




MAYOR KEITH R. SYDNOR

2024



Accomplishments & Community Events

Mayor Sydnor's leadership demonstrates his unwavering commitment to addressing community needs, fostering inclusivity, and driving economic growth. His accomplishments highlight a focus on affordable housing, youth empowerment, public health, and community engagement, setting a strong foundation for the future of the City of Laurel.



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.

TO OUR RESIDENTS,

It's been a pleasure serving as your mayor this past year. Seeing the City of Laurel growing and thriving has been so rewarding. It is a testament to our community's strength, and I am excited to see how we can make the city an even better place with the help of the residents.

We still have a lot to work on, and that's where YOU come in. Your voice is powerful and helps ensure that everyone has a say in how they want to see our city progress. This pamphlet gives you a glimpse of what we accomplished last year thanks to your input, but we don't want the city to stay stagnant; we want to nurture a welcoming community for you and your children.

I cannot thank my staff enough for making sure you, the residents, are always at the forefront of our decision-making process. I hope that with this Town Hall Meeting and other interactions, we can continue to build on our successes and create a more vibrant future for the City of Laurel. Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. Together, let's embrace the challenges ahead and strive for even greater accomplishments in our city.

... **THANK YOU!**



2024 JANUARY

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Mayor Keith Sydnor joined city leaders nationwide at the U.S. Conference of Mayors, discussing public safety, economic development, and civic engagement. He returned with innovative strategies to strengthen Laurel's local programs.

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING

At a well-attended town hall, Mayor Sydnor engaged residents on key issues, encouraged open discussion, and shared updates on upcoming projects. The event promoted transparency and ensured the community remained informed and involved.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL RETREAT

Mayor Sydnor hosted the County Council retreat, strengthening intergovernmental relationships and discussing legislative priorities. A guided tour of the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center showcased Laurel's streamlined public services, community initiatives, and successful partnerships that benefit residents across the region.



2024

FEBRUARY

TOWN HALL: CRIME UPDATE & NEW INITIATIVES WITH LAUREL POLICE CHIEF HAMILL

A collaborative discussion provided updated crime statistics and introduced fresh policing strategies. Residents shared concerns and insights, helping shape ongoing efforts to enhance community safety.



BLACK HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

Mayor Sydnor hosted a Black History Month Essay Contest to celebrate local students' contributions. Jayda Ceaser wrote about hip hop's impact on the Black community, while Khourtney Wheatley focused on Josephine Baker's life. The participants were invited to the Joseph R. Robison Municipal Center for treats and conversation with Mayor Sydnor.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

A citywide celebration featuring historical achievements, cultural presentations, and local talent. Attendees honored legacies that have shaped Laurel's identity and actively participated in dance performances, showcasing the vibrant culture of the community. The event was coordinated by Council President Clark.



2024

MARCH

MARTIN LUTHER KING MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER DAY

Students explored diverse career paths through interactive presentations, learning about goal-setting, networking, and skill development. The event aimed to inspire young minds and broaden their professional horizons.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The City of Laurel celebrated Women's History Month at the Laurel Multiservice Center, with a program highlighting the successes of women from all backgrounds. The event featured inspiring speeches and performances, followed by a range of interactive activities. Guests had the opportunity to write cards to soldiers, enjoy belly dancing, or network while savoring a delicious meal. The celebration was coordinated by Councilmember Christine Johnson.



2024
APRIL

EID AL-FITR CELEBRATION

Joined the Islamic Community Center for end of Ramadan festivities, promoting interfaith dialogue and cultural inclusivity. The event highlighted Laurel's commitment to celebrating diverse traditions.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAYOR ASSOCIATION 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Represented Laurel at a national gathering of African American municipal leaders, focusing on equitable governance, economic development, and community engagement. This forum inspired collaborative solutions and fostered new partnerships.

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES (NLC) CENTENNIAL ROADSHOW

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor, the Laurel City Council, and City of Laurel staff had the honor of welcoming the National League of Cities Centennial Roadshow to Laurel. Leaders from NLC and the City toured the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center, learning about Laurel's ongoing efforts to combat homelessness and improve community wellness.



2024 MAY

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH INITIATIVES

Promoted health and wellness throughout May, highlighting community education and support programs. Laurel's efforts earned a Silver Star from the National Forum of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, celebrating the city's commitment to holistic well-being.



2024 JUNE

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

Finalized contracts with United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1994 and the Department of Public Works, ensuring fair wages, improved benefits, and collaborative labor relations.

JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY

Building on a community tradition started in 2019, this annual event brought residents together for educational programs, cultural music performances, and meaningful reflection on African American history.



2024
JULY

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Laurel hosted a vibrant Independence Day festival featuring fireworks, family-friendly activities, live music, and local vendors. The festivities fostered a sense of community and national pride, bringing residents together in celebration.



2024
AUGUST

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Partnered with BGE to conduct first-of-its-kind training for Northern Prince George's County municipalities—Bowie, Rockville, and Prince George's County OEM—focusing on enhanced emergency response and collaboration.

SAFE SUMMER NIGHTS PROGRAM

Launched a six-week summer program designed to reduce juvenile misconduct, offering recreational activities, mentorship, and community engagement to create a safer, more supportive environment for youth.



2024 SEPTEMBER

9/11 PUSH-UP CHALLENGE

Organized a commemorative fitness event in recognition of September 11, 2001, paying tribute to first responders and remembering those who lost their lives. Participants engaged in push-ups and moments of reflection, ensuring the day's legacy remains a central part of Laurel's collective remembrance.

GRAND OPENING OF CRAIG A. MOE LAUREL MULTISERVICE CENTER

Launched a one-stop resource hub at the Multiservice Center, offering free meals, housing, and essential grooming services to support homeless populations, reflecting Laurel's ongoing commitment to providing accessible community resources.



BLOOD DRIVE FOR SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

Collaborated with the American Red Cross to encourage donations and educate residents about the impact of sickle cell disease.

PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS

Participated in Prince George's County Sigmas' 5K Walk/Run, highlighting early detection and men's health advocacy.

DIABETES AWARENESS

Completed St. Mark's United Methodist Church's annual 5K, promoting prevention, management, and support for those affected by diabetes.





2024 OCTOBER

SMALL BUSINESS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOP

Hosted Laurel's inaugural gathering for female entrepreneurs, in partnership with The Total Package. Participants networked, exchanged resources, and shared success stories, creating a supportive network aimed at advancing women-owned enterprises. Breakout sessions included discussions on digital marketing and personal branding.



FAITH & BLUE EVENT

Collaborated with St. Mark United Methodist Church and the Laurel Police Department to foster stronger community-police ties. Remarks emphasized trust-building, shared values, and inclusive problem-solving for neighborhood well-being.

2024 NOVEMBER

CITY OF LAUREL'S FIRST VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST

The inaugural event was held to honor and express gratitude to veterans for their service. Colonel Yolanda Gore, Fort Meade Garrison Commander, delivered a keynote address titled "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service," emphasizing the enduring commitment of military personnel. The event highlighted the city's ongoing dedication to supporting its veteran community and ensuring that the sacrifices of these individuals are continually recognized.



4TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DRIVE-THRU GIVEAWAY

Joined the Tau Delta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Distinguished Pearls Foundation, O Six Ryderz, and Uplift Church to distribute Thanksgiving baskets to over 150 families, ensuring local residents received much-needed support during the holiday season.



2024

DECEMBER

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCACY

Met with Maryland Secretary of Housing Jake Day to discuss critical issues, including affordable housing and rent stabilization, underscoring the city's commitment to equitable living options.

COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD INITIATIVE

Partnered with Priority Partners, Johns Hopkins Health Plan, and a Prince George's County nonprofit to launch the county's first community food cupboard, addressing food insecurity and providing vital resources.

FIRST KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Organized by Wilburn & Associates, LLC, this inaugural event celebrated Kwanzaa's seven principles of African heritage, fostering unity, creativity, and a shared cultural experience in the community.





Key Initiatives & Economic Development

2024

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER GRANT PROGRAM

Launched a new initiative allocating \$60,000 from the FY2025 budget to provide \$5,000 grants for 12 eligible buyers. These funds assist with down payments or closing costs on homes within city limits, fostering long-term residency and strengthening local homeownership in Laurel. The program is a testament to Mayor Sydnor's belief in Laurel's bright future and the ability of our residents to thrive.



2024

LAUREL THRIVE SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Introduced a funding initiative to support new businesses within city limits, administered by the Laurel Department of Economic and Community Development (Laurel ECD). The program offers \$10,000 grants to qualifying businesses that launch between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, fostering entrepreneurship, economic growth, and local job creation. The "Laurel Thrive" program aligns with the City's broader goals to spur economic development, foster entrepreneurship, and create additional jobs for Laurel residents.

