

Currents

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

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Spring/Summer 2014

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANTS \$155,965 TO LOCAL HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS



On July 10, 2014, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) approved nearly \$2.7 million to 60 project grants in a highly competitive grant round, and one of these grants was to projects in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Grants awarded from MHAA fund historical, cultural and natural resource projects in 12 certified Heritage Areas across the state. Grant funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that expand economic development and tourism-related job creation in 21 counties and the city of Baltimore. Notably, all MHAA grants are fully matched at the local level. The total leverage for FY15 grants is \$14.7 million. Tourism represents the 10th largest private employment sector in Maryland, providing more than 135,741 jobs and about \$4.5 billion in wages and salaries. Visitors to Maryland spent over \$14.9 billion, generating more than \$2 billion in state and local tax revenue across Maryland in just one year.

In all, MHAA funding to projects in the Four Rivers Heritage Area totaled \$155,965, for total leverage of \$357,713 in FY15. Grants to Projects in Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town and South County, include:

“Field of Dreams: Home Grown History,” Galesville Community Center, Galesville, MD, \$30,665

To support the interpretation phase of Field of Dreams, a companion program to the Smithsonian’s traveling exhibit, “Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America.” The Galesville Community Center will work with the Anne Arundel County Public Schools Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program, providing professional and programmatic support to teachers and students who will engage with Galesville’s history and contribute to the Hometown Teams exhibit. The project will also include summer training for teachers and immersive archeological activities for 7th grade students.

Capital Repairs to 43 Pinkney Street, Historic Annapolis, Inc., Annapolis, MD, \$13,300

To make repairs to the National Register-listed building known as the Artisan’s House or Hogshead Barracks. The building is used to tell authentic stories to the public about the Revolutionary War and the lives of everyday townspeople. It is an exemplary example of a gambrel-roofed frame house in Annapolis.

Website Redesign and Mobile Walking Tour Application, Historic Annapolis, Inc., Annapolis, MD, \$12,000

To redesign the Historic Annapolis website and develop a walking tour application for mobile devices that will provide easily accessible information about visiting historic sites in Annapolis, participating in community events, connecting to educational resources, other heritage partners and tourism opportunities.

FY 2015 Management Grant to Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area, \$100,000

To support the management of the Annapolis, London Town, and South County Heritage Area (Four Rivers) to conduct activities, programs and projects consistent with its state, county and city-approved heritage area management plan and five-year action plan, along with collaborative programs and a highly successful mini-grant program, now in its twelfth year.

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Four Rivers Announces Four Spring Mini-Grants

In late March, Four Rivers Heritage Area announced four new mini-grant awards to local heritage-related nonprofit organizations. The grants totaled \$7,800 for projects totaling \$35,578, making the combined total for FY2014 mini-grants awarded (both fall and spring) to \$24,565, for total projects of \$93,018.

This matching mini-grants program, made possible for the eleventh year through financial support from the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, leverages other funding to assist local heritage related nonprofit organizations to create new programs, activities, and events that build upon heritage-based interpretive themes, foster collaborative partnerships, and enhance local cultural historic resources and heritage tourism.

Organizations and projects approved for FY2014 Spring Mini-grant awards include:

- **Deale Area Historical Society**, for a celebration dedicated to the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration at Tracey's Landing and the skirmishes at Herring Creek, planned for October 25, 2014.
- **Galesville Community Center, in partnership with Anne Arundel County Public Schools**, for the creation of a "Hometown Heroes History Community Quilt." This documentary story quilt will accompany a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian to be displayed at the Community Center.
- **Hammond-Harwood House**, for the re-design and upgrade of the site's current website.
- **West/Rhode Riverkeeper Inc.**, for support of a new eco- heritage event that took place in the spring. RiverFest introduced visitors to the ecology, heritage, and beauty of South County in a fun, environmentally-friendly festival.



Above: The Aisquith Sharpshooters will return to take part in a reenactment of the War of 1812 Herring Creek Skirmishes on October 25, 2014. Photo courtesy of Deale Area Historical Society.

Four Rivers Welcomes New Coordinating Council Member

Joanna Ogburn, Director of Programs,
Chesapeake Conservancy



Joanna Ogburn has extensive experience in stakeholder-driven conservation efforts, as well as public involvement in land protection. She manages the majority of the Conservancy's programs and leads the organization's community-based and large landscape conservation efforts, including the \$1 million "Envision the James" initiative and the \$5.25 million Nanticoke River Conservation Corridor initiative, as well as the Conservancy's public access and heritage programs. Prior to joining the Conservancy, Joanna ran a county-wide land conservation program in Savannah, GA. Joanna has a Masters of Environmental Management from Duke University and a Bachelors of Science from the University of Richmond. Welcome, Joanna!

