



Mayor Craig A. Moe

Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Fall/Winter 2018 Volume 3, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

Econ./Comm. Devel	2
Fire Marshal	3
Public Works	4
Parks & Recreation	5
Laurel Police	6
Communications	7
Mayor's Message	8

Government Meetings

November

11/1	Board of Appeals - 7pm
11/6	ELECTION DAY
11/12	VETERANS DAY City/Passport Offices Closed
11/13	Work Session - 6pm
11/13	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
11/20	Planning Commission - CANCELLED
11/22&23	THANKSGIVING City/Passport Offices Closed
11/26	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
11/27	Historic District - 7pm

December

12/5	Work Session - 7pm
12/10	My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm Greenview Drive
12/10	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
12/11	Planning Commission - 7pm
12/18	Historic District - 7pm
12/24	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
12/25	CHRISTMAS City/Passport Offices Closed

'Tis the Season to be Thankful!



It's November and that means you'll start seeing the green bins in the lobbies of our facilities!

We ask that you please bring in donations of non-perishable foods to be donated towards LARS to help them stock their coffers this holiday season.

You can also consider signing up for their Annual Turkey Trot on November 22nd. On Thanksgiving morning, over 900 runners, walkers and spectators will flock to Laurel's Historic District at 8am to run and walk for this wonderful organization.

This event has gained a loyal following and continues to grow each year, raising crucial funds for LARS. If you have any questions, contact Maria McLean at 301-776-0442 ext. 27 or visit their website at <http://www.laureladvocacy.org/>.

LARS was founded in 1987 by a group of local congregation leaders and community members who sought a consolidated approach to responding to those who came to their doors for food and financial help. Today LARS is staffed by trained social workers and continues to receive financial and volunteer support from its founding faith-based partner organizations. LARS' mission is to enable homeless and low-income people in crisis to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency.

We hope to see you Thanksgiving morning!

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at more than 1,400 locations across the United States, at sea and abroad.



On December 15, 2018, at 11:00am, Wreaths Across America will be at Ivy Hill Cemetery, to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

Please help us lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by visiting their website at wreathsacrossamerica.org, and volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. You can also sponsor a wreath! And don't forget to click the "Invite" button to invite your friends and family to join you!

Economic and Community Development



Economic Development Events:

To stay in the loop for upcoming economic development events, subscribe to the Department's Monthly Business Newsletter, "Laurel ECD News" located at <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/ecd> or like the Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/>.

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.

And congratulations to the Department of Economic and Community Development for their recent Main Street Maryland recognition from the State! Keep up the great work!

Fire Marshal/Permit Services

We are heading into the holiday season and that means a lot of things to keep an eye out for to stay safe:



Turkey 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 Tree Safety

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 are UL approved lights! And keep the tree away from heat sources, like vents, to prevent the tree from drying out.

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.

Continued on Page 3

FMPS - continued from Page 2

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

Space Heaters Need Space - from Energy.gov

“Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, resulting in more than 300 deaths. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.



When buying and installing a small space heater, follow these guidelines:

- Only purchase newer model heaters that have all of the current safety features. Make sure the heater carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.
- Choose a thermostatically controlled heater, because they avoid the energy waste of overheating a room.
- Select a heater of the proper size for the room you wish to heat. Do not purchase oversized heaters. Most heaters come with a general sizing table.
- Locate the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic. Be especially careful to keep children and pets away from the heater.”



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

The 2019 Calendars are being put together and will be delivered to all single family and townhomes in December. The new calendar has everything you need to know about recycling, Public Works events and all City contacts. If you do not receive your calendar, please call Public Works at 301-725-0088 or e-mail them at dpw@laurel.md.us.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION: During January, trees will be collected on Wednesdays of each week. Please place your tree wherever you normally place your trash. For further information, please call the Department of Public Works at 301-725-0088.

When is a Snow Emergency in Effect?

