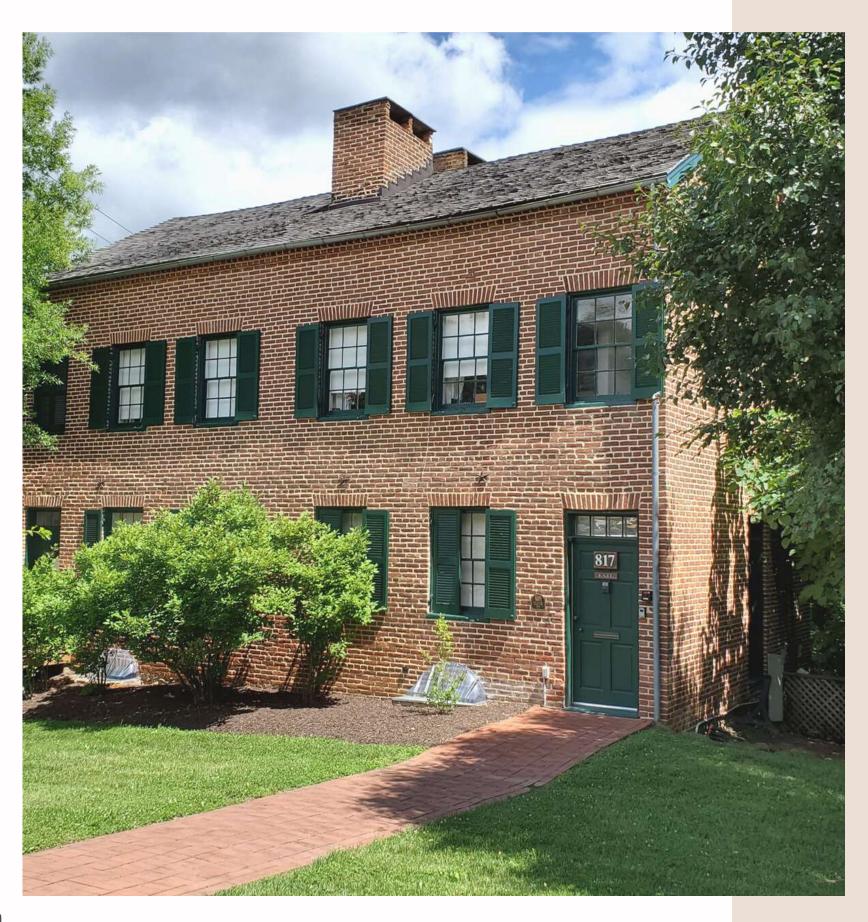
Laurel Historical Society

# (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



## UNPACKING LAUREL'S PAST

150 YEARS ON DISPLAY 1870 - 2020



Exhibit opening: February 2, 2020 Museum closed due to COVID-19: March 16, 2020 Exhibit extended to: December 19, 2021

