



Mayor Craig A. Moe

# Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Winter 2019 Volume 4, Issue 1

### Inside this issue:

Laurel Police	2
Econ./Comm. Devel	4
Fire Marshal	5
Public Works	6
Parks & Recreation	7
Communications	8
Mayor's Message	9

### Government Meetings

#### January

- 1/1 **New Year's Day** - City/Passport Offices Closed
- 1/2 Work Session - 7pm
- 1/14 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 1/15 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 1/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - City/Passport Offices Closed
- 1/22 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 1/24 Board of Appeals - 7pm
- 1/28 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm

#### February

- 2/6 Work Session - 7pm
- 2/11 My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm  
Laurel Municipal Center
- 2/11 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 2/12 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 2/18 **Presidents' Day**  
City/Passport Offices Closed
- 2/19 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 2/25 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 2/28 Board of Appeals - 7pm

## Know Before it Snows!!



### 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, snow related announcements and closings are announced on our Social media, most local radio and television stations and Laurel TV at Channel 71 (SD) or 996 (HD) on Comcast and Channel 12 on FiOS.

### Parking Restrictions

During a Snow Emergency, parking is prohibited on the even-numbered side of designated City Snow Routes - remember ODD is OK! All other posted parking restrictions remain in effect. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the street along State and County Snow Routes. And the City will put out a call informing those who have signed up for the notifications, when a Snow Emergency is in effect.

### Illegal Parking Notice

Cars parked illegally along Snow Emergency Routes will be ticketed, towed and impounded at the owner's expense and risk. If your car is towed, call the Laurel Police Department at 301-498-0092 for release information. Also, the use of snow tires or chains is required to operate a vehicle during emergencies.

### Plowing and Salting

The Snow Emergency Routes receive priority in our Snow Removal Operations. Next, we take care of established hazardous locations such as hills, sharp curves and busy intersections. Then we take care of side streets. PLEASE BE PATIENT. During a major snowstorm, snow removal can be a monumental task. City crews work around the clock to clear streets and to provide other City services as well as clear parking lots and sidewalks at City buildings and other public service facilities. City crews do their best not to block driveways when plowing the streets, unfortunately it cannot always be avoided, please DO NOT throw snow back into the street.

### Clearing Sidewalks

City Ordinance requires all owners and occupants to clear ice and snow from sidewalks fronting their property for safety purposes within 12 hours after the cessation of snowfall or ice accumulation. Failure to clear your sidewalk may result in a fine. 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.

Should you have any questions about the Snow Emergency Plan, 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) or e-mail them at [dpw@laurel.md.us](mailto:dpw@laurel.md.us).

# Laurel Police Department

## Holiday Season

With the New Year, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Presidents Day holidays all approaching, we ask for everyone to please be safe. Enjoy time with your friends and family, but please Don't Drink and Drive. Get a designated driver or call a cab.










Please stay vigilant. Package thefts do still occur long after the Christmas season is over. We are working to stop them, but do what you can to prevent them. Track your orders. If you live in an apartment complex, see if you can have it delivered to the office. Try working with your neighbors on looking out for each other. If your package is stolen or even just tampered with, do not hesitate to call us at 301-498-0092.

We have been getting a lot of rain, which will soon turn to snow. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination. Take your time and remember the three things that cause you to lose control of your vehicle: Over Accelerating, Over Braking, and Over Steering. And be very careful with black ice. 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.

When there's lots of snow on the roads, monitor the City of Laurel and LPD's websites and Facebook pages. If a snow emergency is declared by the Mayor, please check your streets to verify if you live on a Snow Emergency Route. Vehicles are not allowed to be parked on the even side of the street, so remember ODD is OK for parking your vehicle. Have a safe New Year!

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## Safety Tips

-  Before driving in the snow or any long trip, make sure that you do a maintenance check on your vehicle. Check your tires, battery, belts, hoses and fluids.
-  Plan your route ahead of time and give yourself extra travel time.
-  Keep warm clothing in the vehicle, along with a survival kit containing an ice scraper, shovel, sand, tow rope, flares, flashlight, first aid kit, food and blankets.
-  Always clear any snow and ice from all lights, windows, mirrors and the roof before driving.
-  Make sure you wait for the interior windows to clear of fog, so you will have good visibility.
-  Make sure that the windshield washer fluid reservoir is full and is rated for freezing temperatures.
-  Slow down in snow and icy conditions, make all turns slowly and remember that it takes longer to stop on slippery surfaces. Use the three-second rule.
-  Know the proper handling procedures for a skidding vehicle. When you lose traction, remember to keep your foot off the brakes.
-  Bridges and overpasses usually freeze before other roadways, so drive with caution!

## LPD - continued from Page 2

### Home Safety Tips

- Avoid tall and thick shrubs that cover your windows and doors. It is also good to avoid tall privacy fences. Both of these items allow burglars to conceal themselves.
- Install good exterior lighting and make sure to leave exterior lights on at night and use motion activated floodlights near major entrances such as the front and rear doors and on the garage.
- Close your blinds and curtains when you are not at home.
- Switch up your routine so that burglars do not know your schedule and alert neighbors when you are going away on a trip.
- Lock all of your windows and doors.
- Use timers for indoor lights and consider leaving a radio or TV on when you are away.
- Dogs can also be a good deterrent, especially a dog that barks.
- Stop your mail and newspaper delivery when you are away on vacation. Also, don't leave out your trash and recycle bins.
- Install a double cylinder deadbolt on your doors. Security doors or burglar bars on the ground floor are also a good addition.
- Always try to make your home look as if someone is inside. Most burglars like to go to vacant homes that don't have dogs, alarm systems, security doors and flood lights so they can get in and out without being detected.



