



**Winter  
Edition  
Newsletter**

**A Message from the Mayor's Desk**

Dear Fellow Citizens,  
Blossoms are busting out in the midst of the cold, bleak winter. At Halloween, the Town of Laurel and the Laurel Police Department sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Town Trunk or Treat. Hundreds of children and their parents in a line a half block long made their way among the many scary displays as they filled their trick or treat bags with delicious candy giveaways. Businesses, churches and organizations donated the treats and provided volunteers to dispense the goodies.

The Laurel Leo Club, the Laurel Community Foundation, the Town of Laurel, and a host of community volunteers sponsored a great Christmas Tree Lighting event in Market Square Park the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The children played games, enjoyed a free movie, and ushered in the start of the Holiday Season with the lighting of the Town Christmas Tree.

The newly reorganized Town Parks and Recreation Commission hosted a well-received "Christmas Village," event on Front Street in conjunction with the Town Christmas Parade. As I walked through the various, unique vendors members of the community expressed to me very positive comments about the event. "Mayor, this is great!" "Have it again next year and I will be back."

A few days later, the Laurel Elementary School sponsored an event dubbed "Whobilation," based on the grinch and life in the imaginary town of Whoville. The school was packed with hundreds of children and adults. Holiday decorations decked the halls. Everyone enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate, and other treats, all donated by generous individuals, organizations, businesses, and organizations and served by volunteers from the school staff and community. Teachers were dressed like elves and the children enjoyed sharing their wish list with Santa Claus. This was truly a community boosting evening.

Our Laurel Ministerial Association does a great job supporting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our citizens. Retiring President, The Rev. Dr. Howard Backus has earned a hearty "Thank you," for his leadership. I wish success for Pastor Johnny Rogers, incoming President of his vital community organization.

My point in highlighting these events and organizations is that Laurel is seeing a "new sense of community" blossom, and that is something we need to celebrate, embrace, and develop. I wish everyone a healthy, fun-filled and successful year in 2019. And, I can't wait to see what the next exciting event will be!

-Mayor John J. Shwed

**Inside this Issue:**

- A Message from the Desk
- Dunbar Building Update
- Burger King Coming Soon
- Tidewater Park Update
- 7<sup>th</sup> Street Water Main Replacement
- Transite Water Main Replacement Phase 3
- Laurel Economic Development Committee Update
- Community Block Grant Development
- Nanticoke Watershed Alliance
- Town Reminder Dates
- Know the Code
- Mayor and Council Winter Meeting Schedule
- Farewell to Linda Thomas
- Police Department Message
- Community Activities
- A Safety Guide for the Winter Season
- Employee Appreciation Day
- American Heart Awareness Month
- History of Chocolate
- History of Laurel's Movie Theater - Waller Theatre
- Winter Themed Word Search

## Town News Project Updates



### Paul Laurence Dunbar Building Project Update

The Town of Laurel officially obtained ownership of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Building on July 1, 2018. The Conveyance of the building occurred on February 26, 2018 where school officials, Mayor and Council, town employees, and the Laurel Police Department were in attendance. This building will be the future home of the Laurel Police Department. The purpose of this building will be utilized to help serve the community. The Town is interested in finding organizations that will be beneficial that will serve the community.



On September 4, 2018 Mr. Gary Johnson and Ms. Clara Martinez of the Telamon Delaware Corporation gave a presentation to Mayor and Council pertaining to Telamon services. The Telamon program has been in existence for over 50 years and provides services in over 12 states.

**Mission Statement: "Is to provide education services that lead to better jobs, better lives, and better communities."**

The Delaware Telamon Corporation and the Town of Laurel agreed to a 15-year lease agreement for the utilization of the kindergarten wing and the two trailers at Paul Laurence Dunbar. Telamon intends to install a new fence around the entire property of the building, renovate the school at no expense to the town, and install a new playground with a pour'n play surface.

