events:

9/1 **Woman's Club of Laurel Yard Sale**  
Scotchtown Elementary School @ 8am



## Jeffrey Mills, Council Member, Ward 2

- Elected to first term on Laurel City Council on November 7, 2023
- Resident of the City of Laurel for over 20 years
- Attended Prince George's and Howard County Community Colleges
- Member, Toastmaster International
- Published Author "Pushed Into Purpose"

Hello Residents,

I hope this message finds everyone well and enjoying the warm weather! In this newsletter, you'll find information about what I have been up to in the community working on your behalf. You'll also find information on things to come. Fall is quickly approaching, and I am excited to continue working with you to make our community a better place. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please email me at [jmills@laurel.md.us](mailto:jmills@laurel.md.us). [Click here to watch my full interview on Laurel TV.](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!



- The City of Laurel's Safe Summer Nights Program that created a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for City residents ages 12-16 was a huge success. Participants enjoyed enriching activities such as sports, arts, education, games, arts and crafts, and other exciting activities hosted by various local businesses. I think it is important to the community to continue this effort, so I will be working with the Administration on a Fun Fall Nights Program. Stay tuned!
- I was pleased to attend the City's annual National Night Out event at Granville Gude Park. It was great to see so many of you out there enjoying your community and connecting with our Law Enforcement Officers.



Mayor Keith R. Sydnor and Laurel City Council Members pose for photos at a recent Safe Summer Nights Program

## RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** Do you compost and how hard is it?

**Answer:** Yes, I do recycle my organics! Organics recycling (composting) is super easy and is so good for our environment. Please visit the [City's Organics Recycling](https://www.cityoflaurel.org/375/Organics-Recycling) webpage on how to properly recycling your organics and even has some tips on how to deal with those pesky fruit flies.

<https://www.cityoflaurel.org/375/Organics-Recycling>



## Upcoming Ward 2 Events:

**TBD Fun Fall Nights (Details Coming Soon)**





## Kyla Clark, Council Member, Ward 2

- Elected to first term on Laurel City Council on November 7, 2023
- Resident of the City of Laurel for over 9 years
- Vice Chair, City of Laurel Environmental Committee
- Member, City of Laurel's Persons with Disabilities Committee
- MBA in Global Business and International Marketing, AIU
- B.S. Business Administration and Marketing, Le Moyne College

Dear Laurel Residents:

As we welcome the fall and our students back to school remember let's rally around our students and families as they embark on a new academic year full of opportunities. Also, your attendance and involvement in city events, volunteering, or spreading seasonal cheer helps make Laurel a wonderful place to live. Questions? **Contact me at 443-972-0046 or [kclark@laurel.md.us](mailto:kclark@laurel.md.us)** and on social media **@kylaclarkforlaurel**. **Click here to watch my full interview on Laurel TV.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!



- Nominate someone for the Marcus Colbert Outstanding Citizenship Award! Celebrate individuals who embody service, dedication, and a commitment to improving the City of Laurel. Nominations are open until November 20. **Click here for more information**
- Are you a Laurel resident or business owner? Join the 2024 Fall Laurel Citizens University to learn how your local government works! Sessions start October 3, 2024, and are held Thursday evenings. Contact Carreen Koubek at [ckoubek@laurel.md.us](mailto:ckoubek@laurel.md.us) or 301-725-5300 ext. 2109.



Spending quality time with Laurel youth at our 2024 Fourth of July Celebration at Granville Gude Park on July 6th.



Honoring two Laurel heroes (father and son) for saving a person's life on a Southwest Airlines flight as they received a Presidential award.

## RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** Councilwoman Clark over the first 10-months of your term what have you helped to change in the City of Laurel?

**Answer:** Great question! Here are my top 3:

- **Advocating for You** - I advocated to extend the speaking time for residents at council meetings, ensuring your voices are heard.
- **Community Engagement and Support** - Met with numerous HOAs, residents, and businesses. I've also written letters supporting key issues like the Westside Townhome community's mail concerns, creating a section in our library for Laurel authors, and securing financial support for our fire departments and Laurel High School.
- **Initiatives and Leadership** - As council president Pro Tempore, I led a meeting, drafted a request for a pilot noise camera program, led the motion to fill our council vacancy, and resolved over 73 resident and business concerns since November.

## Upcoming Ward 2 Events:

- 9/5 Free Prostate Health Screening**  
Laurel's Multiservice Center @ 10am  
204 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, MD 20707
- 9/7 St. Mark's UMC Emancipation Day 12th Annual Diabetes 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk (In-Person and Virtual)**  
Alice B McCullough Field @ 8am
- 9/11 Mission BBQ Honors**  
**9/11 for Firefighters, First Responders, and Police Officers**  
14712 Baltimore Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707





Presented by:



GATHER, CELEBRATE, & PARTICIPATE



# COMMUNITY & CULTURE DAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

12:00 - 3:00PM

ALICE B. MCCULLOUGH FIELD  
8TH & MONTGOMERY STREET



LET'S GATHER, CELEBRATE, AND LEARN HOW TO  
PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY & CULTURAL  
GROUPS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY



ENJOY MUSIC, GAMES, FOOD, & FAMILY-FUN ENTERTAINMENT

VENDORS WELCOME!

SCAN QR CODE FOR  
VENDOR APPLICATION

ALL VENDORS MUST COMPLETE A VENDOR APPLICATION TO BE REVIEWED  
PRIOR TO APPROVAL. REQUIREMENTS ARE LISTED ON VENDOR APPLICATION.

[WWW.CITYOFLAUREL.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFLAUREL.ORG)



(301)725-7800