



THE LAUREL LEDGER

OFFICIAL NEWS FROM THE CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND HARD WORK TO ENHANCE THE CITY OF LAUREL!

As the vibrant hues of spring unfold, the City's Department of Public Works is diligently working to enhance the safety, functionality, and beauty of our community throughout May and into the summer. Our dedicated teams will be actively engaged in a variety of projects, all aimed at improving the quality of life for our residents.

One important initiative this month involves the meticulous pruning of City street trees. This essential maintenance ensures the safety of pedestrians and drivers by removing any potentially hazardous branches. Furthermore, this careful pruning contributes to the overall aesthetic appeal of our streets and neighborhoods.



For residents wishing to manage their yard waste effectively, please remember that our yard debris collection service will be operating on both Mondays and Wednesdays throughout May. To take advantage of the Monday collection, please ensure your request is submitted by the preceding Thursday. For Wednesday pickups, kindly make your request by the Monday of that week. This service helps keep our neighborhoods tidy and prevents yard waste from cluttering our streets.

In our ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving our infrastructure, several road maintenance projects are scheduled for May. These vital efforts include the refreshing of road markings to ensure clear visibility for motorists and the repair of asphalt surfaces to provide smoother and safer roadways for everyone.

Specifically, significant improvements are planned for Main Street. To address existing sight distance issues at intersections and enhance pedestrian safety, concrete bump-outs will be added at corners. These bump-outs effectively shorten crossing distances for pedestrians and improve visibility for drivers.

On Irving Street, we will be deploying a hydrodynamic separator. This innovative device plays a crucial role in protecting our waterways by capturing trash and debris that enter stormwater drains during rainfall. The collected material is then periodically removed, preventing pollution and maintaining the health of our local ecosystem.

Exciting progress is being made on the 8th Street Improvement Plan. The project is nearing its 100% design completion. This comprehensive plan prioritizes pedestrian safety and includes numerous enhancements such as new crosswalks, ADA-compliant upgrades to sidewalks, and the installation of a rectangular rapid-flashing beacon (RRFB).



This flashing beacon will alert drivers to the presence of pedestrians in the crosswalk, significantly increasing safety.

Finally, the Stanley Place Improvement Project is moving forward with plans for a complete roadway resurface, as well as the installation of new sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. These upgrades will contribute to a more functional and aesthetically pleasing streetscape.

Design work is also underway for the resurfacing of Carriage Hill Drive and Lane. This project encompasses the complete resurfacing of the streets, along with necessary ADA upgrades, sidewalk replacements, and the installation of new crosswalks. These improvements will enhance both the driving and walking experience in this neighborhood.



Adding to our efforts for a more sustainable future, residents will soon notice the delivery of beige compost containers throughout the City. This initiative is in preparation for the official launch of our composting program on July 1st. Each household will receive a small green countertop container for collecting food scraps indoors, a larger beige container for curbside collection, biodegradable bags, and detailed information outlining what materials are compostable. Please be on the lookout for your containers as we take this important step together towards a greener and more environmentally conscious City.

The Department of Public Works is proud to serve our community and looks forward to a productive summer!



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY LAUREL PARKS & RECREATION!



This year, the City of Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation celebrates its 60th Anniversary! Beginning in January of 1965, Judith Nigh was hired to determine the recreation and park needs of the community and to make recommendations for the development and implementation of a Parks and Recreation Department. With the passage of state enabling legislation in May 1965, the City adopted Ordinance No. 449, establishing the Laurel Department of Parks & Recreation!

The Department of Parks and Recreation began with a children's Day Camp at Avondale Mill, then expanded over the years, adding facilities like the gymnasium at the old Laurel High School, the Laurel Pool, and the Harrison-Beard Building for seniors. By 1975, the Department had moved some operations to the National Guard Armory, now known as the Laurel Armory Anderson and Murphy Community Center, and grew to 8 full-time employees managing 65 acres of parks.

Today, after 60 years, the Department has expanded to 29 full-time employees, over 60 seasonal staff, and maintains numerous facilities including three (3) gymnasiums, two (2) outdoor pools, and 15 parks across 280 acres and staff continues to fulfill their mission of providing diverse leisure services to enhance the quality of life for Laurel residents.

Celebrate our 60th Anniversary this summer with us! Join the celebration on June 27th, from 6 - 8pm, register for new programs, or visit our parks. We appreciate our past and present staff and look forward to serving the Laurel Community for many more years. Happy 60th Birthday Parks and Recreation!