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](mailto:lpd@laurel.md.us)  
Crime Tips: [tips@laurel.md.us](mailto: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)

\$35.00

#### 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



## 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 sign up for the “Laurel ECD” newsletter at [www.cityoflaurel.org/ecd](http://www.cityoflaurel.org/ecd) or like the Department’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/](http://www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/).

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## 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.

## FMPS - continued from Page 4

### 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. CO alarms have varied expiration dates, but if unsure consider replacing it and test CO alarms at least once a month. 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.



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.

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### **Fireplace Safety Tips:**

- Only burn dry, cured wood.
- Burn firewood and ONLY firewood!
- Close the damper when not using your wood **fireplace**.
- Keep bifold glass doors open when burning a fire.
- Have a chimney cap installed.
- Replace a poorly sealing damper to prevent heat loss.
- And have your chimney inspected and cleaned!



# Public Works

The 2019 Calendars are in and will be delivered to all single-family and townhomes before the end of December 2018. 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 us at [dpw@laurel.md.us](mailto:dpw@laurel.md.us), and will get one to you ASAP!

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

## Other Public Works events:



**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.

## 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 2019 calendar or Public Works website for scheduled collections dates.

## Dates to remember:

**New Year's Day:** City offices will be closed Tuesday, January 1, 2019. Tuesday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, January 2nd. There is no change to commercial collections on Monday and Wednesday.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day:** City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 21st. Monday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Tuesday, January 22nd and Tuesday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, January 23rd. There is no change to commercial collections on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Presidents' Day:** City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 18th. Monday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Tuesday, February 19th and Tuesday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, February 20th. There is no change to commercial collections on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**As mentioned, the 2019 Calendars should be delivered by the end of 2018!**

**Call Public Works at 301-725-0088 if you do not receive yours!**



# Parks and Recreation



It's time to usher in a new year and the Department of Parks and Recreation has something for everyone! If you have a few holiday pounds to shed, why not buy a fitness room membership or sign up for one of the Department's many fitness programs! It's the perfect time to join a sports league or just drop into the centers for basketball or volleyball. Don't forget about your four-legged friends, they need exercise too! The Dr. Bruce Morley Dog Playground is just the place!

When it's cold outside, warm up inside with one of the many activities for all ages. Kids ages 9-13 can use their Annual Passes for free admission to Middle School Madness every Friday night at the Laurel Armory Community Center. Enjoy video games, movies, pool and ping pong in our gaming lounge. Drop into one of our many free games clubs at the centers as well! Older teens can't forget about our Weekend Teen Club, Friday nights at the Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, just use your annual pass!

Bring the kids out on January 11th to the Laurel Police Department's Partnership Activity Hall located at 811 Fifth Street, for a free showing of the popular children's movie, "Trolls" and on February 8th to see "Captain Underpants." The movies will begin at 7:00pm SHARP! You can bring your own snacks or purchase something from our concession table!

Join us at the Municipal Center on Sunday, March 3, 2019, from 1:00 - 4:00pm for the Laurel Civic Improvement Committee's Annual Open House. Representatives from local government, a variety of civic organizations and clubs, and some local businesses, will be on hand to meet you and answer questions. Bring the whole family and enjoy entertainment and light refreshments.

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 onto the City's website at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)!

And a reminder that our daytime activities will be **CANCELLED** if a Snow Emergency Plan is in effect by 9:00am and evening activities will be **CANCELLED** if it is in effect by 4:00pm. And if PG County Schools have a delay or are closed, our preschool will be **CLOSED** as well.



## 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. 2204

[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)

# Communications

Laurel TV has an easy way for you to watch Laurel TV programming where you want it, when you want it!

Once you subscribe to our YouTube Chanel at <https://www.youtube.com/LaurelTVOfficial>, every time we upload a new government meeting or local news story or feature, you'll get notification!



After you have subscribed, please take a few minutes to watch some of the local programming brought to you in 2018:

- Laurel Police Department's Opioid Awareness Special;
- Laurel Community Spotlights featuring local stories from our schools to sports to government events;
- Programs from local businesses like Your Future, Your Finances and CSuite on Your Street;
- Learn about local writers by watching Meet the Author;
- Fire Marshal's Corner brings you tips on fire safety; and
- VS Gaming gives you the ins and outs on video games and different Conventions in the region.

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

There is so much going on, you'll want to subscribe today and stay in the know! If you are interested in volunteering for Laurel TV, apply online at [LaurelTV.org](http://LaurelTV.org)! And don't forget to leave information about your community events on our media 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](http://LaurelTV.org)







# Mayor's Message

Happy New Year!

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



Please join us for a Memorial Wreath Ceremony celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday, January 18, 2019, at 4:00pm at the Laurel Municipal Center.

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 at the phone numbers to the left.

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

Michael R. Leszcz  
At-Large

Carl DeWalt  
Ward 1

Valerie Nicholas  
President Pro Tem  
Ward 1

Frederick Smalls  
President  
Ward 2

Keith Sydnor  
Ward 2

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:

### 2019 My Time with the Mayor Program (4:30-6:30 pm)

Monday, February 11	Laurel Municipal Center
Monday, April 8	Anderson-Murphy Community Center
Monday, August 12	Robert J. DiPietro Community Center
Wednesday, October 16	Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility
Monday, December 9	Barkman-Kaiser Public Safety Complex

### 2019 City Hall in the Park Program (6:30-8:00 pm)

Wednesday, April 17	Emancipation Community Park
Wednesday, May 15	Discovery Community Park
Wednesday, July 17	Wellington Pool/Park
Wednesday, August 21	Centennial Park
Wednesday, September 18	Casula Point

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



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 we usher in 2019, 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. 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.

Have a safe and prosperous New Year! I'll see you around town!

Craig