



Mayor Craig A. Moe

# Laurel Dispatch

## Government to the People

Winter/Spring 2019 Volume 4, Issue 2

### April is Spring Clean Up Month



During the month of April, the Department of Public Works will hold various events and specials to help our residents clean up their homes:

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#### Government Meetings

##### April

- 4/3 Work Session - 7pm
- 4/8 My Time with the Mayor - 4:30pm  
Laurel Armory
- 4/8 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 4/9 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 4/16 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 4/17 City Hall in the Park—7pm  
Emancipation Park
- 4/21 Easter Day
- 4/22 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 4/25 Board of Appeals - 7pm

##### May

- 5/1 Work Session - 7pm
- 5/13 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm
- 5/14 Planning Commission - 7pm
- 5/15 City Hall in the Park - 6:30pm  
Discovery Park
- 5/21 Historic District Comm. - 7pm
- 5/23 Board of Appeals - 7pm
- 5/27 Memorial Day  
City/Passport Offices Closed
- 5/29 Mayor and City Council Meeting - 7pm

1. **Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding - Saturday, April 20, 2019 - 8:00am to 12:00pm** If you have any old, important papers and old electronics, get them together and bring them to Public Works, 305-307 First Street. Only entertainment/media electronics will be accepted for this event such as televisions, stereos, computers, game systems and their accessories. Microwaves, blenders, toaster ovens and other electrical items that may have a digital display or circuitry are **not** considered electronics for this event. Chesapeake Paper Systems will also be on site with their shredding truck to shred your documents safely. Verification is needed to show that you are a City resident or City business, so please bring a driver's license or mail addressed to your City business. You can call Public Works at 301-725-0088 ahead of time to check if you live in the city limits of Laurel.
2. **\$10 Discount for First 100 Bulk Pickup Requests - Wednesday, April 10th and Wednesday, April 24th** The first 100 residents to request a bulk pickup will have the base-fee of \$10.00 waived on these two days. Public Works will start accepting requests for April 10th's pickup on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, for April 24<sup>th</sup>'s pick up.
3. **Extra Yard Debris Collections on Mondays** - During the month of April, Public Works will be offering Monday Yard Debris collections in addition to Wednesday yard debris collections. Yard debris pickups are **FREE, but residents must still call, email or submit an online request for yard debris pickups**. The deadline for our Monday pickup is the Thursday before and the deadline for our Wednesday pickup is the Monday before.
4. **Community Dumpsters** - Community Dumpsters will be available to Homeowner Associations for residents to dispose of their bulky items on select Saturdays in April from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Call your HOA to find out if your neighborhood is participating.

To find out more about each of these events, visit the City of Laurel's website at [www.CityofLaurel.org](http://www.CityofLaurel.org) or call Public Works at 301-725-0088.

### #BagFree

As many of you already know, plastic bags **CANNOT** be collected in your recycling. Plastic bags are damaging to the machinery and contaminate the recycling stream, making the recycling unusable. If your recycling has been tagged and left, please call Public Works! Public Works can answer your recycling questions as well as make arrangements to get your recycling collected. We can be reached at 301-725-0088 Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.



For a quick reference guide on recycling you can print a copy of our Recycling Magnet from the PDF linked here> <https://tinyurl.com/COLBagFree>.

If you would like a magnetized version for your refrigerator, please contact Public Works at 301-725-0088.

# Laurel Police Department

## Spring Has Almost Sprung!



With warmer temperatures slowly working their way into our days, be alert for lots of people heading out of their houses to walk, work and play in our city! The streets will soon be full of motorcycle and bicycle riders. Please share the roadway and be aware that many people ride in pairs or groups. Try to avoid getting between them and give them plenty of space from your vehicle. Be aware of the bike lanes in the City of Laurel and slow down when passing.

Pedestrian traffic will also increase as the weather continues to warm up. Drivers need to slow down when approaching crosswalks, even if you do not see pedestrians. If there is no traffic light and the pedestrian is within the crosswalk, they have the right of way. Officers will be out enforcing pedestrian crosswalk laws this spring.

### Package Thefts

The Laurel Police are aware that porch pirates are still a major problem. Neighbors need to look out for each other and call us immediately if they see someone suspicious in the neighborhood. Try to keep track of your packages and try to utilize the post office. If you live in an apartment complex, use the leasing office or if allowed, use your place of employment to receive your packages.