# Artifacts as storytellers

evolving story of Laurel

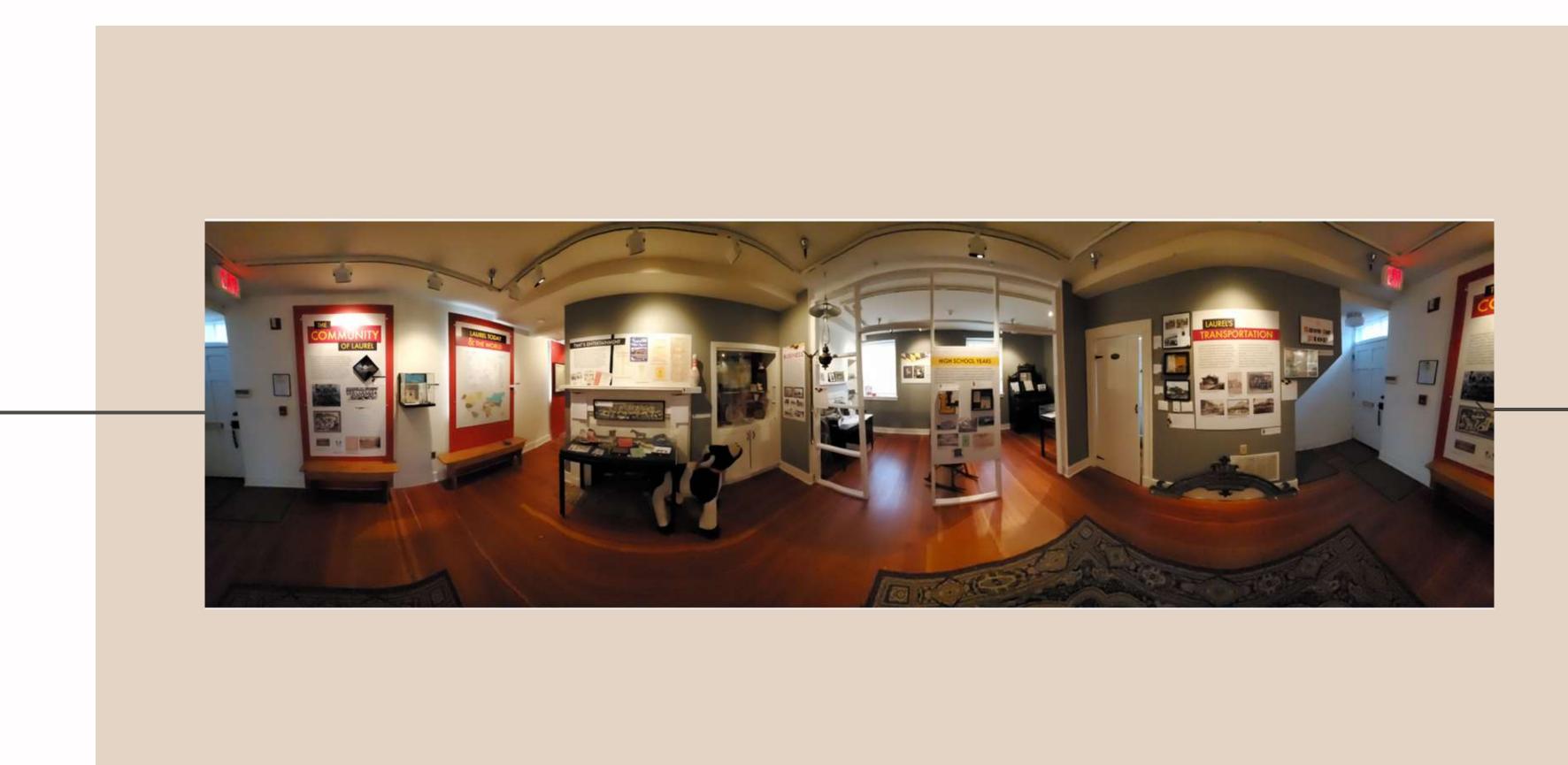
Objects that show us how Laurel is unique, yet

similar to many small 19th-century factory towns

## **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

#### DOCUMENT DAILY LIFE IN LAUREL



#### **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'as Peruvian Chicken Restaurant & Carryout is representative of the rich and varied dining experiences these new groups have brought to the town.

#### UNPACKING LAUREL'S PAST 150 YEARS ON DISPLAY

1870 - 2020

INTRODUCTION

Laurel Historical Society celebrates 150 years of Laurel's history by unpacking many of the never-before-seen items in our collection. These often-ordinary objects represent the people, places, community, civic and faith-based activities that distinguish Laurel. Each reflects some part of Laurel's story - an iron dog opens a window into Laurel's manufacturing past. A bi-lingual menu reflects the town's increasing diversity. Other objects may make us uncomfortable and remind us that our past it not always perfect. Some are just, well, fun. We hope you enjoy this small glimpse into the past, and the cultural, ethnic, and geographical character of our changing society. These objects tell stories of who we were, and who we are. They remind us that we all residents and visitors alike - continue to play a part in the evolving story of Laurel.



