

Laurel Historical Society

(Virtually) Unpacking Laurel's Past

Exhibit Committee: Karen Lubieniecki, Marlene Frazier, Charlie Hessler,
Doug Hayes, Ireene Ohlmacher, Michelle Keating, Amy Dunham, Monica
Sturdivant, Ann Bennett





Exhibit opening:

February 2, 2020

Museum closed due to COVID-19:

March 16, 2020

Exhibit extended to:

December 19, 2021

Artifacts as storytellers

REPRESENT A CHANGING SOCIETY

Reflect the cultural, ethnic, and geographical
diversity of our community

CONNECT PAST AND PRESENT

Residents and visitors play a part in the
evolving story of Laurel

DOCUMENT DAILY LIFE IN LAUREL

Objects that show us how Laurel is unique, yet
similar to many small 19th-century factory towns



INTRODUCTION

Laurel's Past – and the Laurel of today

Iron Nutcracker

This "Old Dog Tray" nutcracker manufactured by Laurel's Diven Iron Works sometime in the 19th century opens a window to Laurel's manufacturing past. Laurel's manufacturing history included numerous mills and foundries including the Laurel Cotton Mill, E. Rosenfeld & Co., nightshirt factory, Avondale Mill, and a machine shop near 7th & Main.

All are now gone.

Bilingual Menu

Laurel's population is increasingly diverse, with residents representing Hispanic, African, Asian, Indian, and other communities and their cultures becoming part of the town's cultural fabric.

This bi-lingual menu from Sarita's Peruvian Chicken Restaurant & Carryout is representative of the rich and varied dining experiences these new groups have brought to the town.



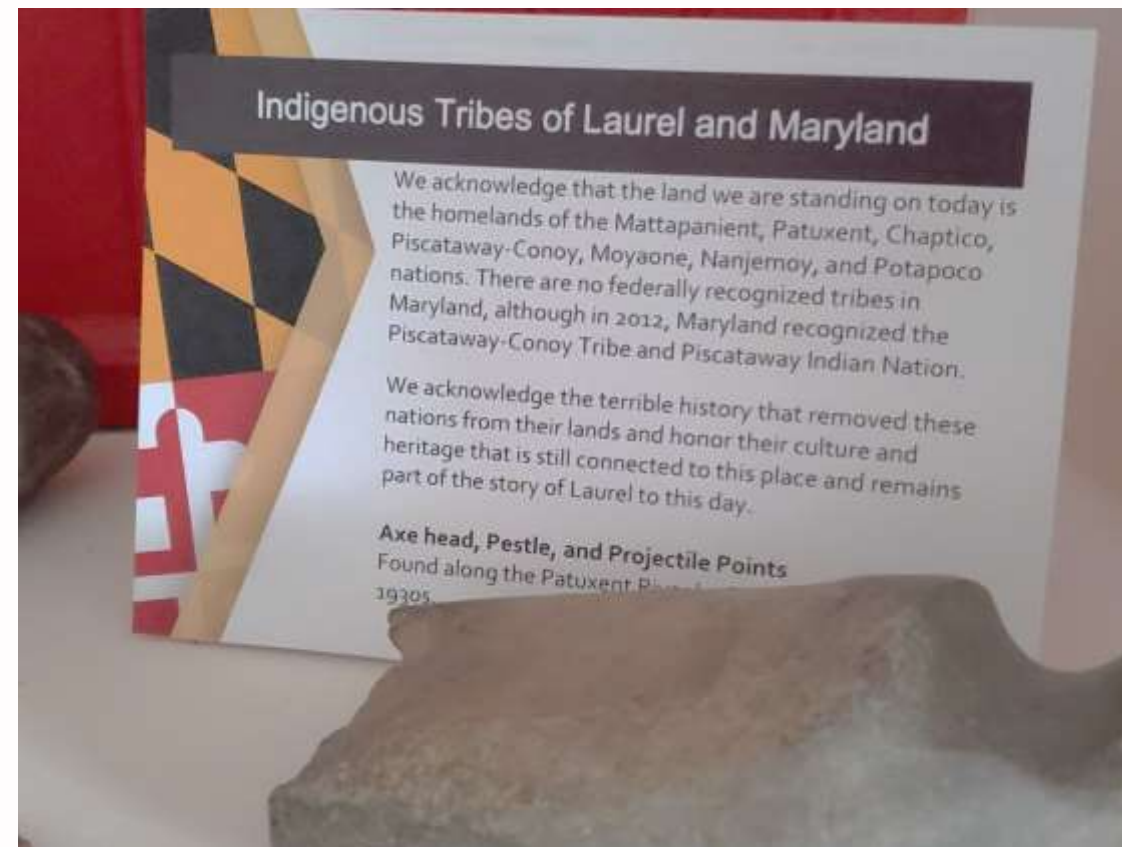
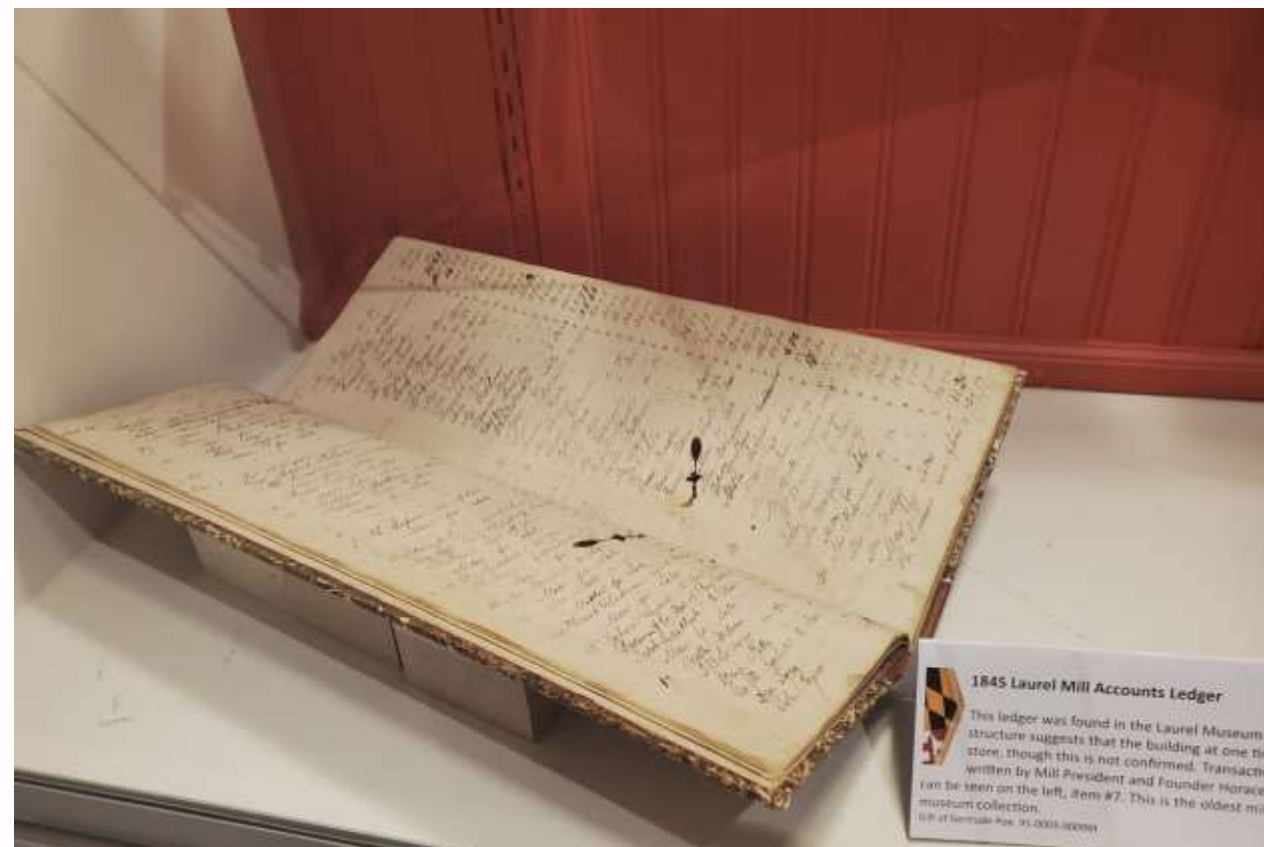
Native American artifacts remind visitors that Laurel's history began long before the Snowden's arrived or the mills were built. The town is located on what was once the homeland of Native America tribes. We used the opportunity to acknowledge and honor their culture and heritage.

