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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](mailto:jen@garrettchamber.com) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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### **In This Issue**

[Upcoming Events](#)

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### **Contact Information**

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**June 2015**

**Dear Sarah,**

In this issue, the Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area is excited to announce several upcoming events including our Star Spangled event dedication and program about our local Howard House and the connection to Francis Scott Key.

We recently attended the Pennsylvania Bus Association's Sales Retreat and Annual Meeting where we were able to meet with over a dozen tour operators to share our destination including our amazing heritage attractions and landmarks. We look forward to strengthen those relationships and encourage those operators to bring future bus trips to our region.

The county recently celebrated the 90th Anniversary of

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



### Quick Links

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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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Deep Creek Lake. There were many events including historical talks, dining specials and even an official ceremony at the Visitors Center with an 11ft. cake in the shape of the lake, pictured below. Can't wait for the 100th!



Did you know that the Casselman River Bridge in Grantsville was recently named Maryland's Top bridge to see in the state by The Weather Channel? Check out all of the bridges including our beautiful landmark (#20) here at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

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

## Grant & Volunteer Opportunities

### Apply Now for Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program

*MHT Accepting Applications for Historic Commercial Properties through **August 31, 2015.***

Owners of historic commercial properties take note: Now is the time to submit an application for a state income tax credit for renovating your historic structures in Maryland.

Fiscal year 2016 applications opened this week for the [Sustainable Communities Competitive Commercial Tax Credit program](#), administered by the Maryland Historical Trust. Commercial property owners may receive a tax credit of up to 20 percent of eligible expenses to a total of \$3 million for substantial rehabilitation projects. An additional 5 percent credit is available for projects that achieve LEED Gold Certification or equivalent. Applications are rated and ranked by the Maryland Historical Trust and compete for a total of \$9 million in tax credit awards.

The state tax credit program has helped property owners throughout Maryland redevelop and reuse historic buildings since 1996. The tax credit preserves some of Maryland's most unique historic structures as well as creates spin-off community benefits. The program has been credited with creating jobs, enhancing values of nearby properties and transforming neglected neighborhoods. Studies have shown that every dollar of historic tax credit generates more than \$8 in economic activity and each \$1 million invested by the state program generates 72 jobs.

Reusing historic structures is another way that we can support communities, preserve historic resources and enrich lives. For more information, go to the Maryland Historical Trust's [tax credit page](#).

### **Creative Placemaking Guidelines and Report Launched**

Includes 2016 Our Town Grant and Technical Assistance Guidelines, and Report on Performing Arts and Transforming Place

Washington, DC-The arts are an integral component of building vibrant communities and as part of its commitment to supporting arts-based community development, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is posting information on funding opportunities and a new creative placemaking resource. These are:

- Guidelines for the 2016 Our Town grant program with an earlier application deadline of September 21, 2015.
- A program solicitation for an organization to run the new Our Town Technical Assistance Pilot Program that will provide grantees with capacity building support to more effectively execute their creative placemaking projects.
- A report on the performing arts in creative placemaking called Beyond the Building: Performing Arts and Transforming Place

Creative placemaking is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work-placing arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. The NEA's programs support local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place.

*2016 Our Town guidelines*

2016 is the sixth year of Our Town, the NEA's primary creative placemaking program, providing funding that supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place. Grants in 2016 will be available for projects in arts engagement, design and planning, and in knowledge building.

The application deadline for the 2016 Our Town program is earlier than in years past and is on September 21, 2015. Guidelines and application materials for 2016 Our Town program are in the Apply for a Grant section of the NEA website.

*Webinars to assist Our Town applicants*

To help applicants prepare competitive proposals, the NEA is offering two webinars; July 29 and August 5, 2015. Each session will be from 3:00 - 4:00 pm ET. Program staff will lead a Powerpoint presentation with tips and tricks for crafting compelling applications, followed by Q and A.

*Our Town technical assistance initiative*

The NEA is releasing a program solicitation for an organization to manage a new pilot technical assistance (TA) program that will assist Our Town grantees in completing their NEA-funded projects and building their organizational capacity.

After a managing organization has been selected, it will work with the NEA to provide direct assistance to select Our Town grantees to help increase the likelihood that grantees' projects are fully successful, resulting in longer term positive outcomes for communities. The NEA will share lessons learned, significant field trends, and other program resources with the public. Our Town grantees will be able to apply in February 2016 when guidelines are available, to be among the organizations selected to receive the direct assistance.