#### LA INTRODUCCIÓN

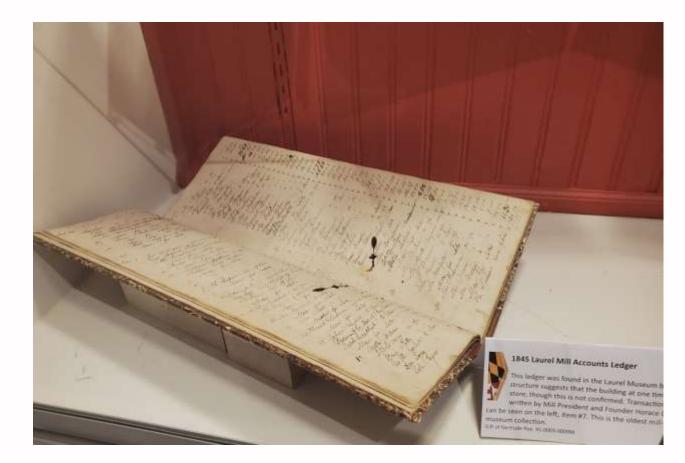
Laurel Historical Society celebra 150 años de la historia de Laurel desempacando muchos artículos de nuestra colección que nunca antes han sido vistos. Estos objetos muchas veces ordinarios representan a las personas, los lugares, la comunidad, actividades cívicas y basadas en la fe que distinguen a Laurel. Cada artículo refleja alguna parte de la historia de Laurel - un perro de metal abre una ventana para poder adentrarnos en el pasado de fabricación en Laurel. Un menú billingüe refleja la diversidad creciente en la ciudad. Otros objetos podrían hacernos sentir incómodos y recordarnos de que nuestro pasado no siempre fue perfecto. Algunos son simplemente divertidos. Esperamos que disfruten de este pequeño vistazo al pasado, y al carácter cultural, étnico y geográfico de nuestra sociedad cambiante. Estos objetos nos cuentan historias de lo que solíamos ser, y lo que somos ahora. Nos recuerdan de que residentes y visitantes por igual seguimos jugando un papel en la historia de evolución de Laurel. 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

