



# Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Fall 2018 Volume 3, Issue 2

Mayor Craig A. Moe

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**September**

- 9/5 Work Session - 7pm
- 9/10 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 9/11 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 9/18 Historic District - 7pm
- 9/19 City Hall in the Park - CANCELLED
- 9/24 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 5pm
- 9/27 Board of Appeals - 7pm

**October**

- 10/3 Work Session - 7pm
- 10/8 Columbus Day - Offices Closed
- 10/9 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 10/10 My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm  
Parks Maintenance Facility
- 10/10 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 10/16 Historic District - 7pm
- 10/22 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 10/25 Board of Appeals - 7pm

## National Preparedness Month



Mayor Craig A. Moe and the City of Laurel Emergency Services remind everyone that September is National Preparedness Month (NPM), which is recognized each September, and provides an opportunity to encourage all City residents and visitors that we all must prepare ourselves and our families now and throughout the year. This NPM will focus on planning, with an overarching theme: "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How."

Take time to learn lifesaving skills, such as CPR, Bleeding Control with "Stop The Bleed" and first aid. Check your insurance policies and coverage for the hazards you may face, such as floods, hurricanes, and tornados. Make sure to consider the costs associated with disasters and save for an emergency. Also, know how to take practical safety steps like shutting off water and gas.

The devastating hurricanes and wildfires of 2017 showed us the importance of preparing for disasters. Often, we will be the first ones in our communities to take action after a disaster strikes and before first responders arrive, so it is important to prepare in advance to help yourself and your community. For more readiness information, visit [CityofLaurel.org](http://CityofLaurel.org).

## Riverfest

Save the Date for this year's Riverfest! Residents and visitors are invited to the Laurel Board of Trade's Annual event set for Sunday, September 30, 2018, from Noon to 5:00pm at Riverfront Park.

There will be a Car and Custom Bike Show with prizes, face painting, moon bounces, hay rides, food and craft vendors. This event is overflowing with everything from live music to theater and community spirit, so you'll want to add this event to your calendar today!

The Laurel Board of Trade loves putting this family-friendly event together and if you would like more information, please contact them at 301-483-0838.



# Economic and Community Development



## Live in the Historic District:

If your property is located within the Historic District, and you are considering doing exterior renovations or changes to your property, Historic District Commission approval is required. For more information about the process, please visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/boards/commissions/historic-district-commission>.

## Economic Development Programs

**Main Street Area:** The City continues to encourage business and property owners to take advantage of the Main Street Economic Development Programs. The Main Street Relocation Grant is available to apparel and shoes stores, bakeries, coffee shops, full-service and fine-dining restaurants, gourmet food shops, grocery stores, health clubs and yoga studios, ice cream shops, and entertainment businesses. Business owners can receive a grant of up to \$10,000. The Retail Storefront Façade Improvement Grant will allow property owners with a grant of up to \$5,000 to make renovations to the exterior of their commercial properties.

**Commercial Corridor Area:** The Commercial Corridor Program was established to recruit new businesses to the City and assist in the expansion of existing businesses. The Program offers reduced permit fees and tax credit opportunities. The target areas for the Program are the following Revitalization Overlay Areas along US Route 1: RO-1- City Center, RO-2-Highway Corridor and RO-3-Route One Historic District and Gateway Approaches.

## Economic Development Events:

To stay in the loop for upcoming Economic Development events, LIKE the Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/> or contact Leigha Steele at [lsteel@laurel.md.us](mailto:lsteel@laurel.md.us).

## Census

Census 2020 is coming and the City is participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) Program sponsored by the US Census Bureau to prepare for it. For more details regarding Census 2020 or the LUCA Program, visit <https://www.census.gov/2020census>.

## Laurel Helping Hands Youth Service Bureau

The City of Laurel is excited about Laurel Helping Hands. It is a family-focused counseling program operated by the Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation to help equip parents with the necessary skills to meet the developmental needs of their children so that youth can maximize their potential at home, in school and in the community.

Whether your child is having difficulty in school or being disruptive in the home, Laurel Helping Hands can help! Laurel Helping Hands will provide Individual, Family and Group Counseling to address a wide range of issues including: relationship difficulties; anger management, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, personal growth and development, parenting, improving school performance, reducing family conflict and dealing with separation and divorce. Visit [CityofLaurel.org](http://CityofLaurel.org) for more information or call at 240-294-1304!



Financial assistance is available, so no one will be turned away because of inability to pay. Laurel Helping Hands is here to provide you with support for you and your child. Contact them today!

