Among the highlights of this year’s Heritage Days weekend was the focus on local food traditions as showcased in Heritage Montgomery’s African American Heritage Cookbook. Visitors to Button Farm were treated to cooking demonstrations by acclaimed chef, Larkin Rogers, followed by a Sunday supper featuring recipes from the cookbook.

With 39 participating museums, parks, and historic sites, Heritage Days proved once again just how much Montgomery County has to offer residents and visitors alike. First-time participants Audubon Naturalist Society, Izaak Walton League, and Historic Takoma pulled out all the stops with a wonderful variety of programs. Local scenes were captured by **plein air** painters on Saturday morning and displayed at the Hyattstown Mill Arts Project gallery open house in the afternoon. A host of family activities entertained visitors to the Gaithersburg Community Museum, housed in the 1884 railroad complex. Another high point was the recently restored 1906 Odd Fellows Lodge where visitors were welcomed with a jazz concert on Saturday.

As we look forward to Heritage Days 2018, June 23 and 24, we’re planning new tours by location and by theme to help visitors fit in as many stops as possible over the weekend!
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings, all!

Another busy, beautiful summer has come to a close. Thank you, partners and visitors, for making Heritage Days weekend one of the best ever.

We are already planning next summer’s 21st Heritage Days. We’ll be unveiling a number of Mini-Grant projects, including new interpretive panels at the White’s Ferry “gateway.” The panels will interpret the history of the ferry, the monument recently moved from Rockville, and the Agricultural Reserve and also direct people to local points of interest.

We hope to have the new African American heritage trail ready to roll out in the spring. We have been working closely with partners developing bus, driving, and bike tours in both western and eastern parts of the county with Button Farm and Brookeville, respectively, as tour hubs.

The resignation of Tom Kettler, a founding board member and most recently our board president, was accepted by the board in October. I learned a lot from Tom; he was a joy to work with and a tireless advocate for county heritage. Our vice president, Laura Anderson Wright, University of Maryland counsel and 2017 County Executive Preservation Award winner, has graciously stepped up to become our new president and Sheila Bashiri, Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Rockville, will serve as vice president.

As we move into the holiday giving season, please remember Heritage Montgomery in your year-end donations. Your support is critical to our success and every dollar goes directly into programming. Please check our website for details.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Heritage Montgomery is pleased to welcome new board member, Marylin Pierre. Marylin is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and has a practice located in Rockville. In 2014, she was admitted to the Daily Record’s Maryland’s Top 100 Women’s Circle of Excellence. Marylin and her husband, Reynold Pierre-Louis, have two sons and a daughter. She joins the HM Board representing the Montgomery County Historical Society where she is also a board member.

Many thanks to Bethany Manimbo for her years of service on the Board of Directors representing Visit Montgomery. Bethany has left VM for a position with the Montgomery County Department of Procurement.

THANK YOU, TOM!

It is with thanks and appreciation that Heritage Montgomery has accepted Tom Kettler’s resignation from the HM Board of Directors. A member since HM was founded in 2003, Tom has served in various capacities, most recently as board president. His strong interest in history, deep connection with the Poolesville community, and business savvy all contributed to the strong foundation established at HM and its continued growth and success over the years. Thank you, Tom, for your many years of service to Heritage Montgomery. We know you will stay involved in preserving and promoting our local heritage and look forward to working with you on future projects!

HERITAGE MONTGOMERY STAFF

Sarah L. Rogers, Executive Director
director@HeritageMontgomery.org

Lori Ranney, Deputy Director
lori@HeritageMontgomery.org

HM IS HIRING!

We are looking for someone with an interest in local history, nature, and culture who is organized and detail-oriented to join HM as a part-time Office Manager. In addition to bringing the skills required to support a small, highly visible, and professional office, the position will interact with and support the efforts of our heritage partners. To see a full job description, please visit our website, HeritageMontgomery.org
HM FUNDRAISING APPEAL

With the year drawing to a close, we hope that you will consider including Heritage Montgomery in your year-end giving. Because we are not a membership organization, our annual (and only) fundraising appeal is of critical importance. Your donation will contribute directly to outreach programs at HM, from Mini Grants to Heritage Days.

Any donation truly has a significant impact on our non-profit organization and HM’s efforts to support and promote Montgomery County’s rich historic, cultural, and natural resources. To make a contribution, visit our website and click on the Make a Donation box at the bottom of the home page. Or if you would prefer, call or email the HM office to receive a donation envelope.

Thank you for your continued support of Heritage Montgomery!

FY18 MINI GRANTS

Heritage Montgomery Mini Grants of up to $2,500 are available to local non-profit organizations and government entities to help fund heritage programs and projects.

We once again had a strong slate of applicants with excellent projects and are pleased to fund 13 projects this year for a total of $30,000.