[Learn more about the Our Town Grant Opportunity](#)

**Reminder: Recreational Trail Stakeholders**

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is now accepting applications (see attached) for FY16 Recreational Trail Program funding with a deadline date of **2 p.m. on July 1, 2015**. SHA encourages agencies and non-profit organizations to utilize this Program to fund trail related projects. Funding awards will be announced this Fall.

The Recreational Trails Program is an 80/20, reimbursement based program which provides funds to project sponsors to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and

motorized recreational trail uses. Examples of trail uses include hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, canoeing, kayaking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

The Recreational Trails Program applications are reviewed with the goal of prioritizing projects that enhance Maryland's existing trail network, make needed connections between communities and natural/cultural areas and/or enhance existing tourism-related targeted investment areas such as designated Scenic Byways, Heritage Areas, Canal Towns, Main Streets, Water Trails, etc... Through strategic investments in the trail network and targeted investment areas, Maryland and our partners hope to both stimulate the economy and achieve cost savings for households and government agencies.

Applications may be submitted electronically to Terry Maxwell at [tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us](mailto:tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us). If your attachments are larger than 8 MB, please use an FTP site or file sharing service to transmit the application and any large attachments. Dropbox is a free option to consider, and can be accessed [HERE](#). Confirmation will be sent when the application is received. Please contact Terry Maxwell with any questions about submissions or to discuss potential projects.

Download the Grant Application form [HERE](#).

Download the FY2016 Recreational Trails Program Guidelines [HERE](#).

Terry Maxwell  
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Office of Environmental Design  
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**Maryland's Six-to-Fix Program**

Maryland's Six-to-Fix is a new program through Preservation Maryland designed to help save threatened resources statewide. Rather than creating lists of threatened buildings, we're ready to do something about it. The program is open to all varieties of threatened historic resources. The nominating organization or individual(s) must be willing to participate in the project as a team leader and to help be part of the fix. The six sites selected will receive a tailored package of support from Preservation Maryland, which will likely include:

- Seed funding
- Professional, technical assistance (architectural, engineering, legal, etc.)
- Partnership building assistance
- Organizational capacity building assistance (fundraising, outreach, etc.)
- Inclusion in a statewide publicity campaign

Learn more by visiting [www.sixtofix.org](http://www.sixtofix.org)

### Call for Artists

### Trains, Tracks, and Stations: An Exhibit of Art Celebrating the Railroad

October 23 - November 30, 2015  
Opening Reception October 24, 2015 from 5-7:00 PM

The Oakland, Maryland B&O Museum is inviting artists to participate in a fine art exhibit. This exhibit, created in cooperation with the American Society of Railway Artists, will celebrate the history of the railroad.

Oakland is located in Garrett County, the western most county in Maryland. The area is named for John Work Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad. Therefore, the area has a long connection to the railroading community. Oakland's 1884 B&O Railroad Station has undergone a complete, historically-accurate restoration. Its Queen Anne style architecture is the centerpiece of the community's downtown and is one of the most distinguished, historic depots in the country.

In 2014, the Oakland B&O Museum welcomed over 5,000 visitors. In addition to railroad enthusiasts, the station hosts group bus tours and educational programs for both children and adults.

For additional information or questions, contact Michelle Ross, Oakland Business Coordinator at [mainstreetgoba@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetgoba@gmail.com) or 301-334-2691.

### Don't forget to download our Heritage Mobile App!



The Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area invites you to download 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 lookout for new tours to be added in the future including trail routes and so much more! Download today to start exploring!

## Around the County

### Congratulations Grantsville!

The town of Grantsville was recently notified that they are to receive an Arts & Entertainment Designation. Effective, July 1, 2015, the A&E District will become the first community in Garrett County to obtain the title. The town has established short-term and extended goals for the district and they include strengthening the town's appeal as a regional tourism destination, developing an Artist Relocation Program, installing public art projects and increasing the number of businesses and residents of the community. For more information, visit [www.visitgrantsville.com](http://www.visitgrantsville.com)



## Upcoming Events

### Mountain Fresh Farmers Market

Join us for an Old-Fashioned Farmers Market every week from June - October on Wednesdays & Saturdays in Oakland! Our market features:

- Fresh Vegetables
- Fresh Fruits
- Fresh Berries
- Fresh & Dried Herbs



- Baked Goods
- Jams & Jellies
- Fresh Eggs
- Grassfed Meats
- Artisanal Cheeses
- Handmade Crafts
- Live Plants
- ...And more!