**Telamon Services:** Telamon focuses on childhood and family support services. Listed below are Telamon services they offer.

**An Early Head Start Program  
Early Head Start Home-Based Parenting Education  
Head Start**



### Burger King Coming Soon

Burger King is making its way to Laurel, Delaware. On May 9, 2018 the Planning & Zoning Commission held a meeting to discuss the Preliminary Site Plan Review for Burger King. At this meeting, the developer was in attendance to answer any questions or comments the committee may have had. At the end of the meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission voted to accept the Preliminary Site Plan Review and move forward with the public hearing. A public hearing was held on June 13, 2018 in which the Final Site Plan was approved.

**Location:** Burger King will be located at the Laurel Junction and sit further back from Rt. 13.



### 7<sup>th</sup> Street Water Main Replacement/ Transite Water Main Replacement Phase 3

The Town of Laurel received notification they received funding for both projects listed above with 100% principal forgiveness. The town submitted a Notice of Intent to ODW state revolving fund for both projects. Both projects were placed on a list with the Water Advisory Council and were ranked along with other municipalities to determine the highest ranking and priority.

## Town News Project Update



### Laurel Economic Development Committee Update

The Town of Laurel was recently rewarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the USDA. The grant was utilized by creating a Design Guide for the historical commercial locations within the Downtown Development District. The Design Guide was adopted by the Mayor and Council at the August 20, 2018 Mayor and Council Meeting. The town has invited nearly 25 businesses within the Downtown Development District to attend a presentation at the Laurel Public Library regarding the Design Guide. The Design Guide Steering Committee Members and along with the consultant Ms. Donna Harris will be in attendance to present the Design Guide and to answer any questions the business owners may have. **Listed below are details about the presentation.**

**Location:** Laurel Public Library Conference Room

**Date:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

The Town of Laurel personally wants to thank all the members of the Design Guide Steering Committee, Consultant Ms. Donna Harris, and designer Mr. Phillip Green for creating a great resource for our town.



### Tidewater Park Update

During this past summer Tidewater Park officially broke ground on July 12, 2018. A bio swale and a constructed wetland were recently installed into Tidewater Park during late summer. Tidewater Park will feature different and unique nature-based playgrounds that will reach all age groups.

The Town of Laurel applied for the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Trails Grant in September. On August 20, 2018 the Mayor and Council adopted the acknowledgment of the grant. The town announced they were the recipient of the grant during the November 19, 2018 Mayor and Council Meeting.

#### **Details about the Grant listed below:**

**Amount of Grant:** \$32,000 (50/50 Match) A match was required of \$16,000 and the town received the match from Representative Tim Dukes utilizing Community Transportation Funds.

**Utilization of Grant:** The grant will be used to install a 16,000LF walkway for Tidewater Park.

**Construction Timeline:** The construction of the walkway will begin in the of Spring 2019.

# Town News



## Community Block Grant Development

On December 3, 2018 a Public Hearing was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers. The purpose of the public hearing was to hear the presentation regarding the Community Block Grant Development funding. Mr. Brad Whaley a representative from the Sussex County Development and Housing Division delivered the presentation. The funding runs through the Delaware Housing Authority where both Sussex and Kent County competitively apply for. A public hearing is required to be held each year to receive funding to allow local town officials to comment or to ask questions. The purpose of applying for the funding is to maintain the existing house infrastructure and rehab facilitation.

### Requirements in Order to Receive Assistance

- Be a resident of Sussex County and be unable to make necessary improvements.
- Taxes must be current.
- Home must be insured.
- Homeowners must sign a non-interest bearing lien.
- Income guidelines that must be met based on the size of the household.

### Statistics and Data

- Over the last 5 years the Town of Laurel has received \$330,000 BGD Funding, which has helped 34 households.
- Over the last 18 years the Town of Laurel has received \$1.2 million BGD Funding, which has helped with 101 households.
- The Town of Laurel has received \$70,000 BGD Funding, which has helped 19 households this past year.

