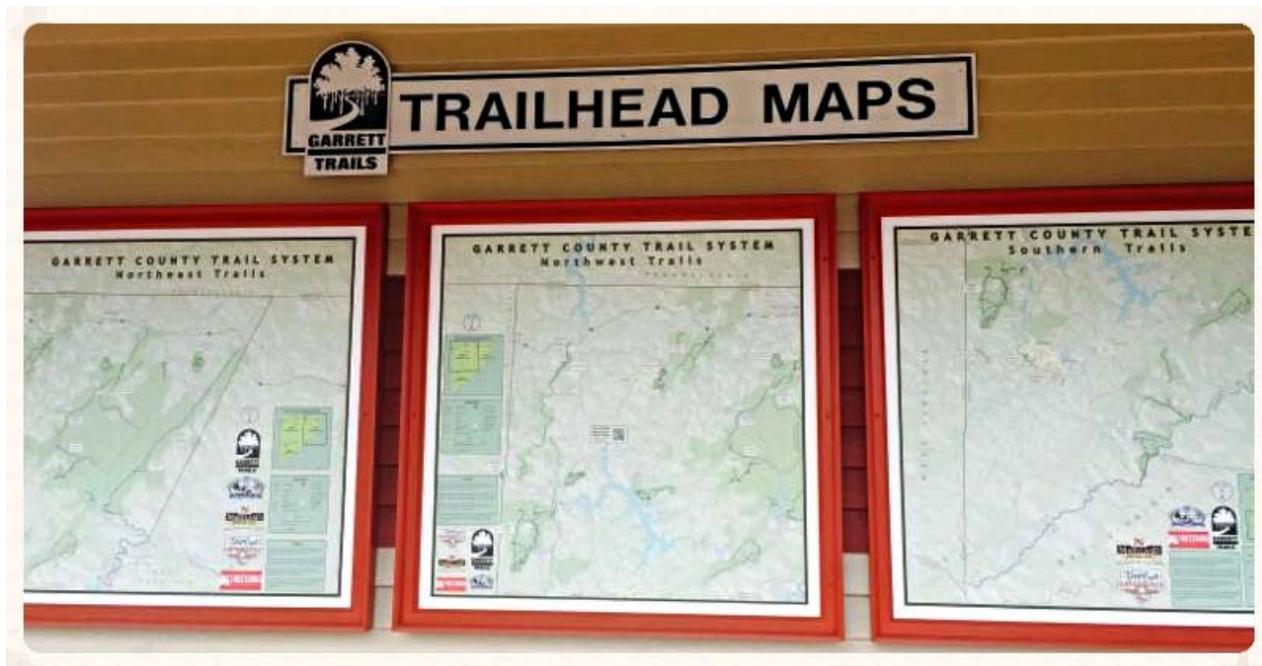


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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area. Don't forget to add jen@garrettchamber.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



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Join Our List

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Contact Information

15 Visitors Center Drive
McHenry, MD 21541
301-387-4386 Office

www.garrettheritage.com

April 2015

Dear Sarah,

In this issue, the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area proudly announces the installation of Garrett Trails' new trailhead maps at the Visitors Center, the launch of our new mobile app and a new Heritage Area Director. The Heritage Area has had a very busy start to the new year and is excited for the year ahead!

We recently attended the Maryland Motorcoach and Pennsylvania Bus Association's Marketplaces held in Valley Forge, PA & Hunt Valley, MD. We displayed to area group



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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



Quick Links

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leaders to spread awareness about our heritage attractions, itineraries and our Garrett County activities. We also attended the American Bus Association's Marketplace in January, meeting one-on-one with over 20 tour operators, sharing information about our heritage area attractions and surrounding Garrett County, encouraging them to bring motorcoach groups to our region. We also presented to the Maryland Office of Tourism in Baltimore, Maryland, giving them an in-depth look at our group friendly attractions including our heritage resources.

We invite you to join us and find your authentic heritage experience in the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area!

Garrett Chamber Announces New Heritage Manager

The Garrett County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the promotion of Jen Durben as the Heritage Area and Groups Manager. Jen joined the Chamber team in 2012 as the Group Sales and Marketing Manager and has been focusing her efforts on attracting new motor coach groups, meetings, and destination weddings to Garrett County.

"Jen has been a tremendous asset to our team and Garrett County," said Nicole Christian, Chamber President & CEO. "She built the group sales and marketing initiative from the ground up and has grown the groups industry in Garrett County immensely."



