

It's just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in 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!

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MOUNTAIN MARYLAND
Gateway to the West
HERITAGE AREA

December 2015

In this Issue

It's hard to believe that today is one of the first days of Winter in the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West (MMGTW)! With a high in the 50's today, it feels more like the first days of Spring! It has been an extended outdoor season with extra time to hike and explore and we'll be sure to welcome the colder weather to start snow activities!

The last three months have been filled with fall festivities, mini-grant awards and so much more! The Autumn Glory Festival was a great success with beautiful weather and tons of events county-wide. We distributed over 250 fall foliage driving tours and the Greater Oakland Business Association hosted the 2015 Maryland State Banjo, Fiddle & Mandolin Championships with fantastic attendance and such talented contestants.

MMGTW played host to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) in October as they held their quarterly meeting in our county. A familiarization (FAM) trip was held after the meeting and MHAA had the opportunity to tour our county's Heritage Area with stops at several heritage sites including the Garrett Trails County Trailhead, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, and the Town of Oakland. What a wonderful opportunity to showcase our projects that have received funding from MHAA in the past and show our appreciation for their support over the years. Several of the attendees mentioned that they had never been to Garrett County, but are now looking to book their next vacation in our region.



In addition, Jen Durben along with Director of Tourism & Marketing, Sarah Duck, visited the Accident Elementary 3rd grade class to talk about Tourism and local Heritage Tourism in Garrett County. The kids were very engaged and had great questions.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2016!

FY2017 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Project Grant Workshop Webinar

Are you interested in learning more about grants that are available for capital, and non-capital and projects relating to the preservation of historical, archaeological, natural and cultural resources and heritage tourism?

If so, you will want to attend this workshop webinar that is being offered by the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area. This workshop is an opportunity to learn more about the FY 2017 grant program and the online application. You will also have the chance to ask any questions you may have about the program.

- When - Tuesday, January 5, 2016 from 3pm to 5pm
- Where - Garrett County Chamber of Commerce | 15 Visitors Center Drive, McHenry, MD 21541

For questions or more information contact:

Jen Durben | Heritage Area & Groups Manager | 301-387-5238 | [E-mail](#) | [Website](#)

[Register Today!](#)

If you are unable to join us on January 5th, please register for one of the following grant workshop/webinar opportunities:

- Wednesday, January 6, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. - Workshop, City Hall, Havre de Grace, MD - [Click to Register](#)
- Monday, January 11, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. - Online Webinar - [Click to Register](#)
- Wednesday, January 13, 2016 - 2:00 p.m. - Workshop, Galesville Community Center, Galesville, MD - [Click to Register](#)

FY2016 Mini-Grants Awarded

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West is pleased to announce the recipients of the FY2016 Mini-grants awarded through the Heritage Area. Over \$17,000 in grant requests were applied for the FY16 mini-grant round. Ten thousand dollars was awarded to local organizations, government agencies and/or municipalities to provide funding for innovative exhibits, tours, events, planning and projects which build upon interpretive themes identified in the Heritage Area's Management Plan. These include: Transportation, Man and Nature, Historic Recreation, and Cultural Uniqueness. Projects should seek to attract cultural and heritage tourists to the region. Recipients must match the grant dollar for dollar and complete the projects by June 15, 2016.

FY2016 Mini-Grant Awards:

- Grantsville Historic Map - \$2,000.00 awarded to the Greater Grantsville Business Association for the production of a historic map of Grantsville.
- Restoration of Melvin Brown Arboretum - \$1,910.00 awarded to the Town of Kitzmiller for the restoration of the historic Melvin Brown Arboretum.
- Oakland B&O Museum Heritage Educational Lecture Series Equipment - \$2,000.00 awarded to Oakland Heritage Community Foundation to purchase folding chairs, storage rack and audio system for future educational series at the museum.
- Procurement of McHenry Howard Photos and Rights to Use - \$770.00 awarded to the Garrett County Historical Society to purchase historical McHenry Howard photographs and rights to use.
- Oakland AME Church Study & Structural Engineering Review - \$2,000.00 awarded to the Oakland Heritage Community Foundation to have a structural engineering review completed of the building.
- Glass Covered Bulletin Board - \$600.00 awarded to the Spruce Forest Artisan Village to purchase a glass enclosed bulletin board to display event details, classes and schedules and other information for the Artisan Village.
- Oakland Heritage Community Foundation Technology for Event Promotion & Foundation Awareness - \$720.00 awarded to the Oakland Heritage Community Foundation for the purchase of a projector, cart and wireless PA system for use during OHCF events and to promote heritage sites to visitors and residents.