## Town Reminder Dates



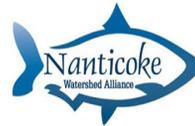
### Town Hall Closing Dates

**Martin Luther King Jr:** January 21, 2019  
**President's Day:** February 18, 2019



### Mayor and Council-Winter Meeting Dates

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Laurel Town Hall, 201 Mechanic Street  
**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of each month will be held opened if needed.**



## Nanticoke Watershed

### Alliance

On December 3, 2018 Ms. Lisa Wool from the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance gave a presentation regarding the health of Broadcreek. The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance provides different programs pertaining the Nanticoke. Ms. Wool explained the one program they utilize is called "The Creek Watcher's Program." This program allows them to gather data to base their next project.

### Broadcreek's Health Report Card

Broadcreek's water health was recently worst and is projected to be worst next year due to the amount of rain fall.

#### When checking the health of the water they look at:

- Phosphorus levels
- Nitrogen levels
- Cholpura A
- Dissolved oxygen.

The phosphorus levels declined, and the nitrogen levels were high. The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance goal is to give an update about the waterways every year.

### Nanticoke Watershed Alliance Programs

- Oyster Garden Program
- Fresh Muscle Gardening Program
- Designer Ditch Program

### Strategic Plan Just Completed

- Continue to Monitor Review
- Environmental Education
- Recreation and Tourism
- Community Collaboration

**Mission:** Fostering partnerships and progress in conserving the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Nanticoke River Watershed through dialogue, collaborative outreach, and education.

<https://nanticokeriver.org/about/>

## Know the Code



### Snow and Ice Removal

Just a reminder that snow or ice must be removed from the sidewalks and pavements within 24 hours after the falling snow has ceased.

The Town Manager is authorized to remove any accumulated snow and ice from any property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Laurel whose owner fails to remove accumulated snow or ice within 24 hours.

### Just A Reminder

**If possible, remove vehicles parked on the road to allow for plowing.**



## Police Department Message

Laurel Police Department  
205 Mechanic Street  
Laurel, Delaware 19956



The Laurel Police Department is currently in a hiring process to add additional personnel to their department. They recently added a new officer to their ranks Patrolman Smith.

The Ministry Council is underway in which they held their first event on September 30, 2018 at Market Square Park. The Ministry Council sponsored an event "Attacking Addiction Through Christ." The purpose of the event was to rally for National Addiction Awareness Month. The Ministry Council also participated in the 2018 Christmas Parade.

The police department participated in this year's Veterans Day Parade by setting up a table with a prayer box upon it. The town and police department joined forces to provide gifts to underprivileged youth this past holiday season.

The police department has two k-9 dogs within the department. Officer Haddock's k-9 has now become narcotic certified.

During the month of September, the Laurel Police Department held their Officer's Award Banquet at the Laurel Fire Department. Many awards were presented to officers for their outstanding work. A special congratulations to Cpl. Christopher Story for receiving the "Officer of the Year." Cpl. Story was also awarded the "Volunteer of the Year."

## Happy Retirement Linda Thomas



### Happy Retirement to Linda Thomas

Mrs. Linda Thomas has been employed with the Town of Laurel for eleven years. Mrs. Thomas will be retiring from the Town of Laurel in January 2019. Mrs. Thomas was the Accounts Manager where she performed many duties as greeting and waiting on customers and billing. During her retirement, she will enjoy going on vacations and going fishing. Her fellow co-workers will truly miss her and wish her the best!!!

