



Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Spring 2017 Volume 2, Issue 2

April is Spring Cleanup Month



The City of Laurel has designated the month of April as Spring Cleanup Month!

Mayor Craig A. Moe wants to make sure you know about a few special programs to help you spruce up your home, business or neighborhood:

Public Works will hold an Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding Event, for City residents and businesses only, on April 22nd from 8:00am – Noon at the Public Works Facility located at 305-307 First Street.

The City will increase the yard debris collection service to every Monday and Wednesday during the month of April and residential special pickup collection will be available every Wednesday.

The City of Laurel will also waive the \$10 base fee on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in April for the first 100 residents that schedule a special pickup. All other fees such as the large appliances and furniture fees and tire fees will remain in effect. As always, there is no fee for yard debris collection.

Arrangements for a special pickup of bulk trash and yard debris can be made by calling the Department of Public Works at 301-725-0088, through the MyLaurel App or by e-mail at dpw@laurel.md.us. The deadline for scheduling a Monday pickup is the close of business on Thursday, the deadline for scheduling a Wednesday pickup is the close of business on Monday.

We hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities to make Laurel just a little more beautiful.

Main Street Festival

Mayor Craig A. Moe has announced that Laurel's Annual Main Street Festival will be held **Saturday, May 13th from 9:00am – 4:00pm.**

Mayor Moe commends the Laurel Board of Trade for its hard work every year to ensure that visitors from close and far away, enjoy a day of entertainment, food, vendors, music and activities. Laurel is proud of its small town roots and close knit community, which is evidenced by the Main Street Festival.



Main Street will be completely closed to vehicular traffic between Route 1 South and 7th Street allowing thousands of people to stroll up and down Main Street enjoying numerous food vendors, bands and arts and crafts. The Festival will start with the parade which will begin at 9:00 a.m. Each year this event draws thousands of people who enjoy the day's festivities and visiting Main Street businesses.

If you have any questions about the Main Street Festival, please call the Laurel Board of Trade at 301-483-0838.

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Government Meetings










April	
4/5	Work Session - 7pm
4/10	My Time with the Mayor - 4:30p
4/10	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
4/11	Planning Commission - 7pm
4/18	Historic District - 7pm
4/19	City Hall in the Park - 6:30pm Cypress St. Athletic Field
4/24	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
4/27	Board of Appeals - Cancelled
May	
5/3	Work Session - 7pm
5/8	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
5/9	Historic District - 7pm
5/16	Planning Commission - 7pm
5/17	City Hall in the Park - 6:30pm Discovery Park
5/22	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
5/25	Board of Appeals - 7pm
5/29	Memorial Day - Offices Closed
June	
6/7	Work Session - 7pm
6/12	My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm
6/12	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
6/13	Planning Commission - 7pm
6/20	Historic District - 7pm
6/21	City Hall in the Park - 6:30pm Greenview Drive Park/Pool
6/22	Board of Appeals - 7pm
6/26	Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm

Laurel Police **Department**

10 Tips for Home Safety

-  Create the illusion that someone is at your house if you're away! Leave a TV or stereo on in a room and use exterior lighting and motion detectors to minimize burglar concealment.
 -  Make sure all exterior doors have good, sturdy lock. Install 1-inch deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
 -  If you get an unexpected knock at the door, check to see who it before opening it.
 -  DO NOT leave extra keys under doormats, potted plants or any other outdoor location. Thieves will find them. Give a set to a trusted neighbor or family member.
 -  Burglar proof your glass patio doors by setting a metal bar in the middle, bottom track of the door slide.
 -  Keep drapes and blinds shut and DO NOT leave your garage door open, even when you're home.
 -  Don't leave notes on the door for service people or family. This alerts anyone that you are not Home.
-

Driving Safety Tips for Seniors

-  Avoid driving at night if you have trouble with night vision.
-  Keep your windshield, headlights and mirror clean to improve visibility.
-  Limit distracting noise inside your vehicle.
-  Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead so you can brake safely.
-  Stay alert and watch for flashing lights of emergency vehicles.
-  Get periodic vision and hearing tests.
-  Take a defensive driving course offered through AARP or AAA.
-  Read medication labels to see if they impair driving skills.
-  Avoid driving during inclement weather.
- Don't drive if you are feeling tired, lightheaded or stressed.

