



THE LAUREL LIGHT

Preserving Laurel's History for the Future

August 2006 Volume X, Number 2

News from the Laurel Historical Society and The Laurel Museum

www.laurelhistory.org

Email: info@laurelhistory.org

Upcoming Calendar & Meeting Notice:

- Sept. 14 7:30 Costumes for History:
Program at the Pool Meeting Room
- Oct 14th Riverfest 10am – 4pm
Second Brick Walk Unveiling
- Oct 21st In your backyard tour:
Frederick, Md with tour of Civil
War Museum. Reservations
required, Cost to be determined.
- Dec. 9th Laurel Museum Annual Holiday
Open House 11am – 4pm

MUSEUM HOURS OF OPERATION:
Wednesday 10 AM – 2 PM; Friday 10 AM – 2
PM; Sunday 1 PM – 3 PM. Admission is
FREE. Visit our web site for updated
information about exhibits, programs and
new special events: www.laurelhistory.org

2006-2007 Officers Elected

President	Karen Lubieniecki
Vice President	Lisa Losito
Treasurer and Chairman of the Board	Jim McCeney
Recording Secretary	Marlene Frazier
Corresponding Secretary	Jean Anastasi

Other Members of the Board of Directors:

Mike Barrett
Faith Calhoun
Jane Cole
Elizabeth Compton
Dave Cummings
Larry Eldridge
Chris Erdle
Barbara Feagin
The Honorable Craig A. Moe
Gertrude Poe
Shari Pollard
Joe Robison
Jean Wilson
Frieda Weise

Help Choose the Next Ornament

We are accepting nominations from our members and citizens for this year's holiday ornament. Do you have a favorite Laurel site you would like to nominate? Email your ideas to LaurelMuseum@netscape.net by September 7th! Thank you.

You can do it for the Gala!

Mark Your Calendars for April 14.

Margie McCeney & Lisa Losito have agreed to co-chair this year's gala and they and the committee are already hard at work. But the Committee needs help for all of us. They report:

"We have many volunteer openings for this year's Gala theme, "Gardens!" Some are very easy and not time consuming. We need old and new photos of local gardens and ideas for auction items or sponsors: Plant a window box for someone? Ask your yard service to make a donation? Take a picture of your friend's beautiful yard for our slide show!

Anyone can help sell ads in our booklet, ask for auction donations, or for gala sponsors. We'll provide the forms, letters and other paperwork. Invite a friend! Bring someone to the gala who has never been. A friend, neighbor or co-worker.

Day of the Gala: set up at the racetrack, or auction checkout that evening.

Contact or send photos to:

lhscelebration@yahoo.com

or call Lisa Losito at 301-598-8723.

You can also leave photos in the Gala drop box in the museum.

The Laurel Historical Society is Proud
To Have The Citizens National Bank As a
Community Business and Professional
Partner.

Museum News

The current exhibit "*Stories from the Attic: 10 Years of Collecting*" will be extended through December 2007. Over 1,045 visitors including many students from our local schools have visited the exhibit. In the meantime, our Museum Director and other volunteers will be working on the planned permanent exhibit which will feature the history of our fine city. Look for the new exhibit in 2007!

Looking for **something to entertain your kids**, grandkids or other young visiting family or friends? A special "Young Collectors Challenge" part of "*Stories from the Attic: 10 Years of Collecting*" may be just the thing. Young visitors collect answers to the challenge questions by exploring the exhibit's introduction and seven story areas within the compact Museum. In the Main Street Stories area, for example, they're asked to find out the number of yardsticks scattered throughout. The game includes an explanatory piece for adults who want to assist. After completing the "Challenge" all participants "collect" a modest prize from the Laurel Museum gift shop

We continue to look for Laurel related objects to add to the Museum collection. Year books, personal records, clothes, business advertisements, entertainment programs, military memorabilia children's toys, and the like. Please consider donating to the Museum when cleaning out your possessions!

