

# LAUREL LIVING

The Official Newsletter for the City of Laurel



## A Message from Mayor Keith R. Sydnor

I extend my deepest appreciation to the hardworking federal employees who serve our nation with dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment. Your contributions are the backbone of our government, ensuring that essential services continue to benefit millions of Americans. Whether in public safety, healthcare, national defense, or social programs, your work directly impacts the quality of life in our communities.

As we recognize March as Women's History Month, we take this opportunity to honor the achievements and sacrifices of the remarkable women who have shaped our nation's history and continue to pave the way for future generations. From trailblazers in government and science to advocates for justice and equality, women have played an instrumental role in strengthening our society.

Women's History Month began as a week-long celebration in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter issued a proclamation designating the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. This was in response to advocacy from groups like the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance) and educators who wanted more recognition of women's contributions to history. In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to the entire month of March, officially designating it as Women's History Month.

As of January 3, 2025, a total of 404 women have served in the U.S. House of Representatives, including both voting members and non-voting delegates. In the U.S. Senate, 64 women have served up to that date. Combining these figures, 468 unique women have served in the United States Congress from 1917 to 2025. As of March 8, 2025, the United States Supreme Court has had a total of 116 justices since its establishment in 1789. Of these, 110 have been men, and 6 have been women.

The City of Laurel remains committed to uplifting and supporting all federal workers while also recognizing the invaluable contributions of women throughout history. This month and beyond, let us continue working together to foster a community that values service, diversity, inclusiveness, equality, and opportunity for all.

### Inside this Edition



Governor's 'Enough' program honors Laurel for its dedication to community resilience.



Mayor Sydnor joins 400+ mayors working to end childhood hunger nationwide.



The City of Laurel celebrates Women's History Month with two special events.



## Proudly Serving You!



**Kyla Clark**  
Council President, Ward 2



**Council President Pro Tempore  
Jeffrey Mills**  
Ward 2



**Councilmember Christine Johnson**  
At-Large



**Councilmember Adrian Simmons**  
Ward 1



**Councilmember James Kole**  
Ward 1



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



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



**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  
Development  
Monta Burrough, 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





### *Leading with Purpose*

## **The City of Laurel Multiservice Center Receives \$62,000 for Community Impact Efforts**

We are proud to share that the City of Laurel Multiservice Center has been recognized by Governor Wes Moore's "Enough" program for its dedication to supporting vulnerable populations and strengthening community resilience. This recognition highlights the center's impact in providing essential human services and fostering economic stability for Laurel residents.

Since its opening, LMSC has been a vital resource, offering housing assistance, job readiness programs, mental health services, and food distribution to those in need. The center's work aligns with the mission of the "Enough" program, which was established to combat poverty and expand access to opportunity across Maryland.

Mayor Keith R. Sydnor celebrated the recognition, stating, "This award reaffirms our city's unwavering commitment to providing resources and opportunities for those who need them most. The Craig A. Moe Multiservice Center stands as a testament to our dedication to uplifting every member of our community."

Laurel's leadership in these efforts sets a powerful example for how local governments can create lasting change. This recognition is not just an honor—it is a testament to the city's ongoing commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive future for all.

The City of Laurel will host the LMSC "Enough" grant launch event on Thursday, March 27th from 10am-Noon. All are welcome to attend.

### *Collaborating for Change*

## **Mayor Keith Sydnor Joins National Effort to End Childhood Hunger**



Mayor Keith Sydnor has joined the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, a coalition of over 400 mayors nationwide, partnered with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign. This initiative works to ensure every child has access to the healthy food they need to thrive.

Childhood hunger is a significant issue, with millions of children going to bed hungry each night. As part of this national alliance, Mayor Sydnor is urging Congress to protect and fully fund vital food programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meal programs in the Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026 budgets.

SNAP, which helps over 41 million Americans, including 1 in 5 children, afford nutritious food, is a crucial tool in fighting hunger. Mayor Sydnor is calling for the protection of SNAP, rejecting any cuts that would reduce benefits or make the program harder to access, especially for large families.

WIC supports pregnant women, infants, and children up to age five with nutritional assistance. The mayor advocates for full funding for WIC to ensure all eligible families can receive help, as well as the MODERN WIC Act, which would allow virtual services for easier access.

