



Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Jan/Feb 2018 Volume 3, Issue 1

*"A Great Place To Live,
Work and Play"*

Mayor Craig A. Moe

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City of Laurel Unveils New Rehab/Canteen Unit



The City of Laurel has replaced its Rehabilitation/Canteen vehicle with a 2017 Freightliner chassis unit custom built by Custom Sales and Services, in Hammonton, New Jersey.

This new vehicle is equipped with all the tools and equipment needed to provide support to first responders during emergencies and major incidents within

the greater Laurel area. The unit is equipped with custom made refrigeration, freezer, cooking, and serving equipment that will provide food and beverage services to all on-scene personnel during extended or everyday operations and incidents.

This vehicle is equipped with rehabilitation support equipment that will provide relief for all first responders during major incidents and as a relief vehicle for personnel to recover and rehydrate during extended incidents.

Major support for this vehicle came from Mayor Craig A. Moe and the Laurel City Council and was the direct result of many months of work from the City Administrator, Martin Flemion, and the City's Canteen Committee, which consisted of both volunteers and City employees.

This vehicle's interior is custom made with stainless steel and has all the amenities needed to support large or small scale operations. This vehicle will also be used to support the many citizen events within the City throughout and will be available to support emergency operations with in the Regional area.

This vehicle will be operated by a mix of volunteer and City employees who will be trained specifically in the support roles for this unit.

Government Meetings

January	
1/3	Work Session - 7pm
1/8	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
1/9	Planning Commission - 7pm
1/15	Martin L. King, Jr. Holiday
1/16	Historic District - 7pm
1/22	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
1/24	Emergency Services - 7pm
1/25	Board of Appeals - 7pm
February	
2/7	Work Session - 7pm
2/12	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
2/13	Planning Commission - 7pm
2/19	Presidents' Day
2/20	Historic District - 7pm
2/22	Board of Appeals - 7pm
2/28	Emergency Services - 7pm

2017 Holiday Spirit Award Winners



Laurel residents really know how to celebrate the holidays! Here are the City of Laurel's Holiday Decorating Contest winners: 100 Irving Street, 13813 Clarkwood Lane (pictured), 1012 Seventh Street, 619 Ninth Street, 203 Sixth Street, 7108 Sandy Spring Road, 7322 Summer Wind Circle, 318 Laurel Avenue, 421 Prince George Street and 322 Carroll Avenue.

Thanks to Councilmember Carl DeWalt and a carload of friends for judging our 20 nominees. Mayor Craig A. Moe suggests or some holiday fun, pile your family and friends in the car and take a drive past these beauties.

Congratulations to our winners!

Laurel Police Department



With the New Years, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Presidents' Day holidays coming upon us, we ask for everyone to please be safe. Enjoy your friends, enjoy your family, have fun, but please Don't Drink and Drive. Get a designated driver or call a cab. We will do our best to look after your car if you have to leave it somewhere.

Tax season is approaching which means the tax scams will again be upon us. If the IRS is trying to contact you, look up the number and call them to verify it is them trying to reach you. Chances are if you are getting calls or emails it is a scam. Be very careful with your social security number and do not lend it out. Do what you can to not be a victim!

Snow has already started and does not look like it will be slowing down. Give yourself extra time to get to places. Remember the three things that cause you to lose control of your vehicle are: Over Accelerating, Over Braking, and Over Steering. If you can stay home, then stay home. If you have to go out please be careful and don't let your vehicle warm up unattended. If it is unlocked it is illegal and invites car thieves.



With lots of snow on the roads monitor the City of Laurel and Laurel Police Department's websites and Facebook pages. If a Snow Emergency is called by Mayor Craig A. Moe, please check to see if your streets is a Snow Emergency Route. Vehicles are not allowed to be parked on the even side of the street. People always have trouble remembering, so think ODD is Good for parking your vehicle!

And last, but NEVER least, don't forget to get your wife something for Valentine's Day. Be safe and hang on...Winter will be over before you know it. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at our Non-Emergency Number, 301-498-0092.



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

2017 Elections

On November 13, 2017, the newly elected City Councilmembers were sworn into office. Mayor Craig A. Moe administered the Oath of Office to our new and returning Councilmembers. Councilmember Michael R. Leszcz was elected Council President and he appointed Councilmember Valerie M.A. Nicholas as his President Pro Tem. The following Councilmembers were elected for a two year term, which expires on November 11, 2019.

Michael R. Leszcz, Councilmember At-Large
 Valerie M.A. Nicholas, Councilmember, Ward 1
 Carl W. DeWalt, Councilmember, Ward 1
 Frederick Smalls, Councilmember, Ward 2
 Keith R. Sydnor, Councilmember, Ward 2

At the following Mayor and City Council Meeting on Monday, November 27, 2017, the following Council assignments were confirmed:

Historic District Commission – Council President Leszcz
 Planning Commission – Councilmember Smalls
 Environmental Affairs Committee – Councilmember DeWalt
 Public Safety and Transportation – Councilmember Sydnor
 Tree Board – Councilmember Nicholas

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.



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>

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 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

Now that winter has officially arrived, it is important to remember that snow, icy conditions and dangerously cold temperatures can occur at any time. Please try to follow these safety tips:

-  Keep an emergency supply kit in your home that includes a battery-powered radio with extra batteries, canned food and a manual can opener, flashlights and battery-powered lamps for power failures, wood for fireplaces, and rock salt to melt ice and sand to improve traction.
-  Make sure your car is in proper working condition and includes blankets, warm clothing, booster cables and tools, bottled water, dried fruits and nuts, a first aid kit, a fire extinguisher, flashlights and batteries, a shovel and ice scraper.
-  Wear layers to protect yourself from the cold. A hat, scarf and mittens are also essential protection against winter weather.

