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Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area Newsletter

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Contact Information

15 Visitors Center Drive
McHenry, MD 21541
301-387-2050 Office
240-321-1146 Cell
[Send us an email!](#)

December 2012

Dear Sarah,

Thank you to all who have taken part and made our first year as a designated heritage area so successful, especially our Heiritage Area Advisory Board and the Chamber of Commerce. A fall highlight included our Fall Foliage Driving Tours which were very popular and directed visitors along some of Garrett County's most scenic routes; enjoying spectacular fall foliage, panoramic vistas, historical landmarks, museums and stunning natural features. We also introduced a new Mini-grant program and are looking forward to the completion of some amazing projects! Here's to many more sucesses in protecting our heritage, increasing heritage tourism and promoting

Funding Opportunities

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This project has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority



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The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area is a program of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce



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Mini-Grant Awards: The Heritage Area's Mini Grant Program awarded 7 mini-grants this year! The Heritage Area's mini-grant program is designed to provide funding for innovative exhibits, tours, planning and projects which build upon interpretive themes identified in the Management Plan which include: Transportation, Man and Nature, Historic Recreation, Cultural Uniqueness.

The 2013 awarded Mini-Grant Projects were: Chautauqua 2013, Civil War Days Commemoration, B&O Museum Caboose Refurbishment, Oakland Historic Walking Tour Guides, Barn Quilt Project -Tourism Expansion, Traveling 219 - Heritage Stories, and Spruce Forest Walking Tour Guides.

MHAA Project Grants: There are several funding opportunities available through the Heritage Area Program including Non-Capital Projects, Capital Projects and Programming Projects. A grant workshop will be held January 29 from 10-12 at the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce conference room. Intent to Apply forms will be due by February 12 and the final application due February 26. For more information contact Dawn Hein at dawn@garrettchamber.com or 301-387-4286.

MHT Capital Grants: The Maryland Historical Trust is pleased to announce the availability of MHT Capital Grants for acquisition or rehabilitation of historic properties currently under easement to MHT. Eligible applicants include Individuals - Business entities - Nonprofits - Local Governments. Dollar for dollar match required except for nonprofits. Grant amounts between \$5000 and \$25,000.

Postmark deadline **Feb. 15, 2013**. Contact Anne Raines 410-514-7634 araines@mdp.state.md.us

Click on link for Applications:

[Maryland Historical Trust -Capital Grants](#)

In the News

Group Sales & Marketing Manager
The Garrett County Chamber of



Commerce welcomes Jen Durben to the new position of Group Sales & Marketing Manager. Jen is working to attract groups, meetings and events. She has developed several sample Heritage Area tour itineraries that will give your group a unique look at Garrett County, Deep Creek Lake and surrounding communities. Check out



www.visitdeepcreek.com then select Meetings/Groups. Get inspired - our area has so much to offer! With Maryland's rich historic background, Garrett County doesn't disappoint even the biggest history buff. Garrett County is a designated Heritage Area and is known as "The Gateway to the West". Take your group back in time with a look at the rich culture of our land.

For more information, please call or email Jenn Durben @ jen@garrettchamber.com or 301-387-5238.

Arts Roundtable

The Garrett County Arts Council recently formed a new organization dedicated to creating synergy within the regional arts community. The initial meeting was held November 20 with representatives from various county agencies and organizations participating. Under the direction of Karen Reckner, the goal is to improve marketing and collaborative efforts as well as increase recognition as an arts destination. For more information contact the Arts Council at 301-334-6580 or garrettarts@earthlink.net

Successful Events

Christmas in the Village was held December 7 & 8 at Spruce Forest Artisan Village, located at 177 Casselman Rd in Grantsville. The Candle-lit Colonial Village offered a Fireside Welcome to visitors with storytelling in the Miller House, Artisans inside the log cabin studios, Complimentary refreshments, Creative Holiday Gifts, Cookie Art & Storytelling for children, Musical Programs in the Village Church & Live Nativity. This annual event was a huge success and a great opportunity for artisans and musicians to showcase their talents.

