



*"A Great Place To Live,
Work and Play"*
Mayor Craig A. Moe

Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Fall 2017 Volume 2, Issue 4

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Government Meetings

November	
11/1	Work Session - 7pm
11/2	Voting Booth Demo - Noon
11/4	Early Voting - 8am - 5pm
11/7	Election Day - 7am - 8pm
11/8	Count Paper Ballots - 5pm
11/9	Certify Election Returns - 7pm
11/13	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
11/14	Planning Commission - 7pm
11/21	Historic District - 7pm
11/23&24	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/27	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
11/30	Board of Appeals - 7pm
December	
12/6	Work Session - 7pm
12/8	Employee Party - 1-5p
12/11	My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm - Greenview Drive
12/11	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
12/12	Planning Commission - 7pm
12/19	Historic District - 7pm
12/25	Christmas Holiday
12/28	Board of Appeals - 7pm
January	
1/1/18	New Year's Day

City of Laurel General Election Set for November 7th



The City of Laurel will hold its General Election on November 7, 2017, for five (5) City Councilmembers. There are two (2) from Ward 1, two (2) from Ward 2 and one (1) At-Large.

There are 9 candidates for the 5 seats and they are broken down as follows: At-Large Candidates are **Michael R. Leszcz** and **Jeffrey W. Mills** (you can only vote for one); Ward 1 Candidates are **Carl DeWalt, Valerie M.A. Nicholas** and **H. Edward Ricks** (you can only vote for 2); and Ward 2 Candidates are **Thomas Matthews, Adrian Rousseau, Frederick Smalls** and **Keith R. Sydnor** (you can only vote for 2).

The City of Laurel Charter outlines the qualifications to become a City Councilmember as persons of known integrity, experience and sound judgment, not less than twenty-one (21) years of age, citizens of the United States, registered to vote in city elections and residents of the city and the ward for which they seek election for one (1) year (three hundred sixty-five (365) days) immediately preceding the date of their election. Each councilmember shall hold his or her office for two (2) years from the date of the second regular meeting after the election in November of the year of his or her election and until the qualification of his or her successor. A councilmember shall remain a resident of the city, within the ward from which they were elected and must remain a registered voter within such ward, unless elected at-large, while holding office.

All voters shall be registered to vote in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of Prince George's County. Every person who is registered with the County Board of Elections and is a resident of the City of Laurel shall be entitled to vote in all City elections.

Early Voting will be at that the Laurel Municipal Center located at 8103 Sandy Spring Road, on **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, from 8:00am until 5:00pm.

On Election Day, **November 7, 2017**, the polling location for Ward 1 Residents is at the Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, and for Ward 2 Residents, the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, 7901 Cypress Street.

Voting Booth ballots will be counted that evening after the polls close and then, on **November 8, 2017**, at 5:00pm, the Board of Election Supervisors will meet at the Laurel Municipal Center to count paper ballots. A Special Meeting of the Mayor and City Council will be convened on **November 9, 2017** at 7:00pm to certify election returns. You can tune into Laurel TV for live coverage of the Election Returns and certification of the election results at Comcast 996 or 71; Verizon 12; or at LaurelTV.org.

Laurel Police Department

The holidays are approaching, which for many people means a lot of shopping. Please be mindful during this shopping season:

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Do not leave any valuable items visible in your vehicle.
- Always lock your doors.
- If you have to stop at your vehicle in the middle of shopping, place your newly purchased items in your trunk where they are not visible and easily seen.
- Try to keep a light with your keys.



With the winter cold months approaching make sure your family is prepared. If your home loses power for a couple days, are you able to function. Are you able to stay warm, have food, and have water? And snow will soon show its presence. Give yourself more time to get to places. Slow down and remember at night it can be difficult to see slick areas. Please do not leave your vehicle unlocked, running and unattended. It is illegal and it gives a great opportunity for car thieves.

You should also be careful shoveling snow. Shoveling snow is a lot more strenuous than people give it credit. Take your time and do not do too much. If you can, help your neighbors, especially the elderly. And when you are moving snow around, please do not throw it back into the street, as this could create a hazard for drivers.

Be mindful of holiday decorations and their dangers. Check your light strings for frayed cords, a short could create a fire. And especially live, dry Christmas trees can be serious fire hazards!

We, at the Laurel Police Department, thank you and wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



Laurel Police Department

Barkman-Kaiser
Public Safety Complex
811 5th Street
Laurel, MD 20707

Emergency: 301-725-3000
Non-Emergency: 301-498-0092

Email: lpd@laurel.md.us
Crime Tips: tips@laurel.md.us



Council Corner

MML Fall Legislative Conference

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) Fall Conference serves several important purposes. It is first and foremost an opportunity for city and town officials to gather, exchange information, and renew acquaintances. It is also the event where the membership first learns about and then approves the Legislative agenda recommended by the MML Legislative Committee for the Maryland General Assembly Session that begins in January.

The Legislative Committee (LC) of the League is charged with determining the Legislative program of the League and choosing those Legislative proposals received from Member Chapters or Municipalities which best exemplify the goals of all League members. Additionally, the LC considers all introduced legislation in regard to its effect upon municipalities and takes positions to oppose or support such legislation.

