



Laurel Dispatch

Government to the People

Winter 2020 Volume 5, Issue 1

Mayor Craig A. Moe

Inside this issue:

Laurel Police	2
Social Media	3
Econ./Comm. Devel	4
Fire Marshal	5
Public Works	6
Parks & Recreation	7
Communications	8
150th Anniversary	9
Mayor's Message	10



Government Meetings

January

- 1/1 New Year's - Offices Closed
- 1/8 Work Session - 7pm
- 1/13 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm (150th Kick Off)
- 1/14 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 1/20 MLK, Jr. Day - Offices Closed
- 1/21 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 1/21 Easter Day
- 1/23 Board of Appeals - 7pm
- 1/27 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm

February (LEAP YEAR!)

- 2/5 Work Session - 7pm
- 2/10 My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm
Laurel Municipal Center
- 2/10 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 2/11 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 2/17 Presidents' Day - Offices Closed
- 2/18 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 2/4 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 2/27 Board of Appeals - 7pm

Laurel Celebrates 150 Years in 2020!



The City of Laurel is celebrating its 150th Anniversary with a year-long series of special events focusing on the theme "Laurel Is".

Each month in 2020 will be dedicated to something that "Laurel Is." For example, in April - Laurel is Green and in July - Laurel is Patriotic.

There will be a ton of events from old favorites to a few new ones like the Laurel Historical Society 150th Gala on the day of Laurel's incorporation date, April 4, 1870. And Celebrate Laurel Today: A 150th Birthday Bash on September 26, 2020, will commemorate Laurel's diversity and inclusivity. We'll host a day-long trip around the world for a taste of all the cultures, traditions, food, music, and people who call Laurel home.

You will also need to pick up an Anniversary Passport! As you attend each event, you can receive a stamp that will get you one step closer to having your passport added in for a drawing to win prizes in three different age categories!



Get ready to honor our past, to show our progress for the promise of Laurel's future!

Visit the 150th website, 150.CityofLaurel.org, for information on how to get an Anniversary Passport, how to give information on your Laurel Descendants and how to be a sponsor. We could use your help!

Let's get ready to celebrate! Happy 150th Birthday Laurel!

Census 2020

Every 10 years, the Census Bureau gathers current facts and figures about America's people, places and economy. The statistics that they pull together are then used to:



- Determine how many representatives each state gets in Congress and to redraw district boundaries.
- Communities use the statistics to plan for residents needs like roads, schools and emergency services.
- Businesses use the data to determine where to open shops.

The invitation will come via the mail before April 1, 2020, so be sure to keep your eyes open and plan on participating to help Laurel receive all the benefits we can from this Census!

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or through a phone prompt. All information is confidential and protected.

Census Day is April 1, 2020! For more information, visit www.cityoflaurel.org/census

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 the Laurel Police at 301-498-0092.

Road Safety: With the arrival of Winter means snow! Give yourself extra time to get to your destination. 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!



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

Social Media

We want you to stay connected with your government. We have many ways of doing this from the Public Works Calendars, delivered to each home, to the MyLaurel App to Digital Signs, placed strategically throughout the City, to Laurel TV.

However, our best way to reach you as quickly as possible is through our Social Media Platforms.

Many of our Departments are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. If you aren't on one of these platforms, sign up today!

We'll be putting out short "How To..." videos to help you navigate the world of social media and if you have any ideas on what you would like to see, be sure to email us SocialMedia@laurel.md.us.

Below is a list of all our Social Media Platforms and where you can find them:

Facebook:

City of Laurel: www.facebook.com/laurelmaryland/

Laurel Police: www.facebook.com/LaurelPolice/

Laurel TV: www.facebook.com/laurelTV.org/

Laurel Parks: www.facebook.com/laurelparksrec/

Laurel ECD: www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/

Laurel CERT: www.facebook.com/LaurelCERT/

Twitter:

Laurel Mayor: <https://twitter.com/LaurelMayor> - @LaurelMayor

Laurel COS: <https://twitter.com/COSLaurelMD> - @COSLaurelMD

Laurel Clerk: <https://twitter.com/LaurelClerk> - @LaurelClerk

City of Laurel: <https://twitter.com/cityoflaurel> - @cityoflaurel

Laurel Emergency: <https://twitter.com/LaurelCityOEM> - @LaurelCityOEM

Laurel Parks: <https://twitter.com/LaurelParksRec> - @LaurelParksRec

Laurel PIO: <https://twitter.com/LaurelPIO> - @LaurelPIO

Laurel Police: <https://twitter.com/LaurelPD> - @LaurelPD

Laurel TV: <https://twitter.com/LaurelTVorg> - @LaurelTVorg

Instagram:

Mayor Craig A. Moe: laurelmayor

City of Laurel: cityoflaurelmd

Laurel Police: laurelpolicedepartment

YouTube:

Laurel Mayor: www.youtube.com/user/MayorLaurel

Laurel TV: www.youtube.com/user/LaurelTVOfficial

PASSPORT OFFICE

Hours of Operation

Closed for Lunch

12:00 - 1:00pm

Monday - Friday

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri

9:00 AM - *4:30PM

Tuesdays

(Special Evening Hours)

9:00 AM - *6:30 PM

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 ext. 2193

*Designates when last Passport is taken.