Jen has worked in the local tourism industry for over thirteen years and truly understands the visitors to our area. It is vital to see through the visitors eyes and know their expectations when they come to our destination.

Due to the inherent crossover between group tours and heritage tourism, over the past two years Jen has also worked closely with the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area, assisting with the development of the Heritage website, social media presence, heritage attraction tour itineraries, ad design and promotion at travel shows. She will continue to utilize her expertise and experience to further develop awareness for heritage visitors including promoting and updating the newly

launched Heritage mobile app and continuing to develop new itineraries featuring Garrett County's heritage attractions. With the relationships Jen has developed with tour operators over the past years, she will continue to share these itineraries to entice future groups to travel to the area.

By combining the Heritage Area Director position with the Group Sales and Marketing manager, the Chamber can now make a concerted effort to create greater awareness of the area's cultural and historical sites.

"With Jen's experience in tourism and marketing and her knowledge of the community, we can now concentrate on driving visitors to the many historical and cultural attractions in Garrett County," said Christian.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area", said Jen Durben. "With my knowledge of the groups market and being a life-long resident of the county, I believe we will be able to continue to boost the attraction of heritage visitors to the area. I've enjoyed working with the Heritage Area over the past two years, so this merger feels like a natural fit."

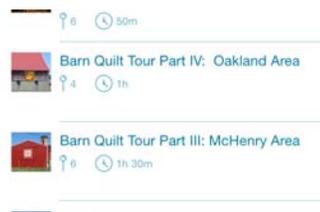
Jen was recently awarded an Advanced Professional Internet Marketing Certificate from the University of San Francisco. She earned her Associate's Degree in Travel & Tourism from Central Pennsylvania College and is a graduate of Southern Garrett High School.

If you have any questions about the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area, groups, tours or destination weddings in Garrett County, please contact Jen Durben at jen@garrettchamber.com or by phone at 301-387-5238.

NEW Heritage Mobile App!



The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area is very excited to announce the launch of our new mobile app. This app is designed to use on your Android or iOS device and download area heritage tours. You will find step by step directions, maps and tour routes of our heritage area themes and include the county barn quilt tours and fall foliage tour routes.



These tours are also available offline, perfect if your device drops service. The app is available for FREE in the [Google Play Store](#) or [iTunes App Store](#).

Be on the look out for new tours to be added in the future including trail routes and so much more! Download today to start exploring!

Grant & Volunteer Opportunities

Project Grants Applications Submitted

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area has three area project grants that have completed the submission of their applications to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. There is quite a bit of competition as MHA predicts a record number of over 100 grant applications from the 13 heritage areas. We will appear in front of the TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) on June 4th for our grants review and on July 9th, the grant recipients will be announced.

Transportation Alternatives Application Solicitation

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is pleased to announce that approximately, **\$17 million** is available to design and construct non-traditional transportation projects such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, restore historic transportation buildings, convert abandoned railway corridors to pedestrian trails, mitigate highway runoff, provide safe routes to school and other eligible transportation related improvements.

SHA invites government-sponsored community groups, local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit authorities, school districts, and natural resource or public land agencies to submit applications to request up to 80% of a project's total estimated cost. Applications for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program will be accepted from **April 15th through May 15, 2015 COB**.

Please Note: The exciting changes to the Maryland program for funding year 2015. Maryland will consider projects requesting funding for eligible project related right-of way and design costs.

Application Submittal Info:

TAP guidelines, TA application and SRTS application may be downloaded online at: <http://www.roads.maryland.gov/index.aspx?pageid=144> and may be submitted electronically to Ms. Jessica Shearer.

Questions concerning project eligibility or program requirements may be directed to Ms. Jessica Shearer, SHA's Transportation Alternatives Manager at 410-545-5675 or toll-free at 1-888-204-4828 or by e-mail jshearer@sha.state.md.us. Christy Bernal, SHA SRTS Coordinator, may also provide assistance with SRTS questions at 410-545-5659 or toll-free at 1-888-204-4828 or by email cbernal@sha.state.md.us.