Our 2004-2005 exhibit "*Wish You Were Here: Postcards from Laurel*" was so successful that a book is being developed. Volunteer Mike Boivin has been scanned all of the exhibit's postcards and he and Elsie Klumpner are working on the text for the book. Look for it in the Museum shop in 2007!

Museum Shop

Many new items will be added to our Museum shop. The Museum's 10th Anniversary Ornament, and a reissue of the 'Ole Liz' Fire Department holiday ornament are two examples. Stop by the Museum shop to purchase gifts for yourself or others! And don't forget the Holiday Open House scheduled for Saturday, December 9th!

Like all old buildings the Museum needs continuous maintenance. We are currently soliciting bids from contractors for work on the basement and interior painting. We continuously seek and sometimes receive grant funding for these projects.

Special Events

The Laurel Historical Society again participated in the 4th of July parade. Many volunteers came together to decorate the float and ride or walk in the parade. Literature was handed out along the parade route and many positive comments about the Museum were received from the crowd. And as the theme this year stated "You are Never Too Old or Too Young to Visit the Laurel Museum"!

Volunteer Opportunities

Many opportunities are available whether you can free up several hours or several days a month. We particularly need Museum Docents and Museum Shop Staff on the first Sunday of the month from 1-4 PM and twice a month on Wednesdays 12-2PM or Fridays 10AM-12PM. Please consider joining this great group of Laurel historians in the making!

We are looking for someone to write press releases and post announcements on an ongoing basis. Additionally there are landscaping and maintenance opportunities for the outdoor or handy type. People interested in web site development, computer and equipment maintenance, general office work, research and the like are also needed.

Brick Walk Project

The Museum's brick walk looks wonderful. Many thanks to all who purchased bricks. This fundraiser is ongoing so if you haven't had a chance to purchase a brick please pick up information at the Museum! Don't miss out on becoming a permanent part of our Museum. Let friends and family know and stop by and take a look! Many thanks to Lisa Losito for all her work on this, and to the City, especially Ted Dulaney and his crew who installed the bricks. They look beautiful.



The Schembari Brothers Find Their Family's Brick

City of Laurel Walking Tour Map

The map is now available and includes 50 sites of interest! Pick one up at the Museum and take the walking tour at your own pace. The map also includes information on the History of Laurel and the History of the Fire Department. Many businesses and homes are featured. We can all be proud of our historic past!

The Laurel Light

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The Laurel Historical Society

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1st History Days at Home Tours a Great Success

On Saturday, July 22nd the Prince George's County History Consortium (of which the Laurel Museum is a member) sponsored a trio of tours to four historic sites each. Three buses ferried about 45 participants throughout Prince George's County from 9:30 am until 4 pm, highlighting 10 different historic sites. For each tour there was a \$30.00 charge which included bus transportation and a boxed lunch.

Tour #1 was themed, "Tilling Rich and Fertile Earth: Early Farm Life. This group visited the National Colonial Farm, Mount Calvert Archeology, the Patuxent Rural Life Museum and took the Patuxent River Boat Tour. The second tour explored "Separate Lives & Shared Surroundings: African American History. Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness, the North Hampton Slave Quarters Archeological Site, the Belair Stables Museum and the Dorsey Chapel Historic Site were on the tour. Montpelier Mansion, Belair Mansion, Darnall's Chance House Museum and Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness comprised the fourth tour, which explored the theme: Life Goes On: Continuous Use of Historic Homes.

Each bus was manned by a historian guide, a member of the PCGCHC. The Laurel Museum's director, Elsie Klumpner accompanied the third tour. It is most likely that the Laurel Museum will be one of the sites to be visited on the next set of tours.

The response to each tour was extremely positive. Several participants suggested sites for next year's tour and are looking forward to seeing the sites they missed. As a result of this initial success, the PGCHC will begin planning for the Summer 2007 History Day at Home tours in the fall. Watch for flyers and announcements for next year's tours appearing in late Spring 2007.

Focus on People

Meet Museum Director Elsie Klumpner!