# Fire Marshal/Permit Services

During the Fall months, improvements to homes and businesses increase. For your safety and citizen safety, it should be noted that many types of work require a permit from the City of Laurel.

## Home Improvement



Remember to only hire Contractors who are licensed with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC). When selecting a Contractor, be sure to ask the Contractor for their license number and contact the Maryland Home Improvement Commission at 1-888-218-5925 or visit the Commission's website at [www.dllr.state.md.us](http://www.dllr.state.md.us) to determine if the license is valid and if the Contractor has had any complaints filed against them. You can also find some other helpful tips on selecting a Contractor on the website mentioned above.

Be advised that the City of Laurel requires permits for the following types of work: Decks, Patios, Porches, Finishing, Driveways, Garages, Fences, Sheds, Electrical, Additions and Basements. A permit is required to finish your basement. Please note that if you complete improvements in your home without the proper permits and inspections, and there is a fire or other type of damage to that area of your home, your homeowners insurance is not likely to cover the cost of repair.

Make a note that any sprinkler system installation or modification work requires a City of Laurel Life Safety Review permit. The City of Laurel does not provide permits or inspections for plumbing work. Any plumbing work requires WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission) permits and inspections. You can reach WSSC at 301-206-8000.

Additionally, if your home/property is located within the Historic District, any changes/improvements require a City of Laurel Historic District Commission Certificate of Approval. If there is any work not listed above that you are considering having done to your property, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Fire Marshal and Permit Services at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2238.

## Candle Safety

Candles are used in many homes and may look pretty, but they can cause deadly home fires. Remember that a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily catch anything on fire. There is a safer alternative - flameless candles! They look and smell like real candles. However, if you choose to burn candles, please be sure to:

- Use sturdy candle holders and place the candles on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Do not go to sleep or leave your home while the candles are still lit.
- Never use a candle if oxygen tanks are used in the home.

As always, contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2250 or by e-mail at [dcope@laurel.md.us](mailto:dcope@laurel.md.us) if you have any fire/life safety related questions, needs or concerns.

# Public Works



## To bag or not to bag...

As the leaves fall, Public Works will begin its annual leaf vacuum collection. The leaf vacuum will start its tour of the City in October and, weather permitting, will run until the first week of December. To prepare your leaves for the vacuum, please follow these simple guidelines:

✚ Rake your leaves into the grass plot between your sidewalk and the street, or, if you have no median, rake them into the curb. You should do this the day before the collection. The leaf crew cannot return until the following week if your leaves are not out on time.

✚ Please remove parked cars from the path of the leaf vacuum. It is very difficult to collect piles of leaves from between parked cars.

✚ Remove all cans, bottles, sticks, toys and debris from your piles of leaves. These items can cause very expensive damage to the City's equipment.

Residents can check which day the vacuum will be in their area using the map in the 2018 calendar or by checking the City's web site at [CityofLaurel.org](http://CityofLaurel.org).

**Paper bags only!** Public Works will continue to collect bagged or containerized yard debris, including leaves, on Wednesdays throughout the end of the year. Due to changes at the County composting center, all yard debris (grass, leaves, small brush) must be in either PAPER BAGS or in a reusable container such as a trash can/cardboard box. For more information about how to prepare your yard debris for a free collection, call 301-725-0088.

**E-cycling Event – October 13, 2018:** Public Works will host their popular E-cycle Event and it is for City residents and City businesses only. You must show proof of City residency, or be able to confirm your Laurel business address to participate. Be sure to check that your address is within the city limits by calling 301-725-5300 ext. 2303.

**Snow Emergency:** During a snow emergency, parking is prohibited on the EVEN numbered side of designated City Snow Routes. **Just remember ODD is OK!** Check now to see if your street is a snow emergency route.

## Dates to Remember:

**November: Veterans Day - City Offices will be closed on Monday, November 12th.** Monday's refuse/recycling will be collected on Tuesday, **November 13th.**

**Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22nd and 23rd.** Thursday and Friday's recycling will be collected on Wednesday, **November 21st.**

**December:** Look for the 2019 Calendar! Each resident will have their new calendar delivered to their door.

**Christmas Holiday: City offices will be closed Tuesday, December 25th.** Tuesday's refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, **December 26th.**



# Parks and Recreation



It's time to register for your Fall classes! This Fall, the City of Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation is providing new classes and programs for the entire family.

Kids can enjoy a diverse range of classes including Basketball Kidz, Kiddie Basketball, Kidz Kicks Soccer, Kiddie Kicks Soccer, Kidz Flag Football and Kidz Floor Hockey! We also have

Karate, Dance and Musical Theatre!