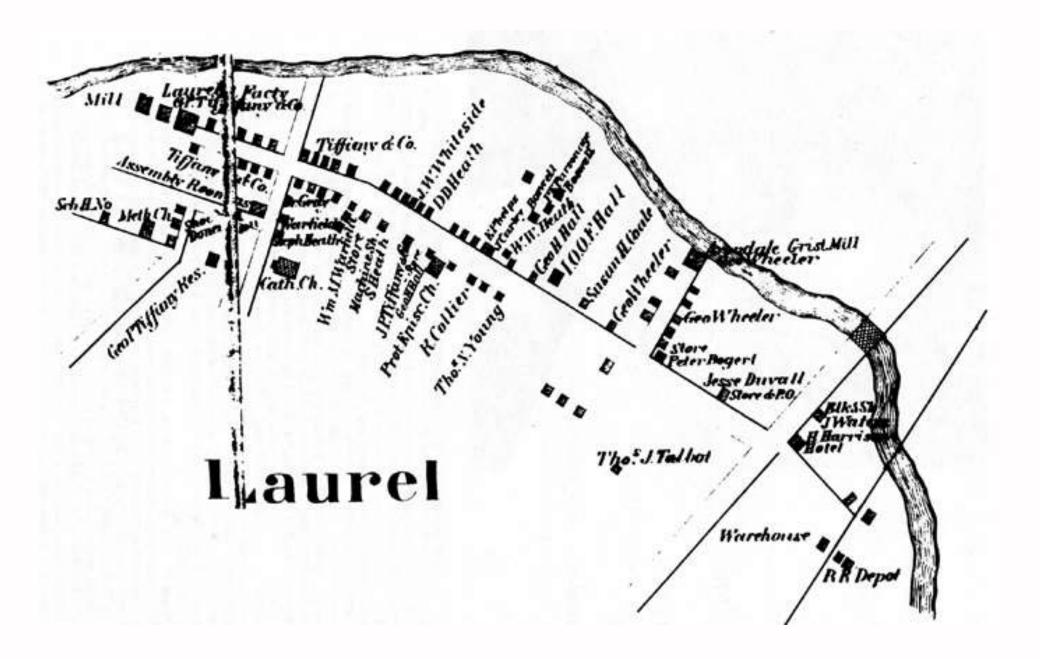






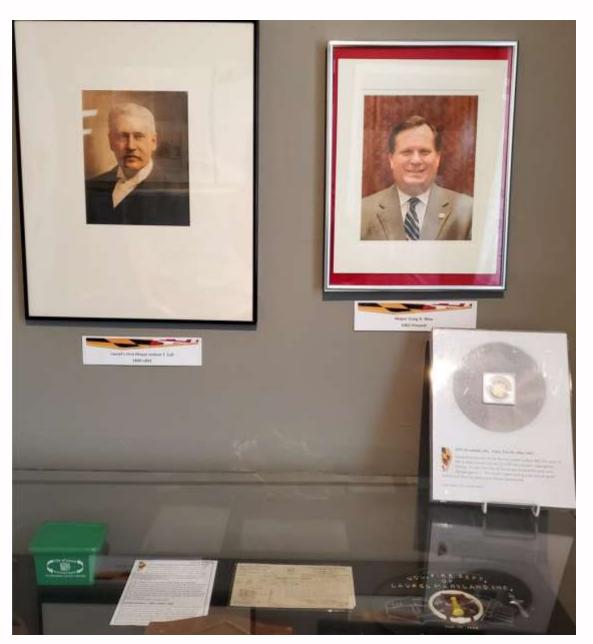
## Laurel before 1870

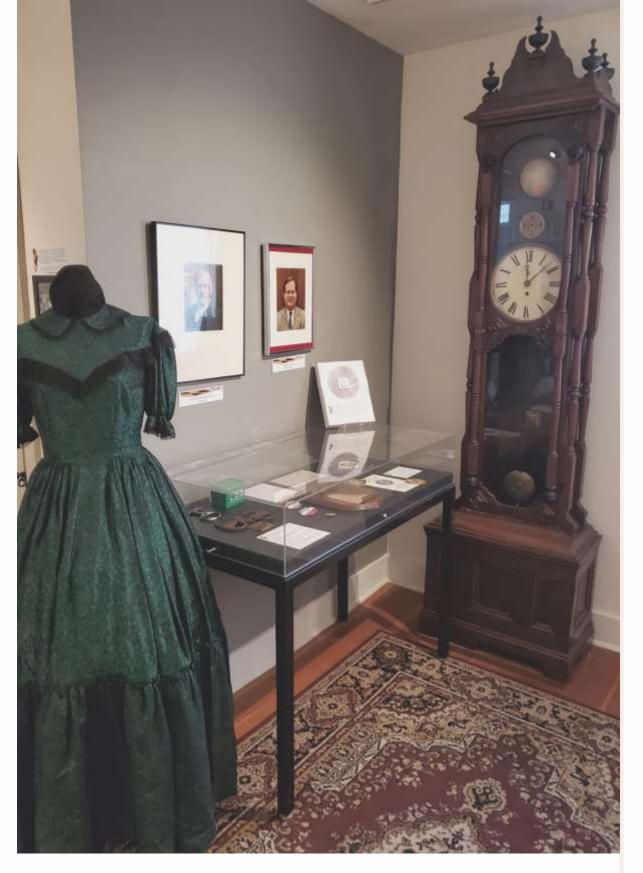
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## Laurel before 1870







## City of Laurel

# LAUREL'S COMMISSIONERS & MAYORS

#### COMMISSION PRESIDENTS

NAME	SERVICE DATES	
James Curley	1870-1872	
James Cradle	1872-1873	
Walter Brown	1873-1874	
William H. Diven	1874-1875	

NAME	SERVICE DATES	NAME
John A. Talbott	1875-1876	Lawrence A. Ell
Edward J. Phelps	1876-1878	Dr. John Cronm
John Haslup	1878-1879	A. M. Bond
John W. Whiteside	<b>s</b> 1879-1881	Jesse Smallwoo



ood 1888-1890

## 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,



Academy of Music