The LC is composed of approximately 29 members nominated by the Chapter, Municipality or Department and appointed by the President. The LC meets approximately every ten days on a Wednesday or Saturday during the General Assembly session and at other times during the year, usually at the League office, at the discretion of the Chairman. Currently, the LAC and Chief of Staff represents the City of Laurel on the LC. The LC is also responsible for the presentation of the Legislative Program held at the annual Fall Conference in October.

Maryland General Assembly

The Maryland General Assembly meets in Annapolis each year for 90 days to act on more than 2,300 bills, including the State's annual budget. The 439th Session will begin on January 10, 2018, at 12:00pm. The General Assembly has 47 Senators and 141 Delegates elected from 47 districts.

The City of Laurel is pleased to have Chief of Staff, Lou Ann Crook, and Clerk to the Council, Kim Rau, attend meetings through this session to keep an eye and ear out for things that could affect the City of Laurel.

PASSPORT OFFICE

Hours of Operation

Closed for Lunch

12:00 - 1:00pm

Monday - Friday

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri

10:00 AM - *4:30PM

Tuesdays

(Special Evening Hours)

10:00 AM - *6:30 PM

**Times reflect when last application is taken*

Service Fees

Passport Fee
(Check/Money Order ONLY)

Age 16 & Over

\$110.00

Under Age 16

\$80.00

Expedite Fee

(Add to Passport Fee)

All ages

\$60.00

Application Fee
(Cash/Credit ONLY)

\$25.00

What documentation is required?

Proof of U.S. Citizenship

1. A previous U.S. Passport.
2. If you were born in the U.S., a certified copy of your birth certificate issued by the State, County or City of your birth.
3. If you were born abroad, bring a certificate of naturalization, or a certificate of birth abroad.
4. All children, 15 years and under, must appear with a parent or legal guardian.

Proof of Identity

1. A previous U.S. Passport.
 2. A certificate of naturalization or citizenship.
 3. A valid driver's license, government or military ID or other photo ID.
- Two (2) identical full front poses, 2" by 2" color photographs on white or light-colored backgrounds.

For Passport Information, Call

301-725-5300

Economic and Community Development

Census

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

Second Saturdays on Main Street

Second Saturdays are happening on Main Street every month! Local businesses on Main Street will be having one-day only sales and promotions. This is a great opportunity for everyone to come out to see what Main Street has to offer, and enjoy food, entertainment, as well as family friendly activities. Download the free Localynx app as your guide to all of the businesses and their deals for the day. See you on Main Street!



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.



Fire Marshal/Permit Services

Winter Safety Tips



If you have gas appliances like a stove, water heater, and/or fireplace you should have a CO detector on each level of the home.

Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the “INVISIBLE KILLER” because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless and is a poisonous gas. CO is caused by the improper use or incorrectly vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, hot water heaters, fireplaces and generators inside the garage or house.

Know the symptoms of CO poisoning:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Everyone in the home getting sick at the same time (flu like symptoms)

High level of CO poisoning with severe symptoms:

- Mental confusion
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death

Fryers

People will be using fryers to cook turkeys this Thanksgiving. Remember to read all instructions and safety guidelines before using the fryer such as keep the fryer away from the house; DO NOT use inside the garage or house; and keep them off of wooden decks!



Christmas Holiday



To keep your tree looking beautiful and your home safe from fire, remember to cut off the bottom of the tree so it can absorb the water. Water your tree daily. Check all electrical lights before putting them on the tree, since a short in a light could make the tree go up in minutes! Check to make sure they UL approved lights! And keep the tree away from heat sources, like vents, to prevent the tree from drying out.

As always, contact the Office of the Fire Marshal at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2250 or by e-mail at 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 begins the annual Leaf Vacuum Collection. The leaf vacuum began its tour of the City in October and will run, weather permitting, 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 gutter. 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 Public Works calendar or by checking the City's web site, cityoflaurel.org.

Paper bags only! Public Works will continue to collect bagged or containerized yard debris, including leaves, on Wednesdays through the end of the year. Due to changes at the County composting center, all yard debris such as grass, leaves and small brush must be in either placed in PAPER BAGS or in a reusable container like a trash can or cardboard box.

America Recycles Day is November 15, 2017. Public Works will waive the additional fee for all **entertainment media electronics and accessories** for residents that schedule a special collection. Remember to call, e-mail or use the City's MyLaurel app to schedule an appointment before the end of the day Monday.

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



For more information about all of the great services Public Works provides, please call 301-725-0088, check us out on the City's website at cityoflaurel.org or sign up for the MyLaurel and Recycle Coach apps today!

Parks and Recreation

Extra, extra read all about it! Parks and Recreation is creating a new tradition!!

Join us to celebrate the season at our Holiday Festival, formerly known as the Holiday Parade and Armory Illumination. There will be vendors, food, a live demonstration of Ice Sculpting and much more! Don't forget the Annual Holiday Parade from the Laurel Municipal Center down Montgomery Street to the Laurel Armory, where Santa and his special friends will be on hand for picture opportunities. We will have children's activities inside awaiting the lighting of the Laurel Armory-Anderson Murphy Community Center.

