



The Laurel Light

November 2015
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The Laurel Light
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The Laurel Historical Society, Inc.
817 Main St. Laurel, MD 20707-3429

News and History from the Laurel Historical Society

The mission of the Laurel Historical Society, Incorporated is to encourage the understanding and preservation of the history and cultural heritage of Laurel.

Laurel Historical Society's

HOLIDAY HOUSE

TOUR

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 12TH
2PM – 6PM



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

- Laurel Museum**
817 Main St.
 - Rainbow Florist**
370 Main St.
 - Main St. Pharmacy**
653 Main St.
 - Hey, Red!**
641 Main St.
 - Minuteman Press**
335 Main St.
 - More Than Java Café**
358 Main St.
 - Olive on Main**
504 Main St.
 - Fulton Station Jewelers**
11845 Scaggsville Rd, Fulton, MD
- & Online:
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

Discover renovations, additions,
and decorations inside
beautiful Laurel homes.
Bonus: "The Gallery at 515"

**TICKETS: \$15 IN ADVANCE
\$20 THE DAY OF TOUR**

(Tickets sold only at the museum
2:00-4:30 day of the tour.)

The tour begins at the Laurel Museum,
817 Main Street and is self-guided.
The Museum gift shop will also be open on
the day of the tour.

For more information:
www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org
301-725-7975
info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

funded somehow. The person I was explaining this to asked me, "What do you mean you ask for money?" And I explained, I do just that. As do all non-profits. Once a year, we send a letter to everyone we know and we basically just ask them to give us money for believing in what we do. It's that simple.

This year is no different. Once again this year's Annual Appeal comes as it always does, right as your mailboxes are filling with other pleas for end of the year donations. We know we're just one of many in a big pile, particularly if you've been generous in previous years. But we also know that we can't do the work that we do without your help.

So, if you're so inclined, when you see that Laurel Historical Society envelope appear in your mailbox, please put a little something in the return envelope. Stick it in the mail and send us some love. Show us that you like what you're doing and you'd like to help in a small (or big) way. We really do appreciate it!

Lindsey Baker

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I recently tried to explain my job to someone and I said I spend a lot of my time asking people for money to help support the other things we do at the Laurel Historical Society. The "other things" are usually what people associate with museum work such as exhibits, public programming and properly caring for the "stuff" better known as the collection. But all of that magic has to be

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I was fortunately available this past Sunday to volunteer for a shift at the Museum (I recommend this opportunity to everyone). Sometimes Sundays are quiet and slow but at the

very least, you can spend 3 hours making a new friend. I have met and had great conversations with several volunteers over the years during those quiet Sundays. I have learned more Laurel history from them (from visitors as well as there is nothing like a visit to the Museum to spark someone's memory) than I ever have from books or even from our exhibits sometimes (shh...don't tell Lindsey that). Sometimes it is new knowledge that I acquire and sometimes it is missing puzzle pieces. For this reason alone, Sunday volunteering should be on your list of things to do next year.

Back to this past Sunday...it was a beautiful autumn day. A little wet out, but perfectly Fall. I expected a slow day but was excited to be spending the afternoon hours with a new member of our Board, who was on the schedule as well. Since she is from an old Laurel family, I knew our conversation would be rich. What I didn't expect was the constant flow of visitors we had! It was so nice to greet group after group (some old Laurel, some new and even a "maybe" Laurel some day). I put together a few more pieces of the Laurel "puzzle" in my head. I was able to be a fountain of knowledge for the newbies to town and hopefully convinced another visitor to move in! All in an honest day's work!

I love our city and I love our history and I know that the only way to keep it alive is to catalogue it and share it. Please help us do so, whether with a check or with your time. Our story is worth collecting, hearing and preserving for the future. If you haven't seen the exhibit *Ripped From the Headlines* I recommend it. You have until December 20th to check it out. So thank you for those of you that support us in all of the ways that you do. If you have been wary about becoming a museum guide at the Museum, don't be. It's worth it for a multitude of reasons.

Jhanna Levin

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

LHS Board meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is January 28, 2016. Members are welcome to attend. They are held in the Pool Meeting Room at 7:30 PM.