Christina Csaszar Joins Four Rivers Staff

The Four Rivers Board of Directors and Executive Director, Carol Benson, are pleased to welcome Christina Csaszar onto the staff as Four Rivers' new Heritage Programs Coordinator. Christina graduated from The Catholic University of America with a B.A. in Art History, and she lives in Arnold. She has been a docent and facilitator at Historic Annapolis and a Gallery Assistant at the Maryland Federation of Art, Circle Gallery in Annapolis. She has a passion for art, preservation, and heritage and has an extensive background in customer service. Her experience includes project management, blogging and social networking, database management, and more. Follow her posts on Facebook (if you don't already, "Like" the Four Rivers Heritage Area) and her blog posts, as she explores the heritage area for new experiences.



Exhibits, Events and Garden Guide Reflect Four Rivers Grant Support

"I Work the Water: Seasons of the West River Watermen," an exhibit created by the Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side with support from a mini-grant from Four Rivers and funding from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, and Earl Hargrove and family. This exhibit teaches the public about watermen, their knowledge and tools of the trade, from oystering, crabbing, and fishing to boat building and repair and the roles they played in their families and communities. This exhibit is on display from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays and runs through November.

•**RiverFest**, an inaugural event celebrating the beautiful environment and heritage of the rivers and rural landscape of Southern Anne Arundel County was funded in part by a mini-grant from Four Rivers, and was a huge success. More than 500 members of the community, including musicians, exhibitors, and watermen, gathered at Discovery Village on June 14th for the event. There were many fun activities the whole family could participate in such as kayaking, live music, and interactive projects helping kids learn about the environment issues impacting the waterways. There was also a traditional "Blessing of the Fleet" (pictured right), as a dozen watermen paraded their workboats under a spray of water as the Rev. Dr. Patricia Sebring blessed them for a safe season of harvest on the water. Riverfest II is already planned for June 13, 2015.

•**Asbury Annapolis Museum and Resource Center.** The Asbury Annapolis United Methodist Church has created a museum and resource center that tells the history of the African American congregation with deep roots in the Methodist faith and tell the untold stories of the generations of African Americans who lived and worked in the surrounding communities and helped shape the city of Annapolis. The Resource Center will encourage historical research and genealogy studies. The exhibit also displays photographs and video recordings that highlight over 200 years of rich history. The Museum and Resource Center was funded in part by a Four Rivers mini-grant, and is currently open by appointment only.



•**Historic London Town and Gardens' "Garden Guide,"** produced by Historic London Town and Gardens with partial funding from a mini-grant from Four Rivers. This 14-page, comprehensive garden guide for visitors to the site offers an overview to what is currently in bloom that season and also serves as a guide during the visitor's walking tour throughout the gardens. With beautiful photographs, a map, and descriptions of plant and wildlife that can be found throughout the garden, this guide is the perfect addition to a visitor's self-guided tour.

Maryland Day Celebration Marks Its Seventh Year!

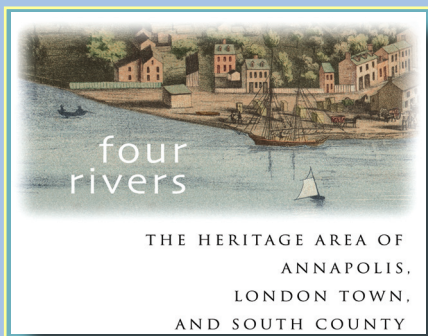


Transport, a local transportation company, provided free transportation to select participating sites on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23. Mark your calendars now for next year's event, March 20-22, 2015!

Pictured below, at Four Rivers' Annual Flag-Raising Ceremony on Saturday, March 22 (R to L): the Mayor of Annapolis, Hon. Michael Pantelides; Miss Maryland Teen, Cat Spillane; and Four Rivers Executive Director, Carol Benson.

In March 2014, Four Rivers presented its seventh annual Maryland Day Celebration event, a collaborative program that encompasses the entire heritage area. The event, which took place during the weekend of March 21 to 23, involved thirty-three organizations offering more than forty programs for free or \$1.00 admission throughout the weekend. Local businesses, including restaurants and shops, offered specials and discounts for Maryland Day visitors. Maryland Day programs were printed and distributed to state Welcome Centers, area Visitor Centers, and local sites and organizations. Four Rivers continued the dedicated event website, www.marylandday.org, posting current information online, including downloads of printed materials, to inform the public about the weekend's events.

New this year was a "Passport" to participating sites, featuring individual pages in the passport for each site, with room for each to add its "stamp." Visit Annapolis (AAACCVB) was a major event sponsor and Towne



Four Rivers is a 501(c)3, charitable non-profit organization. Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations that make a difference to our region's quality of life.

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