Keep Your Children Safe

- Children should know their full name, home phone number and how to use the telephone.
- Choose babysitters with care. Obtain references from family , friends and neighbors.
- Make a list of neighborhood boundaries and let your children know whose homes they are allowed to visit.
- DO NOT drop your children off alone at malls, parks or movie theatres.
- Tell your children if you are approached by an adult, stay alert. Could be a trick!
- NEVER leave your child unattended in a vehicle.
- Children should never go anywhere without your permission first.
- Be careful when you put your child's name on clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes or bike license plates. This may put them on a "first name" basis with an abductor



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

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

New Main Street Event



Second Saturdays are coming to Main Street! Starting in April, the second Saturday of every month the businesses on Main Street will be having one day only sales and promotions. There will be a Kid's Zone located at 378 Main Street for fun family friendly activities, food, and entertainment. This is a great opportunity for everyone to come out and see what Main Street has to offer, and support local businesses. Download the free Lo-caLynx app as your guide to all of the businesses and their deals for the day. The next 2nd Saturday event will be held on **June 10th from 12pm-7pm!**

New Apartment Complex begins Leasing

The Evolution at Towne Centre is currently leasing and plans to open the end of May. Evolution contains 340 luxury apartment homes with various floorplans. Evolution will offer a resort-style saltwater pool and sundeck, large 24-hour fitness center, pet spa, courtyards, bicycle storage and maintenance facilities, residential storage and controlled-access garage parking, as well as a 10,000+-square-foot clubhouse. For more information visit www.liveatevolution.com or call (877) 682-3326.



Main Street Economic Development Programs

The City encourages 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.



Fire Marshal/Permit Services

Summer is almost here and spring is in full swing! Along with the nice weather, comes property maintenance and activities that can sometimes prove dangerous. Below, please find helpful information that will help keep you and your family safe during the spring and summer:

Camping

When purchasing a tent, be sure that the tent is flame retardant. Never place the tent or any other gear near a campfire. Never use fuel burning heaters or lanterns inside the tent. Always use battery operated heating and lighting devices. Before leaving your campsite or going to sleep, be sure you properly extinguish the campfire by pouring water on it or covering it with dirt.

Gas and Charcoal Grill Safety

Fire up the grill! Everyone loves a cookout! However, propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill. Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers. Periodically, remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.



Charcoal grills - Purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children, and away from heat sources.

Propane grills - Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.

Fireworks

Always leave fireworks to the professionals. Stay at least 500 feet away from professional fireworks displays. If you happen to find fireworks do NOT touch them. Contact the City of Laurel Fire Marshal's Office at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2250 or Laurel Police Department non-emergency line at 301-498-0092. For emergencies involving fireworks, call 911 immediately. It is illegal to sell or use fireworks within the City limits of Laurel and Prince George's County.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety

Whether you choose to take a bike ride around the lake or a nice trip through the park, there are some points to keep in mind to ensure you or your child's safety: always wear a helmet and wear bright clothes and/or putting reflectors on your bike also can help you stay safe, especially at night. Daytime riding is the safest so try to avoid riding your bike at dusk and later.



Tall Grass Reminder

Grass will be growing! It is the duty of every person as owner, occupant, lessee or agent in charge of land in the City to cut to a height of not over eight (8) inches. To report tall weeds log on to our website at www.cityoflaurel.org and click on MyLaurel Mobile App or call 301-725-5300 extension 2238.

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 complaints.

Public Works



Spring Clean-Up! During the month of April, Public Works will be collecting **yard debris** on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. To schedule a collection, call in or e-mail before the end of the day Thursday for a Monday collection and before the end of the day Monday for a Wednesday collection. To reach us by phone call 301-725-0088 or e-mail us at (dpw@laurel.md.us) or use the City of Laurel app. Public Works will also be offering four residential special pickups throughout the month. The Mayor has approved a base fee waiver for **April 12th** and **April 26th**. The first 100 residents will receive a \$10 discount – if you don't have any "billable" items – the pickup is **FREE**. To schedule a collection, you need to contact Public Works by the end of the day on the Monday before the collection.

Electronics and Paper Shredding. The City will hold its electronics recycling and paper shredding event, Saturday, April 22nd from 8:00am to Noon at the Public Works Facility at 305-307 First Street. City residents are encouraged to recycle their unwanted electronics (computer monitors, CPUs, CD/DVD/VCR players, radios, printers, keyboard, televisions, etc.). Residents will also be able to securely shred any sensitive paper material (canceled checks, bank statements, bills, etc.). Residents will be required to show proof of City residency.

April showers may bring May flowers, but it makes for very soggy recycling. Wet paper and cardboard not only sticks to the inside of your container, but it makes for heavy lifting for our crews. If you are still using an open bin – contact Public Works and request a toter. Remember it is **free** to upgrade to a 35- or 65-gallon toter.

Mosquito Control Program – the City's mosquito control program will begin in April and will continue throughout the summer. If mosquitoes are your problem – you can find information about how to control the mosquito problem in your neighborhood and the City's Mosquito Control Program -- on the City's website – under Public Works Mosquito Control.

National Public Works Week is May 21 – 27, 2017. National Public Works Week (NPWW) is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The Week seeks to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society—the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Tree plantings. Residents can expect to see Public Works crews out and about planting trees in the public right-of-way. If you want to know if you can expect a new tree in your neighborhood, call Tommy Helms, Project Inspector at 301-725-0088.

Roadway Markings. Yellow lines, bikeway markings, stop bars and crosswalks, Public Works does it all. Painting season has begun – watch out for Public Works crews working on the streets!