Three ledgers tell different parts of the early town history

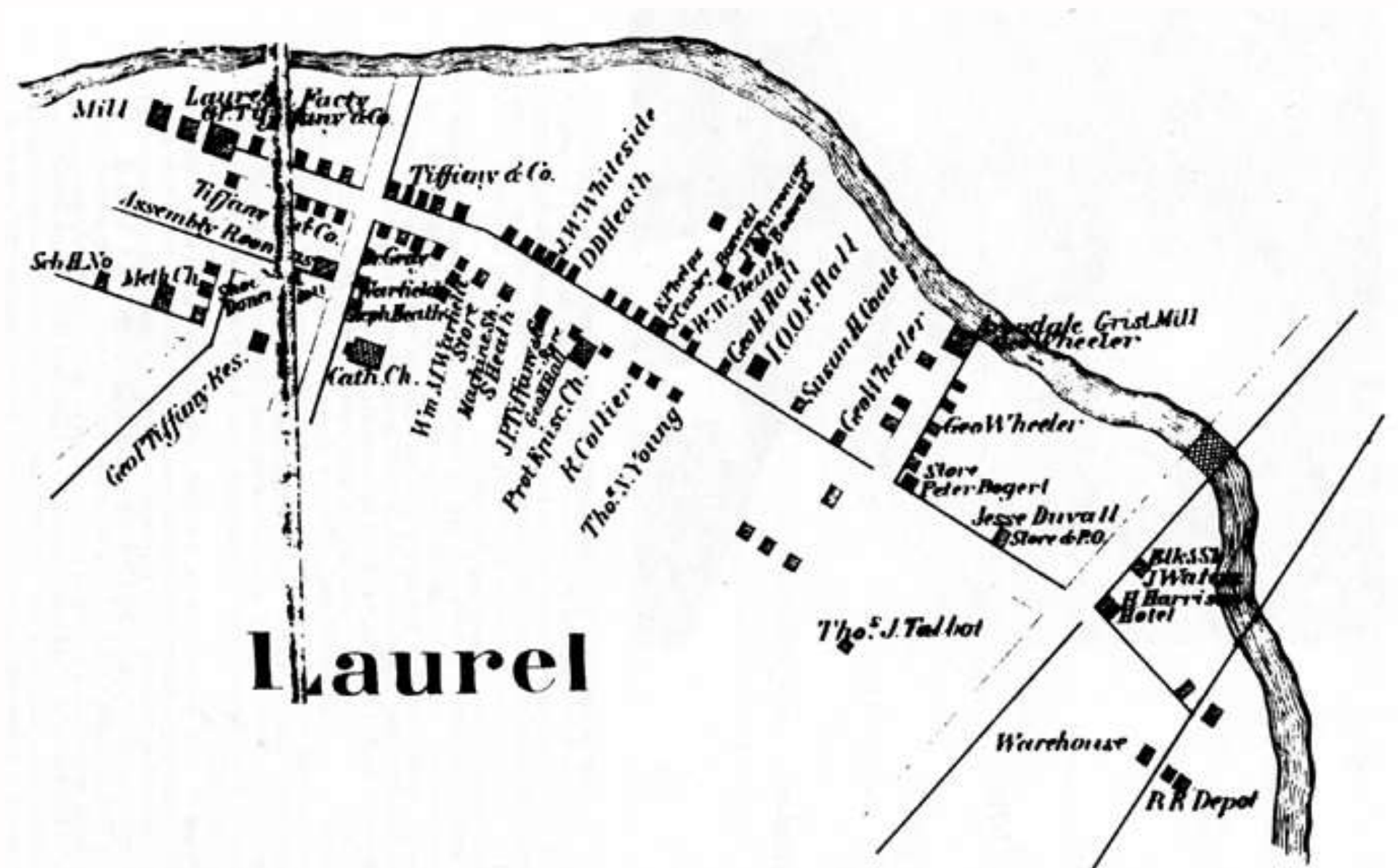
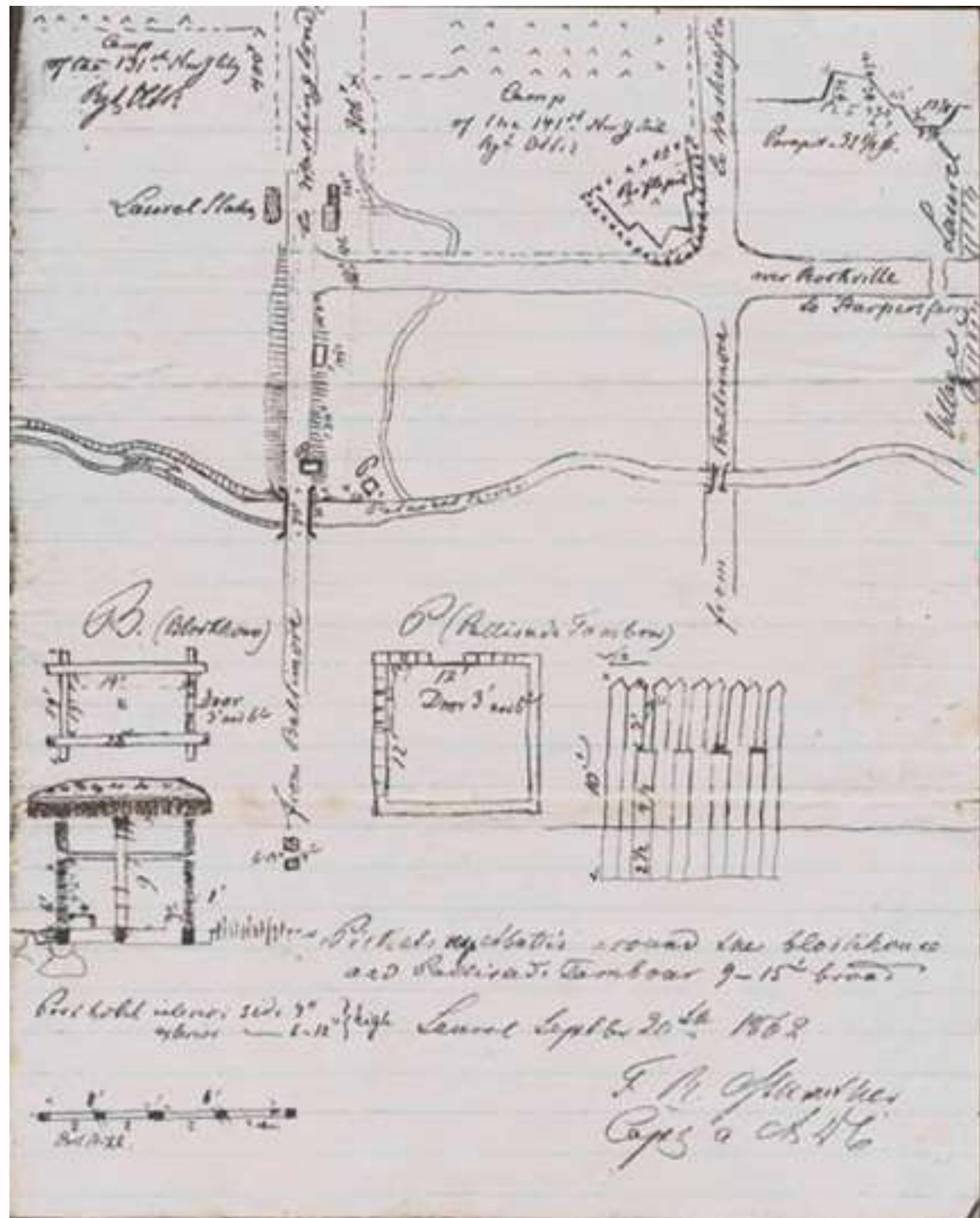
Laurel Mill Accounts Ledger, 1845

Store Ledger, 1857 - 1859

Odd Fellows Ledger, 1852-1854



Laurel before 1870



Laurel before 1870



City of Laurel

LAUREL'S

COMMISSIONERS & MAYORS

COMMISSION PRESIDENTS

NAME	SERVICE DATES
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James Curley	1870-1872
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James Cradle	1872-1873
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Walter Brown	1873-1874
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William H. Diven	1874-1875
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NAME	SERVICE DATES
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John A. Talbott	1875-1876
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Edward J. Phelps	1876-1878
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John Haslup	1878-1879
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John W. Whitesides	1879-1881
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NAME	SERVICE DATES
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Lawrence A. Ellis	1881-1882
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Dr. John Cronmiller	1882-1886
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A. M. Bond	1886-1888
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Jesse Smallwood	1888-1890
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City of Laurel

Municipal Pool Token



First Lady Mamie Eisenhower's
evening dress, 1950s



JUST BECAUSE!