### Drug Take Back Day

The Laurel Police Department will be participating with the DEA for another Drug Take Back Day on April 27th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. If you are not available to turn in old or unwanted medications on that date, not to worry, the City of Laurel and the Laurel Police Department have drop boxes available every day of the week. The police department drop box is in the lobby and accessible to citizens everyday twenty-four hours a day.



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)

# 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](mailto: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/](http://www.facebook.com/laurelmaryland/)

**Laurel Police:** [www.facebook.com/LaurelPolice/](http://www.facebook.com/LaurelPolice/)

**Laurel TV:** [www.facebook.com/laurelTV.org/](http://www.facebook.com/laurelTV.org/)

**Laurel Parks:** [www.facebook.com/laurelparksrec/](http://www.facebook.com/laurelparksrec/)

**Laurel ECD:** [www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/](http://www.facebook.com/LaurelECD/)

**Laurel CERT:** [www.facebook.com/LaurelCERT/](http://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](https://www.instagram.com/laurelmayor)

**City of Laurel:** [cityoflaurelmd](https://www.instagram.com/cityoflaurelmd)

**Laurel Police:** [laurelpolicedepartment](https://www.instagram.com/laurelpolicedepartment)

## YouTube:

**Laurel Mayor:** [www.youtube.com/user/MayorLaurel](http://www.youtube.com/user/MayorLaurel)

**Laurel TV:** [www.youtube.com/user/LaurelTVOfficial](http://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



# Economic and Community Development

## Upcoming Economic Development Events:

- Small Business Resource Fair at the Laurel Library, April 18th from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- Small Business Startup Talk with Bear Afkhami, at the Laurel Library, June 20th at 5:30pm
- Speed Networking, August 8th at 5p.m. Location: TBD



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 [lsteel@laurel.md.us](mailto:lsteel@laurel.md.us).

## 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.

## 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

Spring is almost here! 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:

## 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.

## 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 or 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 maintain the grass on their property at no higher than eight (8) inches. To report tall weeds, log on to our website at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://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 [FMPS@laurel.md.us](mailto:FMPS@laurel.md.us) if you have any fire/life safety related questions, needs or complaints.

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**With nights still having a chill in the air, you may choose to use your fireplace for a bit longer. 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

## Recycling

Check out the front page to find out ways you can take advantage of discounts and deals for Spring Clean up Month in April! In the meantime, April showers may bring May flowers, but it makes for very soggy recycling. Wet paper and cardboard not only stick to the inside of your container, but it makes for heavy lifting for our crews. If you are still using an open bin, think about switching to a toter! Contact Public Works at 301-725-0088 and request your free 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 a problem in your neighborhood, you can find information about how to control them on the City's website at [www.cityofaurel.org](http://www.cityofaurel.org) under the Public Works Mosquito Control tab.

## National Public Works Week

May 19 – 25, 2019, is National Public Works Week (NPWW) and it 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-ways. If you want to know if you can expect a new tree in your neighborhood or to request a tree, 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, so be mindful and watch out for Public Works crews working on the streets!



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



# Parks and Recreation

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring! It is time to shed the extra layers, get out, and enjoy one of the many activities the Department of Parks and Recreation has in store for you and your family. No matter your age, there is something for everyone!

Get your child active and involved by registering them for our new Little TrackStars program where they will strengthen their balance and coordination skills and focus on speed and agility through competitive activities. We also offer various karate and martial arts classes for your youngster where they will learn defensive techniques in a fun and exciting environment.

The fun doesn't end there! Parks and Recreation offers BioFit Aerobics and Zumba fitness classes to adults who are interested in engaging in a dynamic fitness program that incorporates lively rhythm and explosive moves. Our adult martial arts class might be more your style or even try our yoga class to strengthen flexibility and balance. We even offer personal fitness classes at both our fitness rooms located at the Laurel Armory Anderson and Murphy Community Center and Robert J. DiPietro Community Center (RJDCC).

And don't forget your pets! We offer a variety of dog training classes from a sniffer class to a tricks class where you and your pet will learn valuable skills that will strengthen your relationship.