Parks and Recreation



Lakefest is May 6th, 11am to 3pm at Granville Gude Park. It kicks off our summer! We will have a DJ, Moon Bounces, Balloons, costume characters, games, food and more!

National Kids to Park Days is Saturday May 20th, Any school aged child 12 and under who completes a full lap around the Granville Gude Lake path on May 20 during Lakehouse operating hours will receive one free boating pass to use any time during the 2017 season. Register at the Lakehouse concession window. Boating rules and regulation apply.

In June we have our Bike Decorating Contest, Parade and Ice Cream Social. That is June 9th, 6:30pm at Laurel Armory Anderson and Murphy Community Center.

June 23 kicks off our Concerts and Movies! Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition kicks the summer off at 7pm at the Granville Gude Park Stage.

Looking for a place to hold your next party or event? The Department has venues of all sizes available for rental. Whether it's a small intimate gathering or a larger get together, the Department of Parks and Recreation can help fill your need.

You can also check out all the Department's offerings, or register for a program, just by logging on to the City's website at www.cityoflaurel.org!



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. 2313
Jbrock@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

As you start making summer travel plans, here's something to keep in mind if you need a passport—don't wait until the last minute. Passport Acceptance facilities like the one in Laurel have been swamped lately with new applicants and people trying to renew their passports. That's because 10 years ago, the State Department required passports for all travel and now those old ones are expiring!



Due to the increased volume at our Passport Office, we are asking that you fill out your application completely before you arrive. Also, make sure you have all of the documents and payments needed to process your packet, so we can get you in and out as quickly as possible. For more information about getting your passport, visit <https://www.cityoflaurel.org/comm/passport-office>.

And speaking of summer, why not spend some time volunteering for Laurel TV this summer. Better yet, encourage your high school student to put together a show we can air as a summer project. Laurel TV has video cameras for the community to use, and we can train you. For more information, visit our website at LaurelTV.org or call 301-725-5300 ext. 2110. Remember to Turn YOUR Power On!



You can also get caught up on what is happening in your city by tuning in to Laurel TV on Comcast at Channel 996(HD) or 71(SD) and at Verizon on Channel 12. Or just subscribe to our Laurel TV Official YouTube channel at <https://m.youtube.com/LaurelTVOfficial>. Every time we upload a new community video, you can get a notification.



After you have subscribed, take a few minutes to watch some of the local programming brought to you this year like:

- Laurel TV Special on College Financial Aid, "Financing Your Future: Creative Ways to Pay for College";
- Features on important area stories like ATM Skimmers and the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition at the Johns Hopkins Applied Research Lab in Laurel;
- Or stories highlighting our area schools like Bond Mill Elementary's Destination Imagination Competition, a Laurel Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship recipient who got her college degrees paid for, and Pallotti's Signing Day for college athletes.

Find those stories and so much more on our Laurel TV YouTube Channel.

Don't forget to leave your story ideas and community events on our message line at 240-294-1307.

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

Happy Spring and Welcome Summer!

I'm happy to announce that the City of Laurel Annual Report for 2016 is now available on the City's web site. It's a great synopsis of actions and accomplishments by the City's elected officials and City Staff for last year. The Annual Report shares my pride in the men and women of the City's dedicated work force and their cost-saving efforts to provide the best in city services to the taxpayers of Laurel. The City of Laurel Annual Report also includes the many accomplishments of each department of City government, and the divisions that comprise the Administration's activities.

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

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

Nominate your neighbor (or yourself!) for a Golden Shovel Award! This program recognizes homeowners for the beautification of their property. The Golden Shovel Award Committee selects a property in each ward of the City during May, June, July, August and September. The winning property owner receives a yard sign, a citation and a little gift for their efforts! Contact the Mayor's Office at laurelmayor@laurel.md.us or 301-725-5300, extension 2125 to submit a nomination for the award.

We'll be in your neighborhood soon as we kick off this year's popular "City Hall in the Park" program. The community meetings begin at 6:30 pm and will continue until 8:00 pm.

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|----------|-------------------------------|
| April 19 | Cypress Street Athletic Field |
| May 17 | Discovery Community Park |
| June 21 | Greenview Drive Pool/Park |

Senior Staff and City Councilmembers will be on hand to hear your concerns and suggestions on how to improve your community. A short program on City events and happenings is always provided. For information or questions please call 301-725-5300 x 2125.

If you want to see me in a one-on-one setting, come to a "My Time With the Mayor" meeting. This program has been a popular way for residents to drop in to meet with me in their own neighborhood. I'll be at the Anderson Murphy Community Center/Laurel Armory on Montgomery Street on Monday, April 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Future dates for the "My Time With the Mayor" program are Monday, June 12 at the Laurel Municipal Center and Monday, August 14 at the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center



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

City of Laurel youth residents are invited to seek summer employment by participating in the 8th Annual Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. The program provides the opportunity for City of Laurel youth ages 14-16 to work in City Departments for 8 weeks during the summer. Check the City's Website, www.cityoflaurel.org, or our Facebook page for more information soon.

See you around town!
Craig