"SNAP is an essential resource that ensures families, seniors, and children receive the nutrition they need," said Mayor Keith R. Sydnor. "In Laurel, we witness firsthand how food insecurity can deeply affect our residents, and these programs are absolutely vital in helping our community thrive. As part of the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, I stand with my fellow mayors in urging Congress to protect these critical resources. It is essential that we continue to provide our community with access to programs that ensure every individual has the opportunity to succeed without the burden of hunger."

## Celebrating Excellence

### City Administrator Christian Pulley Named Maryland's Top 100 Women for 2025



**Christian L. Pulley, CPM**  
City Administrator

The Daily Record has named Christian L. Pulley, CPM to its 2025 list of Maryland's Top 100 Women.

Thirty years ago, The Daily Record founded Maryland's Top 100 Women to recognize outstanding achievements by women demonstrated through professional accomplishments, community leadership, and mentoring. Nearly 2,000 women have been honored to date.

Much like a pearl, Maryland's Top 100 Women represent a story of endurance and strength shaped by the world around them. They are resilient, determined, and deserve to be honored. Pearls are crafted over time like the extensive list of Top 100 Women who have shaped the business landscape over the 30 years of this program.

Nominees were asked to complete an application outlining their educational and career history, professional and community involvement, corporate and nonprofit board memberships, and mentoring experience. They were encouraged to submit letters of recommendation from those who are familiar with their accomplishments professionally, in the community, and through mentoring.

A panel consisting of business and legal professionals, previous Maryland's Top 100 Women honorees from throughout the state, and a representative of The Daily Record reviewed the final applications and selected this year's honorees.

"For the past 30 years, The Daily Record has celebrated the incredible achievements of Maryland's Top 100 Women, and this year's honorees are stellar. These inspiring leaders have made significant contributions to Maryland and beyond. They are high-achieving role models who mentor and encourage future generations to pursue their own paths and ambitions," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, managing director of BridgeTower Media/The Daily Record. "On this 30th anniversary, The Daily Record is a proud trailblazer, honoring women leaders before it was the norm. We congratulate and celebrate this year's honorees and the many women who have been recognized as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women over the past 30 years."

Maryland's Top 100 Women will be honored at a 30th anniversary reception and awards celebration.

# New!

## Two New Departments in City of Laurel Government Effective Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025

### Department of Emergency Management

The Department of Emergency Management is responsible for disaster preparedness and public safety. This department focuses on proactive crisis response and comprehensive disaster planning, ensuring the community is protected and well-equipped to handle potential emergencies.

### Department of Human Services

The newly formed Department of Human Services is dedicated to providing long-term community support by addressing the evolving needs of residents through a variety of social services and programs.

### Dept. of Human Services - Available Services

- Helping Hands Program – Offering youth, adult, and family counseling, as well as youth drug and alcohol assessments for PG County Schools.
- Assistance in Key Areas – Support for sheltering and housing, rental and mortgage aid, donations, clothing, utility assistance, job training, résumé building, food resources, veterans' services, and other financial assistance or benefits.



## Read Across America Week

### Councilwoman Christine Johnson Participates in Special Book Reading



Councilmember At-Large Christine Johnson participated in one of her favorite holidays, Read Across America Day, by visiting Scotchtown Hills Elementary School and reading a book her children wrote, *"Dreaming of the Letter A: The Princess and the Partner Alphabet Series"* for the students. "This holiday is so important because it encourages kids to read more, which will strengthen their love of learning and spark their creativity. Sharing a book Dion Jr. and Christion wrote was even more special because it showed the children what they can do with their boundless imagination," Councilwoman Johnson said.

Established by the National Education Association (NEA) in 1998, Read Across America Day aims to promote children's literacy and encourage a love for reading. This annual event is nationally celebrated on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Theodor Seuss Geisel, who wrote under the name Dr. Seuss, and whose imaginative stories have inspired generations. By fostering engagement with literature, Read Across America Day honors Dr. Seuss's legacy of creativity and learning, emphasizing the importance of reading in children's development and lifelong success. Activities include:

- Reading aloud to children in schools, libraries, and communities
- Dressing up as Dr. Seuss characters
- Hosting book fairs
- Participating in reading challenges
- Sharing favorite Dr. Seuss stories

Dr. Seuss's books helped children learn to read and develop a love of reading. Dr. Seuss influenced children's literature by focusing on rhyme, repetition, and playful words to engage young readers. He utilized energetic illustrations to help images and words spring to life. His stories related moral lessons, celebrated individuality, and fostered social skills. Dr. Seuss ultimately helped readers enhance their reading abilities by encouraging children to ignite their imaginations through playful language and creativity.

