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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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LHS Community Collecting Days November 6, 10 and 15 Donate Coronavirus, Social Justice Protest or Virtual school items to the Laurel Museum

You can become part of the Laurel's historic record of 2020. Do you have a social justice protest sign? A Laurel-related coronavirus notice, sign or mask? Stories, photos or materials related to you or your family's virtual education or at-home experience? The LHS is asking the community to help it document these historic events by sharing and donating them to the Laurel Museum. It is holding three Collecting Days: Tuesday, November 6, Friday November 10 and Sunday November 15. All the Collecting days will run from 11am-1pm. The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland.

On Collecting Days, priority will be given to appointments, but walk-ins will be accepted. Item donors are asked to make appointments by emailing info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org with their top 2 choices for date(s) and time(s). They will receive a confirmation email back. To reduce contact and time spent inside the museum, potential item donors are encouraged to fill out the Temporary Custody form prior to their arrival. Forms can be downloaded and printed out or submitted through Google Docs. Both can be found at <https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/donate-to-our-collection.html>. Digital materials like photographs and stories can be emailed to info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org along with the completed Temporary Custody form.

Visitors to the Museum will be required to wear masks or face covering, as will the staff accepting items. The Laurel Museum exhibit will remain closed during the collecting periods, and visitors will enter in one side of the building and exit the other.

Noted LHS Executive Director Ann Bennett: “One of the most important discoveries of this year was the importance of documenting events and the community’s response as they happen, and preserving the objects and stories of that time. 2020 has been a momentous year in American History. Future—and current --generations will want to know what happened here in Laurel. In preparation for expanding our current exhibit, which has been extended through 2021, we plan to add items that reflect these events.”

The priority for these Collection Days is on items related to the coronavirus pandemic, protests for social justice, virtual education, and at-home experiences in 2020. The LHS will accept other items for its collection. We are particularly interested in items related to the community’s African American and Hispanic experiences and lives in Laurel today and in the past.

The Laurel Museum is currently closed, but its collection of materials is available to view online at <https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/collections.html>. For more information contact info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975. ##