Hard copies of plans and applications may be addressed to Ms. Shearer at 707 North Calvert Street, State Highway Administration, Mail Stop C-502, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Around the County

Garrett Trails New Trailhead Signage Installed

The Garrett Trails has completed the trailhead maps and signage at the Garrett County Visitors Center located at 15 Visitors Center Drive in McHenry. The signage features three maps, each focusing on different sections of the trail system in the county including the northeast, northwest and southern trail systems. The Trailhead sign near the bike rack (shown below) tells the story of our area recreation trails and is a friendly welcome to those who want to explore them.



Upcoming Events

Oakland B&O Museum - Adult Continuing Education College Classes at the Museum

Dr. Neal Brooks, Garrett College, will conduct a class at the Oakland B&O Museum every Thursday April 21 - May 12th

from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. This class is on Garrett County Historical Highlights. The cost is \$45 per person, \$39 for senior citizens and is open to the public. Contact 301-387-3069 to sign up.



Governor Hogan Requests Recipes For Department of Agriculture "Buy Local" Cook Book

Governor Larry Hogan invites chefs using Maryland ingredients to submit original recipes for the Governor's Buy Local Cookout, which will be held at Government House in Annapolis in mid-July. Chefs are encouraged to submit simple but creative recipes that showcase ways the average Maryland family can prepare delicious, nutritious meals with locally produced food. The cookout promotes the statewide Buy Local Challenge Week (July 18-26, 2015), during which all Marylanders are encouraged to eat at least one local product each day of the week. Recipes must be submitted by Friday, May 8, and include at least one ingredient from a Maryland farmer, waterman or other producer.



"The Buy Local Cookout and Buy Local Challenge have become an annual celebration of Maryland agriculture and Maryland cuisine," said Governor Hogan. "We look forward to continuing the tradition of encouraging Marylanders to buy local

products from Maryland farmers as we highlight the benefits of preserving our family farms, protecting the environment and supporting our local economies." Selected teams will be invited to provide, prepare and share their dish at the Governor's cookout. Chefs should

note that recipes may be published in the Maryland Department of Agriculture's 2015 Maryland Buy Local Cookout Recipes cookbook. Click [here](#) for the complete set of rules of entry and additional information.

Michael Cooper: Masked Marvels & Wondertales

Saturday, April 18th at 7:30pm - Micheal Cooper spins tales and weaves stories using an unusual and colorful cast of characters. Creating a world where dogs wear hats, wild stallions are tamed, giant noses sneeze and fish bait candy to catch children in a pond, Masked Marvel and Wondertales is and unforgettable experience. Referencing his childhood growing up on a ranch, Michael Cooper captivates his audience with tales of thrilling adventure, silly antics and outlandish possibilities. A show for all ages, Masked Marvels and Wondertales is sure to capture hearts and simulate imaginations. Contact Mary Callis at 301-387-3082 for more information and ticket details. www.artsandentertainment.org

Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival

Saturday, May 9th from 10:00am - 3:00pm - Discover the important connection between native plants, people, and wildlife at the second annual Mountain Maryland Native Plant Festival! Scheduled walks, programs, and activities will appeal to children, teens, and adults. Experts from local conservation organizations, agencies, and universities will answer questions on native plants and related conservation topics. New Germany State Park and the Western Mountains Chapter of MNPS are co-sponsoring this FREE event. Drinks, snacks, and lunch items will also be available for purchase at the Lake House. www.mdflora.org

Slim Harrison & the Rock Candy Cloggers

Friday, May 15th from 7:30pm - 10:00pm - Performances include "Good Old Time Mountain Music" with the "Barnstormers String Band" and/or the "Sunnyland Band", a jug band where kids get to play in the band as well as dance and sing along. The "Rock Candy Cloggers" often perform with the Barnstormers and the Sunnyland Band. Slim provides accompaniment with Fiddle, Banjo, Resophonic Guitar, Jaws Harp, Spoons, Jug and his one of a kind "Kazooafone" which has 3 harmonicas, 4 kazoos, dual airhorns, duck call and a siren whistle. Contact Mary Callis for more information and ticket details 301-387-3082. www.artsandentertainment.org

90th Anniversary of Deep Creek Lake

Celebrations and events will be held June 11- June 14th, 2015 and will include historical talks about Deep Creek lake, birthday party with cake at the Visitors Center including ceremony and a historical photo display, dinners and so much more! Event brochures will be available at the Visitors Center and more information online at www.visitdeepcreek.com.



Sincerely,

Jen Durben
Heritage Area & Groups Manager
Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area

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Garrett County Chamber of Commerce | 15 Visitors Center Drive | McHenry | MD | 21541