The Mountain Fresh Producers Association is a non-profit group of farmers, artisans, cooks, and bakers in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of western Maryland and northeastern West Virginia. We sponsor producer-only tailgate farmers markets in Garrett County, Maryland.

### **Star Spangled Commemorations & Historical Presentation**

The Garrett County Historical Society will host a commemoration of the role that Garrett County played in the War of 1812 and the Civil War. The first event will take place on Saturday, June 27 at 3pm with the Star Spangled Banner Salute to Garrett County. The event will start at the Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Oak & 3rd Streets in Oakland with a salute to the area's Civil War veterans.



Then at 4pm, the summer home of the Howard & Key families will be commemorated at the Transportation Museum located at 107 S. 2nd Street in Oakland, MD. Although the home is no longer standing, a historical plaque will be

dedicated in its former location.

On Sunday, June 28 at 4pm, Ranger Vince Vaise of the National Park Service and interpreter for Fort McHenry in Baltimore, will give a presentation about the time period when Garrett County played host to three of the most famous families in U.S. history: the McHenry's, the Key's, and the Howard's. This event will be held at the Wisp Resort Yurt "H" at 4pm.

For more information, contact the Garrett County Historical Society at 301-533-1033.

### **Taste of Garrett - Garrett Trails Fundraiser**

Attend the 13th Annual Taste of Garrett restaurant sampler



event at Wisp Resort's McHenry House. Attendees sample food of leading restaurants, markets and caterers from around the County. Music, games, silent auctions and displays help compliment the food with opportunities to learn about trails in our region. Proceeds from this event benefit Garrett Trails, a local



non-profit trail advocacy organization working to improve trail opportunities in Garrett County and the region through trail construction, maintenance and education. Don't forget to bring the kids early to take advantage of the bike rodeo (helmets and bikes provided). Also, for those who want to push their physical limits, try the Race up the Face! More information is available at [www.garretttrails.org](http://www.garretttrails.org).

### **The Cumberland Division: the "West End" Lecture Series**

The Oakland B&O Museum will feature Bruce Elliott for its July lecture of the summer. It will be held at the 1884 Oakland B&O Station on Thursday, July 16th at 6:00pm. The evening will be catered with appetizers and desserts and Elliott will begin his talk at 7:00. Contact Oakland City Hall to purchase tickets at \$25 at 301-334-2691 or Terry Helbig at 301-616-0661.

### **Summer School for Preservation Professionals**

Stimulating Investment and Creating Jobs in Maryland's Main Streets and Heritage Areas. On Wednesday, July 22 join colleagues and friends for Preservation Summer School as we delve deep into the questions of which economic development and heritage tourism strategies and Maryland programs can benefit your community.

This one-day, one-topic educational event will be hosted in Fells Point, a Baltimore Main Street, and will feature speakers who will provide a national and regional perspective on the tools and techniques that you can immediately put into practice.

Economic development directors, business owners, planners, tourism professionals and preservationists in any community will benefit from these sessions and networking opportunities.

[Learn more information and sign up today!](#)

**There are so many fantastic summer events; we invite you to visit our website; [www.garrettheritage.com](http://www.garrettheritage.com) to learn more about all of the fantastic events happening in our area. Here are just a few of the many dates to mark your calendar!**

- Grantsville Days - June 26-28
- Music at Penn Alps - June 27, July 11, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29
- Accident Homecoming - July 4
- Chautauqua - July 5-7
- Art in the Park - July 11
- GLAF Musical Cruise - July 17
- Maryland Symphony Orchestra - July 18
- Friendsville Days - July 24-25
- 59th Annual Garrett County Agriculture Fair - August 1 - August 8
- New York Piano Duo - August 8
- "The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Cumberland to Oakland 1842-1851" - Summer Lecture Series - August 20
- Little Yough Music Festival - Friday evenings this summer

***\*Please check with individual events to confirm dates, times and ticket/registration information. Subject to change.***

Sincerely,

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

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