

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](mailto: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.

Find out what's new with the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area.

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MOUNTAIN MARYLAND  
*Gateway to the West*  
HERITAGE AREA

September 2016

## In this Issue

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Change is in the air here at the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West. Just this week the weather has officially made the transition to fall. Crisp evenings and the leaves are beginning to show some color. Autumn Glory is just around the corner and it marks the 49th year!

The Heritage area has been very busy the last three months with grant awards, reports and conferences, the summer just flew by! In August, we attended the Destination Marketing Association International Conference in Minneapolis and attended educational sessions on topics including group travel, marketing trends, and great general sessions with inspirational marketing stories from across the world. We also attended the Student Youth Travel Association conference in Orlando and had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with our

operators to share information about our region for student travelers.



## FY2017 Mini-Grant Program

**DEADLINE EXTENDED!** The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area's Mini Grant Program is now accepting applications! The mini-grant program is a matching grant up to \$2,000.00 designed 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 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.

**Applications are due October 7, 2016 by 4:00pm.**

Take advantage of this funding opportunity! Contact Jen Durben at [jen@garrettchamber.com](mailto:jen@garrettchamber.com) or 301-387-4386 for more information or to find out how your project fits the criteria.

[CLICK FOR APPLICATION & GUIDELINES](#)

## FY17 Project Grant Awards Announced

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), a state heritage organization awarded 52 matching grants totaling nearly \$2.7 million to Maryland nonprofit organizations, local jurisdictions and tourism groups. The grants fund historic preservation, natural resource protection and educational programs in 13 state-designated Heritage Areas. By supporting capital projects and educational activities, the grants spawn renewed interest in Maryland culture from residents and visitors, boosting tourism-related jobs.

In the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area, projects funded were:

- Town of Friendsville (\$14,279) - Friendsville Interactive Historical Walking Tour & Historical Tour Website
- Garrett County Government (\$80,000) - Meadow Mountain Trail - Heritage Phase
- Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service (\$20,079) - Visitation and Economics of Recreation/Tourism in Western Maryland State Forests
- Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area (\$100,000) - Management Grant for management services of the certified heritage area with a goal to promote heritage tourism.
- Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area (\$15,240) - Marketing Grant for brand awareness marketing campaigns and milestone celebration events.



## Save the Date - 5th Anniversary Celebration!

The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area will be celebrating our 5th

anniversary in 2016. We hope you will be able to join us for a special event to mark the occasion including the unveiling of our new Visitors Center Heritage Photo Display!

- Tuesday, November 15, 2016
- 1:00pm
- Garrett County Visitors Center

We look forward to celebrating with you - more details to come! If you have any questions, please contact Jen Durben, Heritage Area & Groups Director at [jen@garrettchamber.com](mailto:jen@garrettchamber.com).

## 2016 Fall Foliage Tours



Our 2016 fall foliage tours have been created and offer leaf peepers the opportunity to travel along throughout our county to experience the beautiful autumn colors. There are two routes available and features a northern route and a more southern route. Some stops along the way include Historic Mountain Lake Park, Mt. Aetna Trail system and miles along our scenic byways.

Don't forget to visit our sponsors, [Ledo Pizza](#) and [Noonan & Noonan!](#)



[CLICK FOR TOURS](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **The Basics of Genealogy: Tracing your Roots**

Wednesdays, October 5-26 - 6pm - 9:15pm: Garrett College Continuing Education and Workforce Development is offering a four-session course at the college's Northern Outreach Center location in Grantsville. This course is packed full of new concepts, techniques and ideas to get one started to a fulfilling lifetime of tracing a family tree. Lessons will include genealogy basics, family and home sources, how to read and understand records and census information, and investigating vital records. Learn what is available online and what repositories have information that can help answer genealogical questions. The course is being taught by Christy Venham, who teaches the subject at West Virginia University and also works at the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. [Click for more information.](#)

### **Springs Folk Festival**

Friday & Saturday, October 7&8 - 9am - 5pm: The Springs Folk Festival invites you to join in the celebration of the arts, skills and labors of our forefathers. Watch the men and women baking bread and weaving, the men hewing logs and threshing grain and the children enjoying themselves on an old-time hayride. The lilting notes of blue grass groups, gospel music and children singing a capella fill the air with continuous performances in an enclosed program

building. An exceptional array of quality handcrafted items - truly one-of-a-kind shopping adventure - paintings, baskets, wood crafted furniture, quilts and dulcimers - over 100 juried artisans demonstrating their craft. Everyone will enjoy the feeling of being a kid again as they sample the apple fritters, kettle corn and homemade ice cream. [Click for more information.](#)

#### **49th Annual Autumn Glory Festival**

Wednesday - Sunday, October 12-16: The annual Autumn Glory Festival is a five-day celebration of autumn that celebrates the beauty of the local fall foliage. From Wednesday through Sunday, the area offers a wide variety of things to do indoors or outdoors. The Festival includes two large parades, concerts, band competitions, art exhibits, antique & craft shows and much more! [Click for more information.](#)

**Christmas in the Village** Friday & Saturday, December 2&3: Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Candle luminaries light the way around fire-warmed studios and historic museums during this free event. Meet the artists and purchase gifts. Hands-on activities for kids and choral programs in the village church. [Click for more information.](#)

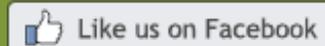
**A Great Small Town Christmas** Friday-Sunday, December 9-11: Town of Oakland. Tree lighting ceremony, sleigh rides, treats from Santa, music, shopping and dining specials and more! [Click for more information.](#)

**There are so many events coming up this fall and early winter! Please visit [www.garrettheritage.com](http://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](#)

**Contact Us:**  
301-387-4386 - Office  
[jen@garrettchamber.com](mailto:jen@garrettchamber.com)