Economic and Community Development

Upcoming Economic Development Events:



- Envisioning 2020: Vision Board Making Event for Business Owners at the Laurel Municipal Center, January 16th from 5:30pm -7:30pm.
- Business Networking Event at the Laurel Municipal Center, February 6th from 5:30 - 7:30pm.

To RSVP or stay in the loop for other upcoming Economic Development events, be sure to Like the Department's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/> or contact Leigha Steele at lstele@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-5300 ext. 2302.

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 shoe 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.

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>.



Prince George's County Offering Incentives for Practices that Improve Stormwater Runoff

The Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program provides eligible County residents and businesses the opportunity to receive a reimbursement check for installing approved stormwater management practices that may help alleviate property flooding issues, lower water bills, and much more. Rebates up to \$4,000 for residential property owners; up to \$20,000 for commercial properties, multi-family dwellings, not-for-profit, and others.

For more information, visit: <https://cbtrust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-rain-check-rebate/>.

Fire Marshal/Permit Services

With the arrival of cold weather, 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.

With cold nights upon us, you may choose to use your fireplace to heat your home. Follow these 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 sealed damper to prevent heat loss.
- And have your chimney inspected and cleaned!



Public Works

The 2020 Calendars are in and have been delivered to all single-family and townhomes. The new calendar has everything you need to know about the 150th Anniversary event dates, 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, and we 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, except January 1st. 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 2020 calendar or Public Works website for scheduled collections dates.

Dates to remember:

New Year's Day: City offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2020. Wednesday's refuse/recycling/composting will be collected on Thursday, January 2nd. There is no change to collections on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th. Monday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Tuesday, January 21st and Tuesday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, January 22nd. There is no change to commercial collections on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Presidents' Day: City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17th. Monday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Tuesday, February 18th and Tuesday's residential refuse/recycling will be collected on Wednesday, February 19th. There is no change to commercial collections on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Have questions about recycling?
Then sign up for the free Recycle
Coach App today!

Parks and Recreation



As the winter weather begins to settle in, so has the Department of Parks and Recreation's classes and events!

Cozy up with friends and family at one of our Free Friday Indoor Movies located at Partnership Hall for a special showing of *Smallfoot* on Friday, January 10, 2020 and *Toy Story 4* on Friday, February 7, 2020. Movies will begin promptly at 7:00pm. Please feel free to bring pillows and a blanket. You can also purchase your favorite movie snacks at our concessions (cash only) and enjoy the show.

New Year...new activities! We will now be offering Pour Painting Saturdays in January. Learn to make beautiful paintings using acrylic paint pouring techniques. Interested in African Dance? Register your child for one of our two new BESA African Dance classes: "Feel the Beat, Move your Feet" (ages 6-12) or Afro Beat Dance (ages 13-17). Smash your new year's resolution goals and register for one of our many adult fitness classes including Bio-Fitness, Yoga (Beginners and Advanced), Zumba, and Mitt Manifesters Adult Self-Defense. We also offer dog training classes throughout the year taught by Social TailWaggers. Two classes will be taught this winter including Teaching Fido Basic Manners and It's FUN to Sniff.

Don't forget about our exciting Adult, Family, and Teen Trips. We will be visiting the Guinness Brewery on Saturday, February 1, 2020, for our adult patrons (ages 21 and over only) and we will also be visiting Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Show at the National Harbor Saturday, February 22, 2020. Enjoy a buffet and show as teams of pianists take audience requests and staff dances away at the show bar. This trip also includes an hour of leisure time down at the Harbor. We will also offer two teen-only excursions (ages 12 ½- 18). Join us Friday, January 24, 2020 for an evening of ice skating with friends or catch an exciting basketball game Thursday, February 13, 2020, as UMD women's basketball team takes on the Hawkeyes of Iowa University.

The City of Laurel Department of Parks & Recreation Division of Senior Services offers various senior citizen programs and classes as well. Register for our senior newsletter mailing list to be the first to know about the many trips, travels, and tours we have to offer. Enjoy an array of savories and sweets at one of our many themed Tea Socials at the Greenview Drive Cabana.

There is too much going on to mention here, so grab one of our brochures and check out all of the great classes and activities offered for tiny tots to senior adults.

Call 301-725-7800 for any questions or visit www.CityofLaurel.org for more information!

