



THE LAUREL LIGHT

Preserving Laurel's Past for the Future

September 2007 Volume XI, Number 1

News from the Laurel Historical Society and The Laurel Museum

www.laurelhistory.org

Email: info@laurelhistory.org

Upcoming Calendar & Meeting Notice:

- Sept. 8th Board Retreat for Strategic Plan**
Oct. 11th Program: Navigating History Online
Oct. 25th Quarterly Board Meeting
Dec. 8th House Tour and Holiday Open House

Navigating History Online – Oct. 11

Maryland, other states and federal online sites are rich with history resources. Information is available on the Underground Railroad, slavery, property records, court cases, military actions and personnel, including the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Previously unavailable information sources that are invaluable for genealogical research and for history buffs are coming on line daily. Nancy Bramucci, The Maryland Archives IT and online specialist and instructor in researching Maryland History at UMBC will give a program on navigating these resources on October 11th. Learn tips, tricks, and pitfalls. FREE 7:30 p.m. Laurel Pool Club Room, 9th and Main Streets. The Laurel Museum will be open from 6:00 to 7:15 prior to the meeting.

Loss of the Linzey Mansion

The Laurel Historical Society mourns the loss of another one of our historic buildings from a devastating fire. The Linzey Mansion was the home of Lawrence A. Ellis, a noted builder in Laurel in the mid-1880s. He built 125 structures including the Academy of Music (also lost to fire in 1917), the Phelps and Shaffer Building, the Masonic Hall and the original Citizens Bank. The presence of this architectural gem will certainly be missed on the Route 1 streetscape.

Advertising In Laurel

Objects Wanted

Laurel's business and political community has been thriving for more than 140 years. In honor of this community and to showcase our collection of 'advertising memorabilia', the Laurel Museum will mount an exhibit on Advertising in Laurel for its 2008 exhibit. The exhibit will open in early February.

To augment the Museum's collection, we are looking for donations or loans of any type of object that was used to advertise a business or service in Laurel. The items can be new or old. We are looking for items such as: pens, pencils, restaurant menus, bumper stickers, give-a-way items, mugs, cups, business cards, signs, flyers, brochures, napkins, and match books. The items should have the name of the business, maybe a slogan, a phone number or address or other relevant information about the business or service. These objects play an important role in our community's history. Sometimes they are the only evidence of a long-forgotten business or political campaign.

If you have any objects that you would be willing to loan or donate for this exhibit, please contact Elsie Klumpner, at the Laurel Museum, 301-725-7975 or laurelmuseum@aim.com

Brick Walk Information

Purchase a brick! This is an ongoing fundraiser for the Society and a great way to add your name to the entranceway to the Museum. The order form is online for you to download, or you can order directly online at www.laurelhistory.org It's not too early to think of giving a lasting gift for the holidays.

Letter from the President

This Spring and Summer the LHS has been spending a great deal of time working on a strategic plan that will set the direction for the organization for the next five years. We have engaged the services of an exceptionally experienced professional in this area, Linda Harper. She has interviewed a number of people in the community, and in the membership, and has analyzed the findings from the surveys that many of you filled in and returned. Members of the strategic planning committee include Museum Director Elsie Klumpner, Freida Weiss, Jim McCeney and Larry Eldridge, and myself. We have met with her a number of times to begin to formulate the plan. The full board will be meeting September 8 for a daylong retreat to develop a vision for the future. Your input from the surveys will help us set goals for the next five years and make a plan to achieve them.

We know that volunteers will play a key role in making that vision come true – and our volunteer coordinator, Shari Pollard is very much in need of additional assistance for key museum days. We also can use your assistance with publicity, outreach, and other activities – so if you have a few hours to spare, please give her a call.

We recently received a beautiful 1894 clock that was built by Benjamin Mallonee in his Main Street Shop. He built six of these clocks, and took one to his house on Prince George Street, where it stayed until this July, when it was donated to the Laurel Museum. Come take a look. It's beautiful – and an exceptional piece of Laurel History. Many thanks to LHS member Marlene Frazier for helping make this possible, and to Mary Jo Mallonee for giving us this beautiful addition to our collection.

This fall promises to be an exciting one – with our September boat trip (completely booked), the October program on how to do research on Maryland on the internet, and our December House Tour. Hope we'll see you at many of these events.

-Karen Lubieniecki

An Evening in the Garden

A Blooming Success!