It's Easy Being Green!



THE LAUREL FARMER'S MARKET IS BACK!



Farmers' Market News!!! We are back again! The Farmer's Market started Thursday, May 1st, and will run through October 16th, 3pm to 7pm, at 378 Main Street. Many of your favorite vendors will be returning and you will see some new businesses. Residents can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmers, bakers, locally sourced meat and poultry, organic handmade skin care products and candles and so much more! Music and cooking demonstrations are just a few of the special activities we have planned for our 2025 market season. If you or someone you know is interested in being a vendor for the 2025 season, have them e-mail greenliving@laurel.md.us. Follow us on Facebook at our newly named @LaurelMarketOnMain and the Green Living website for updates and a list of market vendors.

Thanks to everyone that participated in this year's **No Mow April!** Because of each of you, our pollinators got a secure chance to make it through the cold snaps, receive extra nutrients and come back stronger! This is your reminder to please turn in your signs at the Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, so we can use them next year. Just another way the City of Laurel is working to be a Sustainable City! If you have any questions, please call Michele Blair, Sustainability Manager, at 301-725-5300 ext. 2203.

Want to be part of the sustainability solution? Join the **Sustainability Action Group (SAG)**! We have a few residents that are dynamic and committed to making Laurel a great sustainability community now and for future generations and we need more! Our **Composting Ambassadors** are already on the move, engaging with residents and promoting our curbside program and the **Voices Group** is looking for innovative ways to reach more residents and get the word out. There is a place for everyone – from installing yard signs to attending public events and talking about your sustainable passion. For more information and to see what we are up to, follow us on Sustainable Laurel Facebook page @SustainableLaurel and the Green Living website at www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving.

The City received **Energy Savings on the Go kits** courtesy of EmPower Maryland. These kits contain a surge protector, weather stripping, aerators for kitchen and bathroom sinks, and a low-flow showerhead. Kits are limited to City of Laurel residents. One kit per household. Residents can get kits at the weekly Farmer's Market, the Mayor's City Hall in the Park meetings and any event that **SAG** members attend, while supplies last. For more information on how to obtain kits, e-mail greenliving@laurel.md.us.

Want to get the most recent information about the City's sustainability initiatives. Follow us on Facebook at @SustainableLaurel. This is a place where we can share ideas, highlight upcoming events and residents can stay informed on all things Sustainable. Also check out the new upcoming look of the Green Living web page at www.cityoflaurel.org/greenliving!



OBRAS PÚBLICAS: ¡TRABAJANDO DURO PARA USTED!

Con la llegada de los vibrantes colores de la primavera, el Departamento de Obras Públicas de la Ciudad trabaja arduamente para mejorar la seguridad, la funcionalidad y la belleza de nuestra comunidad durante mayo y el verano. Nuestros dedicados equipos participarán activamente en diversos proyectos, todos destinados a mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestros residentes.

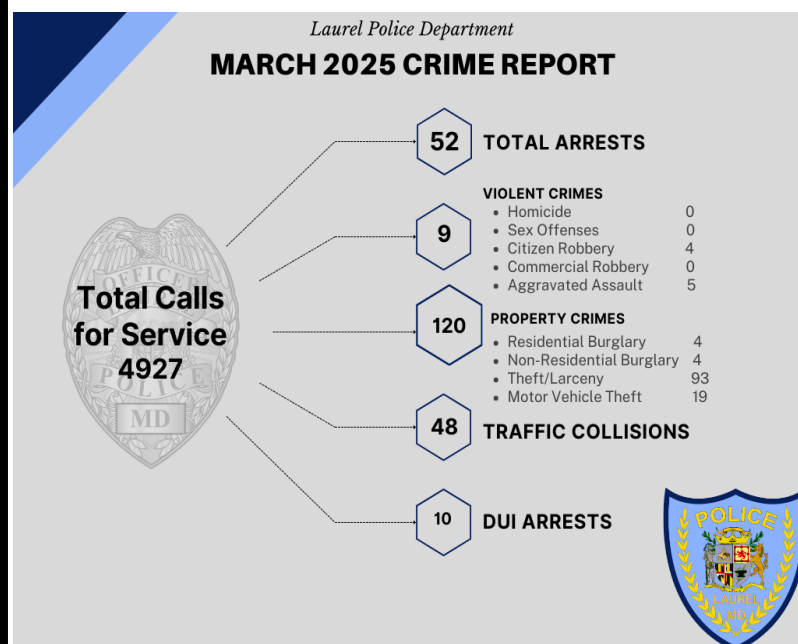
En nuestro compromiso continuo con el mantenimiento y la mejora de nuestra infraestructura, se han programado varios proyectos de mantenimiento vial para mayo. Se planean mejoras significativas para la calle Main y el Plan de Mejora de la Calle 8 está próximo a completarse al 100%. Este plan integral prioriza la seguridad peatonal e incluye numerosas mejoras, como nuevos cruces peatonales, mejoras en las aceras que cumplen con la Ley para Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) y la instalación de una baliza rectangular de destello rápido (RRFB).