Past Celebrations

Celebrating the 100th anniversary in 1970 and the 125th in 1995.



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

As Laurel's population has grown and diversified since the city was incorporated, so have the forms of entertainment available for its residents. Early on, folks were able to attend a vaudeville show at the Academy of Music or watch a silent movie at the Red Wing Theatre. Later, audiences could occasionally attend carnivals, big top shows or, what would today be considered racist, a minstrel show. For many years, our local drive-in theater projected movies on the big screen. Horse racing has been available for over a century. Today we also have the latest in multiplex cinema and live performing arts venues for our enjoyment.



(1) Laurel Theatre ads, late 1930s and early 1960s



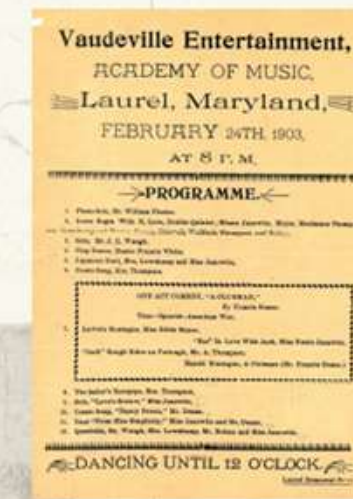
(2) Academy of Music Concert Program, 1902



(3) Maryland Million Day Program, 2015



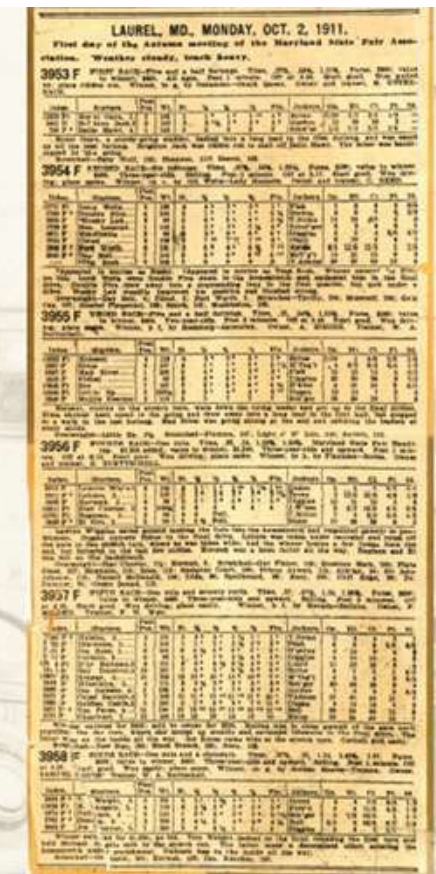
(4) Auto Racing Program for Baltimore Washington Speedway, 1926