PRESENTATION OF BIRTHDAY CARD TO CENTENARIAN, GERTRUDE POE

Chairwoman Jhanna Levin and President Steve Hubbard presented Gertrude Poe with a birthday card signed by LHS members and community friends. Miss Poe, a LHS Director Emeritus and long-time editor of the *Laurel Leader*, celebrated her 100th birthday September 21st. Happy Birthday Trudy!!



Photo provided by Karen Lubieniecki



Please consider the LHS in your Planned Giving. It's easy. For more information please contact Lindsey Baker (301)725-7975.

Holiday Open House at the Laurel Museum

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
December 4th, 5th and 6th

The Laurel Museum is hosting its traditional Open House Friday, Saturday and Sunday December 4th – 6th featuring refreshments, wreaths, the new Diven Foundry Ornament and the ever popular ornament of Laurel's Christmas Tree. *Lost Laurel* books and many other Laurel collectibles will be available. The Snow Hill Garden Club will also be offering beautiful, fragrant hand-decorated wreaths. All proceeds benefit the LHS. Wreaths must be ordered in advance and cost \$35. Children are not forgotten, and the Museum shop features a wide array of historical toys and books. There is also a new "I Love Laurel" T-shirt.



Many of the shop items can be purchased online at laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop. **December 16th is the last day to purchase online for holiday delivery.** Open House hours are Friday and Saturday December 4th and 5th from 10 AM - 2 PM and Sunday December 6th from 1 – 4 PM.



HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR 2015

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HOUSE TOUR ON
DECEMBER 12TH FROM 2 PM - 6 PM**

Renovations, additions, and extraordinary interiors inside beautiful period homes, and buildings in Laurel's Historic District will be featured December 12th at the Laurel Historical Society's Holiday House Tour. A Laurel tradition since 1976, this year's homes will include a distinctively decorated "Gallery at 515" house organized by the Laurel Arts District and also featuring a juried art display. A memorable business and some theatrical insights will round out the Tour's exceptional sites. Refreshments will be available at the half-way point. This year's tour Chairman is Clayton Cooper, who is joined by a dedicated corps of

volunteers. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 on the day of the tour. The tour runs from 2 – 6 PM and will begin at the Laurel Museum, 817 Main Street.

Tickets are available online at laurelhistoricalsociety.org and at the Laurel Museum. Tickets can also be purchased in advance at:

Main Street Pharmacy
653 Main Street

Hey Red!
641 Main Street

Rainbow Florist and Delectables
370 Main Street

Minuteman Press
335 Main Street

More Than Java Café
358 Main Street

Olive on Main
504 Main Street

Fulton Station Jewelers
11845 Scaggsville Rd, Fulton

Tour tickets on the day of the event **may only be purchased at the Museum** and are \$20. Please, no high heels or strollers on the tour.

JURIED ART EXHIBIT INCLUDED ON HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

The Holiday House Tour is a biannual event celebrating the gorgeous homes in the Laurel Historic District. This year one of the homes on the tour will be set up as "The Gallery at 515" to showcase the great works of local artists. The halls will be decked with works that are festive, funky and reflective of the spirit of the season. This is a juried exhibit through the first two weeks of December. The gallery will be open to individuals on the tour December 12th. A reception for artists, their guests and the public will be held December 17th.

MUSEUM NEWS

Last Chance to Visit *Ripped from the Headlines: Laurel in the News*



The last day to visit the current exhibit, *Ripped From the Headlines: Laurel in the News*, will be Sunday, December 20th. The exhibit featuring some of Laurel's most exciting and interesting news stories will be gone for good. The next exhibit, celebrating Laurel Museum's 20th Anniversary, will open in February. Stay tuned! More information will be announced soon.

COLLECTION NEWS

Submitted by Marlene Frazier

Beth Elliot and Ruth Barton, granddaughters of Stella Hance, recently donated this picture of the Laurel Cotton Mill. It was taken from the 9th St. Bridge and it is a view of the dam we have not seen before.



The response to our request to borrow yearbooks to scan was very good and we have added a lot to the previous collection. A special thanks to Steve Edmonds, former Principal at Saint Vincent Pallotti High School, for lending a large number of Pallotti yearbooks that had not previously been available.

The collection of over one thousand Sadler glass plate negatives has been digitized and we hope that they will be available to view soon on line. Stay tuned for more information on new treasures added to our collection.