Artists in the Maryland Mountains

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) has opened its [online Maryland Artist Marketplace](#). The new addition to the MSAC's home site creates a one-stop-shopping destination for unique works by Maryland jewelers, photographers, glass blowers, painters, sculptors, musicians, weavers, writers, and more. The Maryland Artist Marketplace features a comprehensive search engine allowing shoppers to search by category, price range, county of origin and artist. The marketplace is designed to maximize accessibility for those who wish to buy local and support Maryland businesses while providing a powerful tool for consumers seeking to discover new artists. Artists who wish to sell through the site can opt-in through their existing Maryland Artist Registry account or, for first time creators, by creating an account through the registry.

Local artists such as Jillian Mazur and photographer, Bob Carney, have artwork available on this fantastic resource.

Call to Action- Friendsville Community Partnership (FCP) Task Force

The Friendsville community requests your assistance in making this revitalization a reality. The Mayor and Town Council are convening a "Friendsville Community Partnership (FCP) Task Force". This task force will bring together citizens, business owners, public officials and service partners, such as yourself, as an organization that will take steps towards implementation of this Economic Revitalization Plan. This group will be organized in a way that will spread the work across a broad base of volunteers; ensure good communication between members of the team; take advantage of professional staff and administrative support within the county; and integrate the representation from the Mayor, Town Council and residents.

The goal of this Task Force is to undertake the High Priority Initiatives. The Task Force will be broken into five distinct action areas. You are encouraged to choose the action area that is most relevant to your experience. The action areas are:

- Business Development
- Housing
- Public Improvement and Policy Recommendations
- Community and Tourism Marketing
- Business Recruitment Marketing

The organizational meeting of the Friendsville Community Partnership (FCP) Task Force will be held: Tuesday, January 5th, 2016, 6:00 Friendsville Town Hall, 313 Chestnut Street, Friendsville, MD 21531. For more information, please contact Robin Douglas, Garrett County Circuit Rider, rdouglas@garrettcac.com.

Upcoming Events

Christmas in the Meadow Light Display

Each evening at dark through January 10, Halian & Associate's Mosser Meadow will be holding their "Christmas in the Meadow" holiday light display. Drive by or take a walk around the property. Donations accepted in the drop boxes for local children's mentoring organization, Garrett Mentors, Inc. 1721 Mosser Road, McHenry, MD 21541.



Wisp Resort - Winter Season Opening Day

Wisp Resort will open for the 2015.2016 Winter Season on Saturday, December 26, 2015 from 9am - 5pm with Sunset Boulevard trail and one conveyor carpet along with the Wisp Kids Learning Area and carpets for skiing and snowboarding. The same operations will continue on Sunday, December 27, 2015. An extended day adult lift ticket will be \$29 and junior lift ticket will be \$19. A sport ski or snowboard rental will be \$29. A learn-to ski or snowboard package will be \$89 for adult or junior. The Wisp Mountain Park will operate daily from 10am - 4pm with ice skating, three canopy tours, Segway tours and the mountain coaster. Visit wispresort.com for Mountain Park rates.

ALL OPERATIONS ARE TENTATIVE AND WEATHER PERMITTING. For the most up-to-date operations and conditions, visit Wisp Resort's mountain report at www.wispresort.com/wisp-snow-report.phh

Annual First Day Hike, Maryland State Parks

Held the first day of the year annually, bring your family to explore our local state parks:

- 10am - Deep Creek Discovery Center - 301-387-7067
- 1pm - Herrington Manor State Park - 301-334-9180
- 3pm - New Germany State Park - 301-895-5453

For more information, visit the [Maryland State Park website](#). Contact the State Parks above to register.

Mountain Maryland PACE

The general public is warmly invited to purchase the one all-inclusive ticket to attend both events, the PACE Reception and the Breakfast: \$130 per person if payment is received on or before Monday, January 4, 2016 and \$150 per person if payment is received on or after Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Tickets are not available at the door. www.mtmdpace.com

Deep Creek Dunk - Freezin' for a Reason

Take an icy dip in Deep Creek Lake to raise funds for Special Olympics Maryland. Fee for registration. 19746 Garrett Highway, Oakland, MD 21550. www.dunkmd.com

Heritage Tubing Event

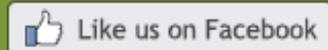
Keep an eye out for upcoming information about our Heritage Tubing Event. The event date is yet to be determined, but if you have a group interested in attending, please contact Jen Durben at jen@garrettchamber.com; 301-387-5238.

Please visit www.garrettheritage.com for all upcoming events.

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



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



Address:
15 Visitors Center Drive
McHenry, MD 21541

[Visit our Website](#)

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