LAURSL, INARYLAND, Encedag, May 11, 1802, at 8 p. m.

IN CONCERT IN

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What do we do with offensive materials?

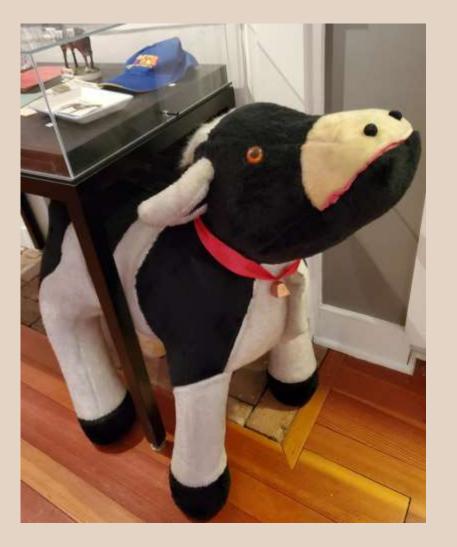








#### BUSINESS







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



(2) Baublitz Garage, c. 1923



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



(4) McDonald's, 1968





(6) Rosenfeld Shirt Factory, c. 1910



(7) Mid-City Restaurant, late 1940s

(5) Safeway Market, c. 1945





## THE OF LAUREL

We all have places in our lives important enough to bond us together. From its beginnings as Lourel Foctory 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.