Dr. Seuss, born Theodor Seuss Geisel on March 2, 1904, in Springfield, Massachusetts, was influenced by his mother's storytelling. He departed this life on September 24, 1991 in La Jolla, California at the age of 87. He became a beloved children's author, known for his imaginative rhymes and whimsical characters. Iconic works include "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" His work sold over half a billion books globally and has been translated into over 20 languages. Dr. Seuss is one of the world's most known writers of all time.



## Honoring Women's Contributions Celebrating Women's History Month in the City of Laurel

March is a time to celebrate and reflect on the incredible accomplishments of strong, determined women who have shaped our communities and the world. Since 1987, the United States has formally recognized March as National Women's History Month, dedicating this time to honoring the contributions of women across all fields.

One key date in this celebration is March 8th—International Women's Day (IWD). For the past 50 years, this annual observance has been a focal point in the women's rights movement, drawing attention to critical issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and the fight against violence and abuse toward women.

This year's IWD theme, "Inspire Inclusion," calls on individuals and organizations—locally, statewide, and globally—to foster environments where diversity is embraced and equity is prioritized. Whether in boardrooms, classrooms, scientific laboratories, or artistic stages, the impact of women's leadership is undeniable and transformative. While we honor the progress made, we must also recognize the ongoing challenges and commit to driving meaningful change for future generations.

International Women's Day has deep historical roots, originating in the early 20th-century labor movements and women's suffrage campaigns that sought to amplify women's voices. Today, it serves as a powerful platform for highlighting the cultural, economic, political, and social contributions of women worldwide. A key part of this movement is organizations like the Women's Club of Laurel, led by President Lorraine Kelly. This local volunteer group is part of The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)—a historic organization founded in 1890, with roots tracing back to 1868, and headquartered in Washington, DC. GFWC remains dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service, empowering women to make a lasting impact.

Ms. Kelly emphasizes this sentiment, stating, "Each time a woman stands up for herself—without knowing it's possible, without claiming it—she stands up for all women." Despite significant strides, challenges persist in many areas, including the gender pay gap, underrepresentation in leadership roles, and unequal access to education and healthcare. International Women's Day serves as a reminder that while progress has been made, the journey toward full equality continues.

### Maryland By the Numbers

Women in Maryland Legislature	76 out of 188 seats
Maryland's National Ranking	8th in the nation (previously 1st in 2005-2006)
Women in Laurel City Council	15 Elected
Women as City Council President	7 Served (including President Kyla Clark)
Women Mayors In Laurel	1 Served



The City of Laurel hosted two special events in celebration of Women's History Month. Click the links to view the highlights.



## *Focused on Maryland's Key Issues*

# **Ms. Natalie Williams Selected to Join Leadership Maryland Executive Program**



**Natalie Williams**  
Director  
Department of Communications

Ms. Natalie Williams, Director of the Department of Communications for the City of Laurel, has been chosen to participate in the Leadership Maryland Executive Program as a member of the Class of 2025.

Williams is one of 53 individuals selected for the program's 32nd class out of hundreds of applicants. Over the course of the eight-month, hands-on program, she will engage with key issues facing the state, including economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multiculturalism/diversity. The program, which runs from April to December, will include five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions. More than 100 experts from Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit sectors will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

"We are excited to announce our next class and welcome these accomplished and motivated individuals to the Executive Program," said David Fike '16 (LM) president and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "After a careful review and interview process, I am confident that the 53 members of the Class of 2025 represent a powerful cross-section of leaders who have a strong desire to make a broader impact within our state. I look forward to watching them grow as they build their knowledge, experience, and connections through our premier leadership program."

"I am truly honored to be selected for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program and excited for the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the critical issues facing our state," said Williams. "This program will not only enhance my leadership abilities but also provide invaluable insights that I can bring back to our work in the City of Laurel, ensuring we continue to grow and serve our community with excellence."

Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state.