The parade steps off at 2:50pm and brings down Santa and friends to the Armory. Inside the Armory gym, there will be arts and crafts, along with face painting, music and Minute-To-Win-It games! Downstairs, we will have a Santa village for pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Outside there will be various vendors and a grill for yummy hot food!

We bring back Family Fun Nights at the Laurel Armory-Anderson Murphy Community Center this Winter starting in January. Check out our program guide and Facebook page for dates!

Don't let the cold keep you housebound! Keep your eyes out on our Social Media sites for our indoor movies in January and February! Did you see that there are some new Kiddie and Kidz classes, too? They are being offered at two locations now!

Did you also know that the City's Program Specialist loves to create new programs? If you have an idea, send it to parks@laurel.md.us. We would love to hear from you!



Contact Us!

General Information

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

Mayor

Phone Ext. 2125
laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

City Council

Phone Ext. 2121
laurelcouncil@laurel.md.us

City Administrator

Phone Ext. 2203
Cadmin@laurel.md.us

Budget and Personnel Services

Phone Ext. 2236
Msaylor@laurel.md.us

Communications

Phone Ext. 2208
LaurelPIO@laurel.md.us

Economic and Community Development

Phone Ext. 2252
CPulley@laurel.md.us

Emergency Services

Phone Ext. 2244
Sallen@laurel.md.us

Fire Marshal and Permit Services

Phone Ext. 2238
FMPS@laurel.md.us

Information Technology

Phone Ext. 2310
kfrost@laurel.md.us

Parks and Recreation

Phone Ext. 2308
JBarr@laurel.md.us

Public Works

Phone 301-725-0088
DPW@laurel.md.us

Police Department (non emergency)

Phone 301-498-0092
LPD@laurel.md.us

Communications

Laurel TV on YouTube

Your local Public Access Channel, Laurel TV, is on YouTube and all of our great local stories can be watched at anytime from anywhere!



Laurel TV has worked with local groups to bring you their stories: like the announcement of the University of Maryland Medical System making it official when they took over Laurel Regional Hospital in September; we covered the City of Laurel's Economic and Community Development's first ever Discover Laurel Day; and we plan to be there to bring you live coverage of the election results from this year's General Election for the City Council.

All of this and so much more is on YouTube at LaurelTVOfficial! We also suggest once you visit our channel, be sure to subscribe so you can receive notification when we upload all the new programming we have coming up!

Winter is almost here and with it will come some potential inclement weather in the form of snow. We will send out press releases and public service announcements informing subscribers on what's happening in Laurel, especially if bad weather hits and snow emergencies are declared or roads are closed or if snow plows are working hard to clear the streets. If you aren't already on our list, there is still time! Get on our PR/PSA server list by emailing laurelpio@laurel.md.us.

And Laurel TV is always looking for volunteers and interns! If you have a story idea or need school credits, let us know! We train to cover our government meetings, use field cameras and how to edit a video package for Laurel TV's Laurel Community Spotlight series. There are so many ways to give back to your community and telling the stories of your neighbors is a great way to get to know everyone! Call 301-725-5300 ext. 2110 today and sign up!



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





Moe News

Happy Fall!

Soon enough, we will be celebrating the holidays and dealing with cold weather! When you check the City's events calendar, you'll see that there is enough to do to stay busy and warm with so many events taking place around our City!!

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

If you can, please join us in helping struggling families in the area have a nice meal for the holidays. The City of Laurel will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable items for the Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS) Food Pantry November 1 through December 15, 2017. Please drop off your donations at any City facility around town.

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

Michael R. Leszcz
At-Large
President

Valerie Nicholas
Ward 1

H. Edward Ricks
Ward 1

Donna Crary
Ward 2

Frederick Smalls
Ward 2

Before you start cooking your feast on Thanksgiving Day, I hope you make it out for the 13th Annual 5K Turkey Trot benefiting Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS). The event begins at 8:00am at McCullough Field located at 8th and Montgomery Streets.

Remember to support our small local businesses, especially on Small Business Saturday, November 25, 2017! Although they are small, they play a large part in helping our local economy and community thrive!

Please mark your calendars for December 2, 2017 from 3:00 - 6:00pm and join us in starting a NEW tradition as we celebrate the season with a Holiday Festival that will include vendors, food and so much more! The festivities will also include the annual Holiday Parade that leaves from the Laurel Municipal Center down Montgomery Street and ends with Laurel Armory Anderson - Murphy Community Center Illumination.



8103 Sandy Spring Rd
Laurel, MD 20707

Phone: 301-725-5300
Email: laurelmayor@laurel.md.us

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

As I always do at this time of the year, I'd like to remind you to prepare yourself and your property for the seasonal weather – snowy and cold – which will be upon us before you know it. Our website has great “preparedness” information that you should read to get ready for weather emergencies. I hope you will check it out.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Enjoy the cool weather and I'll see you around town!

Craig