(5) Academy of Music Vaudeville Program, 1903

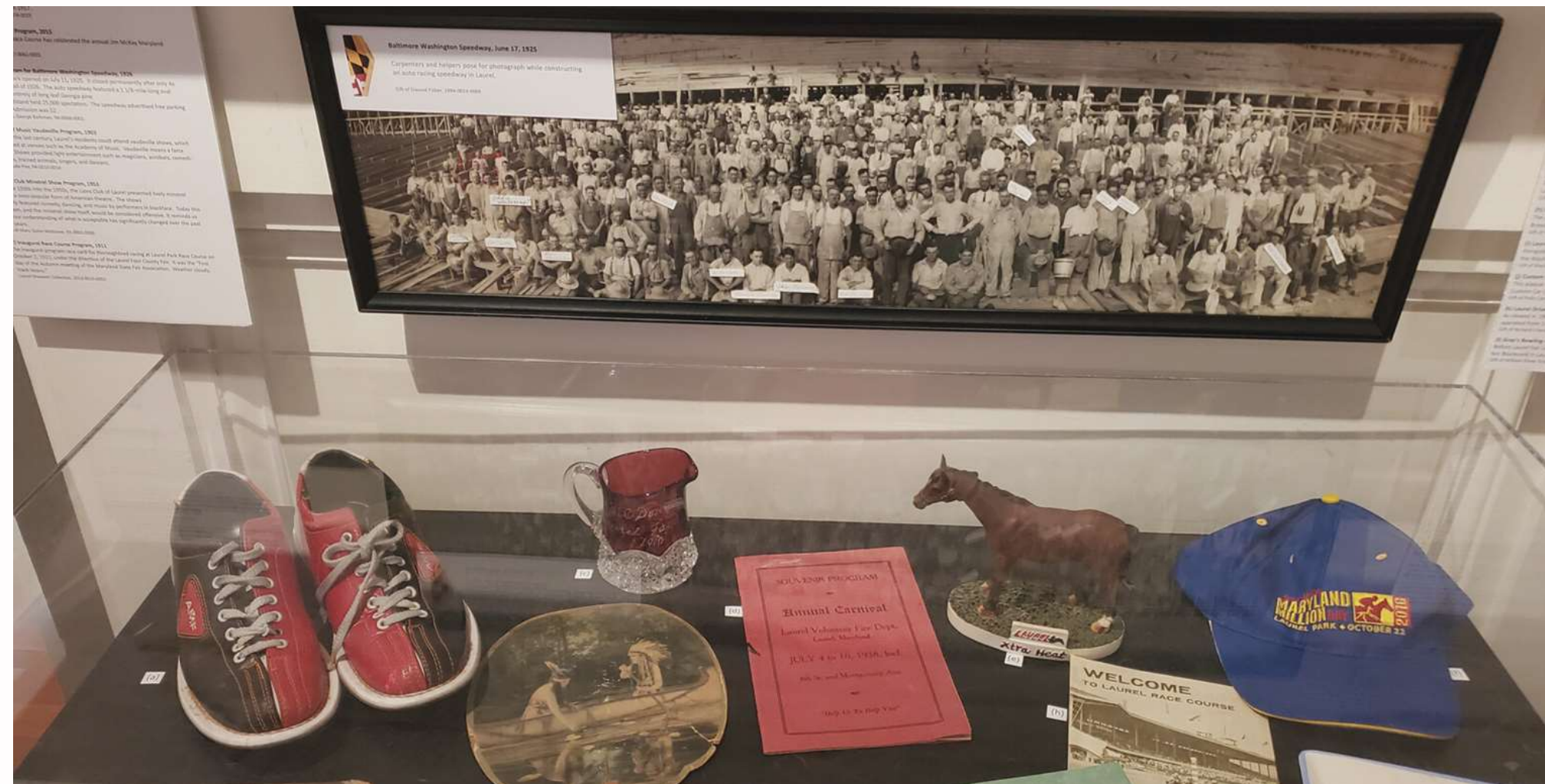


(6) Lions Club Minstrel Show Program, 1953



(7) Inaugural Race Course Program, 1911

What do we do with offensive materials?



BUSINESS



(1) Hance's Candy Store, c. 1890



(2) Baublitz Garage, c. 1923



(3) Donaldson and Harrison General Store, c. 1900



(4) McDonald's, 1968



(5) Safeway Market, c. 1945



(6) Rosenfeld Shirt Factory, c. 1910



(7) Mid-City Restaurant, late 1940s



THE COMMUNITY OF LAUREL

We all have places in our lives important enough to bond us together. From its beginnings as *Laurel Factory* this aptly defines Laurel. The Patuxent River, factories, railroads, and proximity to our nation's capital and Baltimore attracted diverse groups eager to find a place to raise their families. From farmers, factory workers, religious groups, and equestrians to entrepreneurs and suburban commuters – all have chosen to make Laurel their community. Before and since incorporation in 1870, their civic pride has been displayed in many ways. These include forming service groups and hosting celebrations such as July 4th.



(1) Lawrence High School Boys' Baseball Team, 1938



(2) St. Philip's Parish Club Baseball Team, early 1930s



(3) Laurel Stars Baseball Team in the Grove, c. 1948

COMMUNITY

Laurel's history is a story of community. From its beginnings as a small settlement, the community has grown and changed over time. The community has been shaped by the people who have lived here, and the events that have shaped the town. The community is a part of the town's history, and it is a part of the town's future.



(4) St. Philip's Parish Club Baseball Team, early 1930s



(5) Program of the 1988 Anniversary Banquet, Laurel Branch League, Nov. 13, 1988



(6) Five pages of the Laurel Library Association's newsletter, dated March 17, 1988, calling for establishment of a Laurel library