## Employee Appreciation Day



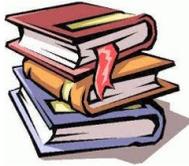
### Employee Appreciation Day

Employee Appreciation Day is a holiday that is recognized in the United States on the first Friday of every March. This day is to allow employers to show their appreciation and to thank all their employees for a job well done. The holiday was first revealed on a calendar in the mid 1990's. Workman Publishing was the first publishing company to publish calendars that featured Employee Appreciation Day. The holiday was founded by Bob Nelson, who was at that a time a board member of the Recognition Professionals International's and a member of the Workman Publishing Company. Employee Appreciation Day is a non-public holiday. Many employers show their employee's appreciation by hosting a breakfast or a lunch, holding an employee party, or even given their employee's that day off. Employers can create endless opportunities to show their appreciation and to thank their employees (Employee Appreciation Day, n.d.).

**Employee Appreciation Day  
Friday, March 1, 2019**

**Article:** Employee Appreciation Day  
**Author:** Holiday's Calendar  
**Website:** <http://www.holidayscalendar.com/>  
**URL:** <http://www.holidayscalendar.com/event/employee-appreciation-day/>

## Community Activities



### Laurel Public Library

#### Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10am - 8pm  
Friday: 10am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10am - 2pm  
Sunday Closed

#### Events Listed Below:

#### Money School Classes

The Laurel Public Library are inviting anyone who would like to attend Money School Classes.

#### Details listed below:

- Classes are scheduled the second Thursday of the following months.
- Classes begin at 6:00 p.m.

#### Money School Classes Dates:

**January 10, 2019** - My Employer Does Not Have a Retirement Plan. What Can I Do?

**February 14, 2019** - Becoming Debt Free Is Not A Fantasy

#### Recent Reads

Bring any book you would like to the Laurel Public Library on Tuesday's at 10:30 a.m. Readers will be asked to talk about their book for a few minutes. Readers will interact and learn about a variety of books. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### Page Turner Book Club

The Page Turner Book Club meets the second Thursday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### Below are the selected Book Titles for 2019:

**January 10, 2019**

**Book:** *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

**Arthur:** Mark Twain



### Varsity Basketball-Boys (Home Schedule)

- 1/15/19 **Milford High School**  
Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.
- 1/22/19 **Seaford High School**  
Tuesday 4:00 p.m.
- 2/12/19 **Delmar High School/ Middle School**  
Tuesday, 5:15 p.m.



### Varsity Basketball - Girls (Home Schedule)

- 1/10/19 **Milford High School**  
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
- 1/18/19 **Indian River High School**  
Friday, 4:30 p.m.
- 1/24/19 **ECHS@DSU**  
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
- 1/29/19 **Lake Forest**  
Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.
- 1/31/19 **Sussex Academy**  
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/5/19 **Sussex Technical High School**  
Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/7/19 **Woodbridge High School**  
Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/19/19 **Cape Henlopen High School**  
Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.



### Varsity Wrestling (Home Schedule)

- 1/16/19 **Delmar High School/ Middle School**  
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/25/19 **Cape Henlopen High School**  
Friday, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/30/19 **Seaford High School**  
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.



The Town of Laurel and The Laurel Police Department Presents  
**"BADGES-N-DUNKS"**



The Town of Laurel and The Laurel Police Department presents "BADGES-N-DUNKS," a youth basketball tournament to promote a community outreach. The Laurel Police Officers will be the referees throughout the tournament. This event allows Police Officers to interact with the youth and our community.

**CREATE A TEAM AND SIGN UP!!!**

**DATE:** TO BE DETERMINED    **LOCATION:** Dunbar Gymnasium    **TIME:** 10:00 A.M.

**BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**AGE GROUPS:** Both Boys and Girls can participate in the event.

Teams are to be Co-Ed.

**AGE BRACKETS:** Age Bracket: 6 to 9 or Age Bracket: 10 to 12

**ALL FIVE PLAYERS MUST FALL UNDER ONE AGE BRACKET!!!**

**ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED:** An adult is required to be with their team throughout the tournament. The adult communicates the schedule, rules, and supervises team. **ADULT MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER!!!**

**TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS**

**GAME LENGTH:** A game will be a total of 20 minutes, with two 10-minute halves, one timeout per half, and a five-minute half-time.

