

# the Preservationist

Summer 2005



Woodlawn Manor, where Montgomery County Heritage Days celebration includes a three-course English tea on Sunday June 26.

## 8th Annual Montgomery County Heritage Days

### Discover “History Where You Least Expect It”

Spend the weekend of June 25 – 26 exploring, discovering and learning about Montgomery County’s exciting past at 33 historic sites and communities open to

the public with activities, tours, exhibits and more. Go on a scavenger hunt, climb on an old fire truck, picnic in the country, or ride the Jubal Early ferry boat across the Potomac River for free. These are just a few of the things that you can do during Montgomery County Heritage Days.

Montgomery County Heritage Days is a free countywide event, hosted by Heritage Montgomery, that will be held on Saturday and Sunday June 25th and 26th from noon to 4 PM.

This year’s tour emphasizes seven main themes: African American History, Historical Schools and Educational Facilities, Early Montgomery County Towns, Early Transportation, Hidden Treasures, Historic Agriculture, and Civil War Sites. The event also includes a number of special features, such as serving tea at four historic establishments across the County: the Irish Inn at Glen Echo, the newly renovated and re-opened Comus Inn, and the Gaithersburg Inn will serve tea both Saturday and Sunday from 3–4 PM. On Sunday only, the Woodlawn Manor Living History Museum will feature a three-course English tea, also from 3–4 PM. Reservations are required and the cost is \$20 per person. More information on the teas is available at [www.heritagemontgomery.org](http://www.heritagemontgomery.org).

Other highlights include...

- As part of the theme of *African American History*, the MNCPPC-owned Oakley Cabin will feature demonstrations of 19th century crafts and tours of the cabin. Visitors should also plan to tour a cross-section of a slave clipper ship at the nearby Sandy Spring Slave Museum and hear gospel music at the St. Paul Community Church in Poolesville.

- Focusing primarily on 19th century schoolhouses, five *Historical Schools and Educational Facilities* will be open to the public. Activities include tours by costumed docents at the Seneca Schoolhouse Museum. With guided walking tours at 1:00 and 2:30 PM on Saturday, Heritage Days offers the last opportunity to visit the magical National Park Seminary Historic District in Silver Spring before the site is renovated.

- Many of Montgomery County’s *Early Towns* will be participating in this event as well with open houses and guided tours, including Hyattstown, Sandy Spring, Poolesville, Somerset and Rockville. The Beall-Dawson House in Rockville will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War with reenactors, recreations of mid-18th century life, and student history performances.

- The *Early Transportation* theme will include B&O Railroad sites in Rockville and Silver Spring, the newly restored Monocacy Aqueduct in Dickerson, and rides for children (and children at heart) on one of two historic fire trucks at the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department Museum.

- Six of the County’s most cherished *Hidden Treasures* will be open to the public, including the Woodlawn Living History Museum, which serves as the trailhead for the Rural Legacy Trail. Family games and activities will be held at the Glen Echo Park, featuring rides on the recently restored carousel, and on Sunday, MNCPPC Park Historian Mike Dwyer will be at the Waters House in Germantown answering questions about his exhibit *Lost Montgomery*, a collection of photographs of now-gone historic houses, barns and rural scenes.

For more information on this exciting weekend of events, please visit the Heritage Montgomery website [www.heritagemontgomery.org](http://www.heritagemontgomery.org). It includes a comprehensive list of sites and events. Or, please call 301-515-0753 for more information.

#### In This Issue:

- Preservation easement on Bennett-Allnut House donated. Page 2
- Celebrate the founding of Montgomery County. Page 2
- Disaster plan for protecting historic documents and artifacts. Page 2
- See the County by foot or car. Page 3
- Plan now to apply for 2006 Historic Preservation Grants. Page 3

# Historic Preservation News and Notes



*Bennett-Allnut House in  
Spencerville.*

## **Preservation Easement Donated**

Former HPC Commissioner, Martha Lanigan has just donated a preservation easement on the Bennett-Allnut House at 2708 Spencerville Road. This circa 1862 house is an individually designated historic site on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and is significant as a rare surviving example of a double-parlor plan I-house. It is one of the only mid-19th century frame houses in the County that retains sufficient integrity of location, setting and design to illustrate this amalgam of English and Germanic folk building traditions.