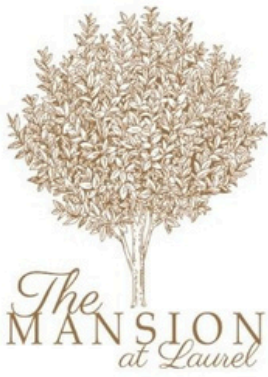
### **About Leadership Maryland**

Leadership Maryland is a statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's Executive Program selects as many as 53 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders from Maryland's public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

Introduced in 2024, Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program brings together a class of the state's rising stars and gives them the skills and tools they need to advance in their careers. With an alumni network comprised of leaders from all industries and regions of the state, Leadership Maryland has established thousands of Marylanders on their career leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change.

For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit [leadershipmd.org](https://leadershipmd.org), call 410-841-2101 or email [info@leadershipmd.org](mailto:info@leadershipmd.org).





13910 Laurel Lakes Ave  
Laurel, MD 20707

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

*Historic architecture and charm*



## Reserve this historic Greek Revival-Style Farmhouse

The Mansion at Laurel picturesque architecture and outdoor space is guaranteed to be the perfect location for intimate weddings, banquets, showers, and more!

### OUR PACKAGES INCLUDE:

#### Base Package

Up to 75 guests  
Up to 6 hours  
Ballrooms  
Catering kitchen  
Porch

#### Indoor Premium Package

Bridal suite, groom suite,  
and groom lounge  
Alcohol Permit  
4 hours of security

+ BASE PACKAGE

#### Outdoor Premium Package

Outdoor grounds  
75 white outdoor folding chairs  
Customer provided fire-rated canopies  
Eight 8' tables  
Outdoor pergola

+ INDOOR PREMIUM PACKAGE

#### Ultimate Wedding Package

3 hours of facility setup time  
2 Additional hours of facility use  
2 Additional hours of outdoor  
2 Additional hours of bridal suite,  
groom suite, and groom lounge use  
2 Additional hours of security

+ INDOOR & OUTDOOR  
PREMIUM PACKAGE



Connect with us for  
more information:



(301) 725-7800



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



[LaurelParksRec](#)



[LaurelDeptParksRec](#)





## *Spring into Fun:* **Laurel Parks & Recreation's 2025 Programs Are Here!**

Get ready for a season of fun, fitness, and community with the Laurel Parks and Recreation Department! Their Spring 2025 Brochure is here, and registration is now open for an exciting lineup of classes and leagues for all ages. Whether you're looking to explore a new hobby, stay active, or meet new friends, they've got something for you!

Looking to explore your creative side? Laurel Parks and Rec offers art classes for all ages and skill levels. Drop in to one of their fitness programs where a skilled instructor will lead participants in group workouts like Yoga, Zumba, Self Defense and more!

Parks and Rec's Spring leagues and tournaments are a great way to stay active and have fun. With options like kickball, ultimate frisbee, and softball, these leagues are perfect for those who love team sports and a little friendly competition.

Summer Day Camp Registration is now open for residents and non-residents. Don't miss out-spots fill up quickly! For more details and how to register, visit their website [www.CityofLaurel.org/Parks](http://www.CityofLaurel.org/Parks)



## *The Mansion at Laurel:* **A Timeless Venue for Your Dream Wedding**

The City of Laurel's newest venue has just what you need to host the perfect event. The Mansion at Laurel, located at 13910 Laurel Lakes Ave., is a breathtaking blend of historic charm and modern elegance, making it the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding. This stunning Greek Revival-style estate features a grand ballroom, a spacious wraparound porch, and picturesque grounds that radiate romance. Whether you're dreaming of a classic indoor ceremony or an enchanting outdoor celebration, this venue offers a timeless setting for couples ready to say "I do."

With a selection of thoughtfully curated wedding packages, couples can tailor their special day to match their unique vision. The Mansion at Laurel's Indoor Premium Package provides exclusive access to the mansion's elegant bridal suite, groom's lounge, and the grand ballroom, ensuring a luxurious and seamless experience. For those desiring an outdoor element, the Outdoor Premium Package includes elegant white folding chairs, a charming pergola, and the flexibility to add personalized décor to the estate's beautifully landscaped grounds. The Ultimate Wedding Package takes the experience to the next level, offering extended access to the venue for a relaxed and stress-free celebration from start to finish.

For couples planning their big day, The Mansion at Laurel is now booking for 2025 and 2026. Availability is limited, so early reservations are encouraged to secure your dream date. To schedule a tour or inquire about wedding packages, visit [mansion.cityoflaurel.org](http://mansion.cityoflaurel.org) or contact the venue directly at 301-725-7800. Begin your love story in a place where timeless elegance meets modern romance!