Snow and Ice Removal

Sec. 18-181.2 of the Municipal Code states that the owner or occupant of a property is responsible for the removal of snow and/or ice from any sidewalk abutting the property. Removal of snow must be completed within 12 hours of the cessation of any snowfall. Likewise, removal of ice must be completed within 12 hours of the formation of such ice.

Due to the public safety issues attributed to snow and ice, any violation issued must be corrected immediately. Failure to comply can result in a fine being levied against the property owner.

Portable Generators

Useful during power outages, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution and fire hazards. Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks. Generators should be operated in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open and place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height. Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running. Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

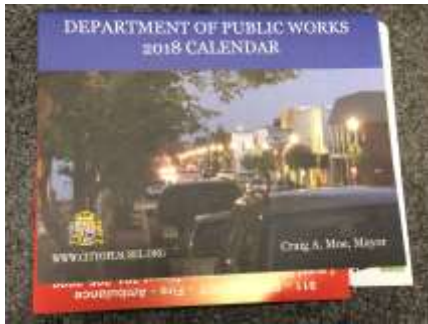


Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Carbon Monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties. As mentioned above, make sure to have working CO alarms in the home on every level and outside each separate sleeping area. If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window/door and call 9-1-1. And NEVER leave a vehicle in the garage to warm it up.



Public Works



2018 Calendars have been delivered to all single family and townhomes. The new calendar has everything you need to know about recycling, Public Works events and all City contacts. If you have not received your calendar, please call Public Works at 301-725-0088 or e-mail us at dpw@laurel.md.us

No plastic bags!! Effective January 1, 2018, Public Works will no longer collect plastic bags in the recycling. Residents may dispose of plastic bags at grocery and home goods stores.

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.

SNOW: 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 Cable Network, Channel 71 on Comcast and Channel 12 on FiOS, broadcasts snow related announcements and closings.



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 should 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. **Watch for signs!**

Should you have any questions about the Snow Emergency Plan, call 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.

Yard Debris and Residential Special Collections:

Yard debris collection and residential special pickup collections are limited during the winter months. Every Wednesday collection will begin again in March. Check the 2018 calendar or Public Works website for scheduled collections dates.

New Year's Day Holiday: City offices will be closed Monday, January 1, 2018.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th.

Presidents' Day: City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19th.

Visit us at cityoflaurel.org for adjusted trash/recycle schedules.

Parks and Recreation

Did you know that the City of Laurel Parks and Recreation Department is comprised of twenty-five full time staff and over thirty part time staff? Out of that twenty-five full time staff, twelve of them maintain our beautiful Parks and Recreation Facilities. Did you also know that our Department runs over twenty-five events throughout the year, at your local Parks and Recreation Facilities?

We have something for everyone. From free indoor/outdoor movies and concerts, to Holiday Parades, Lakefests, Dog Shows, Eggstravaganza's, Family Fun Nights, Hay Rides and many more.

We will start our FREE Indoor Movies, with Cinderella, on January 12th and SMURFS: The Lost Village on February 9th; both will be at Partnership Hall, located at 811 Fifth Street. Our Family FUN Nights are back, starting January 5th on select dates, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm.

You can check all this out online at facebook.com/laurelparksrec; the City's website, cityoflaurel.org/parks; or stop in at either Community Center. If you have any questions, feel free to reach us at parks@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-7800.



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!



There is so much on our YouTube Channel at LaurelTVOfficial to keep you in the know around town! 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 has arrived 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 New Year!

Please join us for a Memorial Wreath Ceremony celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday, January 12, 2018, at 4:00pm at the Laurel Municipal Center.

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

The Mayor and City Council are here to support and represent the community, so if you have any issues or concerns, please contact my office or a member of the City Council. My office will continue community events such as “My Time with the Mayor” and “City Hall in the Park.” This year’s dates and locations are as follows:

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

2018 My Time with the Mayor Program (4:30 - 6:30pm)
Monday, February 12 Barkman-Kaiser Public Safety Complex
Monday, April 9 Anderson-Murphy Community Center
Monday, August 13 Robert J. DiPietro Community Center
Wednesday, October 10 Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility
Monday, December 10 Greenview Drive Cabana

2018 City Hall in the Park Program (6:30 - 8:00pm)
Wednesday, April 18 Cypress Street Athletic Field/Park
Wednesday, May 16 Discovery Community Park
Wednesday, July 18 Wellington Pool/Park
Wednesday, August 15 Centennial Park
Wednesday, September 19 Emancipation Community Park

Watch for Press Releases and Facebook and Twitter posts for reminders!

As we usher in 2018, a quick look around town will show you great progress in our Economic Development endeavors, improved and enhanced infrastructure, creatively, designed parks and recreational sites, as well as our initiatives to maintain a safe, clean and well-groomed city. Old buildings are giving way to new ones; redevelopment initiatives continue; public safety and improvements to our roadways and parklands are as high on our list as ever! And inside your local government, our City teams are working hard to see to it that your City tax dollars are wisely and purposefully used.



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

The City’s Annual Open House is scheduled for Sunday, March 4th at the Laurel Municipal Center. We’ll showcase the best civic organizations and volunteer opportunities available in and around Laurel. It’s a family fun day with lots of to learn about and lots of people to connect with. I hope you’ll be there!

See you around town! Craig