Audubon Naturalist Society – $2500
for a video on the history of land use at Woodend Nature Sanctuary

C&O Canal Association – $2500
for wayside exhibits on historic African American CCC camps

Friends of Seneca Creek State Park – $2500
to create interpretive signage at Black Rock Mill

Glen Echo Park Partnership – $900
for visitor brochures, a program banner, and welcome signs

King Barn Dairy MOOseum – $2500
to develop a web-based application documenting dairy farms in Montgomery County

Montgomery Countryside Alliance – $2500
to create an interpretive panel at White’s Ferry

Montgomery County Historical Society – $1600
in support of the Montgomery County History Conference

Montgomery County Public Schools – $2500
in support of Montgomery County History Day

Montgomery Preservation, Inc. – $2500
to update the “Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory”

Pleasant View Historic Association – $2500
to develop three interpretive panels at Pleasant View Historic Site

Sandy Spring Museum – $2500
to print the museum’s Winter and Spring 2018 program guides

Town of Brookeville – $2500
for site improvement at the Brookeville One-Room Schoolhouse

Warren Historic Site – $2500
for window frame & sill replacement in the historic church
RIDE FOR THE RESERVE

Montgomery Countryside Alliance’s (MCA) Ride for the Reserve: Fall Farm Bike Tour saw cyclists of all ages touring the Ag Reserve on Sunday, October 8. After weeks of lovely fall weather, this was the day the skies chose to open. But as Caroline Taylor, MCA Executive Director said, “It’s the Ag Reserve; rain is good for our farmers, so it’s good for us!” Undaunted and ready for a good time, nearly 100 cyclists came out to ride and enjoy the stops along the bike tour, ending up at the Poolesville Golf Course for a great post-ride lunch and live music by Justin Trawick and the Common Good. Heritage Montgomery is pleased to be a sponsor of this annual event.

MACo CONFERENCE

Heritage Montgomery was pleased to participate in the 2017 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference, August 16-19 in Ocean City. Representatives of the 13 Maryland heritage areas were on hand to talk with conference attendees representing local, state, and federal governments from throughout the State. We were especially pleased to have our new African American Heritage Cookbook hot off the press to share with the Montgomery County officials who stopped by to visit.

POOLESVILLE DAY

The 25th Poolesville Day was celebrated on September 16 with live music, demonstrations and exhibits, a 5K fundraiser, food, and a parade through town! The community rallies each year to present and enjoy this fun, family event!

To learn about fun events and programs like Poolesville Day that are happening all year ‘round, be sure to keep an eye on the News and Calendar pages of the HM website!

GIFT IDEAS FROM HM

Looking for the perfect gift for the history lover on your holiday list? Take a look at the Gift Shop page on the HM website. In addition to our award-winning videos on Montgomery County during the Civil War and historic African American communities, we think you will especially enjoy the new African American Heritage Cookbook. Over 90 recipes for Greens, Beans & Vegetables; Soups & Sides; Meats; Poultry; Seafood & Fish; Game; Breads & Biscuits; and Desserts were collected from and inspired by recipes from historical cookbooks and local church members. And each chapter includes first-hand accounts (and photos – see above) from old-time Montgomery County residents about homestead life in the early 1900s.
WARREN BEES!

With restoration work about to begin on Warren’s Loving Charity Hall, a second preservation effort came to focus on the large, well-established beehive nestled in the building’s walls. HM planned to save the bees as an educational effort to bring attention to the pressures local pollinators are under. After meeting members of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association at the Montgomery County Fair, HM told them about the Warren hive and they stepped up to save the colony.

In late September, beekeepers Jim Fraser, his sons, and Joe Long removed the hive and Jim offered to over winter the colony. In the spring, it will be relocated to Button Farm Living History Center where the bees will help pollinate the heirloom garden and be part of the site’s interpretation of African American farming in the mid 1800s.

CALLING FOR RECIPES!

We are working on the second edition of our African American Heritage Cookbook and would love to include more recipes that have been passed down over the years in our local African American communities. Please give us a call at 301-515-0753 if you have some you would like to share!

LOVING CHARITY HALL RESTORATION

After many years of work and concern, restoration of the Loving Charity Hall at the Warren Historic Site in Dickerson is finally under way! Part of an African American crossroads community established after the Civil War, Warren is the rare site that retains the three anchor buildings of the original community – church, schoolhouse, and benefit society lodge. Built in 1914, Loving Charity Hall was a community building used for plays, dances, lectures, movies, and other social events. Lodge members paid dues of 24 cents per month, receiving benefits in the event of illness and death.

On October 7, members and supporters of the Warren community gathered for a reconstruction groundbreaking ceremony. County Executive Isiah Leggett inspired the gathering with his remarks on the unique nature of Montgomery County’s historic African American communities, project architect Thomas Taltavull described the project plan, and historian Dr. George McDaniel spoke about his research in these communities over the years. Mrs. Nina Clarke, a favorite long-time local teacher who is 100 years young, was a very special guest. After a very uplifting day, everyone looks forward to gathering again in the late spring for the grand re-opening of the hall.
Established in 1988, the Sandy Spring Slave Museum tells the stories of Black history beginning in Africa, through the Middle passage, the Civil Rights movement, and modern-day accomplishments. The museum’s Great Hall houses an extensive collection of historical art and artifacts; a cross section of a slaving clipper ship, log cabin, and African hut arts pavilion are also located on site. Open by appointment and for special events throughout the year, the museum is generally open weekends from 2-4pm, but please confirm via email in advance.