The City's Snow Emergency Plan goes into effect whenever a Snow Emergency is declared for Prince George's County. Also, the Mayor may proclaim or end a Snow Emergency.

Snow Emergencies are announced on most local radio and television stations. Laurel TV, Channel 996(HD) or 71(SD) on Comcast and Channel 12 on Verizon, will broadcast snow-related announcements and closings, and it will be posted on our Social Media sites at Facebook and Twitter.

During a Snow Emergency, parking is prohibited on the even-numbered side of designated City Snow Routes. All other posted parking restrictions remain in effect. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the street along State and County Snow Emergency Routes. You may also receive a telephone message from the City advising you to remove vehicles if they are parked on a Snow Emergency Route. Remember ODD is OK! Based on the anticipated severity of the storm, temporary parking restrictions may be in effect in certain neighborhoods. Public Works will install signs prior to the snow event, so keep your eyes open and watch for those special postings!

Should you have any questions about the Snow Emergency Plan or if you cannot find your street and/or development on the Snow Emergency Map, please call the Department of Public Works at 301-725-0088 Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm (TTY/Text users call via Maryland Relay). Public Works is staffed during all snow emergencies. For your convenience, you can also e-mail Public Works at dpw@laurel.md.us.

Clearing Sidewalks

City Ordinance requires all owners and occupants to clear ice and snow from sidewalks fronting their property within 12 hours after the cessation of snowfall or ice accumulation. Failure to clear your sidewalk may result in a fine. Please clear your sidewalk for the convenience and safety of pedestrians. Don't shovel ice and snow from your driveway or sidewalk onto the street. It causes a traffic hazard that must be plowed and salted again.



Everyone be safe and prepared and have a fun Winter!

Parks and Recreation



The leaves are changing colors and falling to the ground. We hope you are out enjoying our parks in this beautiful fall weather, strolling along the lake at Granville Gude Park or walking the path at River Front Park. We have something for everyone!

Our Department never stops being busy! Harvest Moon Hayride is November 2nd at Riverfront Park and then we ramp up for our Breakfast with Santa, Holiday Parade, Holiday Fest AND Armory Illumination all on December 1st, starting at 9am!

But, did you hear about our newest tradition? On December 14th, we will be showing some holiday classics like Rudolph, Frosty and more at Partnership Activity Center starting at 6pm sharp. This is our new free indoor movie tradition, so save the date and plan on being there with us!

Check out our new program guide that is coming out shortly and keep up with our Facebook page to find out all the latest details on our events and programs! We also have a YouTube channel where you can check out our rentals and special events!

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

Contact Us!

General Information

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

Mayor

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City Council

Phone Ext. 2121
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City Administrator

Phone Ext. 2204
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Budget and Personnel Services

Phone Ext. 2236
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Communications

Phone Ext. 2208
LaurelPIO@laurel.md.us

Economic and Community Development

Phone Ext. 2313
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

**ELECTION DAY is November 6,
2018**

Polls Open at 7:00am

Polls Close at 8:00pm



Believe - Blossom - Soar

Keeping Our Youth Safe Conference

November 10, 2018; 10am - 2pm

**Partnership Activity Center, 811 5th St.
410-707-2420; www.bernadetteshouse.org**

Laurel Police

Prevent Theft! Secure Your Vehicles!



November and December bring the holiday season, which can reasons as to why we see an increase in certain crimes. Package thefts from porches, or porch pirates, have been an issue nationwide and continue to be a problem. Keep track of when they should arrive and try to have someone there to sign and receive. Call LPD immediately if a package gets tampered with or stolen.

With the holiday season, the shopping centers will become very busy. Be careful driving around. Look for pedestrians and people pulling out of parking spaces. Try to park in well-lit areas and do not leave packages or recently purchased items in open view of the vehicle, enticing thieves.

