

Currents

MHAA Grant Recipients Respond:

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts is grateful to have been selected for an MHAA Heritage Area capital grant for this much needed modernization project. The adaptive re use of the former Annapolis High School continues to be a priority as we improve it for arts uses and to benefit the public. Our nearly 100,000 patrons each year including artists, teachers, students and community members will truly benefit for this latest modernization project.

- Linell Bowen, Executive Director of Maryland Hall

Receiving this grant from MHAA at this time is especially gratifying and significant to the US Lighthouse Society because obtaining state preservation grants has become more competitive and more limited, and because this grant will enable us to make a very visible and timely step forward with the interpretation of the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse a beloved icon to everyone in the Chesapeake Bay area, but especially in the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

- Henry Gonzalez, Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse Manager & Vice President, US Lighthouse Society

The London Town Foundation is truly appreciative of the continued support of the MHAA and Four Rivers Heritage Area in our on-going effort to reconstruct a portion of the colonial tobacco port of London. We could not have created the tangible, living history component of London Town without the financial assistance of MHAA and Four Rivers. This award will provide us with needed funds complete the archaeological investigation, begun in the early 1990s, of the Rumney-West Ordinary site in partnership with Lost Towns Project. As with the Lord Mayor's Tenement and the Carpenter Shop, Rumney-West will be rebuilt in its original footprint and enable visitors to experience social aspects of the colonial town.

- Donna Ware, Executive Director of Historic London Town and Gardens

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The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area
Issue No. 14 • Fall 2010

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANT AWARDS TO FOUR RIVERS TOTAL \$288,000

Four heritage area sites and organizations received programming or capital funding from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) in Fiscal Year 2011. These grant funds of \$188,000, which are fully matched at the local level, will support the development of regional heritage-related projects totaling more than \$434,000. In addition, Four Rivers received \$100,000 for management assistance, for a total of \$288,000 in funds awarded. This management assistance supports activities such as the annual mini-grants program, the annual heritage awards, regional interpreter training, area site director networking meetings, educational workshops, and new economic development and capacity-building initiatives.

MHAA funding will support the following heritage-related projects:

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts (MHCA) received a capital grant in the amount of \$90,000 for the modernization of restrooms, a project designed to improve the visitor experience at this site while preserving and protecting the historic structure. Maryland Hall is one of the primary hubs for arts and culture in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, and hosts some 100,000 visitors and students from Maryland and the surrounding region each year.

The Londontown Foundation received a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for preliminary research and planning (Phase 1) of the reconstruction of the 18th-century Rumney-West Ordinary within the historic area of Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. This reconstruction follows two earlier reconstruction projects at the site, the Lord Mayor's Tenement and the Carpenter's Shop, and is a critical next step in the Foundation's Master Plan. Phase 1 will involve archaeological excavations and related historical and interpretative research.

The United States Lighthouse Society received a grant in the amount of \$12,000 for the implementation of the recently-completed "Interpretation & Furnishings Plan" for the Thomas Point Shoal Lighthouse, which was funded in part by a Four Rivers Heritage Area mini-grant. The project includes development and presentation of interpretive exhibits throughout the lighthouse. Most areas of the lighthouse will be interpreted for the period of 1900-1910, but one room will be interpreted to represent the U.S. Coast Guard era of the 1960s through 1980s.

The Historic Annapolis Foundation (HAF) received a grant in the amount of \$36,000 for "Project Run-A-Way," a series of provocative and unique programs based on primary source

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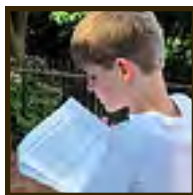
Executive Director

Aleitheia Williams

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Kids Star in Signers' Stroll on July 4

This year, Independence Day in Annapolis was full of activities celebrating freedom and liberty, including Four Rivers Heritage Area's second Heritage Stride – the July 4 Signers' Stroll! Over 30 strollers joined the Heritage Area staff to learn about the homes belonging to Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, as well as historic properties associated with some of the most colorful and intriguing characters of Annapolis's past. Participants played a revised History Hop game, first introduced at the Four Rivers Maryland Day Celebration Heritage Stride in March 2010, as players won prizes by matching photos of heritage sites to their location on a map.



