Join us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Heritage Days Weekend – June 24 & 25! With over 40 free programs planned, Heritage Days highlights the best in Montgomery County history, culture, and nature.

A special focus this year will be heritage food traditions with activities including cooking demonstrations – featuring both unique cooking methods and presentations by acclaimed chefs – farm and garden displays, and food trucks. Other programs will include live musical performances, walking tours, art exhibits, games and crafts for children, history displays and demonstrations - fun for all ages!

Heritage Days is a great opportunity to revisit some of your favorite heritage sites or to stop by and check out something new. We have several first-time participants this year including Historic Takoma in Takoma Park, the 1817 Friends Meeting House in Sandy Spring, Izaak Walton League’s Conservation Farm in Poolesville, Audubon’s Woodend Nature Sanctuary in

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings, all! We are busy preparing for our 20th annual Heritage Days event! Our partners have planned some very special programs. Several are featuring heritage foodways, celebrating the roll out of our heritage cookbook. I hope to see you all, out and about the county the last weekend of June!

In other news, we were thrilled to have a record-breaking number of MHAA grant applications. In all, eight of the fifteen were sent on to the State level for review and ranking. Sheila Bashiri, Rockville Preservation Planner, was a welcome new addition to our HM grant review committee. The review process is a difficult one, so I want to send a special thank you out to all of our reviewers who do such a great job for us!

This year’s legislative session was busy and fruitful. All thirteen State heritage area directors banded together to ask that the funding cap on our Statewide program be lifted from $3 to $6 million, adding $3 million to the State Heritage Area budget and ultimately providing substantial new grant funding for the program. Del. Brett Wilson (R, Washington County) introduced the bill that was signed in May. A special thank you to our Montgomery County legislators who supported the bill!

Several other successful bills with a positive impact on the heritage area and our partners include the Maryland Historical Trust Grant Improvement Act (calling for $1-1.5 million annually for the State’s Historic Preservation Grant Fund) and $200,000 in funding for Maryland Historic Trust non-capital and survey grants.

Enjoy your summer and be sure to make time to explore Montgomery County!

COMINGS & GOINGS

We are pleased to welcome Ken Rucker to the HM Board of Directors. Ken is the National Capital Trolley Museum’s President and Director of Administration and has been associated with the museum since 1971. He has served two stints as Director of the Maryland Association of History Museums. Ken was an educator for almost 40 years, 30 as a high school social studies teacher. His talents as an educator and passion for transportation history are evident whether leading a tour of the museum, capturing the imagination of young students on a field trip, or driving a streetcar over the rails behind the museum!

Our thanks and best wishes to Stephanie Webber who leaves to pursue an exciting full-time opportunity with Sharp & Company in Rockville.

MEET GEORGE McDaniel

Heritage Montgomery has been working with Dr. George McDaniel, historian, writer, and preservationist. For 25 years, Dr. McDaniel was Executive Director of Drayton Hall, a National Trust site in South Carolina. In the 1970s, he researched and conducted interviews with members of Montgomery County’s historic African American communities for Sugarloaf Regional Trails and Maryland Historic Trust. We are pleased to include passages from his unpublished manuscript in our new African American Heritage Cookbook.

After learning that Dr. McDaniel’s work and collection were in danger of being lost, HM contacted other partners to help save over 250 period photographs, oral histories, documents, etc. We are working with Maryland State Archives to preserve the collection. Montgomery Planning’s Historic Preservation Office will pursue publication of the manuscript and HM is using the collection to inform our new African American heritage driving and bike tour.

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This project has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.
FUNDRAISING THANKS!

Once again, Heritage Montgomery would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our supporters for their generous contributions to our efforts supporting the heritage area. Donations to the year-end fundraising campaign contribute directly to programming efforts, particularly our Mini-Grant program that funded 11 new projects this year!


Partners donating items to HM’s Gift Baskets include:
- C&O Canal Association
- C&O Canal Trust
- King Barn Dairy MOOseum
- Montgomery Countryside Alliance
- Montgomery County Historical Society
- Montgomery Parks
- National Capital Trolley Museum
- National Park Seminary
- Olney Theatre
- Sugarloaf Regional Trails

FY 2018 MHAA GRANT PROPOSALS

We were very pleased to submit eight strong grant applications to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority in April. Grant awards will be announced by MHAA in June. We are already working with several groups planning for FY 2019 grants. A large part of our work is helping sites to plan solid projects and produce winning grants! It’s never too early to give us a call to discuss your next project.

Glen Echo Park – a $59,628 capital request to fund restoration of the 1921 Dentzel carousel.

Heritage Montgomery/Town of Brookeville/Montgomery Parks – a $14,000 capital grant to restore and upgrade Brookeville’s 1880s one-room schoolhouse and grounds.

Historic Medley District – a $10,500 capital request for restoration work at the 1793 John Poole House.

Montgomery County Historical Society – a $10,000 project request for signage and a new brochure.

National Capital Trolley Museum – a $10,000 project grant for museum exhibit development.

Pleasant View Historic Association – a $100,000 capital request to restore the historic 1880 church.

C&O Canal Trust – a $3,200 multi-heritage area grant to develop a Plan Your Visit website and mobile app.