This easement would preclude future subdivision of this designated historic site, which is situated on approximately two acres of land. The zoning of the property is R-200, or one house per 1/2 acre. By prohibiting further subdivision, the historic open space, which characterizes the Bennett-Allnut House and contributes so much to its sense of historic time and place, will be preserved for future generations.

The County appreciates this generous contribution to the preservation of historic open space. Ms. Lanigan is a former HPC Commissioner who has fully restored two important, and very deteriorated, historic buildings in the County. She has made them showplaces and should be applauded for her commitment to the preservation of buildings and open space

For more information on donating preservation easements, please call Gwen Wright at 301-563-3400.

## **Celebrate the Founding of Montgomery County**

On Sunday, September 11 come help celebrate Montgomery County's 229th birthday at the Beall-Dawson House Historical Park, 103 West Montgomery Avenue in Rockville from 1 to 5 PM. Explore the county's history through exhibits by local historical groups, living history presentations, videos, an archaeological dig, tour of the house, or historical games. Historical music and good food, including a birthday cake, will add to the celebration of the birthday of our county. Parking is available at the City of Rockville lot on East Middle Lane and a free shuttle bus will take you to the Park two blocks away. The event is co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and the Montgomery County Historical Society. For more information call 301-762-1492 or [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org).

## **Disaster Plans**

Peerless Rockville has recently completed a "Disaster Plan" with the help of a grant from the Historic Preservation Commission. This plan outlines policies to set into place and procedures to follow to protect a collection of historical papers and artifacts in the event of a disaster such as a fire, flood, explosion, etc. Peerless, as usual, did an exemplary job in creating this Plan, hiring a specialist who conducted seminars for staff and worked with the staff on the Plan, interviewing key people in the County Fire and Rescue Department, conducting building surveys, and inventorying their collection. They have informed Park and Planning staff that Mr. Arthur Dutil, their consultant, not only is very well qualified, but is personally interested in creating these disaster plans to protect museum collections and is very willing to work with other groups on a practically volunteer basis. The Peerless Rockville Disaster Plan is available to read at the Peerless office in Rockville (301-762-0096) or at the Historic Preservation section of the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning (301-563-3400). Mr. Dutil's contact information is also available at these places.

## the Preservationist

The Preservationist is the official publication of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301-563-3400. Statements herein do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Commission. Created by the Historic Resources Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 24A, Montgomery County Code) the Commission is responsible for identification, designation, and regulation for purposes of protection, preservation, continued use, and enhancement of sites and structures of historical, archeological, architectural, or cultural value. Commission members are appointed by the Montgomery County Executive and confirmed by the Montgomery County Council.

### Commission

Julia O'Malley, Chair    Jef Fuller, AIA, Vice Chair  
Steven Breslin, AIA    Lynne B. Watkins    Kimberly Prothro Williams  
Nuray Anahtar, AIA    Lee Burstyn    Caroline Alderson    David S. Rotenstein  
Historic Preservation Coordinator Gwen Wright

Requests to be on the mailing list and content information should be directed to the Commission.

# A Walk With History

With summer approaching, it's time to get outdoors for some fresh air and those long walks you have been promising yourself. You can combine health and nature with a lesson in local history by enjoying a hike on one of the county's trails, or a walking tour of a historic district in the county.

Following are links to just a few of the many sites that offer such a pleasurable learning experience.

## Explore our County by Foot. See More than You Expected!

### Historic Districts

**Brookeville** [townofbrookevillemd.org/cover.html](http://townofbrookevillemd.org/cover.html)

**Cabin John** [info@cabinjohn.org](mailto:info@cabinjohn.org)

**Gaithersburg** 301-258-6160

**Kensington** [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org)

**Poolesville** 301-428-8927

**Rockville** [www.rockvillemd.gov/historic/walkingtour.html](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/historic/walkingtour.html)

**Rockville African American sites**  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/historic/AAHwalkingtour.html](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/historic/AAHwalkingtour.html)

**Sandy Spring** 301-260-8860

**Takoma Park** 301-270-2831

### Trails

**Underground Railroad Experience on the Rural Legacy Trail**

[mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails\\_MAPS/Rural\\_legacy.shtm](http://mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails_MAPS/Rural_legacy.shtm)