Spring is an exciting time for the community as we kick off the season with exciting special events aimed at creating a memorable time for family and friends. **Saturday, April 13th** is our 'Eggstravaganza' egg-hunt event that kicks off at 1:00pm SHARP! Don't forget your camera! You won't want to miss an opportunity to snap a picture with Peter Rabbit. **Saturday, May 4th** bring your family down to Granville Gude Park from 11:00am - 3:00pm for LakeFest 2019. Enjoy music, games, moon bounces, performances, and much more for our annual celebration.

Looking to give your teen an excuse to get outside? Take a look at one of our many exciting teen trips! Our teen trips run year-round. Some of the most popular trips will take place during the Spring/Summer season. Don't miss the opportunity to go on a weekend trip to Busch Gardens on May 11th-12th for only \$99! Don't forget we also have Teen Club at RJDCC Friday nights, 7pm-10pm.

With nice weather just around the corner, be sure to make your way around town and visit one of the City's great parks and playgrounds, even bring your pet to our dog park. With picnic pavilions, tennis courts, hiking paths and playgrounds at every corner, there are many ways to stay active and enjoy the outdoors!

Pick up a copy of our newly designed 2019 Spring/Summer Brochure that includes all the upcoming programs and events. They are available at any of the City's facilities. Whatever your age, the Department of Parks and Recreation has something for you!



## 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 Management

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

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

Visit [www.CityofLaurel.org](http://www.CityofLaurel.org) or call 301-725-7800 for more information!

# Communications

Every week, thousands of people visit the Laurel TV 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 Manor House**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73nkGy0CvjM>
- **What the Gov?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g5GLzayY4M>
- **Laurel Elementary Wax Museum**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZdHmDS1nTE>
- **Venus Theatre**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gme7AFk9rU0>
- **Laurel Cats**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g5GLzayY4M>
- **Meet the Author: Dr. Heridleen Russell**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g5GLzayY4M>
- **Laurel Police K-9 unit**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFpW\\_6ybbdk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFpW_6ybbdk)
- **Smiling Souls Food Bank**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vtto1snd7xE>
- **Momo Challenge**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWovbV\\_hmH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWovbV_hmH4)
- **Flashing Stop Signs**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWovbV\\_hmH4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWovbV_hmH4)



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>.

## Closed Captioning



If you come to one of our Government Meetings, and are deaf or hard of hearing, the City of Laurel provides Closed Captioning on our carpeted lobby television.

The City of Laurel also provides Closed Captioning on our Government Meetings from your home! Just turn the captions on using your television remote and you can see what your local Government Officials are discussing at the meetings.

Laurel TV also archives all the meetings on their YouTube Channel, LaurelTVOfficial. Just turn on the Closed Captioning when visiting their site.

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!

I hope everyone has received their City of Laurel Government to the People Magazine that offers our Year In Review for 2018 and also highlights upcoming events for 2019. If you did not receive a copy and would like one, please contact my Office at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2125 or via email at laurelmayor@laurel.md.us.

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

Nominate your neighbor (or yourself!) for a Golden Shovel Award! This program recognizes homeowners for the beautification of their property. Nominations may be submitted by completing the nomination form online at [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org) under the Office of the Mayor in the Community Outreach section. Nominations may also be submitted to the Mayor's Office via phone or email at [laurelmayor@laurel.md.us](mailto:laurelmayor@laurel.md.us) or 301-725-5300 Ext. 2125. 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!

**Laurel City Council**  
301-725-5300 ext. 2121  
[council@laurel.md.us](mailto: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

We'll be in your neighborhood soon as we kick off this season's popular "City Hall in the Park" program. The community meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the following schedule:

- April 17**      Emancipation Community Park
- May 15**      Discovery Community Park
- July 17**      Wellington Community Pool/Park
- Sept 18**      Casula Point

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 8th, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Please feel free to stop by and talk to me!



8103 Sandy Spring Rd  
Laurel, MD 20707

Phone: 301-725-5300  
Email: [laurelmayor@laurel.md.us](mailto: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 10th 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 7 weeks during the summer. The program has been very popular and our youth have gained real life work place experience while learning about their local government. Check the City's website, [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org), or our Facebook page, for more information in the near future.

See you around town!

Craig