

...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 2016

In this Issue

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West is ending their year with celebrations and looking forward to 2017. In November, we celebrated the Heritage Area's Five Year Anniversary. Special guests issued citations from the office of Senator Mikulski, Senator John Delaney, Senator Ben Cardin, Senator George Edwards and Delegate Wendell Beitzel. Our

Garrett County Commissioners presented a proclamation as well as we unveiled our new Heritage Photo Display at the county Visitor's Center. The photos include both historic black and white images as well as current day images representing the wide array of historic sites our



heritage area offers. We invite everyone to stop by to view the images and

coordinating captions beneath. We thank the Garrett County Historical Society and Deer Park Signs for their tremendous help to complete this project!



We are also excited to announce that the Garrett County Arts Council has opened the doors to their new gallery located on 2nd Street in downtown Oakland. They celebrated their grand opening in December and welcome visitors and residents to come in and see the new space!

Next month we head to the American Bus Association Marketplace in Cleveland, OH to meet one on one with tour operators to encourage them to bring groups to our area. We also will be displaying alongside the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce at the annual PACE event in late January to showcase our area to legislators.

We extend heartfelt wishes for a wonderful holiday season! Thank you for your support over the past year!

FY2017 Mini-Grant Program

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area's Mini Grant Program will be accepting applications on a rolling cycle for this fiscal year! The mini-grant program is a matching grant up to \$2,000 designed to provide funding for innovative exhibits, tours, new 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 must seek to attract cultural and heritage tourists to the region. Non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions are eligible. Individuals and businesses with proposals fitting the guidelines may apply in partnership with non-profit organizations. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis until our funding cap has been met.

Take advantage of this funding opportunity! Contact Jen Durben at jen@garrettchamber.com or 301-387-5238 for more information or to find out how your project fits the criteria.

[CLICK FOR APPLICATION & GUIDELINES](#)

FY17 Mini-Grant Awards Announced

End of the Line Bookstore Signage - \$165.50 awarded to the non-profit organization End of the Line Bookstore to create and install signage for the bookstore to create awareness to visitors and residents.

Garrett County Celtic Festival - \$2,000 awarded to the Highland Festival of Garrett County, Inc. for assistance of event elements including advertising, children's village and performers/demonstrators.

Meshach Browning Trail System Signage - \$1,135 awarded to the Deep Creek Lake Lions Club to create and install trail signage depicting the story of famous local hunter, Meshach

Browning.

Enabling Equipment for Digital Oral History - \$476 awarded to the Garrett County Historical Society to film and record oral histories from Garrett County residents.

"We are excited to support these local projects by leveraging the heritage area funds we receive through our management grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority," said Jen Durben, Heritage Area & Groups Director. "Many local projects would not be possible without mini-grants and these projects help promote heritage tourism to Garrett County."

FY18 MHAA Project Grant Webinar and Q&A

Are you interested in learning more about grants that are available for capital and non-capital projects relating to the preservation of historical, archeological, natural and cultural resources and heritage tourism? If so, you will want to attend one of the upcoming grant workshops or webinars that are being offered by the [Maryland Heritage Areas Program](#). These sessions are an opportunity to learn more about the FY 2018 grant program and the online application. You will also have the chance to ask any questions you may have about the program.



The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West will be hosting an in-person workshop along with the MHAA webinar on Monday, January 9th at the Garrett County Visitors Center at 15 Visitors Center Drive, McHenry, MD 21541. We will attend the webinar together and then have a Q&A session afterwards.

- **Monday, January 9, 2017 - 10:00am - Garrett County Visitors Center (Webinar and Q&A session) - [Click to Register](#)**
- **Monday, January 9, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. - Online Webinar Only - [Click to Register](#)**
- **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. - Workshop in Crownsville - [Click to Register](#)**
- **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. - Online Webinar - [Click to Register](#)**

You can begin your Intent to Apply submission by visiting:

<http://mht.maryland.gov/grants.shtml>

Upcoming Events

First Day Hikes Sunday, January 1st, 3pm: First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative led by America's State Parks to encourage people to get outdoors. On New Year's Day, hundreds of free, guided hikes will be organized in all 50 states. Here are two hikes that will be offered in our Heritage Area:

- **New Germany State Park** - During this invigorating winter hike, a ranger will lead participants along a 1.5-mile trail, showcasing the beautiful mountain landscape with scenic views of Poplar Lick Run and lush hemlock forests along the park's Turnpike Trail and Acorn Loop. The hike will take about one hour to complete. At the conclusion of the trek, hikers will be greeted with a warm fire and hot cocoa inside the Lake House. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Snowshoes will be available for rent, weather permitting. Families are encouraged to call [New Germany State Park](#) at 301-895-5453 to register.
- **Swallow Falls State Park** - Join a park ranger for a mile-long loop that lets hikers enjoy

the sights and sounds of Western Maryland forests in the winter. See Maryland's highest waterfall and largest old growth forest in full winter splendor. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Families are encouraged to call [Swallow Falls State Park](#) at 301-334-9180 to register.

Mountain Maryland PACE Thursday & Friday, January 26 & 27: The 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 Tuesday, January 3, 2016 and \$150 per person if payment is received on or after Wednesday, January 4, 2016. Tickets are not available at the door. www.mtmarylandpace.com

Oakland Winter Fest Saturday & Sunday, February 18 & 19: Downtown Oakland. GOBA sponsors "Winterfest" which is always held President's Day weekend in February. Events often include ice carving demonstrations by Master Ice Carver Bill Sandusky, illuminated ice sculptures, interactive sculptures, store specials, vendors/crafters, carriage rides, exceptional dining and more! Visit www.agreatsmalltown.com for more information.

Deep Creek Dunk - Freezin' for a Reason

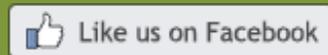
Saturday, February 25th Take an icy dip in Deep Creek Lake to raise funds for Special Olympics Maryland. Fee for registration. On-site registration begins at 11am and the Dunk begins at 2pm. Visit www.kintera.org for more information.

There are so many events coming up this winter! Please visit www.garrettheritage.com for all upcoming events.

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



Address:
15 Visitors Center Drive
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[Visit our Website](#)

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