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. 2204
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
ecd@laurel.md.us

Emergency Operations

Phone Ext. 2244
sallen@laurel.md.us

Fire Marshal and Permit Services

Phone Ext. 2238
fmpps@laurel.md.us

Information Technology

Phone Ext. 2310
kfrost@laurel.md.us

Parks and Recreation

Phone Ext. 2308
parks@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

Every week, people tune into Laurel TV to find out the local stories! If you missed any story, never fear! Visit our YouTube Page to view the stories we air on Comcast Channel 996 and 71, and Verizon Channel 12, or on LaurelTV.org. Here are some of those stories you should check out:

- **Laurel's Public Works Winter Preparations**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Meb686bPTvU&t=7s>
- **Tips on Preventing the Flu**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRPFRgQoTjo&t=2s>
- **Laurel Museum's 2019 Ornament**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5B9I0yoIMks&t=3s>
- **Fire Marshal's Corner**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qbol-Muedul>
- **Lyles' Movie Files**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1RkEDYX5Xo>
- **Laurel Mill Playhouse presents Curtain Call**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b38joHgycbc&t=372s>
- **What the Gov?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lyl8T--ffgw&t=4s>



There are so many other stories, so if you miss something in the future, you'll find it at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LaurelTVOfficial>.

Service Event



The City of Laurel Department of Communications is once again spearheading a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Event.

It is planned for January 20, 2020, from 11:00am - 3:00pm. The theme for this year's event is Service to and Appreciation for Senior Citizens of Laurel.

The event starts at the Laurel Municipal Center, 8103 Sandy Spring Road, and ends at the Laurel Lakes Senior Apartments.

For more information, contact Christine Johnson at 301-725-5300 or email her at cmjohnson@laurel.md.us.

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





150th Anniversary Events

Check back here for each edition of the City's newsletter and find out what is happening in the coming months for the 150th Anniversary! You'll need to know so you can get stamps in your passports, as well as get together with your neighbors, families and friends to celebrate with us during our year-long celebration of 150 years!

Visit our Website:
150.CityofLaurel.org

Descendants Search

If you have a family member who lived or worked in the Laurel area prior to 1920, the 150th Anniversary Committee wants you!

We are collecting names of early Laurel residents and their direct descendants, including, but not limited to, those who still live in this area. A direct descendant is someone who can trace their lineage by "child" relationship (blood relative) back to the desired ancestor.

Descendants will be recognized at the "Celebrate Laurel Today!" event on September 26, 2020.

We'd also like to collect and share your ancestor's Laurel stories during the anniversary year. Did they farm? Work in the mills? Work for the railroad, own a business, work for the government, or work as hired help? Their names and stories are important.

Go to the website, 150.CityofLaurel.org to learn more!

150th Anniversary Events You Don't Want to Miss:

January 2020

13th - Kick Off Event at the Mayor and City Council Meeting - 6pm - Laurel Municipal Center - Council Chambers

The Mayor and City Council will start off the 150th Anniversary by filling you in on what will be happening this year, as well as be sure to come down and get your Anniversary Passports! Stay for the reception after the meeting!



February 2020

2nd - Laurel Museum Exhibit Unveiled: Unpacking Laurel's Past - 1 - 4pm - Laurel Museum

Get your first stamp in your Anniversary Passport at the unveiling of the 2020 Exhibit for the Laurel Museum! They will be unpacking the best, biggest and most beautiful items in their historical collection to be put on display to learn more about our City's history!

Buy A Brick

GoFundMe Page



150th 5K Run/Walk



Mayor's Message

Happy New Year!

The Celebration begins! The Mayor and City Council of Laurel kick off the City's 150th Anniversary Celebration at their first meeting of the year on January 13, 2020, starting at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers. The 150th Anniversary Committee will reveal the celebration's theme and highlight some of the year's events.

Please join us for a Memorial Wreath Ceremony celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Friday, January 17, 2020, at 4:00pm at the Laurel Municipal Center.

The 2020 Census is coming up! It is important that everyone is counted and responds to the Census. Citizens can respond to the Census online, by mail or phone, or a Census representative will visit your home in person. The Census data is **completely** confidential. The Census results are used to determine how federal, state and local funds are distributed for things like public health programs, education and infrastructure improvements. For more information, please visit our 2020 Census web page by visiting: www.cityoflaurel.org/census.

As we usher in 2020, 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.

I am pleased to announce that the City of Laurel's Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD) was the recipient of a \$55,000 grant from the State of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development. To be recognized as a vital part of the State of Maryland can only help us further support our local business owners. Receiving this funding can go to help enhance business workplaces and is one of the ways we can support Main Street in their bid to bring more diverse businesses to Main Street. If you are thinking of starting a business in Laurel, please contact Leigha Steele of the Department of Economic and Community Development for more information on grant opportunities at lsteele@laurel.md.us or call 301-725-5300 ext. 2302.

The City's Annual Open House is scheduled for Sunday, March 1st, 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 to learn and lots of people to connect with. I hope you'll be there!

See you around town!

Craig

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

Valerie Nicholas
At-Large

Carl DeWalt
President Pro Tem
Ward 1

Michael Leszcz
Ward 1

Brencis Smith
Ward 2

Keith Sydnor
President
Ward 2



8103 Sandy Spring Rd
Laurel, MD 20707

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Facebook: City of Laurel
Maryland City Hall