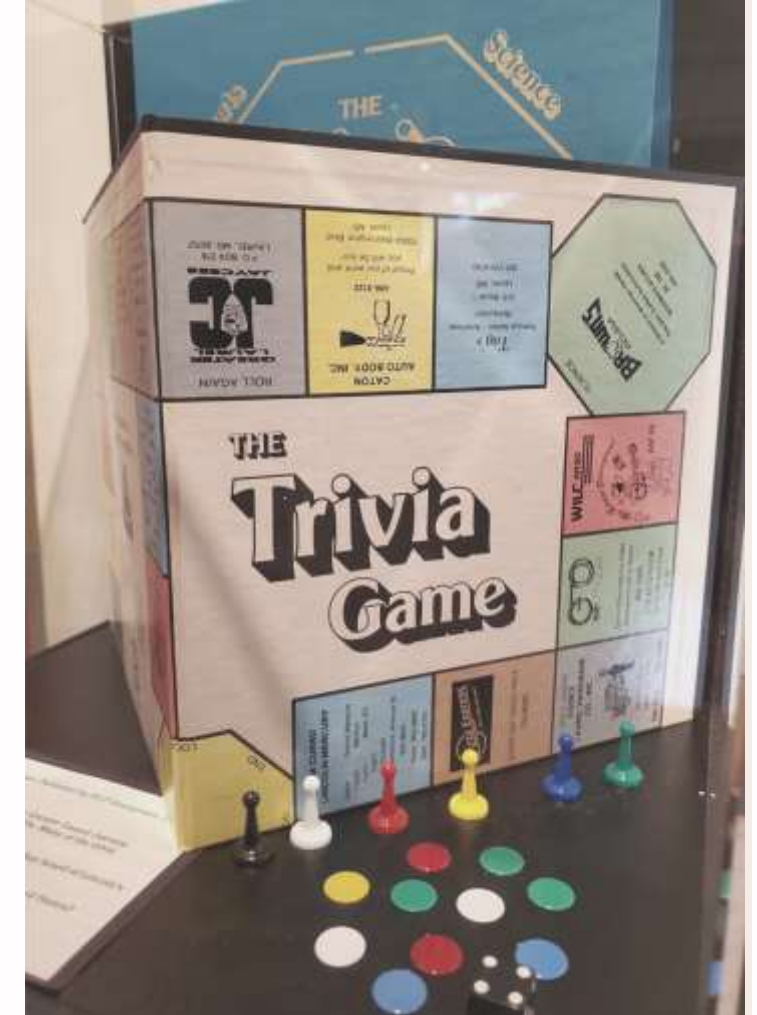


(7) Photos of marathon race starting at Laurel Station on Main Street, 1911



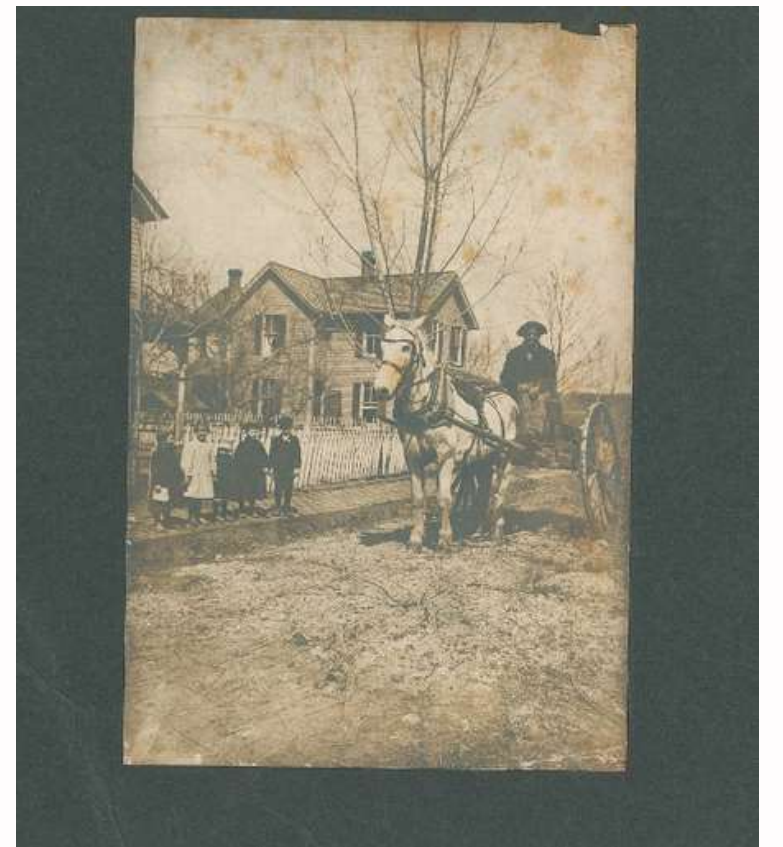
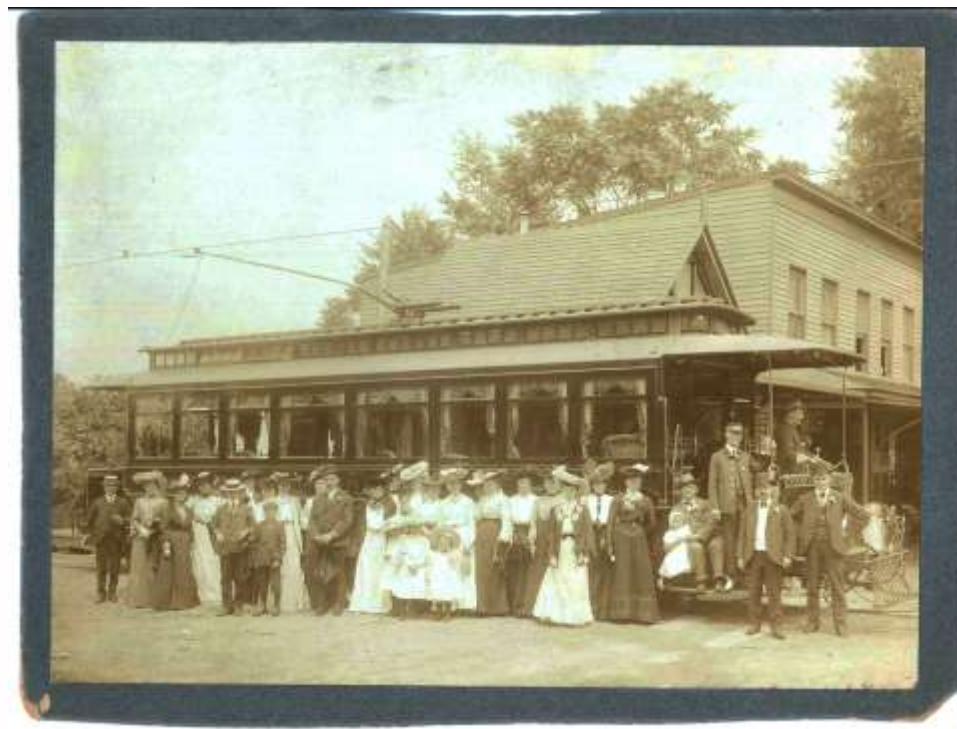