We didn't forget about the adults, we have Kangoo Jumps, Adult Self Defense, Curvy Rhythms Cardio, Archery, Bio Fitness and Zumba! We also have a class for our dog lovers; It's Fun to Sniff!

Did you know we have some amazing events coming up? Dress in your scariest costumes for our Halloween Spooktacular event on October 27, 2pm SHARP. The Harvest Moon Hayride is November 2 at Riverfront Park, with an amazing bonfire to hang out by!

Have a bored teen in your family? Our teen trips start in September with a Busch Gardens weekend on the 22nd and 23rd, then the Maryland Renaissance Festival on October 14th and Laurel's House of Horror on October 26th!

Looking for a place to hang out with friends? Join us at one of the Community Centers for plenty of afterschool fun. Youth and teens can drop in everyday with an annual admission pass and play basketball, pool, air hockey or one of the various video games on our big screen TVs in the new gaming lounge. Be sure to check out the newly renovated Laurel Armory Anderson Murphy Community Center's lower level, complete with new state of the art fitness room!

Be sure to make your way around town and visit one of the City's great parks and playgrounds. With picnic pavilions, tennis courts, hiking paths and playgrounds, there are many ways to stay active and enjoy the outdoors!

Grab one of our brochures and check out all of the great classes and activities offered for tiny tots to senior adults. Don't want to commit to a full session of classes, then stop by one of the community centers for the many drop in activities that are sure to keep you fit and healthy!

Whatever your age, the Department of Parks and Recreation has something for you, just check out our web site at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) and LIKE us on Facebook at [www.fb.com/laurelparksrec](http://www.fb.com/laurelparksrec) to get up to the minute information.

## Contact Us!

### General Information

Phone 301-725-5300  
Fax 301-490-5068

### Mayor

Phone Ext. 2125  
[laurelmayor@laurel.md.us](mailto:laurelmayor@laurel.md.us)

### City Council

Phone Ext. 2121  
[laurelcouncil@laurel.md.us](mailto:laurelcouncil@laurel.md.us)

### City Administrator

Phone Ext. 2216  
[Cadmin@laurel.md.us](mailto:Cadmin@laurel.md.us)

### Budget and Personnel Services

Phone Ext. 2236  
[Msaylor@laurel.md.us](mailto:Msaylor@laurel.md.us)

### Communications

Phone Ext. 2208  
[LaurelPIO@laurel.md.us](mailto:LaurelPIO@laurel.md.us)

### Economic and Community Development

Phone Ext. 2313  
[cpulley@laurel.md.us](mailto:cpulley@laurel.md.us)

### Emergency Services

Phone Ext. 2244  
[Sallen@laurel.md.us](mailto:Sallen@laurel.md.us)

### Fire Marshal and Permit Services

Phone Ext. 2238  
[FMPS@laurel.md.us](mailto:FMPS@laurel.md.us)

### Information Technology

Phone Ext. 2310  
[kfrost@laurel.md.us](mailto:kfrost@laurel.md.us)

### Parks and Recreation

Phone Ext. 2308  
[JBarr@laurel.md.us](mailto:JBarr@laurel.md.us)

### Public Works

Phone 301-725-0088  
[DPW@laurel.md.us](mailto:DPW@laurel.md.us)

### Police Department (non emergency)

Phone 301-498-0092  
[LPD@laurel.md.us](mailto:LPD@laurel.md.us)

# Laurel Police

## Prevent Theft! Secure Your Vehicles!



The Laurel Police Department wants to remind you that theft from vehicles is one of the most prevalent crimes and you need to take precautions to ensure your vehicle isn't an easy target for thieves!

Vehicle owners need to change the way they think and be smarter than the criminals, so the Laurel Police Department has some tips for you to keep your property safe:

1. Keep your vehicle doors locked at ALL times!
2. Avoid parking in isolated areas.
3. DO NOT leave your vehicle running!
4. Always roll up your windows.
5. Install an alarm system on your vehicle.
6. DO NOT leave important personal documents in your vehicle.
7. DO NOT store valuables in your vehicle.

Chief McLaughlin asks that if you see something suspicious in your neighborhood, someone who looks like they don't belong there in the middle of the night looking in parked vehicles or pulling on door handles, give the Laurel Police Department a call at 301-498-0092.