Elsie Klumpner (r) with Jane Cole and Betty Compton at the 10th Anniversary Celebration

Interviewer (I): Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Elsie (E): I came to the museum in 2004 to work part time and it grew into a full time position in 2005. I have a degree in the History of American Decorative Arts from the Parsons School of Design. I live in Silver Spring with my husband Jim. I was born in Baltimore and came to the area in 1994.

I: What special skills and talents do you bring to your work as the Museum Director?

E: My organizational skills are most important and I have a good knowledge of antiques and collectibles. I enjoy working with people. I love history and have enjoyed getting to know Laurel's history.

I: What do you enjoy most about working at the museum?

E: I think I enjoy most getting to know the people of Laurel through the museum work. It's a privilege for me to take care of their collections and the museum. I know how

much Laurel means to its citizens. I enjoy meeting visitors and working on projects as well.

I: What are some of the challenges you face directing a small museum?

E: That the director has to do everything from taking out the trash to finding grant money for programs. It is hard to balance all of the tasks involved. There is so much "little stuff" to keep the museum running and also the larger projects of the museum.

I: What is your vision for the Laurel Museum for the future?

E: I would really like to see the collections grow and am interested in increasing objects within our collection from the late 20th century and the early 21st century. I would like to see some good regular programming for children to bring more children into the museum. I would like to see us continue to do exhibits that not only attract people because of the exhibit contents but educate the visitors about Laurel and it's connection to the larger world.

I: How valuable are volunteers in realizing your vision?

E: The volunteers make the museum possible and have done so since long before I was here. Without the volunteers there would not be a museum. They are very important to everything they we do. They keep the museum open, educate the public, and attract new visitors. Every project of any size that I do is planned with volunteers and carried out with volunteers. For example, we are going to produce a book on our postcard exhibit because we have a volunteer, Mike Boivin, is willing to work on it. Charlie Hessler, has been volunteering for over a year updating, maintaining and improving our accessions process. Another volunteer, Marie Dodson, is currently cataloging our library collection. Donna Gray, a graduate student from UMBC, will start an internship this fall to help with

research for the planned permanent exhibit and collections management. These tasks would not get done without the generosity of our volunteers.

I: What do you like to do in your spare time?

E: I like spend time with my husband Jim and play with my dog, Abby. I read a lot and I enjoy making beaded necklaces.

Come and join us! We are an equal opportunity volunteer employer! For more information about the Laurel Historical Society Inc., or to volunteer please call (301)725-7975 or email LaurelMuseum@netscape.net.

September 5 Brick Order Deadline for Riverfest Unveiling

Have you been planning to order a brick to commemorate an event, your school class, family member, or important date or anniversary—but just haven't gotten around to it?

The next round of bricks will be installed in time to be unveiled during Riverfest: October 14, 2006.

Bricks must be ordered by September 5 to arrive in time for the installation.

Single Bricks are \$50, Bricks with a logo are \$200.

To order a brick you can order online, www.brickrus.com/order/LaurelMuseum an order form is also available at the LHS Website: www.laurelhistory.org

Questions?
Email bricks@laurelmuseum.org

E-Mail Addresses Needed

E-mail is a great way to quickly get information and updates about LHS-related

activities to our members – and saves postage. However, we only have e-mail addresses for about ½ our members. To compile a better list of e-mail address we've created a 2-step process.

Step 1. All Laurel Historical Society members for whom we have an e-mail address will be sent e-mail regarding Email addresses, and reminding them about our Fall programs.

Step 2: *After* we send the e-mail, all LHS members will be sent a postcard, also with program update. IF YOU ONLY GET A POSTCARD, we don't have a good e-mail address for you.

To update your email address, or to provide one, please email the LHS at:

email@laurelmuseum.org

Members who do not use e-mail, or who prefer not to provide us with an e-mail address should rest assured we'll still be sending out print information.

In our Backyard Tour: Frederick, Md

Sat. Oct 21 there will be a 90 minute guided tour of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at 10:00 am.

After lunch, everyone will be free to tour Frederick on their own [self-guided walking tours or shopping.) Lunch, possibly at Brewer's Alley.

10th Anniversary Ornament

A 10th Anniversary Ornament makes great gifts for current or formal Laurel resident.

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