THE TRIVIA GAME

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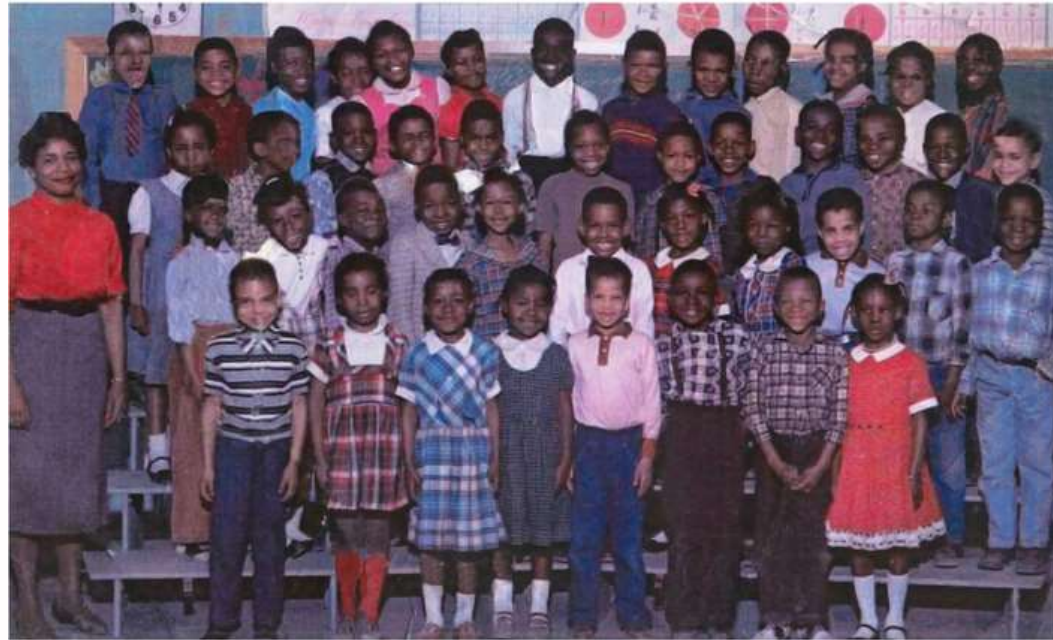
(2) Laurel Stars baseball team in the Grove, c. 1948