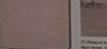




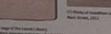








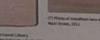
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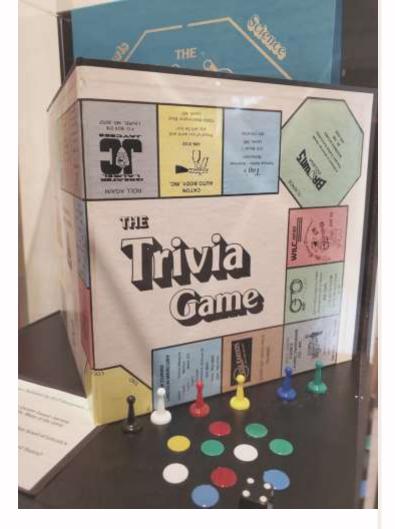








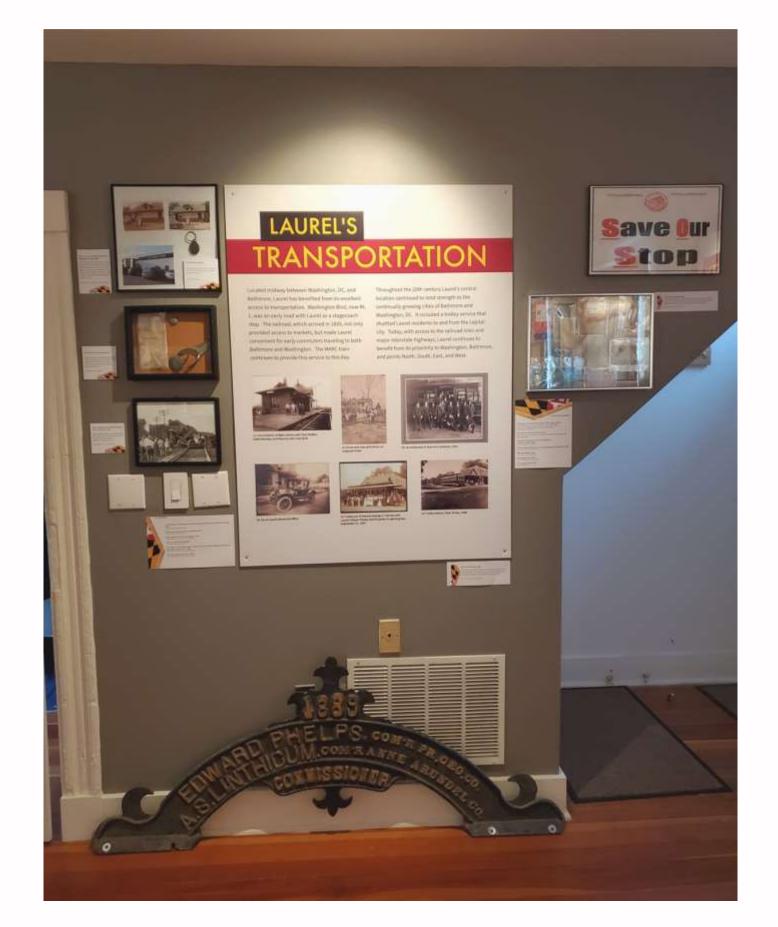






(2) Laurel Stars baseball team in the Grove, c. 1948

## Community





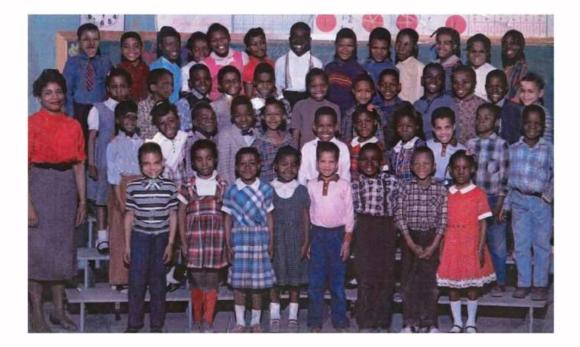
#### Transportation







# Grade School Days and High School



## GRADE SCHOOL DAYS

Children growing up in Laurel could go to public school as early as 1868 when school #1, the "uptown school", was built. This was followed by school #2, the "colored school" and school #3, the "downtown school." During the time of segregation white and colored children could attend separate schools. By 1962 all public grade school students attended the same elementary school on Montgomery Street. Several other public schools, such as O. W. Phair Elementary on West Street, opened and closed as the number of children in Laurel rose and fell. St. Mildred's Academy started in 1893 and later became St. Mary of the Mills grade school and the forerunner of Pallotti High School.





Children in Laurel could attend grade school until 7th grade in the early years. They then had the choice to further their education because Laurel had the first High School in Prince George's County. It opened in 1899 and the first graduating class consisted of five students, all women. The last class graduated in 1965 and the high school then moved to its current location on Cherry Lane.



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



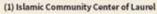




## **BUILDING FAITH IN LAUREL**

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.











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

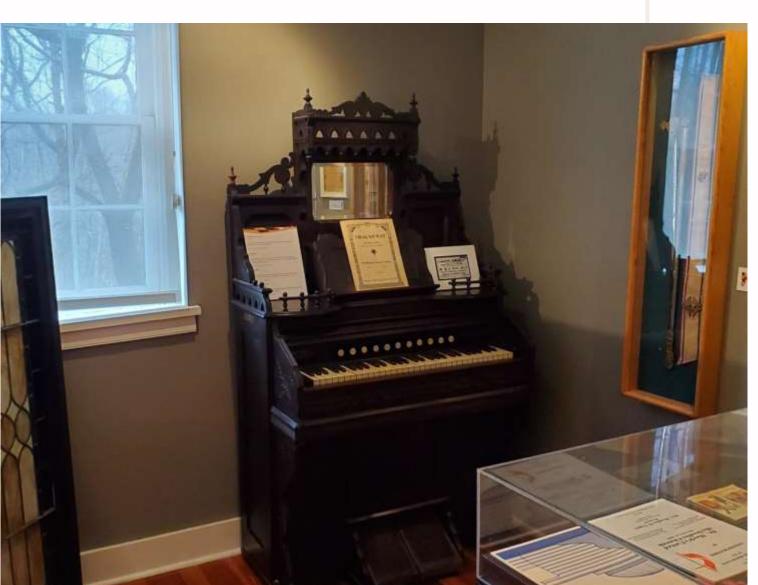
(3) Smyrna Church of Washington, Laurel





(4) Multicultural services at St. Mark's

(5) Living Hope Church, Laurel



#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE **EXHIBIT**



**19TH AMENDMENT** 

When the nation's founders drafted the Constitution in 1787, they made no mention of women. At the time, women were generally excluded from political and, in many ways, public life. Enslaved women were

excluded entirely. White women were under th protection and authority of their husbands or fathers. In most cases, they could not vote, own property, make contracts, go to court, or control any money they earned.

**LL**YOU CAN GO TO MEETINGS; YOU CAN VOTE RESOLUTIONS; YOU CAN ATTEND GREAT DEMO BUT, AFTER ALL, THE ONLY OCCASION WHERE THE AMERICAN CITIZEN EXPRESSES HIS ACTS, **POWER IS AT THE BALLOT-BOX."** 

Maric

– Zerelda G. Wallace at hearing of Senate Judiciary Committee, January 1880

UNIVERSAL



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#### ED OPENING POLLS

PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND T PARTIALLY REALIZED SO LONG AS HAS NO VOTE."

