Heritage REPORT

Heritage Days 2008

The eleventh annual Heritage Days were another successful weekend of activities highlighting the diverse historical sites of Montgomery County. Held the weekend of June 28 and 29, participation increased to 41 locations with many new sites joining the program. Despite concerns about the effect of sky-rocketing gas prices as well as daily thunderstorms, Heritage Day sites saw an increase in visitors to over 16,000 this year.

Particularly noteworthy were:

- The MOOseum, where children lined up to 'milk' the new milk-able cow;

- Tours of Riley House/Uncle Tom's Cabin - open just for this event;

- DC Radio-Control Club, where thousands watched model planes take off and land;

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HERITAGE Montgomery
Hm! History where you least expect it!

www.heritagemontgomery.org

Planning for the
Civil War Sesquicentennial

While the 150th anniversary of the Civil War will not officially begin until 2010, Heritage Tourism Alliance has begun working with heritage groups throughout the state of Maryland on planning their contributions to the commemoration.

In June, representatives of Montgomery County historic preservation groups met at the Waters House to their discuss ideas for participation and plans to coordinate activities. The commemoration provides an exciting opportunity to introduce visitors from near and far to the Civil War stories of Montgomery County. The group agreed that a Civil War Podcast would be an excellent means of bringing to life the many stories of the Civil War to be told here. Throughout the tour, the Podcast would highlight not only the military aspects of the War, but also the effects of the conflict on everyday people in their communities.

At the group's September meeting, progress continued on identifying primary events and Podcast themes, and discussing the formation of a Montgomery County Civil War Commission.

Grant funding will be pursued with a goal of having the finished product available to the public by November 2010 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the election of President Abraham Lincoln. (An interesting sidebar: in the election of 1860, Lincoln received 50 votes in Montgomery County – 2% of all ballots cast.)

Members of the Civil War Advisory Committee: pictured left to right: Susan Soderberg, Karen Lottes, Bobby Donovan, Joey Lampl, Debbie Rankin, Patty Cooper, Peggy Erickson, Barbara Grunbaum, kneeling - Shirl Spicer

War of 1812
Bicentennial Planning

The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 will be of particular significance in the State of Maryland. Maryland saw more military actions during the War than any other state. It was during the Battle of Baltimore at Fort McHenry that Francis Scott Key was inspired to pen "The Star Spangled Banner". On January 1st, Governor Martin O'Malley issued an Executive Order establishing a Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to coordinate and guide the related activities throughout the state.

On June 20, Bill Pencek, State Director of Cultural and Heritage Tourism, came to the Waters House to present the Office of Tourism's goals for Maryland's "Star Spangled

Madison House in Brookeville, White House for a day during the War of 1812

Experience" and to brainstorm with representatives of heritage sites from throughout the state. Especially exciting will be the new Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, which includes sites in Montgomery County. Of particular interest is Brookeville, known as the "Capital for a Day" where President James Madison fled the British invasion and burning of Washington.

2009 Mini-Grants

Once again, Heritage Montgomery has the pleasure of announcing the recipients of our Mini-Grant Awards. This program recognizes organizations, small and large, throughout the County that support our historical legacy through interpretation, preservation, and promotion. These grants range in size from $500 - $2500. The Mini-Grants Program was initiated in 2005 with the award of seven grants, grew to nine grants totaling $15,000 in 2006, and eleven grants totaling $17,500 in 2007.

Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo received $2500 for free performances of the play *Clara Barton: The Courage Within* in conjunction with the Lincoln Bicentennial

Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture at Glen Echo received $2500 to publish a self-guided walking tour of historic Glen Echo Park

King Barn Dairy MOOseum in Boyds received $2500 to create a "brand identity" logo

National Capital Trolley Museum in Colesville received $2500 to produce an interpretive video program, *Harold Lloyd's Streetcars*, for its new visitors' center gallery

Town of Poolesville received $2000 to create and install map signs with brochure holders guiding visitors to the area's historic sites

Montgomery County Historical Society received $1250 to produce a new marketing brochure and purchase equipment for the Speakers Bureau program

King Barn Dairy MOOseum

Warren Historic Site Committee of Dickerson received $1162 for refinishing the front doors and replacing the iron rails at the historic Warren UM Church

Sugarland Ethno History Project of Poolesville received $1000 to create and install a roadside sign at the Historic St. Paul Community Church

Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation received $500 to produce "The Underground Railroad: Rockville People and Places" brochure

Warren United Methodist Church

President Gwen Reese, second from left, with other members of the community at St. Paul Community Church

Heritage Days 2008

- Blockhouse Point Conservation Park's camp and blockhouse that were used to guard the Potomac River from Confederate attack during the Civil War;

- The Button Farm, where visitors saw an 1850's farmhouse and heirloom garden with demonstrations by artisans;

- And the Comus Inn and the Gatiherburg Inn, where again this year many people enjoyed brunch and an English tea.