A wonderful time was had Saturday, April 14 in the Carriage Room at Laurel Park. We had a bumper crop of sponsors including: Glenn Feagin - Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Dave Mann, Buscher Family Holdings, Dave and Carol Cummings, RaytheonSolipsys, Rainbow Florist And Delectables, Gertrude Poe, Betty and Dick Compton, *The Laurel Leader*, In Memoriam Elizabeth Phelps Quill: Elizabeth Lee Quill, and Schembari Family Dentistry. As important as sponsors are to the gala, there wouldn't be one at all without the hundreds of hours from the committee and other volunteers. Kudos to: Jeanie Anastasi, Jhanna Levin, Holly Lilienthal, Karen Lubieniecki, Bobbi McCeney, Regina Mima, Doreen Nionakis, Elizabeth Quill, and Karen Schembari. Special thanks to: Pat Fisher, Warren Citrin, Dave Cummings, Joan Fitzgerald, Marlene Frazier, Meri Fleming, Doug Humphrey, Penn Camera, Joan Robison, and Robin Scaggs.

In attendance were Laurel's Mayor and City Council, Tom Dernoga, and our 21st District representatives Ben Barnes, Barbara Frush, Joseline Pena-Melnyck, and Jim Rosapepe. The Carriage room was transformed into an indoor garden, complete with garden statuary. We had our largest silent auction ever. Highlights included weekend getaway packages, Jane Pope creations, wine tastings, jewelery, theater tickets, spa packages, an original oil painting, and antique prints. When not dancing to the tunes of the Swing Time Big Band, guests could sip "Laurel Lemonade" while bidding at the silent auction or viewing the complementary souvenir photos being taken by Greg Surniak.

Next year's date has already been set for April 5th. The new Gala chair, Jhanna Levin and committee are already working on the event. If you know someone who is not on our mailing list and may like to be, please let us know. Also, if you would like to help with Gala 2008, have a suggestion for an auction item, sponsor, or anything else gala-related, please email lhscelebration@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support, Lisa Losito & Margie McCeney
Co-chairs 2007

Prince George's County Grants

Councilman Tom Dernoga has been instrumental in helping the Society obtain grants. The Museum has completed a project in the basement and is in the process of redesigning the Society website. Other new projects include mounting a permanent exhibit on the History of Laurel and mounting our 2008 exhibit on the topic of "Advertising in Laurel".

Welcome New Members:

The Laurel Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Steadman and Kathy Crawford
Richard and Mary Cusick
Finley and Pamela doCarmo
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Downs
Louella Ertter
Michael and Jeanne Francisco
Marion Hoekstra
Phil and Suzie Komornik
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lea
Brian and Mary Loveless
Joan Parker
Arthur (Terry) and Dorothea (DeDe) Stetson

Please continue to ask neighbors, friends and family members if they would consider joining The Laurel Historical Society! Society membership benefits all of us. Members receive a quarterly newsletter with updates on programs and museum exhibits, email bulletins on events and activities, and a 10% discount at the Laurel Museum gift shop. Members also receive reduced prices and advanced reservation opportunities for programs and special events such as the annual gala and biannual house tour. And don't forget, membership dues are nominal and are fully tax deductible!

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Sadler Collection Comes to LHS

LHS is delighted to announce that James and Bobbi McCeney have given the Laurel Historical Society the Sadler Collection. Taken by Laurel resident Bert Sadler, (1875-1963) the collection of more than 1300 glass plates, including many of the most well known images of Laurel has been on loan to the Museum, and was the basis of an early exhibit. "**Bert Sadler's Laurel.**" Now it is a formal part of our collection. Our hope is to have all the plates digitized and viewable in the future. The donation ensures that the photos of other cities will be available to those communities, while keeping the collection intact.

The Sadler Collection is an invaluable addition to the Museum's resources, not only because of the history of Laurel that it captures, but because it documents a place and time in American History – small town America – right after the turn of the century as we moved from horses to cars. Our thanks to the McCeney family

Holiday Ornament Celebrates

Laurel's Armory The Laurel Historical Society's 2007 Holiday ornament celebrates one of Laurel's most important buildings, the Maryland National Guard Armory. Located at 5th and Montgomery Streets, the armory building has been a landmark since 1928 when it was built by C.C. Nichols, Sr. Its original purpose was to serve as a home for the Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry under the command of Lt. J.B. Anderson. The Armory also housed the local branch of the U.S.O. until Laurel's U.S.O. building was erected. For years the Armory hosted recreational activities for soldiers and local residents such as dances, parties, meetings, and political rallies. In 1971 the building ceased to function as a National Guard Headquarters and was turned over to the State of Maryland. Today, the City of Laurel owns the building and it is known as the Laurel Armory Anderson-Murphy Community Center. The Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation provides recreational and educational activities for Laurel residents.

Volunteer News:

Shari Pollard, Volunteer Coordinator, asks Society members to join her in welcoming the following new volunteers:

Maude Gregson: Friday morning office helper and substitute docent

Jesse Gregson: College student volunteering for the summer in the shop and as docent.

