



For immediate release
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Important Local Projects Receive Grants from the State

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is pleased to announce that five local projects have been chosen for funding by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). This program funds both capital and non-capital projects for programs which support heritage activities. Five programs have been identified for funding:

A capital grant of \$75,000 to Historic Medley District for acquisition of the former Poolesville Town Hall in the center of the historic town for adaptive reuse as an Agricultural History and Civil War Museum

A non-capital grant of \$5,000 to Sandy Spring Museum for enhancement of its exhibit hall

A non-capital grant of \$5,000 to Historic Medley District to research, design, and publish a guidebook to the Seneca Historic District and the Seneca Quarries

A capital grant of \$100,000 to Historic Medley District for rehabilitation of the former Poolesville Town Hall and reuse as western Montgomery County's Heritage Gateway Center

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A capital grant of \$10,000 to the Sandy Spring Museum for a Visitor Center to be housed in the new Library facility currently under construction

The above grants are for fiscal year 2007.

An Operating Assistance grant of \$116,750 to Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County which will carry the program through June of 2007. This includes \$22,400, which will fund the Alliance's mini-grant program that awards grants from \$500-2,000 to organizations and businesses for activities that will promote heritage tourism in the County.

This is the second round of capital/non-capital grants to come to the Heritage Tourism Alliance. 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, said she was very pleased with the \$301,750 that Montgomery County received to fund projects, both large and small, in the three heritage areas. We will continue to work to bring additional state dollars to the County. She added that this money will continue to fund projects in all sections of our Heritage Areas.

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.

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