# Happy Retirement Joanne!

*Celebrating 36 Years of Service to the City of Laurel*



The City of Laurel recently held a special gathering to honor Deputy City Administrator Joanne Hall Barr for her remarkable 36 years of dedicated service. Surrounded by colleagues, friends, and city officials, Barr was recognized as a cornerstone of excellence, demonstrating unwavering commitment, professionalism, and passion for improving the community.

"It has been such an honor to serve the city," she shared during the heartfelt celebration. "It's just been a wonderful opportunity, and it's a wonderful community. I really do feel like I'm somebody from Laurel now."

Barr's leadership and contributions have played a vital role in the city's growth and success. Her hard work and dedication have left a lasting impact on her colleagues, residents, and the many programs she has helped shape over the years.

Barr contributes to many committees, including the Maryland Municipal League's Parks and Recreation Association, the Tree Board, the Liaison for Laurel Arts Council and Parks & Recreation Citizens Advisory Committee; she is a member of the Hometown Emergency Preparedness Committee and serves as Chair for the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center Board.

During her tenure, Barr has spearheaded many city initiatives, including the universally accessible playground at Discovery Park, curating entirely new programs and procedures for the Department of Parks and Recreation during the 2020 global pandemic. In 2017, Barr won the Kristie M. Mills Leadership Award due to her efforts in developing the Youth Services Bureau as a new division of the Department of Parks and Recreation to address the need for support for youth and teens and to support and strengthen families. Barr has received dozens of letters of commendation from citizens attesting to her exceptional recreational programs, events, and services.

Barr was hired by the Department of Parks & Recreation in June of 1989 as Program Supervisor and progressed quickly to become Assistant to the Director. In July of 1999, she became Deputy Director and was confirmed as Director in April 2016. As of January 2022, Barr has held the position of Deputy City Administrator.

As Deputy City Administrator, Barr revised over a dozen city policies, revitalized the organizational structure for multiple departments, and continuously pushed the city towards new initiatives and programs.

As she embarks on this new chapter, we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of service and the incredible legacy she leaves behind.

Thank you, Joanne, for 36 years of outstanding service to the City of Laurel!









## Get Current 2.0:

# WSSC Water Approves Second Interim Water Bill Amnesty Program



### Program runs

March 1  
2025

June 30  
2025

WSSC Water has launched the "Get Current 2.0" amnesty program, aimed at assisting income-restrained customers who are struggling to stay current on their water bills. Running from March 1 to June 30, 2025, this initiative provides a valuable opportunity for eligible customers to alleviate the financial burden associated with delinquent accounts.

To qualify for the program, customers must have been delinquent on their water bills since February 1, 2025. The program offers substantial relief by waiving 50-100% of late fees and reconnection fees, thereby easing the financial stress on those most impacted. WSSC Water recognizes that approximately 80,000 accounts are currently delinquent, with total debts exceeding \$1 million. Notably, 95% of these accounts belong to residential customers, highlighting the significant impact of this initiative on local households.

Through "Get Current 2.0," WSSC Water aims to foster financial stability for its customers, ensuring that essential water services remain accessible. The program not only alleviates immediate financial burdens but also encourages responsible water usage and payment practices moving forward.

Customers are urged to take advantage of this limited-time opportunity to bring their accounts current and benefit from the fee waivers. By participating in the program, individuals can secure their water services while reducing their outstanding debts, ultimately promoting a healthier community and more sustainable financial practices for all residents. For more information or to apply, customers can visit the WSSC Water website or contact their customer service department.

To learn more about WSSC Water's Get Current 2.0 initiative and to sign up to be alerted when it launches on March 1, 2025, log on at [www.wsscwater.com/getcurrent](http://www.wsscwater.com/getcurrent).

Customers can get more information about help options at [www.wsscwater.com/assistance](http://www.wsscwater.com/assistance). To contact WSSC Water by telephone with regard to their amnesty program, customers are encouraged to call their customer service line at (301) 206-4001.

## Free Tax Assistance:

# AARP Tax-Aide Program Now Available in Laurel



Tax season can be stressful, but the AARP Foundation has teamed up with Laurel's Department of Parks and Recreation to bring their Tax-aide program to you!