El Departamento de Obras Públicas se enorgullece de servir a nuestra comunidad y espera un verano productivo.

LAUREL POLICE MONTHLY CRIME REPORT MARCH 2025

List of Laurel Police Crime Reports can be found at www.cityoflaurel.org/1896/LPD-



Laurel Council Connections

Legislation

Listed below are recent legislative actions taken, if any, by the Laurel City Council during the past month of Mayor and City Council meetings. For further information on any of these legislative actions, please feel free to contact the Office of the City Clerk at 301-725-5300 x2121 or at clerk@laurel.md.us. For the full agendas, visit www.cityoflaurel.org.

Adopted Legislation:

- **Resolution No. 4-2025** - to set date, time and polling location for Early Voting in November 2025 City of Laurel General Election.
- **Resolution No. 5-2025** - pay tribute to Emancipation Day.

Bid Recommendations:

- Cypress Street and Saratoga Avenue Improvements - Public Works
- Generator Replacement Project (Phase 1 Design) - Emergency Management

Appointments/Reappointments:

- ♦ **Rosette Ladson (Appointment)** - Senior Resident/Persons with Disabilities CAC - 4/14/25 - 4/14/27
- ♦ **Sharon Gibbs Cooper (Appointment)** - Emergency Services Commission - 4/28/2025 - 4/28/2030
- ♦ **Christina Cornwell, Director** - Department of Emergency Management
- ♦ **Marchelle LeBlanc, Director** - Department of Human Services



Government Meetings (Dates and Times Subject to Change)

May 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ May 7th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Budget Work Session (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 12th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 28th (Wed) - In-Person Mayor and City Council Meeting - (6:00pm)

May 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ May 13th - In-Person Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 20th - Virtual Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 22nd - In-Person Board of Appeals (6:00pm)
- ♦ May 27th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)

June 2025 Mayor and City Council Meetings

- ♦ June 4th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Work Session (6:00pm)
- ♦ June 9th - Virtual Mayor and City Council Meeting (6:00pm)
- ♦ June 23rd - Mayor and City Council Meeting (CANCELLED)

June 2025 Boards and Commissions

- ♦ June 10th - Planning Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ June 17th - Historic District Commission (6:00pm)
- ♦ June 18th - Master Plan Committee (6:00pm)
- ♦ June 26th - Board of Appeals (6:00pm)

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

- ♦ **Main Street Festival - May 10, 2025**, from 9am - 4pm, Laurel's Main Street. Parade, Vendors, Music and Family Fun!
- ♦ **Music at the Mansion - May 16, 2025**, 6:00 - 8:30pm, Gude Mansion, 13910 Laurel Lakes Avenue.
- ♦ **Pre-School Open House - May 17, 2025**, 9:30 - 11:30am, Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, 7900 Cypress Street.
- ♦ **Pride Day Flag Raising - May 17, 2025**, 4:00pm. Joseph R. Robison Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road.
- ♦ **City Pools Open - May 24, 2025 - *NEW POOL HOURS***
Sats/Suns: 12-2pm - Laurel Residents/Pass Holders ONLY.
Open to Public: Municipal Pool: 2 - 8pm; Greenview Drive Pool: 2 - 8pm.
- ♦ **Memorial Day - May 26, 2025** - City/Passport Offices CLOSED. Visit cityoflaurel.org/calendars for adjusted collection details.
- ♦ **Laurel Pride Fundraiser - June 1, 2025**, 1:00 - 4:00pm. Join the Pride Day Committee at Oliver's Old Town Tavern to help raise funds for Pride Day.
- ♦ **Job Fair - June 9, 2025**, from 10am - 2pm, Laurel Multiservice Center, 204 Fort Meade Road. Free
- ♦ **100 Father's Day Breakfast - June 14, 2025**, 10am - 12pm, Laurel Multi-service Center, 204 Fort Meade Rd. Register at clerk@laurel.md.us.
- ♦ **Juneteenth Celebration - June 21, 2025**, from Noon - 4pm at Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- ♦ **Parks and Recreation 60th Anniversary Celebration - June 27, 2025**, 6:00 - 8:00pm, Granville Gude Park, 8300 Mulberry Street.
- ♦ **To learn more or register for Parks and Recreation activities**, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/parks or call 301-725-7800.