**TOTAL # OF PLAYERS:** Teams must have 5 players per team.

**COURT SIZE:** Games will be played on a half-court size basketball court.

**DOUBLE ELIMINATION:** Each team will be guaranteed a minimum of 2 games.

**TROPHIES & CERTIFICATES**

**CERTIFICATES:** Each player from every team will receive a participation certificate.

**TROPHIES:** The overall winner of each age bracket will receive a team trophy.

**SIGN UP YOUR TEAM!!!**

**PICK-UP AND DROP OFF YOUR APPLICATION**

Forms are made available at Laurel Town Hall or online at [www.townoflaurel.net](http://www.townoflaurel.net)

Forms can be mailed, dropped off, or faxed to Laurel Town Hall

**Laurel Town Hall Address:** 201 Mechanic Street    **Fax:** (302)-875-2451

Laurel, Delaware 19956

For more information regarding the "Badges-N-Dunks," please contact the Laurel Town Office at 302-875-2277 or Operations Manager Alexis Oliphant at [laurelop@comcast.net](mailto:laurelop@comcast.net)

## A Safety Guide for The Winter Season



### Winterize Your Pipes

During the winter months the temperatures can fall below freezing. To avoid frozen or bursting pipes preventive steps need to be taken. **Steps listed below:**

#### Outdoor Faucets and Drains

- Disconnect water hoses from faucets.
- Drain water that is left in outdoor spigots.

If the temperature drops below freezing during the night leave exterior faucets (drizzle) to avoid bursting pipes.

#### Insulating Home and Pipes

Insulating your pipes could help to prevent frozen or busted pipes. **Ways to prevent your pipes from freezing or busting:**

- Foam
- Heating Cables
- Pipe Sleeves
- Seal cracks to exterior of home.



### Inspect Your Roof Top

Snow is a beautiful and an elegant piece of Winter, but it's important to be prepared when the winter weather arrives. It's important to check your roof top before the snow storm hits. **What to look for:**

- Check your roof top for damaged, loose, or missing shingles.
- Check your chimneys and vent stacks.
- Discard all leaves, pine needles, and other remains.

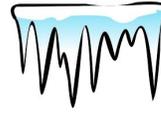


### Prepare for a Power Outage

It's important to be prepared during a winter storm if your area loses power.

**Listed below are reminders what you will need if a power outage occurs:**

- Plenty of Batteries.
- Flashlights and Lanterns.
- Keep a radio on hand to be able to listen to the news.



### Prevent Icicles and Ice Dams

Snow and Winter storms often lead to icicles and ice dams forming. Icicles are very hazardous because they can cause harm or seriously injure. Ice Dams happen when your home has air leaks due to poor insulation. **If you remove icicles proceed with caution and take the necessary steps:**

- Wear a hard hat.
- Wear safety glasses.

**WARN CHILDREN NOT TO PLAY WITH ICICLES**



### Keep Your Driveway and Walkways Clear

Snow and ice can easily build up on your driveways and walkways. It's important to take the necessary steps to prevent snow and ice build-up.

**Steps listed below:**

- Double check to make sure shovels are in good condition.
- Make sure your snowblower and plow are ready to go.
- Remove the snow from all foot-trafficked areas after the snow. (ex. Sidewalks, driveways)
- Lay ice melt or rock salt on all walkable areas.



### Fight Germs

During the winter months individuals are more at risk due to catch an illness.

**Listed below are tips to help fight germs.**

- Allowing fresh air in when possible.
- Wash hands with antibacterial soap.
- Dispense your toothbrush regularly.