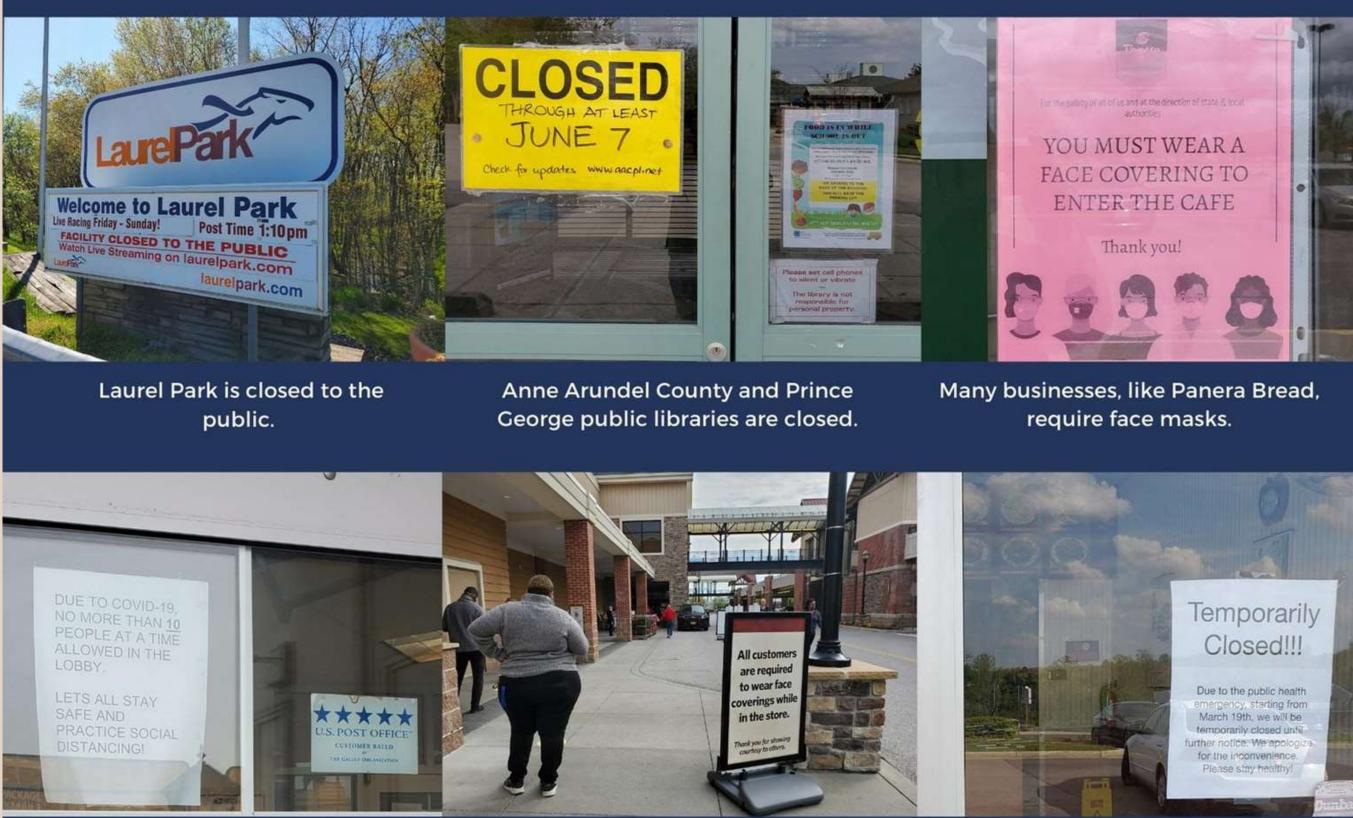






# Updating the Exhibit for 2021

# THE CORONAVIRUS STORY IN LAUREL, MARYLAND



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.



