



For Immediate Release
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**** PRESS RELEASE ****

LOCAL GROUPS RECEIVE HERITAGE AREA AUTHORITY GRANTS

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is pleased to announce the local recipients of the 2009 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Grants. This MHAA program funds both capital and non-capital projects supporting heritage activities.

Three programs have been identified for funding and have received the following amounts:

- A \$100,000 capital grant to the Town of Poolesville to build an amphitheater/band shell at Whalen Commons Park to enhance the already full schedule of outdoor public programs in Poolesville;
- A \$21,000 non-capital grant to the Sandy Spring Museum to update its public information materials and expand public accessibility through its website;
- A \$100,000 operating assistance grant to Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County that will carry the program through June 2009. It will also continue to fund the Alliance's Mini Grant Program that awards grants from \$500-2000 to organizations and businesses for activities promoting heritage tourism in the County.

This is the fourth round of capital/non-capital grants awarded to the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County. These funds have been made available to non-

profits and government-sponsored organizations that seek to promote heritage tourism and economic development in the State-certified Heritage Areas.

Peggy Erickson, Executive Director of the Alliance, stated that she “greatly values the continued support for Montgomery County heritage areas MHAA has demonstrated over the years. This \$221,000 in funding will help promote a variety of special programs in our heritage areas. We will continue to work to bring additional state dollars to benefit the County.@

The mission of the Heritage Tourism Alliance is to enhance economic development in the designated Heritage Areas of the County by combining quality heritage tourism and small business development with preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation and education.

For more information, contact: Peggy Erickson at The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, (301) 515-0753.

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