Kids (with some adults filling in) were the stars of the Stroll; at each stop a participant read a script of a character from the past, including that of Phebe Ann Spencer, the step-daughter of John Maynard, performed at the Maynard-Burgess House, and a fictional teen named

Abbey who talked about her experiences growing up in Civil War-era Annapolis and attending St. Anne's Church.

Other stops included Charles Carroll House, Jonas and Anne Catharine Green



House, the Thurgood Marshall Monument at Lawyers' Mall and the State House, Chase-Lloyd House, Peggy Stewart House, Hammond-Harwood House, and the Brice House. We ended our journey at the William Paca House and Garden immediately following their annual naturalization ceremony for new American citizens and the beginning of Historic Annapolis Foundation's full day of festivities.

Special thanks to Meg Govan and Nancy Bolin of Watermark, who volunteered their time to help make the tour educational and fun! The Signers' Stroll was a great way to start the Independence Day holiday. We anticipate more Heritage Strides in the future, and hope you will come along!

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runaway advertisements from the *Maryland Gazette* and the *Maryland Republican* from the colonial period to emancipation (1727-1864), that will invite the public to explore the history of slave and servant labor in the Chesapeake region. The program will include an online database, blog and webpage. A traveling exhibition and multimedia presentation including 10 dynamic, living history characters are planned for future phases of the project.

Historic Annapolis is thrilled to have Four Rivers and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority as partners in Project Run-A-Way, a multifaceted endeavor based on runaway ads published in local newspapers. By funding this project, MHAA is helping to open new avenues of scholarship and shedding new light on the personal stories of the enslaved population. This grant will allow Historic Annapolis to present the information uncovered in dynamic and interactive multimedia and a thought-provoking theatrical production. We look forward to sharing the results with the community,
- John W. Guild, President, Historic Annapolis Foundation

Special: ICOMOS Group Visits Annapolis



On August 12th, the Four Rivers Heritage Area joined forces with several other Annapolis organizations to host an informational briefing for an international group from Poland and Ukraine visiting our area under the auspices of ICOMOS, the International Council On Monuments and Sites. The visit was part of a special training called “Sharing Our Experience, Pooling Our Resources: A Value-Driven Urban Conservation and Development Workshop.” After three days of full-day workshops in Washington D.C., the group of ICOMOS professionals, museum curators, university professors, staffers, and diplomats visited Four Rivers to see how a state heritage area operates, and learn more about individual heritage sites and programs. The group visited the Maryland State House, Historic Annapolis Foundation’s HistoryQuest, the Annapolis Maritime Museum, Historic London Town and Gardens, and the newly-restored Galesville Rosenwald School.

The ICOMOS group and heritage area hosts pose for a photo outside of the William Brown House at Historic London Town and Gardens. Photo courtesy of Cory Kegerise

Congratulations to the Seventh Annual Heritage Awardees!

Friends, family, and supporters gathered at Historic London Town and Gardens on the afternoon of November 10, 2010, to honor the seventh annual Heritage Awards winners. The annual awards program recognizes exemplary individuals, organizations, exhibits, programs, and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy. This year, ten awards were conferred in the following categories:

Heritage Tourism Product Award: The Oysters on the Half Shell Exhibition, Annapolis Maritime Museum

New Initiative Award: Captain Salem Avery Museum’s Heritage Eco-Tour

Heritage Interpreter of the Year: Meg Govan, Watermark

Legacy Award: Clarence “Speedy” Hogarth, Historic Annapolis Foundation

Public/Private Partnership Award: The City of Annapolis Gott’s Court Parking Garden and its extensive project team

Heritage Partnership Award: Historic London Town and Gardens and Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Heritage Partnership Award: “Music to Our Ears,” The Banneker-Douglass Museum, Anne Arundel County Public Schools and Annapolis High School, and the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation

Heritage Professional: Genevieve Kaplan, Banneker-Douglass Museum

Heritage Leadership Award: Vincent Leggett

Heritage Leadership Award: Gertrude Makell

For more details about these awards, please visit our website: <http://www.fourriversheritage.org/whats-new.cfm>

Super “Cool” Summer Picnic

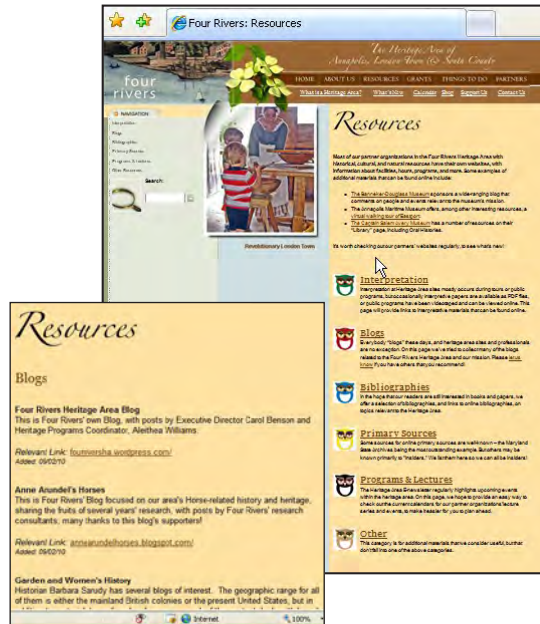
It was not our intention to hold our first annual summer networking picnic on one of the hottest days of the season, but that’s how it turned out! On June 24, 2010, sixty stakeholders and supporters of the Four Rivers Heritage Area gathered to network and enjoy a light luncheon under wide, shady tents on the gently sloping, waterfront lawns of the Charles Carroll House in Annapolis. Food, friends, and staying cool were the top priorities of the day. The high temperatures did not overcome our high spirits, however, as one and all enjoyed the conversation and camaraderie. Special thanks to the Charles Carroll House for providing the perfect location for this event, which we hope to reprise next year WITHOUT the searing heat!



New Resources Webpages

Link You to a Wealth of Information

Four Rivers is very pleased to announce that our website has been expanded with new web-based *Resources* pages which are chock-full of useful information for a variety of audiences. The pages contain numerous links to heritage-related blogs, bibliographies, interpretive essays and papers, primary source materials, and special events such as programs and lectures held in the heritage area.



have a resource, document, historical image, etc., that you would like to share, please let us know via e-mail or by calling the heritage area office (see contact info below). Four Rivers thanks our colleague Dr. Jean Russo for so generously giving many hours of her time to researching and uploading the content for the new pages. *Please help spread the word to students, researchers, and anyone else who may be interested about this terrific new information source!*

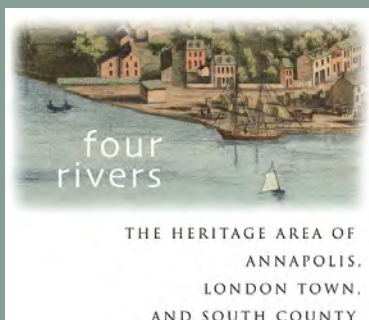
To view the new *Resources* pages, visit <http://www.fourriversheritage.org/resources.cfm>

Southern High School Legacy Group: “A Win-Win Collaboration”

The Southern High School Legacy Group, according to its Collaboration Coordinator Marilyn Harmon, grew out of South County historical associations’ needs for volunteers and high schoolers’ needs for work experience and service learning hours. The driving element of this collaborative group - which includes

representatives from Four Rivers, the Deale Area Historical Society, the Captain Salem Avery Museum, the Galesville Heritage Society, and the Hartge Museum, among others - is community building that benefits heritage groups and local students. The goal of the South County Legacy Group is to “provide

the workforce that the historical groups need, to educate the students at the high school of the history of South County by putting up exhibits in the school, and to give students training and experience in working with historical association activities,” says Harmon, “and have fun doing it!”



Four Rivers is a 501 (c) 3, charitable non-profit organization, and your contributions are tax-deductible.

Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations that make a difference to our region’s quality of life.

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