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## **Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to Hold Public Hearing**

### *Hearing to Address Proposal to Expand the Boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area*

**Crownsville, MD** -- The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority will host a public hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Brookeville Academy to consider a proposal to expand the boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area (<http://www.heritagemontgomery.org/>).

The new boundary would include sites in unincorporated portions of Montgomery County including: the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase; Josiah Henson Park in North Bethesda; Pleasant View Historic Site and Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg; the Smithville Colored School in Colesville; the Sandy Spring Slave Museum; and the Germantown Historic District.

The Montgomery County Heritage Area was certified in 2004 and is managed by the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County. Certified Heritage Areas promote heritage tourism and foster partnerships between governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations to create more livable and economically sustainable communities.

Heritage areas also preserve and celebrate Maryland's history, cultural traditions, and natural areas through grants, loans, tax credits and other tools. Any requests to change the boundaries require a public hearing. On-street parking for the meeting is available nearby.

- WHAT:** Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Public Hearing to consider the proposal to expand the Montgomery County Heritage Area
- WHEN:** 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 5, 2018
- WHERE:** Brookeville Academy, 5 High Street, Brookeville, MD 20833
- WHO:** Local government officials, heritage resource organizations, tourism industry representatives, business and property owners, and others who are interested in the proposal to expand the boundaries of the Montgomery County Heritage Area.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is an independent unit of state government that operates as part of the Maryland Department of Planning. For more information, visit <http://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml> or call (410) 697-9586.

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