**Article:** Safety Guide for Winter: 7 Ways to Keep your Home Safe

**Author:** Rebecca Edwards

**Published:** January 13, 2017

**Website:** [www.safewise.com](http://www.safewise.com)

**URL:** <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safety-guide->

**American Heart  
Awareness  
Association Month**



**Did You Know February Is American Heart Awareness Month?**

**History**

As we all know February is a time of year where love is in the air, a dozen of roses is a must, and a box of chocolates are right around the corner. The month of February also signifies Heart Awareness Month, which originated in 1963. During this month many American's rally together to join the fight against heart disease. Each year researchers, physicians, public health professionals, volunteers receive a Presidential Proclamation due to their tremendous amount of energy to prevent, treat, and research about heart disease. In the United States heart disease is the leading cause of death between men and women. American Heart Awareness Month is celebrated to allow communities to learn vital and crucial information pertaining heart disease. Hospitals and health systems promote American Heart Awareness Month by wearing red and volunteers knitting red hats for newborns. During this month they urge individuals to make healthier choices that could potentially lead to a healthier heart (February is American Heart Month, 2018).

**Factors That Could Potentially Lead to Heart Disease**

Many individuals believe that older adults are much more easily subjected to be being diagnosed with heart disease. As time has passed both older and younger adults are at more risk of heart disease. Many people will ask the question what are the factors of heart disease and how can I control my own heart health? (Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age, 2018)

**Top Three Risk Factors for Heart Disease**

**High Blood Pressure:** Individuals who have high blood pressure may not have it under control, which ultimately leads to one of the biggest risks for heart disease.

**High Blood Cholesterol:** Individuals who have diabetes, obesity, smoking, unhealthy eating habits, or insufficient physical activity can lead to heart disease.

**Smoking:** Smoking can lead to heart disease because it harms the blood vessels. (Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age, 2018)

**Ways to Manage Your Heart Health**

There are four ways in which you can take control of your heart health!!!

**DON'T SMOKE**

**MANAGE CONDITIONS**

**MAKE HEART-HEALTHY EATING CHANGES**

**STAY ACTIVE**

(Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age, 2018)

**Article:** February is American Heart Month  
**Published:** February 1, 2018  
**Website:** [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)  
**URL:** <https://www.aha.org/news/blog/2018-02-01-february-american-heart-month>

**Article:** Heart Disease: It Can Happen at Any Age  
**Published:** February 12, 2018  
**Website:** [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
**URL:** <https://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/index.html>



## **The History of Chocolate**

### **The History of Chocolate**

Today's chocolate is a smooth like silky texture that hits your palette always wanting more. When chocolate was first originated it was consumed mostly as a beverage. Chocolate was first discovered by the ancient Olmecs of Southern Mexico and quickly traveled to the Ancient Mayans. Chocolate is a fruit that is located on a Cacao Tree in Central and South America. The fruit is known as a pod. The pod contains 40 cacao beans that are dried and roasted that creates the cocoa beans (History of Chocolate 2018).

### **Chocolate By The Culture**

#### **Mayan Chocolate**

The Mayan's gained information about the cacao bean from the ancient Olmec's. The Mayans were known to admire chocolate, which they used in drinks for celebrations to mark an important event. In Mayan culture, chocolate was not only for the rich, but it was accessible to anyone. Mayan's prepared chocolate for every meal and it was usually prepared thick and frothy with either chili peppers, honey, or water (History of Chocolate, 2018).

#### **Aztec Chocolate**

The Aztec culture believed that cacao was given to them by their gods. The Aztecs prepared their spiced chocolate beverage either cold or hot in a decorative container just as the Mayan's did. The cacao beans were also used as their currency to purchase food or goods in the Aztec culture. Chocolate was made available for mainly upper-class, but middle and lower- class did utilize chocolate for special occasions. Gold was easily overshadowed by the Cacao bean in Aztec Culture (History of Chocolate, 2018).