Speaking of leaving items in your vehicle, we wish we did not have to say this, but **do not** leave your kids in your car when you are shopping. This is against the law. No child seven or younger is allowed to be left in a car alone. This is extremely dangerous and disturbing. If you see a child seven or younger in a car alone, please call us immediately to come to the scene. We go on too many of these calls every year.

With the cold weather approaching, please no not leave your car unattended when the vehicle is running. It is against the law for the vehicle to be running and unattended, with the keys in the ignition. Every year, we receive calls of stolen vehicles because the person thought they could run into the store really quick or wait in their house. This is a good way to upset your insurance company as well. Don't do it!

We want everyone to enjoy their holiday season. If you choose to drink, please do not drive. Call a cab, an Uber, or get a designated driver. Laurel Police will be participating with multiple agencies throughout the state in DUI Strikeforce. Officers will be out looking for impaired drivers.

We expect the Charity Phone Scams to pick up during the holiday season as well. A good tip is if the person is requesting you to send gift cards, there is a good chance it is a scam. Firefighter Associations and Police Unions do not ask for people to send them gift cards. Any time someone is asking you to send money via phone, always question and verify.

Stay Connected with YOUR City Government!
Sign Up Today!



Communications



Laurel TV has had some great local stories you might have missed since our last newsletter:

- Laurel TV's Kayleen Yermal braved the paranormal and got the story about Laurel's House of Horror: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1RPuuhx2rk>
- And Jean-Luque headed over to Laurel Lake to get the scoop about PG County working with Clean Water Partnership to create fore bays to filter sediments and pollutants from the Lake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDJZe9E3fU>
- Finally, Myleah Lofland sat down with Passport Agent Mary Blankenship to get the new regulations we received from the State Department about getting a passport:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgJH37NY0B8>

- Laurel TV's Jean-Luque Zephir delved into the story about Laurel being a hot spot for Millennials to move to and the story is at the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZcJ4MKbflc&t=10s>
- And Jean-Luque headed over to Laurel High School to get the story of one coach stepping down and another one moving in...and it happens to be a father and son story! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtFUBOpC6RA>
- Laurel TV's Jean-Luque Zephir covers the "Curling" sport scene at the National Capital Curling Center. Check out what this sport means to so many people: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap0XqdsQDQI&t=2s>
- How do you keep warm during the cold season? Candles? Space heaters? Laurel TV's Kayleen Yermal went on a house call with Fire Marshal Dave Cope to find out how you can be both warm and safe this year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVcDIygaQxU>
- And watch our newest story just added to our YouTube Channel today! Bird houses are popping up around Riverfront Park to keep those pesky mosquitoes away and Laurel TV's Kayleen Yermal got the story on how tree swallows are being used in a new community project to fight the mosquito population!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytkGFoiB888>



Then watch these programs from local businesses who are part of our new Membership Program!:

- Your Future, Your Finances - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG0xQG1oTI8&t=25s>
- CSuite on Your Street - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkIn7_ToIQ0&t=6s

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. Be sure to subscribe to our Laurel TV YouTube Channel, LaurelTVOfficial, to see the stories listed above and many more or 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. 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





Mayor's Message

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



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 stay busy and warm at the many events taking place around our City!!

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 14, 2018. 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

Carl DeWalt
Ward 1

Valerie Nicholas
Ward 1

Frederick Smalls
Ward 2

Keith Sydnor
Ward 2

Before you start cooking your feast on Thanksgiving Day, I hope you make it out for the 14th Annual 5K Turkey Trot benefiting Laurel Advocacy and Referral Service (LARS). The event begins at 8:00 a.m. at McCullough Field located at 8th and Montgomery Streets.

Remember to support our small local businesses, especially on Small Business Saturday, November 24, 2018! Although they are small, they play a large part in helping our local economy and community thrive.

Please mark your calendars for December 1, 2018, from 3:00-5:30 p.m. and join us in this 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 Municipal Center down Montgomery Street and ends with the Laurel Armory Anderson and Murphy Community Center Illumination.

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



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Maryland City Hall