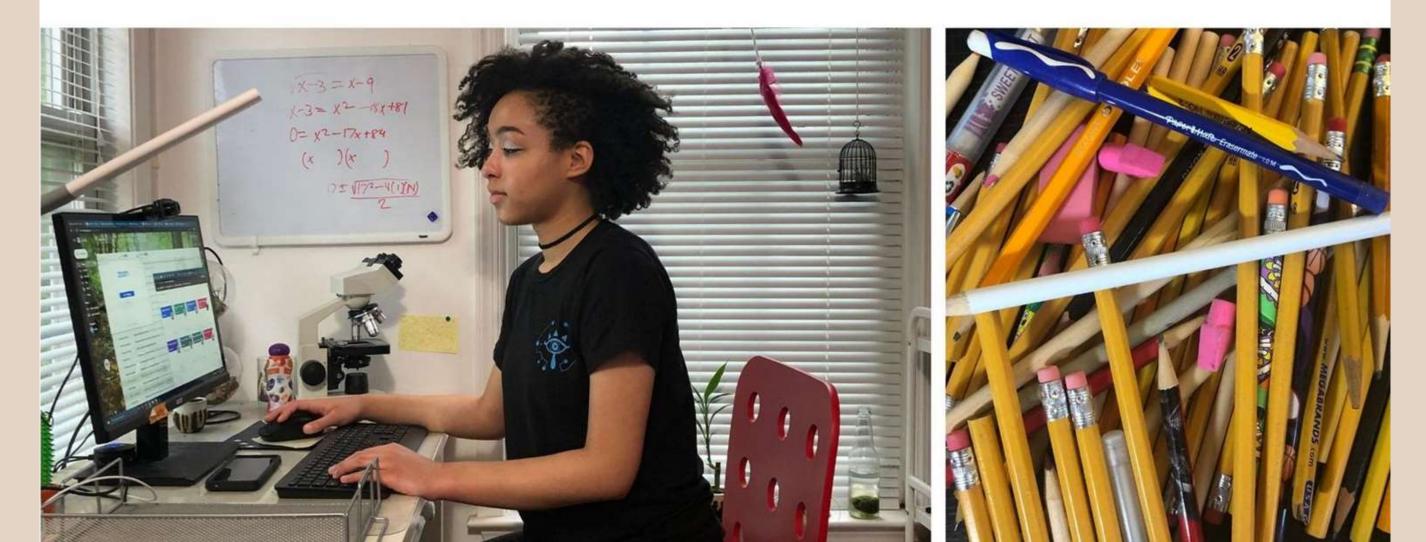






SHOW US YOUR WORK SPACE!

SUBMIT YOUR VIRTUAL EDUCATION PHOTOS AND STORIES TO



#### LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## How are you going back to (virtual) school?



#### INFO@LAURELHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

A COLLABORATION BY THE LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY & LAUREL ARTS COUNCIL

## **THE LAUREL POSTCARD PROJECT**

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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

laurelartscouncilegmail.com www.cityoflaurel.org/boards/commissions/laurel-artscouncil

> All submissions become properaty 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** 

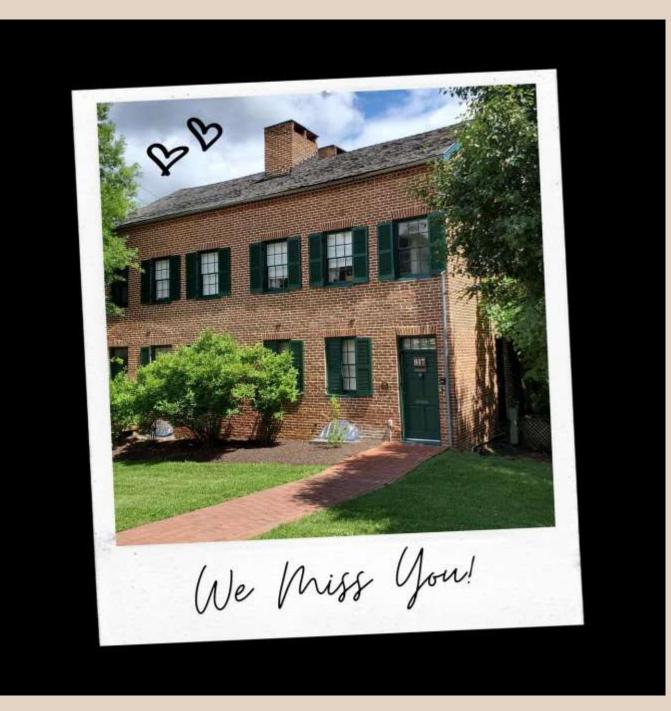


#### EARLY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HISTORY & TRADITIONS

#### Thursday, December 10 7pm



# Thank you!



817 Main Street

Laurel, MD 20707

PHONE NUMBER

301-725-7975

EMAIL ADDRESS

**WEBSITE** 

DONATE

- **MUSEUM ADDRESS**
- info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- https://www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/store/p120/Virt
- ual\_Program\_Donation.html