



2024-2025 Annual Appeal

P. O. Box 102
Laurel, DE 19956

laureldehistoricalsociety.org

Multiple choice. Laurel is:

- a) hot (We're powering through the heat and humidity of watermelon season at the Block),
- b) in blossom (Native bushes along Broad Creek are bursting into color), or
- c) preparing for blast-off (Fundraising has begun for the annual Fourth of July fireworks).

Answer: All of the above . . . sort of.

Over the past few years, we've seen two new schools and a new mill dam and causeway over Records' Pond. Add to that new public parks along Broad Creek, the Villas residential community, flourishing restaurants, and newly-paved downtown streets. Ride up and down Central Avenue and you'll see a new Dutch Inn and new buildings rising where the Globe Building and Rigbie Hotel once stood. And then there are the four handsome, new homes being built on the site of the former Christ Methodist Church and the soon-to-be Promenade on Broad Creek, where we'll have 28 new, good-looking, owner-occupied homes bolstering our local economy. Not to be overlooked are the newly-restored Central Station building by the Central Avenue Bridge, the zip line and other popular attractions at Tidewater Park, and the restoration of 1772 Rosemont (Laurel's oldest home).

Along with private enterprise, the major players here are the Laurel Redevelopment Corporation, the Town of Laurel, the State of Delaware, and the Laurel Historical Society . . . yes, your hometown historical society. We have stepped up to the plate and are an active partner in the rebirth of our community. After many years of "wishin' and hopin' and thinkin' and prayin'," it's finally happening—with much more to follow.

We have restored the original Central Avenue bridgetender's house, have been consultants to the restoration of Rosemont, and are getting closer to the finish line with the restoration of our Hitchens Homestead at the eastern end of Laurel's creekfront attractions. What now lies ahead is the most significant project we've ever undertaken: the restoration of the George B. Phillips house at 504 South Central Avenue for our new headquarters. Not to belittle these other wonderful improvements around town, there is nothing more central to our community's identity than one of the grandest homes ever built along our main street. It is neither practical nor feasible to save everything, so we have tried to focus on what's most meaningful and worthwhile. We simply couldn't turn our heads away from this one and let the Phillips house (and the rest of Central Avenue) fall into a downward spiral.

The Laurel Historical Society is far from resting on its laurels, and is out on the front lines working towards a better Laurel on a daily basis. As we all know, of course, every thing has a price tag, yet some things come at a bargain price. What better way to foster pride by investing in your community and honoring us with your support. Not in this lifetime has Laurel seen such exciting possibilities and been on the cusps of full blossom.

We look forward to your generous contribution.

Our 2023-2024 Donors

RECORDS' POND: \$10,000+

Paul & Pat Downes
Sharon G. McDonald

TRAP POND: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Janosik Family Foundation
Austin F. Okie

CHIPMAN'S POND: \$1,000 - \$4,999

Ned & Norma Jean Fowler
Randy & Ann Lee
Gary Leslie
Gwen North
Louis & Shirley O'Neal
Vernon & Maggie Proctor
Beverly Warrington Smith
Delores Springer
Melinda & Kevin Tingle

TRUSSUM POND: \$500 - \$999

Activ Pest Solutions
Virginia Gaye Cook
Karl & Triss Holland
June James
Danny & Mary Lecates
Patrick & Susan Vanderslice
Wash N Vac, Inc.
Blair Whaley & Amy Lowe
J. Reid Williamson

PORTSVILLE POND: \$250 - \$499

Marlene Collins
Mark & Dawn Collins
Mary D. Cross
Kendal T. Jones
Doug & Edna Marvil
Billie Jane Wheatley

HORSEY'S POND: \$100 - \$249

Bob & Debbie Bethards
Hunter & Lynne Calloway
William & Carlene Campbell
Denise Carmine Crowe
Woody & Sharon Disharoon
Wendy Dolby
Jerry & Fay Eller
Donald B. Haines
David & Yancey Hillegas
Blanche M. Hitchens
Mary Jones
Barbara A. Joseph
Lynn O. Lyburn
Marsha Murphy
O'Neal & Johnson Hardware
Dr. Gary & Lorrie Owens
Bryant Richardson
Bryan Seeba & Ann Davis
Dave Smith's Exterminating
Michael Vincent
Penny L. Ward
John Watkins
Cindy Whaley
Gary White
Jay & Janet Windsor
Thomas & Mona Wright

TUSSOCK POND: \$25 - \$99

Charlotte Baker
James Brock
Marlene Brown
Gail Cole
Ed Connor
Julie Dayton
F. Carole Groves
Ray & Ellie Guest
Rachelle Hill
Nancy Linton
Chris & Crystal Slavens
Sierra Spicer
Fred & Donna Sponseller
David & Janice Tranberg

Thank you!



P. O. Box 102
Laurel, DE 19956

**2024-2025
Annual Appeal**

CATEGORY	LEVEL	SELECT YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT
Records' Pond	\$10,000+	_____
Trap Pond	\$5,000 - \$9,999	_____
Chipman's Pond	\$1,000 - \$4,999	_____
Trussum Pond	\$500 - \$999	_____
Portsville Pond	\$250 - \$499	_____
Horsey's Pond	\$100 - \$249	_____
Tussock Pond	\$25 - \$99	_____

We appreciate your support! Please mail your 2024-2025 donation to the address shown above, or donate via our website at laureldehistoricalsociety.org.