#### **Spanish Chocolate**

There are many different tales when and how chocolate appeared in Europe, but many say Spain was the first home to chocolate. Chocolate was endured by the Spanish Court in the late 1500's and by the year of 1585 they began importing chocolate. Many European countries began to travel to different parts of Central America to learn about the cacao bean and bringing chocolate back to their home countries. The Aztec and Mayan's chocolate differed to European chocolate because Europeans enjoyed a different array of spices of cane sugar and cinnamon. Chocolate houses were starting to appear in several European cities including London and Amsterdam. (History of Chocolate, 2018).

### **Chocolate in the American Colonies**

Chocolate first reached the American Colonies in Florida in the year of 1641 by a Spaniard ship. It was noted that the first Chocolate House was home to Boston in 1682. Cocoa beans were one of America's largest import in 1773. The American Colonies made chocolate available to all classes of people. Soldiers during the Revolutionary War were given chocolate for payment instead of money (History of Chocolate, 2018).

### **How Chocolate Evolved Over The Years.**

Cacao powder was first created by a Dutch Chemist named Coenradd Johannes van Houten in 1828. The chemist first treated the cacao bean with alkaline salts to help produce a powdered chocolate that would mix with water, which is known as "Dutch Processing." The "Cocoa Press," was allegedly invented by Van Houten, but other reports claim that his father invented the press. The "Cocoa Press," helps separate the cocoa butter from the roasted cocoa beans, which lead to a mass array of chocolate products. During the year in 1847, the first chocolate bar was created by British chocolatier J.S. Fry and sons. In 1876 a Swiss Chocolatier named Daniel Peter added an ingredient called dried milk powder to help create a milk chocolate. Years later Daniel Peter joined his friend Henri Nestle to help launch the Nestle Company, which produced milk chocolate to the masses. Large chocolate families including Cadbury, Mars, Nestle, and Hershey were producing a large array of chocolate products during the late 19th century and early 20th century. Chocolate has truly evolved over the years from a beverage, to a simple candy bar, and to becoming a delicate treat. Chocolate is surely a taste of time (History of Chocolate, 2018).



**Speaking of Chocolate Don't Forget  
Valentine's Day!!!  
Thursday, February 14, 2019**

**Author:** History.com/Editors  
**Article:** History of Chocolate  
**Published:** August 21, 2018  
**Website:** History  
**URL:**  
<https://www.history.com/topic/ancient-americas/history-of-chocolate>

# The History of Waller Theatre



## The History of Waller Theatre

No matter what your age, movie theaters simply entice us due to their aroma of buttered popcorn, their wide selection of candy, and of course the movie itself. During the mid-1950's in Southern Delaware, it was not unusual for small towns to have one or more movie theaters residing in their towns (Tyson, 2015). The Town of Laurel had the luxury of being the home of three theaters in town: The Waller Theatre, Laurel Opera House, and Sussex West Drive-In. Information via Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019).

### History of Waller Theatre

The Waller Theatre was constructed by T.J. Waller in 1913. During the year of 1913, there were approximately 43 theaters and opera houses that were open around Delaware. The Waller Theatre could approximately seat 800 guests. During this time, theatres around the state of Delaware were used not only as theatres, but also used to hold community gatherings. The Waller Theatre held commencement exercises for the Laurel High School, The Joint Institute of Teacher's and Farmers, and a benefit for the local volunteer fire company. In the early 20th century live productions were available. According to Nazarewyc, the first news reference that The Waller Theatre screened a film was in 1919. The film was The Price of Peace, which was a government-production and it portrayed scenes from the front lines of the war. The Waller Theatre was also utilized to store aluminum, copper, clothing, and war bond drives during World War II. Information Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019).