You don't have to wait until next year's Heritage Days weekend to visit these sites; most are open all year long. Check our website for more information on each.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR HERITAGE DAYS 2009 ON JUNE 27 & 28!

Local Groups Receive
Heritage Area Authority *Grants*

Under a grant program coordinated by the Heritage Tourism Alliance, three Montgomery County programs were the recipients of 2009 Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) Grants.

The Town of Poolesville received a $100,000 capital grant to build an amphitheater/band shelter at Whalen Commons Park to enhance the already full schedule of outdoor public programs in Poolesville;

The Sandy Spring Museum received a $21,000 non-capital grant to update its public information materials and expand public accessibility through its website;

Heritage Montgomery received a $100,000 operating assistance grant that will help carry the program through June 2009 and will continue to fund the Mini Grant Program.

Check out

HM's NEW… Podcast Driving Tour of Montgomery Rural Heritage Byways!

Heritage Montgomery is delighted to offer our first driving tour video Podcast which offers drivers the flexibility of organizing their own private guided tour throughout the beautiful Agricultural Reserve of western Montgomery County. This award-winning Podcast has been very enthusiastically received and is responsible for 18% of all internet inquiries at our website. This confirms the popularity and potential of the Podcast tour as a navigation device for visitors to the County. After downloading the video Podcast tour from iTunes onto an iPod/Mp3 device, visitors have the convenience of starting and pausing the tour while viewing the featured sites and enjoying the audio tour as if their personal tour guide were accompanying them. The tour can also be viewed as a streaming video from HM's website.

The development and completion of the tour was made possible by grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and the Delaplaine Foundation.

This summer, Heritage Montgomery received the 2008 Educational Excellence Award from the Maryland Historical Trust for this self-directed tour, the first to use this format in any of the State heritage areas. Spring-boarding from the success of this Podcast, we are in the initial planning stages for a second Podcast focusing on the Civil War in Montgomery County.

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HERITAGE MONTGOMERY
Hm! History where you least expect it!

New Heritage Montgomery Brochure!

Don't forget to pick up our new generic brochure. The brochure lists 28 sites in the county that are open all year. Pick up one at your local Visitor Center or stop by our office in the historic Waters House.

Coming Soon!

Keep an eye out for our new website! Our new upgraded site will be more user-friendly and include many more great ideas on things to see and do in Montgomery County.

Fundraising Campaign

Heritage Montgomery is beginning its annual fundraising campaign. Each year, in order to qualify for State grant funding, the Alliance must be able to supply equal matching funds. This means your tax-deductible donation would count for twice the benefit to Heritage Montgomery! In these challenging financial times, thank you for remembering Heritage Montgomery in your year-end charitable contributions.

Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County
12535 Milestone Manor Lane, Germantown, MD 20876
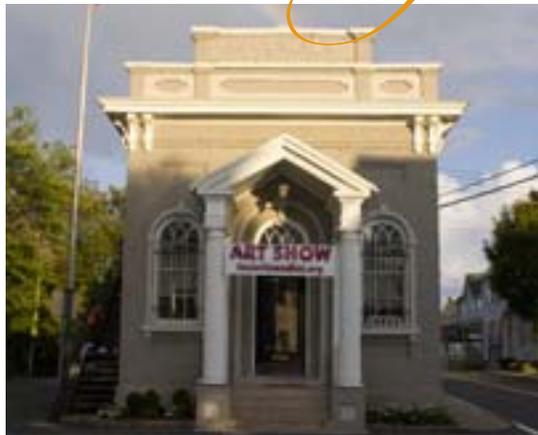
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PLEASE REMEMBER HERITAGE MONTGOMERY IN YOUR CHARITABLE DONTATIONS

Every donation has a significant impact and will be gratefully appreciated!

Heritage Montgomery is a 501(c)(3), a non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible.

Heritage Site *Profile*

Poolesville Town Hall Museum

19933 Fisher Avenue
Poolesville, Maryland
301-972-8588

The Old Town Hall was built in 1908 as the First Poolesville National Bank. The Town took ownership of the property in 1964 and converted it to use as the town hall. With the help of grant funding from Maryland Heritage Area Authority and Heritage Montgomery, the structure was purchased by Historic Medley in 2006. After being beautifully renovated, the building is now the Poolesville Museum and on September 19th an art show and fundraiser were held to support the restoration and celebrate the 100th anniversary of its opening.

Heritage Montgomery Board of Directors