Community



Transportation

Grade School Days and High School





(1) Wesley O'Brien with two dogs, c. 1907



(2) Girl holding cat, c. 1907

HOME - THE HEART OF LAUREL

Stepping into the small room of this 1840s building, you'll notice that some things have changed greatly over the last 150 years. The changing technology reminds us how much invention and industrialization have impacted our community and households.

But other areas remain nearly untouched, connecting us with generations of past Laurel residents: home-cooked meals, household chores, daily wear and special-occasion outfits. All of these items tell the history of how a house was turned into a home in Laurel – then, as well as today.



BUILDING FAITH IN LAUREL

Even before Laurel was incorporated as a city, several different faith-based congregations became established here and continue to shape our town today. First United Methodist Church, St. Mary of the Mills Catholic Church, and St. Philip's Episcopal Church all trace their roots back to the 1840s. The growth of new congregations in the 19th – 21st centuries, such as St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Oseh Shalom Jewish Congregation, and the Islamic Community Center, reflect the increasing diversity of religious groups. The items displayed here tell stories of public places of worship and individual expressions of belief – all as rich and diverse as the city they serve.



(1) Islamic Community Center of Laurel



(2) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Laurel



(3) Smyrna Church of Washington, Laurel



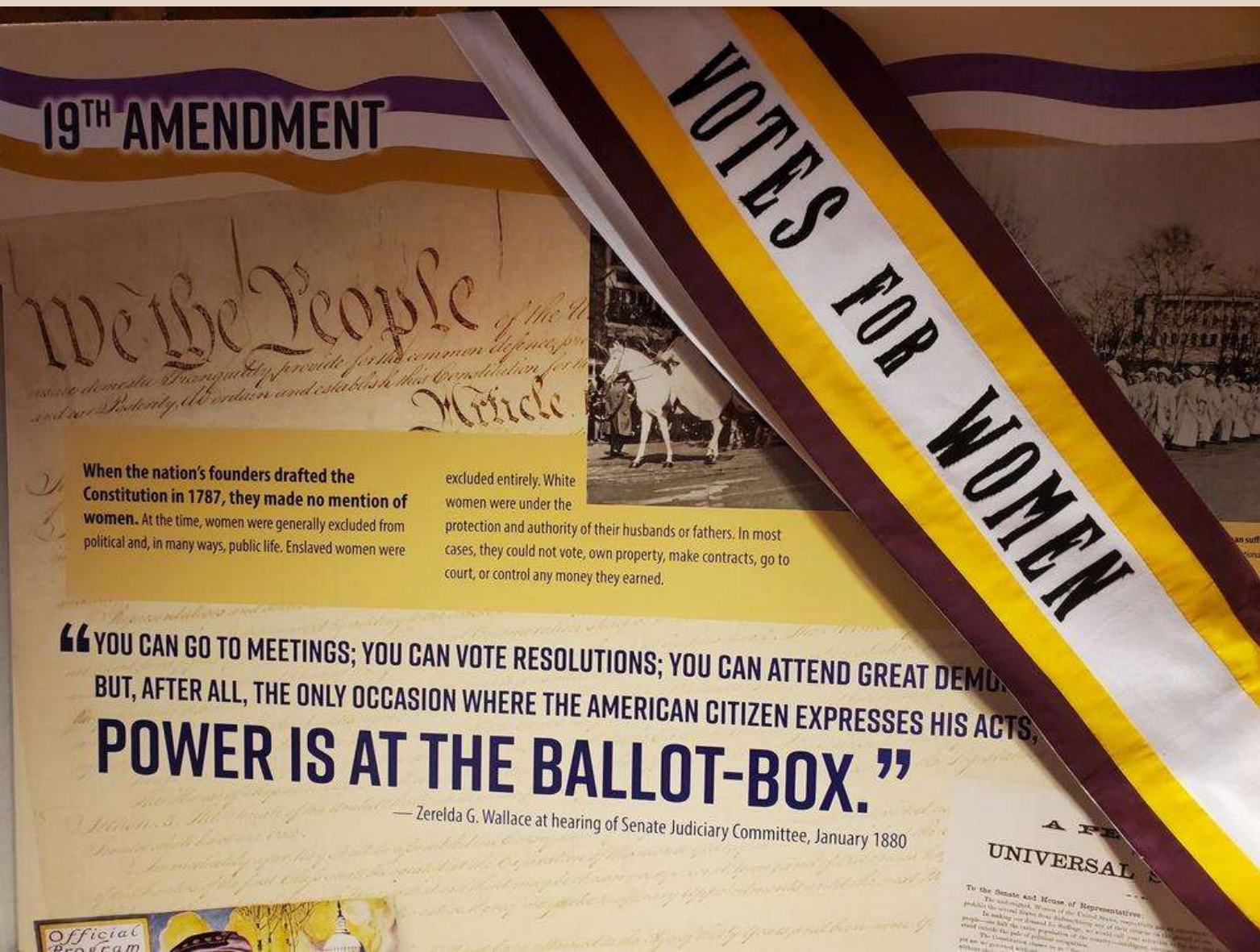
(4) Multicultural services at St. Mark's



(5) Living Hope Church, Laurel



WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE
EXHIBIT





Updating the Exhibit for 2021

THE CORONAVIRUS STORY IN LAUREL, MARYLAND



Laurel Park is closed to the public.