2024

JOB & CAREER READINESS

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Facilitated career opportunities for three high school students to work in key municipal departments—Information Technology, Public Works, and Communications. This hands-on initiative bridges classroom learning with real-world skills, fostering local talent development and community engagement.

DRONE PILOT CERTIFICATION

We are in the process of finalizing an agreement with Alpha Drones to train three Laurel residents, ages 16–18, as Level One Certified Drone Pilots. This hands-on program invests in youth development, opens doors to emerging industries, and demonstrates Laurel's commitment to equipping young people with future-ready skills, such as aerial photography, surveying, public safety, and more. Students who successfully complete the program will earn their Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilot certification.



2024

PUBLIC SAFETY & MENTAL HEALTH

MOBILE CRISIS TEAM

We are the process of finalizing our agreement with Prince George's County to offer mental health crisis support daily from 4 PM to midnight. This initiative will provide immediate, compassionate assistance to residents, promoting well-being and safety within the community.

MOVE WITH THE MAYOR

The City of Laurel earned Silver Level recognition in the 2024 Move with the Mayor Spring Mental Health and Physical Activity Challenge for its dedication to fostering an active, connected community.

Notable activities included:

- "Bike to Work" Day
- Mental Health Awareness Event
- National Kids to Parks Day
- City of Laurel "Move w/the Mayor" Tennis Fun Day
- Youth Sports Programs and Adult Basketball League





Special Meetings, Grand Openings, Conferences and Speaking Engagements



SPECIAL MEETINGS

- U.S. Conference of Mayor Meeting
- Clean Energy Workforce Press Conference w/Deputy Secretary of Energy Turk & Congressman Glenn Ivey
- Maryland Municipal League w/President John Carroll
- Prince George's State Attorney 2nd Annual Municipal Retreat
- Howard County Councilmember Christiana Rigby Meeting
- Mayor Alliances to End Childhood Hunger
- Guaranteed Income Anniversary
- City Hall in Parks (3)
- Surrounding School's Principal Breakfast
- Clergy Advisory Meeting
- Apartments Landlords Rent Strategy Discussion
- Central Maryland Board of Commerce
- Laurel Board of Trade Meeting (6)



- City of Laurel Housing Summit
- Laurel Boys & Girls Club President & Executive Board
- Laurel Police FOP Lodge 11 President & Executive Staff
- No-Kill Community Animals Shelter Committee Citizens Advisory Committee (ASCAC)
- Laurel Historical Society Annual Meeting
- HOA - Carriage Hill
- HOA - Laurel Townhomes Overlook
- HOA - Scotchtown Hills
- HOA - Villages at Wellington
- The View of Laurel Lakes Apartments
- Selborn House of Laurel Apartments
- Laurel Lakes Citizens Apartment
- Military Veterans
- Police Apprenticeship Business Model



GRAND OPENINGS

- Peace on Patuxent
- Walmart Grand Re-Opening
- GiGi's Ice Cream
- Acapulco Restaurant & Grill
- Miss Toya's Southern Kitchen
- Bad Decisions Tattoo Shop
- Myste Lounge Hookah Bar Grand-Opening
- Harmony Wellness Counseling & Consulting
- Farmers Market Lot Dedication to Michael & Eileen Leszczus
- La Casita Pupuseria
- Re-Grand Opening Laurel Wreath Masonic Lodge 149



CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

- United States Conference of Mayors
- National League Cities Congressional City Conference
- African American Mayors Association
- Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference
- National Cities Fall Conference
- Maryland Municipal League State of Municipality 2024
- Maryland Mayors Association Winter Conference



Keynote Speaker/Panelist/ Award Ceremonies

- Guest Speaker at Bowie State University: Remarks on the "Power of Voting and its Transition from Policy to Reality"
- University of Maryland Power to Polls Panel
- Defense Information System Agency
- Laurel High School Freshman Class Promotion
- St. Vincent Pallotti High School Senior Award Banquet



- Monarch Global Academy Junior Honor Society Introduction
- CMIT Middle School North 8th Grade Graduation
- Laurel Elementary School 6th Grade Graduation
- Non-Profit Prince Georges County Organization
- Impact of municipalities on non-profit organization
- Boys Scouts Hope Baptist Church Speech
- Laurel Elementary School Read-in event
- World Ebony Network Volunteer Tax Preparation Ceremony
- Tabernacle Church World International Day
- Tau Delta Zeta Youth Event
- Career Day Bond Mill Elementary School
- Career Day Vansville Elementary School
- Career Day Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School





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For More Information:
www.cityoflaurel.org