### Great Fires Hit The Waller Theatre

During the early 20th century, theatre fires were very common throughout the state. The Waller Theatre was very susceptible of being the victim of fires. The theatre encountered four fires throughout the theatre's existence. The first fire to strike the theatre was in April of 1922. The theatre was ruined by the fire and was rebuilt and reopened in 1923. Information Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019). Two more fires would soon hit the theatre in August of 1930 and March of 1934. The fires were luckily contained, and in which caused no serious harm to theatre. Information Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019). In April of 1940, The Waller Theatre would be struck by fire the fourth and last time. Information via Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019). The fire was aggressively spreading towards the buildings near the theatre. The Laurel Fire Department called upon the Delmar Fire Dept., Seaford Fire Dept., Bridgeville Fire Dept., Sharptown Fire Dept., Blades Fire Dept., and Salisbury Fire Dept to help contain the fire (The News Journal, 1940). The fire reportedly caused \$50,000 worth of damage to the theatre (The News Journal, 1940). The Waller Theatre would be rebuilt with adding additional 130 feet compared to the 99 feet of the original theatre, would seat 700 compared to 600, and the lower floor capacity would go from 383 to 574. The new Waller Theatre costs approximately \$65,000 (The News Journal, 1940).

### An End of an Era

During the summer of 1967, there were approximately 100 patrons in the Theatre and a section of the ceiling began to collapse. Fortunately, there were no reported injuries, but The Waller Theatre would not reopen (The News Journal, 1967). Information Michael Nazarewyc (author, Historic Movie Theaters of Delaware, 2019).

### Who Utilized The Waller Theatre

In about the early 1970's, the Kiwanians purchased the Old Movie Theatre, which would become the home of the Laurel Youth Canteen (The Morning News, 1973). Approximately since the 1980's, The Laurel Senior Center has resided in The Waller Theatre building.

**Author:** Rae Tyson  
**Article:** Clayton, Southern Delaware's Lasting Theater  
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**URL:**  
<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/delaware/2015/07/23/movies/30564781/>  
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**Date:** April 6, 1940  
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**Author:** Michael Nazarewyc  
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**Published:** 2019

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## The Waller Theatre



Pictured above sits the original "Waller Theatre," in Laurel, Delaware in about the 1920's.

**Photograph:** Courtesy of the Laurel Historical Society and cannot be reproduced without permission.



A E Z P O B L A N K E T L T O P I C I C L E P B D E N  
G A L T W I N T E R T I M E O S H H Q P D F R O G P M  
L R J K A Z T D S V C J K E B I O I S P V I T O I L D  
O M O S U B L O J I C E T K L O O M U W S Z A T H D E  
V U L V S A J U F G H C M L I Q D N R K D E L S O T D  
E F F A N S S J L A N E P D Z C I E F H K L E W T S R  
S F I R E W O O D G O E A P Z P E Y T V W V X O C Y A  
Z S R Y T E K I L C U L V T A X L A D G E J P O H N O  
F N E O T A X N E R I F Q R R Y T S O R F D A D O H B  
T O P V I T P Q U L T U K J D S V K G N O T P S C T W  
A W L D M E X V N Z I A L R T U A R C E F H P T O U O  
W M A E X R Y A D L M O A W S G E H I R L K V O L O N  
J A C K F R O S T Q I F L D O E S J A C K E T V A E S  
O N E P E T G H Z N T S T D N N E C Y X I K D E T T A  
I C E S K A T E S Y B S C Z Y D S N O W F L A K E I M  
N O Z Q A D E G L S U N H E A T E R O T S A D P V H X  
J K L T G S Q T V G N I Z E E R F D E A I L G T S W B

## Winter Themed Word Search

### Directions

Words can be found either vertical, horizontal, backwards, or forwards.

Blanket	Chimney	Firewood	Fleece
Boots	Coat	Freezing	Gloves
Blizzard	Drafty	Fire	Gust
Brisk	Evergreen	Fireplace	Heater
Chill	Earmuffs	Frosty	Hoodie
Hot Chocolate	Jack Frost	Scarf	Sweater
Heat	Jacket	Snow	Sled
Ice	Mittens	Snowboard	Whiteout
Ice Skates	Parka	Snowflake	Wintertime
Icicle	Quilt	Snowman	Woodstove

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201 Mechanic Street  
Laurel, Delaware 19956