Heritage Montgomery – a $100,000 management grant request.
PRESERVATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2016 Montgomery County Historic Preservation Award winners! Presented by Montgomery Preservation, Inc., these awards recognize significant contributions to the preservation of county historic resources and landscapes.

We are very happy to applaud HM Board Vice President Laura Anderson Wright on receiving the County Executive’s Award and Odd Fellows Lodge, recognized for “Rehabilitation of Structure and Continuum of Original Use.” Other winners: Emory Grove World War II P.O.W. Wall, Gaithersburg Community Museum, Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee, Monocacy Cemetery, Sandy Spring Lyceum, and Montgomery History.

MHAA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The annual Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition Legislative Reception was held on Wednesday, January 18 in Annapolis celebrating the successes of 2016. This year’s theme was “Raise the Cap.” The gathering in the President’s Conference Center in the Miller Senate Office Building offered a valuable opportunity for heritage area directors and boards to talk with legislators about the proposed bill to raise the heritage area program’s $3 million funding cap.

NEW PARTNERS

In addition to Historic Takoma and the Audubon Naturalist Society, which we introduced you to in our last newsletter, HM is pleased to be working with two other new partners who are also participating in Heritage Days for the first time.

The Izaak Walton League’s Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter is one of over 250 chapters, nationwide, dedicated to protecting our nation’s soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife. Their Conservation Farm in Poolesville is an excellent example of living resource management and habitat conservation in the county.

The Sandy Spring Friends Monthly Meeting was “settled” in 1753. This community played an important role in the establishment of local free black communities as many Quakers manumitted their slaves as early as the 1770s. The 1817 Quaker Meeting House is 200 years old this year.

We hope you can stop by and welcome them over Heritage Days weekend!

HERITAGE DAYS, continued from page 1

Chevy Chase, and Pennyfield Lockhouse 22 along the C&O Canal in Potomac. And we are delighted to welcome back the recently renovated Odd Fellows Lodge in Sandy Spring.

Cyclists can travel local Scenic Byways and Rustic Roads as they pedal from site to site, and picnickers can plan a relaxed afternoon in one spot taking in nature, and maybe some music, with food and friends. Families will find fun children’s activities at many sites including scavenger hunts, lawn games, butter churning, craft projects, and sack races!

For details about Heritage Days weekend, visit our website, HeritageMontgomery.org, or call 301-515-0753 and we will be happy to send you a brochure.
HISTORY DAY

The National History Day Contest is a great way for middle and high school students to learn about history and hone their research and analytical skills.

On Saturday, March 4, over 250 students from across Montgomery County presented their papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, and websites based on this year’s theme, Taking a Stand in History. Winning entries went on to compete at the State level. Heritage Montgomery was proud to once again be a sponsor of this event that was organized by Montgomery History.

Heritage Montgomery sponsors a special category of awards recognizing African American Heritage projects. This year’s winners were:

Erin Candell and Brooke Mengistu, Jesse Owens: A Leap in the Right Direction, Roberto Clemente Middle School

Robyn Fohouo, Harriet Tubman: Taking A Stand Against Slavery, Richard Montgomery High School

Sydney Smith, Singing the Songs of Unheard Voices: Nina Simone Takes a Stand for Black Revolution, Bullis School

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COOKBOOK

Heritage Montgomery is pleased to announce the publication of the new African American Heritage Cookbook: Heritage Foodways in Montgomery County, Maryland.

During the production of our Community Cornerstones video project, several issues surfaced, including the need to conserve historic records and personal connections to our past in local African American communities. This particularly included heritage foodways – the intersection of food in culture, traditions, and history.

The cookbook contains a collection of authentic historic Maryland recipes dating from the 1700-1800s, as well as recipes collected from local church communities representing foods that were served at family and communal gatherings like Homecoming and Juneteenth.

In addition to these recipes, tested and curated by Executive Chef Larkin Rogers, brief histories, along with firsthand accounts from local residents collected in the 1970s by Dr. George McDaniel, are included with each chapter.

The cookbook will be available for purchase at various Heritage Days sites or by contacting Heritage Montgomery.

PEERLESS ROCKVILLE'S SPRING SERIES

Peerless Rockville’s “150 Years of Advancement in Educational Equality” series offered its first program in February as part of Black History Month and ran through May.

Some of the topics covered in these free lectures and discussions included segregated schools in Rockville; the story of William Gibbs, a Rockville principal represented by Thurgood Marshall, who sued for equal pay for county black teachers; emancipation in Maryland; and local, first-hand accounts of desegregation. Heritage Montgomery was a proud sponsor of this fascinating series of events held at locations throughout Rockville this spring.

Peerless Rockville and Glenview Mansion in Rockville have announced their 2017-2018 Speaker Series which will begin in June. Free programs focusing on local history and gardening will be held at 7pm on Thursday evenings at the mansion located in Rockville Civic Center Park. Heritage Montgomery is a co-sponsor of this series.
Part of a 271-acre tract first patented in 1767, Button Farm is located on 35 acres inside Seneca Creek State Park. The site interprets life on an 1850s plantation, a time when slave labor was critical to the success of a farmstead. Visitors will find an heirloom vegetable garden and heritage breeds of chicken, geese, and Guinea hogs. Open Saturdays through the summer and fall for self-guided tours and activities, special programs are featured each Heritage Days and Emancipation weekends.