Offering free tax preparation to people of all ages, especially to those who are 50 and older and individuals who cannot afford paid tax services, this program ensures you get the assistance you need. Services are available in-person by appointment only, every Wednesday at the Laurel Armory from 9:30am to 3:00pm, now through April 9th, 2025. Trained volunteers will provide professional, reliable support to help you file your taxes with confidence.

Schedule your appointment today by calling 240-473-2955. Don't wait—spots fill up quickly!

# 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

- **Fleet Acquisition-** 2025 Ford E-350 Service Body Vehicle- Department of Public Works
- **Bid Recommendation-** Automated Speed Enforcement Camera Program Contract- Laurel Police Department
- **Ordinance No. 2039-** An Ordinance Amending the General Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and to Provide an Effective Date.
- **Ordinance No. 2040-** An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland Amending Laurel City Code Chapter 16 "Taxation", Article I, Section 16-10 "Elderly and Veteran Tax Credit Program" and Providing an Effective Date.

**Mayor and City Council Meeting, March 24, 2025 @ 6:00pm (In-Person)**  
**Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center**  
**8103 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, Maryland 20707**

Mayor and City Council Work Session, [March 5, 2025 \(Virtual\)](#)  
Mayor and City Council Meeting, [March 10, 2025 \(Virtual\)](#)







## Kyla Clark, Council President, 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 Neighbors,

Spring is almost here, and with it comes new energy and opportunities for our community. March is Women's History Month, a time to honor the contributions of women who have shaped our city and beyond. It's also a great time to check in on the work we're doing—keeping you informed, strengthening our neighborhoods, and making sure Laurel remains a great place to live.

I hope to see many of you at upcoming community events. Remember, your input helps guide our work, community is everything, and I'm always here to listen. **Email Me: [kclark@laurel.md.us](mailto:kclark@laurel.md.us) or text 443-972-0046**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!



- On February 8th, I was honored to lead Laurel's Black History Month celebration—a powerful day of culture, unity, and impact. Together, we honored our past while investing in the future, raising over \$500 for local youth organizations. Thank you for celebrating, supporting, and building a stronger community with us!
- On February 13th, I joined Erik Grantham, his mother Linda Carpenter, and other Maryland elected officials to testify in support of HB707, "Erik's ID Law." The bill mandates that Maryland driver's license, identification card, and moped operator's permit applications include an option to indicate a nonapparent disability.



**Honoring History, Empowering Our Future Leaders!**



**Supporting Erik's ID Law (HB707) Together!**

### RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** With warmer weather coming, I'm concerned about speeding in my neighborhood. Are there any plans to improve traffic safety?

**Answer:** Thank you for bringing this up—traffic safety is a top priority. We're working with our city's public safety and transportation teams to assess areas where speeding is a concern. This includes reviewing traffic calming measures like speed humps, additional signage, and increased enforcement.

If you have specific streets in mind, I encourage you to report them so we can look into targeted solutions. We want everyone to feel safe walking, biking, and driving in our community, and I appreciate your input! Download the City of Laurel App and submit your requests.



## James Kole, Council Member, 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
- Served as Council President - November 2023 - November 2024

Hello! Spring is finally around the corner, and I'm looking forward to longer days, warmer weather, and more chances to connect with all of you. Spring is a great time to celebrate our community—whether it's a local event, a neighbor lending a hand, or just enjoying everything our city has to offer.

Stay connected and share your thoughts—follow me on official social media pages @CouncilmanKole for updates and ways to get involved. [Click here to watch my full interview on Laurel TV.](#)

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!

- After an extended season, The Historic Laurel Epiphany Parties came to a close with their 8th party on March 1st. These parties have been a staple of Oldtown Laurel since 1978 and bring the neighbors together during dark and cold months of winter. Thank you to all that hosted.
- In February, I introduced Resolution 3-2025 to affirm Laurel's support for the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. These bonds help us fund vital infrastructure improvements at lower interest rates, saving taxpayer dollars. Keeping bonds tax-exempt ensures smart investments in our city's future. Tell Congress to leave our bonds alone!



Epiphany Parties in Laurel

### RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** How do I report a pothole, broken streetlight, fallen trees, or other concerns in my neighborhood?