Anne Arundel County and Prince George public libraries are closed.



Many businesses, like Panera Bread, require face masks.



The Main Street Post Office limits the number of people inside.



Grocery stores like Wegman's enforce social distancing.



Many small businesses and restaurants are temporarily closed.



Laurel Social Justice Collection

LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Laurel, Maryland

Help us document recent events for future generations!
Contact us to donate photos, signs, or stories.

Director@LaurelHistoricalSociety.org





LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

How are you going back to (virtual) school?

SHOW US YOUR WORK SPACE!



SUBMIT YOUR VIRTUAL EDUCATION
PHOTOS AND STORIES TO

INFO@LAURELHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG





A COLLABORATION BY THE
LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
LAUREL ARTS COUNCIL

THE LAUREL POSTCARD PROJECT

We need your help with building a collection of responses to what is happening in the world right now. Your response will become part of the Laurel Historical Society's collection and part of an online gallery in the near future. It will also give future generations a glimpse of what it was like in Laurel during the year 2020.

Take a postcard, remove the instruction sheet, answer the question below, and mail the card. Thank you!

QUESTION:



**HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND PROTESTS FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE?**

Laurel Historical Society

info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

Laurel Arts Council

laurelartscouncil@gmail.com www.cityoflaurel.org/boards/commissions/laurel-arts-council



All submissions become property of the Laurel Historical Society and may be used in exhibits or social media posts by LHS or LAC.

Upcoming Virtual Programs

ARCHAEOLOGY IN HOWARD COUNTY

Thursday, November 12

7 pm



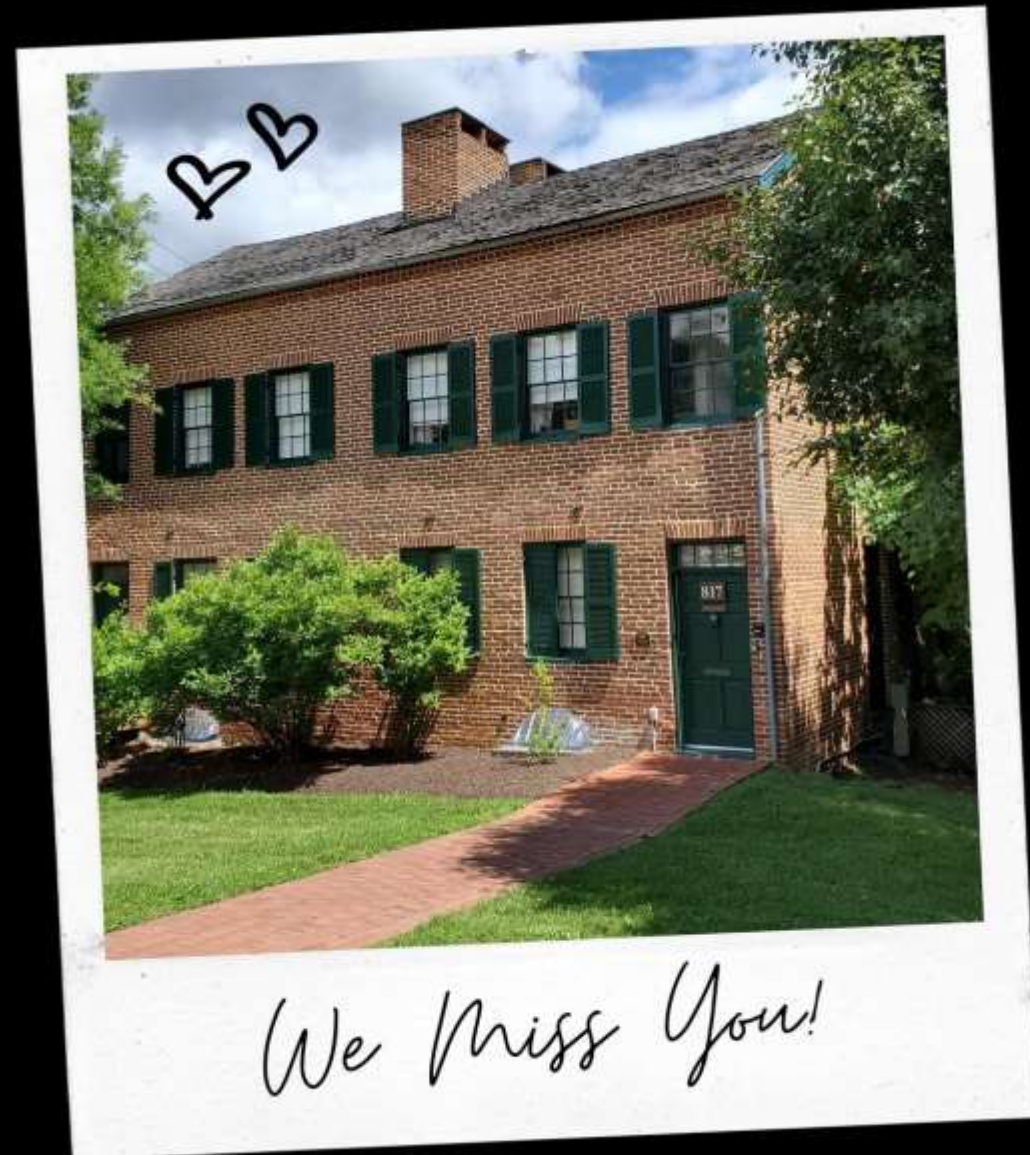
EARLY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HISTORY & TRADITIONS

Thursday, December 10

7pm



Thank you!



MUSEUM ADDRESS

817 Main Street

Laurel, MD 20707

PHONE NUMBER

301-725-7975

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org

WEBSITE

www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

DONATE

https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/store/p120/Virtual_Program_Donation.html