MEMBER NEWS

Please welcome our newest members:

PATRICIA ELLIOTT

ELLEN KIDWELL

GAILIAN MAGRUDER

CYNTHIA AND KEN SIMS

WOMEN'S CLUB OF LAUREL, LINDA HAMMIL

We are happy to have you!

Membership Committee

Do you have ideas about how we can make membership in the LHS more meaningful? Contact Membership Chair Mike Boivin at mikeb98159@aol.com or by phone at 301-385-6090. Thank you.

Welcome New Volunteers

No one this time! How about YOU?

Volunteers Urgently Needed!

The Laurel Museum is in need of volunteers for the first and third Fridays of the month (10 am - 2 pm) and every Sunday (1 pm - 4 pm). The museum is not open during the month of January. Volunteers will serve as museum guides and assist with gift shop sales. Training is provided. If you are interested, please contact Monica at assist@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or 301-725-7975.

Volunteer Luncheons

Please consider joining other volunteers for our monthly luncheons at local restaurants. Dates and times are emailed to volunteers. Bon appétit!

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

2015 Ornament Now Available Depicting Diven Dog and Cat!



Be sure to stop in and purchase the 2015 ornament celebrating the Diven Iron Foundry and featuring a depiction of our own iron dog “Diven” and his cat friend. Add this quality ornament to your Laurel collection. The Museum shop has many items available for your own use or to give as gifts. All proceeds benefit the LHS and members receive a 10% discount every day. Please visit our Museum shop in person during Museum hours or on line at laurelhistoricalsociety.org/shop.

LAUREL MUSEUM CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH L. COMPTON

The Twentieth birthday of the Laurel Museum is at hand and we want to celebrate. On such an auspicious occasion one might ask how it all began. In 1976, almost 40 years ago, our beloved nation celebrated its Bicentennial with three themes: Celebration, Heritage and Horizon. Then Mayor Leo Wilson appointed one of the first city Bicentennial Commissions in Laurel in 1974. The 12 members immediately went to work in a City Hall office (with phone number 776 -1776), to plan for 1974, 1975 and 1976.

For the Celebrations Theme, the city’s churches, schools, civic organizations and groups were encouraged and assisted with activities to gather and proclaim the merits of our town. For the Heritage Theme, our unique history was proclaimed in exhibits, lectures and field trips. The Horizon Theme asked the question “How will the fervor generated by the Bicentennial be used to further and inspire the

community to build on the values expressed during these years?" Many communities around our country realized the importance and responded and Laurel was intimately involved. Hundreds of people participated in the events and the *Laurel News Leader* covered the three year period in detail.

The Laurel Horizon Society was organized in November 1975 with a dozen members and this group was later renamed The Laurel Historical Society, Inc. Its mission is to encourage the understanding and preservation of the history and cultural heritage of Laurel. That mission still continues today.

In 1996 the Laurel Museum was opened, a direct result of the many volunteers of the Laurel Historical Society now numbering in the hundreds. It stands as a beacon of pride in our unique history, and a reservoir of facts, artifacts and research for all to learn and appreciate. Its detailed story is another interesting saga.

I believe the national impetus of the Bicentennial Celebration spurred our citizens' patriotism and pride and brought about an awareness of the need to build and maintain our community's identity and heritage. The year 1976 culminated with the Maryland State Bicentennial Commission Executive Director, General Claire E. Hutchin, Jr. serving as the Grand Marshall of the Laurel Parade. General Hutchin also visited our homes with his family and was the Guest of Honor at the Bicentennial Costume Ball on July 2, 1976.

When summarizing the year 1976, Gertrude Poe wrote in the *Laurel News Leader*:

"The Bicentennial Celebration was one of the nicest experiences Laurel has had. Participation, enthusiasm and activity in every facet of community life marked the Bicentennial Year as one of awakening, appreciation, remembering and togetherness leaving progenies such as Laurel Horizon Society, Friends of Montpelier and Laurel Historic District."