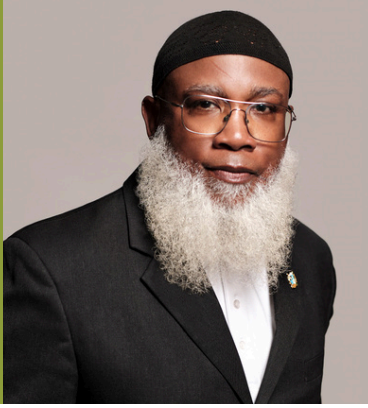
**Answer:** The most effective way to report City issues is through the MyLaurel App. This app allows residents to submit reports directly to the various departments, track the status of their request, and receive updates on the resolution process.

Residents can also report issues by calling the City at 301-725-5300 or submitting a request online via the city's website under the "Report a Concern" section.

If your concern is not addressed within a reasonable time, please feel free to email me at [jkole@laurel.md.us](mailto:jkole@laurel.md.us) for further assistance, and I will try to help resolve your concern.

### Upcoming Ward 1 Events:

- 4/5 **Patuxent River Clean Up @ 10am**  
Riverfront Park (Avondale Street Entrance)
- 4/19 **Earth Day Clean Up @ 10am**  
Granville Gude Park (By the Lake House)
- 4/19 **Electronics Recycling, Paper Shredding, and Paint Disposal - \$5/can @8:00am**  
305 1st Street, Laurel, Maryland



## Jeffrey Mills, President Pro-Tempore, Ward 2

- Elected to first term on Laurel City Council on November 7, 2023
- Chair, Public Safety Transportation Committee
- Member, Tree Board; Ex-Officio Member, Juneteenth Celebration Committee
- 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 in good spirits as we look forward to the arrival of Spring! In this newsletter, I'm excited to share what I've been working on within the community on your behalf, as well as provide updates on what's to come. While we await the new season, I'm eager to continue our work together 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!



My constituents have several concerns that need to be addressed. First, we need to reduce juvenile crime by holding offenders accountable and holding parents responsible through fines, which will help ensure safety.

Second, in terms of education, I often pass by local high schools and see 50 or more students walking away from school when they should be entering. This issue needs immediate attention.

Lastly, we must take a proactive approach to address the mental health challenges faced by our workers, especially in light of DEI initiatives and the loss of federal work status.



**Councilman Jeffery Mills participates in the Maryland Muslim Day in Annapolis with Maryland Senator Joanne Benson.**

## Upcoming Events:

- TBD**    **Fun Fall Nights (Details Coming Soon)**
- 6/7**     **City of Laurel Job Fair**  
**Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center**
- 6/14**    **100 Fathers Day Breakfast**  
**Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center**







## ADRIAN G. SIMMONS

- Elected to first term on Laurel City Council on July 1, 2024
- Member, Historic District Commission; Ex-Officio Member, Planning Commission
- Born and raised in South Laurel
- BBA, Accounting/MBA, Finance - Loyola University Maryland
- Member, Laurel Board of Trade and the Maryland Association of CPAs.

February's calendar held a number of notable goings-on for our town, including the Laurel Board of Trade's Small Business Roundtable, the Mayor's Town Hall Listening Session, our Black History Month celebration, the Master Plan Committee's community survey, and the start of work on a comprehensive re-write of the City's election laws. Work on this last one will continue into March and I encourage folks to stay engaged with the conversation and don't hesitate to reach out to me to share your thoughts as there's important decisions to be made on every facet of the election process, from vote by mail ballots, to candidate signs, to appeals process, and more.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR BACKYARD!



- Pro-Spex Academy opened on Main Street with the mission to train home inspectors with practical hands-on, interactions with experienced professionals, and certifications by the end of your course.
- Laurel for the Patuxent organized a McCullough Field clean up day on February 15, bringing out neighbors to help care for our great resource here in town.

## RESIDENT Q&A

**Question:** What about work related to trees in the Historic District?

**Answer:** First, a tree not seen from the public right-of-way does not need Historic District Commission approval to be removed. (Though be aware an alley may be deemed a public right-of-way.) Second, removal of a dangerous or diseased tree also doesn't need HDC approval as long as a letter from a certified arborist is received attesting the same. Other than that, tree removal from public right-of-way will generally need HDC approval, and all tree removals will usually be accompanied by a request to plant a replacement native tree. And for more '10 Fast Facts for Historic District Residents', swing on by my council blog at [adrianforlaurel.org](http://adrianforlaurel.org).