Home for the Holidays offered a peek inside some of the amazing historic homes and architecture Garrett County has to offer. The local chapter of the American Red Cross hosted its 21st annual house tour this year with the event taking place Dec 7, 4-9pm & Dec 8, 10-3pm. Locations included Sincell/Creech house, Herrington Manison, Loch Lynn Church of God, Tong/Horton home and the Cleveland Cottage. All locations were decorated for Christmas and

raffles were available at each site. Thank you to the Western Potomac Chapter of the American Red Cross for an amazing event!

Around the County

Upcoming Events

A Great Small Town Christmas

December 14, 2012 5 PM - 8 PM

Pleasant Valley Dream Rides will be available, downtown store specials, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in the Pocket Park (bring your own camera) with treat bags for the children, Face painting at Nola's Salon, Chuck Nolan will read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" at 6:30 in the Pocket Park and much much more!



December 15, 2012 9am-5pm

A fun filled packed day of singing, the House of Hope host their annual food drive downtown from 9am-12pm, WKHJ will broadcast and Miss Maryland, Joanna Guy make a guest appearance. Dont miss the Christmas Parade at 2pm! Other activities include Pleasant Valley Dream Rides, Gift Wrapping station at the Oakland Fire Hall to benefit Relay for Life from 10am-2pm, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus after the parade until 5pm (Bring your own camera), treat bags for the children, store specials, facepainting at Nola's Salon, and so much more. Fun for the entire family!

For more information visit:

<http://www.agreatsmalltown.com>

Garrett County Arts Council Raffle

An original oil painting by James Groves entitled "Sandstone Majesty" will be unveiled during the holiday open house at The Gallery Shop, 206 E. Alder Street, Oakland on December 14. The drawing will take place June 8 for the painting, which is valued at \$1,500.

Deer Park Christmas Festival

December 15, 6-9 pm, Deer Park Community Building
Sleigh rides, hot chocolate and cookies! Sponsored by Deer Park Eliminators Community Planning Group.

For more information call 301-533-0755

Winter Fest

Winter Fest 2013 is slated for February 15th, 16th &



17th. Once again, expert Ice Sculptor Bill Sandusky will be back. We are also in need of volunteers to help with the production of the event. Favorite activities include: ice bowling, crafts and vendors, S'mores and hot cocoa, the kiddy slide, snowman contest, progressive dinner, sleigh rides and much, much more!!! A schedule of events coming soon! If anyone is interested in sponsoring a sculpture or making a donation, please call Michelle Ross at 301-334-2691.



B&O Railroad Museum: The B&O Railroad Museum is still accepting donations as part of the Community Investment Tax Credits program. This grant program offers resources to assist communities with revitalization efforts. Nonprofit organizations, such as the B & O Railroad Museum, use the tax credits as incentives for individuals and business to donate to the Maryland approved project, and then the nonprofit organization gets matching dollars from the tax credit program. Accepted donations of money, goods, or real property of \$500 or more to support operational and programmatic costs associated with the project are accepted. Businesses or individuals that donate can earn state tax credits equal to 50% of the value of the donation toward taxes owed in the year in which the contribution was made and may not be used retroactively for taxes from a prior year. Donations for the tax credit program will be accepted up to December 31, 2012 or until the tax credits are used.

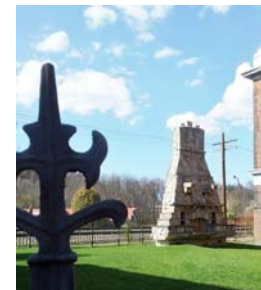
For more information and to make a donation contact:
 Gwen Evans, Town of Oakland
 301-334-2691

Checks should be made payable to:
 Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

Getting to Know the Heritage Area

Historic District Oakland

The Historic District of Oakland is nestled in the scenic splendor of the Allegheny Highlands where Oakland offers quaint shops, picturesque parks and many historic sites. The town owes much of its development to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad which came through in 1851. A thriving commercial district near the Depot as well as several



large hotels serving summer tourists from Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Oakland Historic District Walking Tour brochures provide a brief history and map. They are available at Town Hall, 15 S. Third Street in Oakland or at the Visitors Center in McHenry. New walking tour brochures are coming soon!

Sincerely,

Dawn Hein, Director
Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area

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