Margaret Paynich: Sunday shop volunteer and docent

Elizabeth Light: Writing press releases and other PR functions

John Steckel: New Docent starting in September

We always need volunteers for various duties and programs as well as Museum docents or shop workers on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Even if you have only a few hours to give, please consider volunteering as substitutes are especially needed for vacations or long term illness. Maybe you have volunteered in the past and found it difficult to continue due to the busyness of life. We would love to have you back!! Email Shari at shari.pollard@verizon.net or by phone: 301-776-5229.

We would also like to welcome and thank our summer intern, Alena Gonzalez, Laurel resident and history major at UMBC for the work she is doing to fill in for volunteers during vacations and especially for researching the 2008 exhibit.

Chris Erdle, Randy Anastasi, Mike Lhotsky and the City of Laurel staff have done installation of the new shed and the landscaping work. We need volunteers who may be willing to weed and water during the growing season.

The Laurel Historical Society had a whole room dedicated to the Society at the Mayor's Open House in March. Our display included a Society and membership information table, treasures from the Museum table and our own Joe Robison, Sanborn maps in hand, answering questions on the history of Laurel for our visitors. We had many interested visitors stop by. Thank you to all who volunteered for this event.

School groups, Scout troops, Red Hatters and walking clubs visited the Museum in the last few

of months and were surprised Laurel has such an interesting history. They were also impressed by the quality of the exhibits and the history walk along the river. We had an increase to 729 visitors in the 2nd quarter due to group tours.

Taking Our "Show on the Road"
Schools have cut back on field trips, and some clubs/organizations are too large to arrange transportation to the museum. Therefore, we've prepared Power Point presentation programs which we've take on the road when requested:
Elsie Klumpner: "Museum Careers" for Career Days at schools.

Karen Lubieniecki: "History of Laurel" for adult audiences

Shari Pollard: "History of Laurel" for elementary, middle school or high school

Shari Pollard: "African American Struggles & Successes" for adult or student groups.

The Road Shows have been a great success with audiences. Call the museum to arrange a presentation to groups of 20 to 200.



You are Invited to Join Us For

The Laurel Historical Society
Holiday House Tour
December 8th, 2007

The New Board of Directors

The new Board of Directors was elected at the annual meeting in May. We would like to welcome two new Board members, Kevin McNulty and Jeff Edwards. Both men are Society members and contributors, as well as Main Street business owners. Chris Erdle and Dave Cummings were also re-elected for another term. Other Board of Directors members include; Jim McCeney, Chairman, Jeanie Anastasi, Michael Barrett, Faith Calhoun, Jane Cole, Elizabeth Compton, Lawrence Eldridge, Marlene Frazier, Lisa Losito, Karen Lubieniecki, Mayor Craig Moe, ex officio, Gertrude Poe, Shari Pollard, Joseph Robison, Jean Wilson and Frieda Weise. A Board of Directors retreat will take place in September as we consider the results of the strategic planning process undertaken this summer.

Part-time, Assistant to the Director, position available at the Museum.

The Laurel Museum in Laurel, Maryland is seeking qualified applicants for the part time position of Assistant to the Director. Qualified candidates will have the following skills: proficiency with the PC computer, Internet and scanning skills as well MS Word, Excel and Power Point. Past Perfect software familiarity helpful but will train someone with good computer skills. Also, will have verbal, written and financial record skills; critical thinking and effective judgment skills; organization and time management skills; interpersonal and team interaction skills and initiative. Candidate must be versatile, flexible, outcome oriented and able to work independently with general supervision.

Minimum Education and Experience Required:
A combination of college courses and experience which demonstrate the skills, knowledge and ability required to perform the essential duties.

General Summary: Under general direction from the Museum Director is responsible for performing specified operational functions as designated by this job description. Also, will provide assistance for specific projects as assigned.

Daily responsibilities will include:

- 1) General Office Duties - Attends to mail, supplies, phone, special events, tour schedules, maintenance of office equipment.
- 2) Collections/Accessioning - Prepares documentation needed by volunteer registrar to accession donated items into the Laurel Museum Collection. Marks, tags and prepares accessioned items for storage.
- 3) Community Outreach - Prepares posters, brochures, and press releases to keep the community informed of Laurel Historical Society and Laurel Museum activities and events. Maintains up-to-date listings of contacts; such as: reporters, list servers, teachers, organization presidents, etc. Contacts sources on regular basis to increase number of Museum visits.
- 4) Visitor Services: Schedules group tours in conjunction with Volunteer Coordinator to assure staffing is available. May conduct some tours and educational programs when sufficient number of volunteers is not available.
- 5) Research - Assists museum visitors doing research in the Museum library.
- 6) Museum Shop - Works with Director or Shop Manager on shop related tasks.
- 7) Exhibits: Assists the Museum Director with the installation and dismantling of exhibits.

Hours: Part time 20 hours per week. Schedule negotiable.

Salary: \$11,000

Please send resume to: Director, Laurel Museum, 817 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707 or e-mail to: laurelmuseum@aim.com

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The Laurel Museum
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Return Service Requested