City of Laurel  
Department of Parks &  
Recreation

Patuxent River  
**CLEANUP DAY**

April 5th | 10 AM

Riverfront Park – 22 Avondale Street  
Join members of the community to help and clean up  
sections of the Patuxent River

[www.cityoflaurel.org/parks](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/parks)  
(301) 725-7800  
[parks@laurel.md.us](mailto:parks@laurel.md.us)

**LAUREL**  
Department  
of Parks &  
Recreation



## Town Hall Listening Session Feedback

On February 6, 2025, Mayor Keith R. Sydnor along with the City Council and City officials held their annual Town Hall Listening Session at the Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center to ensure residents had the opportunity to have their voices heard. Since no specific questions were raised by participants, we will not be releasing a formal report. However, based on comments from the event, please find below information related to the issues discussed.

### **CITY WEBSITE**

The City of Laurel's official website is [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org).

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Information from Public Works about traffic safety/calming devices and how residents can request a study can be found at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/400/Traffic-Safety>.

### **LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Information about the Laurel Police Department's crime data can be found at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/164/Police>.

### **CITY ALERTS**

Residents can sign up for alerts and report issues at:

- <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1487/MyLaurel-Mobile-App>
- <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/AlertCenter.aspx>
- Residents can sign up for the RSS (Real Simple Syndication) feeds at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/list.aspx> to receive updates from different Departments within the City.

### **THE CITY OF LAUREL APP, MYLAUREL MARYLAND**

The City of Laurel has a newly updated application, or App, called MyLaurel Maryland. Available for both Androids and iPhones, residents and businesses can sign up to use this app at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1487/MyLaurel-Mobile-App> and then use it to:

- Report issues and make requests directly to City Departments.
- Access information on prominent events in Laurel.
- Quickly call common city phone numbers.
- Receive Emergency Notifications.
- And more!

### **CITY OF LAUREL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:**

Many of our Departments make use of Social Media through the Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube platforms to keep the community informed. Please visit our Social Media Center at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/209/Social-Media-Center> and be sure to follow and like to stay in the know about what the City has going on for its community residents and businesses.

### **LAUREL LIVING NEWSLETTER**

Your source for city news and updates. To sign up visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1930/Laurel-Living-Newsletter>

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION INQUIRIES**

Questions, concerns or thoughts regarding education and student engagement contact the Prince George's County Board of Education by visiting: <https://www.pgcps.org/offices/board-of-education>. Ms. Tiffini Andorful, Ph.D., District 1 Representative Email: [tiffini.andorful@pgcps.org](mailto:tiffini.andorful@pgcps.org). Phone: 301-952-6115



## Main Street Dental

Main Street Dental offers a comprehensive range of dental services, including preventive care, emergency treatments, and cosmetic and restorative procedures.

Patients can benefit from routine cleanings, periodontal therapy, teeth whitening, veneers, and Invisalign for a straighter smile. The practice also provides advanced restorative options such as same-day crowns, dental implants, bridges, and dentures to restore function and aesthetics.

If you're looking for quality dental care with a personal touch, schedule an appointment with Main Street Dental today by calling 301-490-5110. Ask about their in-house membership plan.



## Supporting Local Businesses



**THE LAUREL BOARD OF TRADE**  
SMALL BUSINESS. BIG IDEAS.

383 Main Street  
Laurel, MD 20707



Seasonal Roots  
(833) 524-0954  
hello@seasonalroots.com  
www.seasonalroots.com



Signarama of Laurel  
14202 Cherry Lane Court  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 604-8400

Social Tailwaggers, LLC  
8004 Chapel Cove Drive  
Laurel, MD 20707  
(240) 882-4765





Con la participación de Patricia De Lima de ElZol 107.9

**¡ESTÁ INVITADO!**

*2a Cumbre Anual*

# **LATINIA** **DE EDUCACIÓN**



**APRENDICES, LÍDERES, LEGADOS**

**Sábado, 22 de marzo, 2025 | 10:00 A. M. - 1:00 P. M.**  
**Prince George's Community College**  
**Dukes Student Center**  
**301 Largo Rd, Largo, MD 20774**

**Un día de inspiración, aprendizaje y empoderamiento comunitario.**

*Oradora invitada: Dra. Gabriela Lemus, directora ejecutiva de Maryland, Latinos Unidos*

*Talleres interesantes y creación de contactos*

*Sorteos y recursos exclusivos*

**Su opinión es importante**

**¡Sea parte del movimiento para promover  
la educación para todos!—**