Betty Compton
November 8, 2015

MY MEMORIES OF LAUREL SUBMITTED BY HERB AND PENNY PHELPS

Growing up in the 1940's was fun in the summer on Prince George St. On hot days Mr. Ormond W. Phair would drive his pick-up truck from his home in the 600 block of Prince George St. His granddaughter Lana Whittaker Wesley says his truck was called Jenny Mule. As he came east on P.G. St. he would pick up any kids who were outside and drive them to Catherine's Shop on 4th St. He would buy us each a small ice cream cone. Sonny Phelps remembers that Mr. Phair would drive around Main St. and Montgomery St. before driving us back home. Phyllis Merson Mills remembers walking with a group to get ice cream cones at Catherine's. This is one of my favorite summer memories.

EARLY MORNING ALONG THE PATUXENT RIVER

Karen Lubieniecki took this beautiful photo in November of the fog coming off of the river while the early morning sun begins to shine through. This photo reminds us to get out and enjoy the beauty of nature along the river walk in Laurel.



Save Our Stop

LHS Helping to Save Our Stop

The LHS is actively participating in efforts to keep the Laurel train stop from being moved to a new development in Howard County at the Racetrack. Hearing from citizens is an important part of making sure the stop isn't moved. Pre-stamped postcards addressed to MDOT's Secretary Peter Rahn with a pre-printed message for commuters and non-commuters alike can be picked up at the Museum. (We'll even mail them for you). What else can you do?

1. Sign the Petition Saying You Want to Save the Stop

<http://www.21stdistrictdelegation.com/save-our-stop>

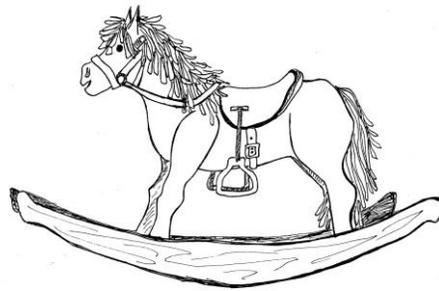
2. Write/email/call Dennis Schrader, at MDOT saying the station should stay in Laurel. If you are a commuter or were a commuter, or moved to live in Laurel because the train was there, mentioning that can help.

- a. **Dennis R. Schrader, Deputy Secretary for Policy, Planning, & Enterprise Services**
(410) 865-1006 e-mail:
dschrader@mdot.state.md.us P. O.
Box 548
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover,
MD 21076 – 0548

3. Let Howard County Planning & Zoning officials know how you feel about plans to move the station. Be sure to mention if you live in Howard County.

- a. **Valdis Lazdins, Director**
vlazdins@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-4301
- b. **Brenda Luber, Plan Review, Forest Conserv. Database**
bluber@howardcountymd.gov
410-313-4343

4. If you're on Facebook "Like" us at:
[facebook.com/SOSLaurelMainStreet](https://www.facebook.com/SOSLaurelMainStreet)



Children's Corner

See the exhibit before it closes forever in December! There is great information for students working on school projects and for those budding history buffs in your family. Diven's Den is also set up with children's activities for all ages. The "den" is located on the lower level of the museum. Bring the kids for a tour and some fun!

Are you reading this newsletter but not a member?
We'd love for you to join!

Membership enables the Society to:

- * Sustain the Laurel Museum
- * Research Laurel history
- * Preserve artifacts
- * House a research library
- * Host special children's events
- * Develop educational materials for schools and scout groups

Membership benefits include:

- * Quarterly Newsletter with articles about Laurel history, museum exhibits and programs
- * Member's only events
- * Member's only discount in the museum shop
- * Discounts on LHS events, including our annual gala
- * Contributing to the preservation of Laurel's past and present for future generations

Join today by visiting laurelhistoricalsociety.org.

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Address Service Requested

Lindsey Baker, Executive Director
Monica Sturdivant, Assistant to the Director

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Gertrude L. Poe, Director Emerita
Joseph Robison, Director Emeritus
Jean Wilson, Director Emerita



Laurel Historical Society Calendar

December 2015 – February 2016

For more information visit: laurelhistoricalsociety.org/pages/calendar.htm

December 4th – 6th
Holiday Open House
Laurel Museum

December 12th, 2 - 6 PM
Holiday House Tour
Start at the Laurel Museum

December 20th, 1 – 4 PM
Closing: *Ripped From the Headlines: Laurel in the News*

January 2015
Museum Closed.

February 10, 1 - 4 PM
“Behind The Bricks: 20 Years of the Laurel Museum” Grand Opening (tentative date)