Public Works Monthly Glance



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. PLACE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.

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City-wide organics recycling – July 1!
Do you have your cart?

Yard Debris Collection
Bulky Item Collection
Email DPW@laurel.md.us to schedule a pickup.

June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Laurel Pride Fundraiser - Oliver's Old Town Tavern 1-4pm 1	2	3	Virtual Work Session- 6pm 4	World Environment Day Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot 5	Bike Parade - 6 Laurel Armory - 6pm 6	Eid al-Adha 7
8	Virtual Mayor and City Council - 6p Job Fair - Multiservice Center 11am - 3pm 9	10	11	4th of July Committee Meeting - 7pm Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot 12	13	100 Father's Day Breakfast - Multiservice Center - 11am - 3pm 14
Father's Day 15 NATIONAL GRASSLANDS WEEK - JUNE 15-21	16	Planning Commission - 6pm 17	Master Plan Meeting - 6pm 18	Juneteenth Thursday Trash/Recycling & Composting collected on Friday Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot 19	Summer Solstice Outdoor Concert Granville Gude Park 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. 20	Juneteenth Celebration - Gude Park - 12 - 4p 21
22	Mayor and City Council Meeting - CANCELLED 23	Historic District Commission- 6pm 24	25	Board of Appeals - 6pm Farmers' Market 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. 378 Main Street Lot 26	60th Anniv. Celebration - Gude Park - 6p Outdoor Movie: Gude Park - 8:45pm 27	28
29	30	Reduce Mosquitoes: For an environmentally friendly way to reduce mosquitoes in your yard, follow the Tip It or Toss It tips found in the video at: https://www.cityoflaurel.org/1598/Informational-Videos . Mosquito Control Spraying on Sundays – June through September Refuse/Recycling/Composting holiday schedule June 19th				

PUBLIC WORKS



301-725-0088



DPW@laurel.md.us

Emergency Management: 2025 Severe Storms and Hurricane Preparedness

June 1st marks the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season with preliminary outlooks calling for 17 named storms. Although Maryland may not be impacted by as many tropical storms as southern states, damaging severe weather can still occur. With its varied geographies and numerous waterways, Maryland can be impacted by hazards such as flooding, hail, tornadoes, lightning, and high winds. Flooding is the top weather-related hazard in Maryland.

During Severe Storms Awareness Week and Hurricane Preparedness Week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS) provide educational information and resources defining the hazards associated with severe weather, how they form, and what you can do to be ready if and when they happen. This year, Severe Storms Awareness Week occurred April 7 – 13, 2025, and Hurricane Preparedness Week will occur May 4 – 10, 2025. For more information, please visit the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) at <https://mdem.maryland.gov/Pages/severe-storms-week.aspx> and NOAA at <https://www.noaa.gov/hurricane-prep>.

Severe Storms Awareness Week Topics:

- Flooding
- Damaging Winds
- Tornadoes
- Hail
- Lightning

Hurricane Preparedness Week Topics:

- Know Your Risk: Wind & Water
- Prepare Before Hurricane Season
- Understand Forecast Information
- What a Storm Threatens
- Stay Protected During Storms
- Use Caution After Storms
- Take Action Today

2025 Hurricane Season Outlook		Atlantic Basin	
Colorado State University		Average	2024 Season
Total Named	17	14	18
Hurricanes	9	7	11
Cat 3 +	4	3	5



As Maryland boating season kicks into high gear, it is important that all waterway users - whether boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, or fishing – take proper precautions on the water. The National Safe Boating Council encourages Marylanders to participate in National Safe Boating Week, which will occur May 17 – 23, 2025. The campaign kicks off with Wear Your Life Jacket at Work Day on May 16, 2025. For more information, visit <https://safeboatingcampaign.com/>.

CITY CONTACTS



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PARKS AND RECREATION



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