And a reminder that the Laurel Police Department also conducts home checks if you go out of town. Officers will go to your residence, walk around the perimeter, look for signs of unlawful entry, foul play, unlocked doors or windows, or anything else that may be out of place. Some tips to think about before you go on vacation are stop your mail, stop your newspapers, let your neighbors know where you will be, how long you'll be gone, and how to contact someone in case of an emergency, leave a light and radio or television on a timer and lock your doors and windows. That number to call again is 301-498-0092. Keep your family and property safe!

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***Stay Connected with YOUR City Government!***

***Sign Up Today!***



# Communications



Laurel TV would like to welcome Kayleen Yermal to the fold! She started out as a Laurel TV volunteer when she was still in high school. She joined us again as part of our University of Maryland Internship program, and now we are thrilled to have her going out into the community getting your stories as a newly hired reporter! Work hard and you too can follow in Kayleen's shoes!

Did you know the Department of Communications manages the City's Social Media platforms? Find one you LIKE and FOLLOW it. That's one of the fastest and easiest ways to stay informed, especially during an emergency.

- Facebook-City of Laurel-Government and Laurel TV
- Twitter-- @cityoflaurel,@LaurelCityOEM, @LaurelPIO, and @laureltvorg
- Instagram –City of Laurel, MD.

We also have some great news! If you have a show idea, but don't have the crew to make it happen, you'll want to check out Laurel TV's new Membership Program on the Laurel TV website, [www.LaurelTV.org](http://www.LaurelTV.org).

Membership gives you access to our talented production crews and state of the art equipment. This is a great option if you want to try your hand at hosting or producing a monthly program.

You can also rent our field equipment for your special projects, or rent the studio and we'll provide the production crew.



To find out more about becoming a member of Laurel TV, visit [LaurelTV.org](http://LaurelTV.org) and click on the Membership tab!

Remember, you can watch Laurel TV on Comcast channel 996 in HD, Comcast 71 in SD, and on Verizon channel 12 if you live within the city limits. Otherwise, watch us via live stream at [www.LaurelTV.org](http://www.LaurelTV.org).

Be sure to subscribe to our Laurel TV YouTube Channel, [LaurelTVOfficial](https://www.youtube.com/LaurelTVOfficial), to see the stories you may have missed or to watch one of the government meetings. They're all there.

And finally, don't forget to leave your story ideas and community events on our message line at 240-294-1307 or email us at [info@laurel.md.us](mailto:info@laurel.md.us). We are here to tell your stories, so let us know today!

Catch up on all the local news by tuning into Laurel TV!

You can watch on  
Comcast,  
Channel 996(HD) or 71(SD)  
Verizon,  
Channel 12  
or watch them live via  
web streaming at  
[LaurelTV.org](http://LaurelTV.org)





# Mayor's Message

**Mayor Craig A. Moe**  
Phone: 301-725-5300 ext. 2125  
Email:  
laurelmayor@laurel.md.us



I'm pleased we were able to employ 13 students in the 2018 Mayor's Summer Jobs Program which started July 9th and ended on August 31st. Every City Department had at least one student working on specific projects designed to teach our youth about their local government and give them valuable real-life work experiences.

**Laurel City Council**  
301-725-5300 ext. 2121  
council@laurel.md.us

Michael R. Leszcz  
At-Large  
President

Carl DeWalt  
Ward 1

Valerie Nicholas  
Ward 1

Frederick Smalls  
Ward 2

Keith Sydnor  
Ward 2

I also invite you to attend ***'My Time with the Mayor'*** from 4:30 – 6:30 pm, on October 10th at the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Facility. Come out and talk with me personally about what's going on in the City or concerns you may have.

Council President Michael Leszcz accepted the City's Gold Level recognition from HEAL Cities and Towns at the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Summer Conference in June. The award for this new level is due to our continued efforts to make wellness-related opportunities available to our citizens and employees by promoting walking meetings, holding monthly lunch and learns, providing healthier options in vending machines at City facilities and holding the City's first Community Health Fair.

The City also received recognition as an MML Banner City for the 11th straight year, being among the Cities and Towns that have received the award every year since the program began in 2007. Municipalities who are designated as Banner City/Towns are recognized among their peers as an active participant in showcasing municipal government and how it works, foster goodwill by educating youth about municipal government, and ensure the voice of their municipality is heard on issues in matters of State legislative priorities.

As you look through the newsletter, you'll see that as the fall arrives, we'll begin to gear up for lots of fun things to do around the City. If you have the chance, I encourage you to attend and participate in some of these great programs and events! Hope to see you around town!

Craig



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Laurel, MD 20707

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Email: laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

Twitter: @cityoflaurel  
Facebook: City of Laurel  
Maryland City Hall