



Annual Appeal

P.O. Box 102
Laurel, DE 19956

laureldehistoricalsociety.org

November 1, 2019

Dear friends and members of the Laurel Historical Society,

Time flies when you're having fun, they say. It feels like it was only yesterday that we acquired the Hitchens Homestead, and began cleaning up the historic buildings and imagining their future—yet it has been over a year. 2019 has been an exceptionally busy year for the society, as volunteers have spent countless hours working in and around the house and outbuildings, painstakingly preparing these architectural treasures for thorough and historically accurate restoration.

In September, an enthusiastic crowd gathered on the lawn for the long-awaited unveiling of the house's original color scheme. We have a long way to go, but it is becoming increasingly clear what the property looked like during its heyday in the late 19th century—and what it will look like when it is carefully and beautifully restored to its former glory, with your support.

While the ongoing work at the Hitchens Homestead is a highly visible and exciting venture, it is by no means the society's only project. We continue to welcome visitors to our museums, the Laurel Heritage Museum and the Cook House; at the latter, our vast collection of thousands of Laurel artifacts and photographs grows larger every month through generous donations. Additionally, we publish three newsletters per year, each of which offers a blend of news, photos, and members' personal recollections or historical research. In the background of all of this history-focused activity, the routine tasks associated with any organization are carried out: Lawns are mowed, weeds are pulled, lightbulbs are changed, restrooms are cleaned, bills are paid, etc.

Many of our immediate financial needs concern such operational expenses. Things like security systems, utilities, and stationery are not very exciting, but they are necessary. For example, the society budgeted \$1,800 for sewer, water, and trash pick-up this year, plus an additional \$2,200 for electricity. Publishing and mailing our newsletter cost approximately \$2,000. Phone and Internet service runs about \$160 per month. Other expenses—like those involving the expertise and supplies required to restore a 141-year-old home—are exciting, but nonetheless challenging.

Your past support has enabled the society to come this far, and it is only with your continuing support that we are able to keep moving forward. **Your donation of any amount is deeply appreciated**, and will help to preserve and celebrate the history of Laurel. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Laurel Historical Society!

Sincerely,

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President
George Denney

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Thank you!



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