**Rock Creek Trail**

[mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails\\_maps/rock\\_creek.shtm](http://mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails_maps/rock_creek.shtm)

**Seneca Greenway**

[mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails\\_maps/Seneca.shtm](http://mc-mncppc.org/trails/trails_maps/Seneca.shtm)

**Jeb Stuart's Ride on the Woodstock Trail**

[montgomerytrails.org](http://montgomerytrails.org)

### Driving Tours

**Civil War Trails**

Maryland Office of Tourism Development  
[www.civilwartrails.org](http://www.civilwartrails.org)

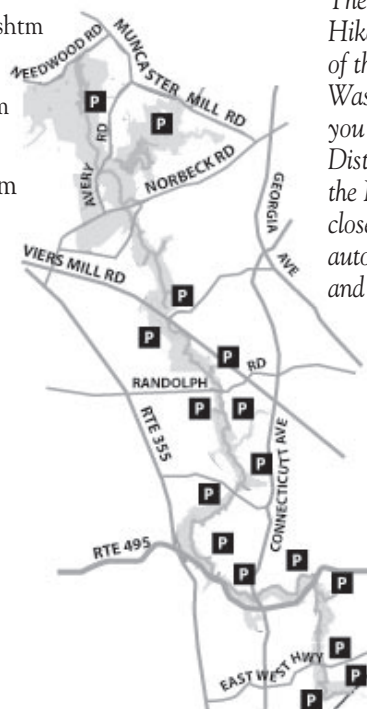
**Maryland Scenic Byways**

Montgomery County section  
[www.sha.state.md.us/exploremd/oed/scenicByways/scenicByways.asp](http://www.sha.state.md.us/exploremd/oed/scenicByways/scenicByways.asp)

Some of these walking tours were completed with help from a Historic Preservation Commission grant (see the column at right for details about the upcoming grant application process). Brochures are available in one stop by visiting the Montgomery County Conference and Visitors Bureau at 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown. Call them at 301-428-9702.



*Construction of the 1931 Courthouse provided work for skilled and unskilled African American laborers. Visit it on the Walking Tour of Rockville's African American Heritage.*



*The 18-mile Rock Creek Hiker-Biker Trail is one of the most popular in the Washington area. Now you can follow it into the District of Columbia where the National Park Service closes Beach Drive to automobiles on weekends and holidays.*

## 2006 Historic Preservation Grants Available

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission administers a Historic Preservation Grant Fund of \$30,000 that will be available for disbursement in fiscal year 2006. These grants are given to non-profit groups or municipal governments for historical activities and must be matched with local funding or in kind services by the group. These grants cannot be used for capital projects or staffing.

### 2006 Grant Fund Schedule

#### Early August 2005:

Applications mailed to interested parties, advertisements placed in newspapers.

#### September 30, 2005:

Deadline for completed applications.

#### September/October:

Applications processed.

#### October:

A committee of Historic Preservation Commission members reviews applications and makes recommendations to the full Commission, who then votes on the proposals.

#### October 31:

Applicants notified of awards. Notice to proceed with projects is issued around January 1, depending on completion of executed documents. Completed projects are due the end of December 2006.

If you would like to receive an application for an HPC Historic Preservation Grant please call: 301-563-3400.

# Calendar

## July

13 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

27 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

## August

17 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

## September

14 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

11 Happy Birthday Montgomery County Celebration, Beall-Dawson House, 111 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. Call 762-1492. [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)

28 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

## October

1 Harvest Festival at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood. 11 AM to 4 PM. Call 301-670-4661. [www.montgomeryparksfnd.org](http://www.montgomeryparksfnd.org)

12 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

26 HPC Meeting, 7:30 PM, MRO Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. Call 301-563-3400. [www.mc-mncppc.org](http://www.mc-mncppc.org)

## November

5 Maryland Emancipation Day celebration. Oakley Cabin. 12 noon to 4 PM. Call 301-258-4044. [www.montgomeryparksfnd.org](http://www.montgomeryparksfnd.org)

Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Support Acknowledged: This publication has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, made available through the Maryland Historical Trust, a division of the Department of Housing and Community Development, State of Maryland. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of these agencies. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by these agencies.

Non-discrimination: The Montgomery County historic preservation program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operation by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director of Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC, 20013-37127.