

# Currents

*The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area*

ANNAPOLIS  
LONDON TOWN  
SOUTH COUNTY

## Four Rivers Celebrates Preservation Month

May is Preservation Month! Four Rivers celebrates this month by acknowledging the hard work of our partners in undertaking capital improvement and preservation projects that will result in an enhanced heritage tourism experience in our area. These projects include:



Brice House detail

**James Brice House (Historic Annapolis)** –The restoration of this masterwork of early architecture (1767-1774), called one of the most important surviving structures from colonial America, began in 2016 and will be a multi-year, multi-million dollar project. A public-private partnership between the State of Maryland and Historic Annapolis, Inc. is funding the work of a team of experts that began with historical investigations, primary source research, and architectural predesignplanning work. Two senior staff members of the Maryland Historical Trust lead the team: Michael Day, Chief of the Office of Preservation Services and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Marcia Miller, Chief of the Office of Research, Survey & Registration, to direct opera-

tions to ensure that the restoration is meeting best practices and being held to the highest standards possible.

**Historic Annapolis’s 99 Main Street** – Capital repairs, including roof replacement, are in process for this prominent building (c. 1791) on Main Street, which houses the Historic Annapolis Museum & Store. This multi-phase project will prepare the building for the presentation of a new exhibit, “A History of Annapolis in Objects.”

**William Brown House** (Historic London Town and Gardens) – Site staff is undertaking a multi-year, multi-phase project to restore this National Historic Landmark (c. 1760) and mitigate moisture infiltration into the structure, including repointing mortar joints and repairing window sashes, and fixing structural needs in columns, beams, and joists, and stairs.

**Sellman House (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center [SERC])** – SERC continues to invest in the continuing rehabilitation of the Sellman House, also known as “Woodlawn.” Efforts began with roof replacement and stabilization

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Michael Day leads hard hat tour at Brice House

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four  
rivers  
THE HERITAGE AREA OF  
ANNAPOLIS,  
LONDON TOWN,  
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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#### Four Rivers Celebrates Preservation Month

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after damage from the 2011 earthquake. SERC plans to secure the building's envelope and restore windows, exterior and interior doors, and two first floor marble fireplace mantles. The building will eventually become the visitors reception area for the entire campus, and also house an exhibition area for SERC's archaeology program, as well as offices.

Preservation initiatives in our area also include non-capital projects, such as oral histories, archival work, documentary-style exhibits, and more. We salute

our partners for their ongoing efforts to document and preserve our built environment and our regional identity – thank you for your work!



Sellman House

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Galesville Community Center Organization



On Friday, May 4, the national Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) gave its 2018 Advocacy Award to the Galesville Community Center Organization (GCCO). The VAF seeks to encourage citizen-based advocacy by recognizing exemplary efforts and achievements on behalf of vernacular built heritage. The VAF Award for Advocacy honors individuals and groups for exceptional contributions toward the appreciation and protection of vernacular buildings and landscapes, and recognizes outstanding initiative, commitment, and action to promote and protect vernacular resources. The organization was

nominated by the VAF Potomac conference committee, including Marylanders Heather Barrett and Tom Reinhart. The award committee specifically recognized the Galesville Community Center Organization for advancing the preservation of the historic Rosenwald School and for modeling an ethic of preservation over an extended period, developing oral histories, genealogies and exhibits about the local community. The award was presented at a reception at Lloyd House in Washington, D.C.

The VAF's annual conference includes local tours, and this year's organizers planned a visit to see unique historic properties in Galesville, including the Galesville Community Center, the Henry Wilson House, the adjoining Hot Sox Baseball Field, the former Woodfield Fish and Oyster Company employee housing on West Benning Road, and nearby Tulip Hill, an 18th-century historic home. Gertrude Makell, president of the Galesville group, shared that GCCO members and community volunteers have worked hard to make the old school into a welcoming community center and to manage and maintain the Wilson House and Hot Sox field, which is still used by local teams.

## Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Meets in Annapolis



On Thursday, April 12th, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) held its quarterly meeting in Annapolis, at the Asbury United Methodist Church on West Street. Annapolis' own Janice Hayes-Williams (Constituent Service Officer and Ombudsman to the Mayor) is a member of MHAA and organized the meeting location, welcoming the group to her church. Several key stakeholders were in attendance that day, including Mayor Gavin Buckley; Visit Annapolis President and CEO, Connie Del Signore; Main Street Executive Director, Erik Evans; and Four Rivers Board members, Diane Nowak-Waring and Gertrude Makell.

Following the meeting, the group enjoyed an afternoon tour of several Annapolis

landmarks and attractions. The stops included the history exhibit at Asbury Church itself; the Back Creek Nature Park campus of the Annapolis Maritime Museum; the James Brice House (now undergoing renovations, thus requiring hard hats on the tour); and the special exhibit rooms in the Maryland State House. Maryland Historical Trust architectural renovation specialists Michael Day (Chief of the Office of Preservation Services and MHT Deputy Director) and Marcia Miller (Chief, Office of Research, Survey & Registration) led the tour's visits to the Brice House and State House, as they have directed the work on both projects. With the assistance of all the planners, guests, and specialists, MHAA members had an exceptional visit and tour! Many thanks to all.

## Four Rivers Welcomes Erik Evans to Coordinating Council



In late 2017, Erik Evans joined the Four Rivers Coordinating Council. Erik serves as Executive Director of three nonprofit organizations that create partnerships and promote small businesses and events in downtown Annapolis. They include the Downtown Annapolis Partnership that runs the Main Street program in Annapolis; the Annapolis Arts District organization that runs the State-designated arts district in Annapolis; and the Inner West Street Association, a small-business association that organizes and promotes some of the most popular events in the city, including the First Sunday Arts Festivals, "Dinner Under the Stars" (an open-air dining event in the first block of West Street in the summer months), and the Chocolate Binge Festival. Erik also serves on the Chairman's Leadership Committee for Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (the County's DMO), and is marketing manager for local two events (the Big Read of Anne Arundel County and the Maryland Day Celebration) that have been managed by the Chesapeake Children's Museum for the past two years. Erik led a social media marketing workshop entitled "Marketing Heritage" for Four Rivers partners in May 2017. Erik's core message, "we are all stronger when we work together," is a theme which helps us all become better partners, in marketing, planning, and creating more effective programs and events. Welcome, Erik!

## MHAA Available Grant Funds Total \$5.1 Million

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) has announced that 170 grant applications have been submitted in the FY2019 grant round. The good news for this year's applicants is that the available grant funds have grown to \$5.1 million, an increase of \$2.4 million for the statewide program overall over last year (up 89 percent)! This is an impressive (and unprecedented) leap for the small program, now in its 22nd year of operation, and is due to a change in legislation raising the program's "funding cap" during the 2017 General Assembly session, followed by the support of Governor Hogan, who fully funded the program in the 2019 budget. The collective hard work of the heritage area directors, with Dan Spedden (a lobbyist and tourism director from Frederick County) and then-Delegate, Hon. Brett Wilson (now Associate Judge in the Washington County Circuit Court), who was sponsor of the bill, all should be recognized for this significant accomplishment.

This year's grant round has more funding, but it also has seen an increase in demand. The total of demand from applications received reached \$7.1 million this year -- an increase of 32% over last year's grant program demand of \$5.4 million. MHAA Program Administrator Jen Ruffner stated, "MHAA funds support heritage tourism projects across the state - there is a heritage area in every county, and the City of Baltimore. The increase in funding for FY 2019 will allow the program to nearly double the number of projects supported - more exhibits, more trails, more interpretive signs, more mobile apps, more educational programs and more preserved buildings. MHAA funds leverage a significant amount of non-state investments - \$6.78 for every dollar of state support provided - which means the increased funding will have a big impact at the local level too."



# Maryland Day Celebration 2018 Recap

The eleventh annual Maryland Day Celebration weekend was TERRIFIC as always, thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the many contributing partners that make it happen! For the second year, the Chesapeake Children's Museum organized and managed the event, communicating with the many partners and supporters, and developing and printing the event brochure. Erik Evans of Evans Management reached more viewers than ever before, through his outstanding efforts to market and promote the event through a wide variety of social media platforms and the event website. Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County also joined in to help marketing the event. Again this year, free transportation on the Saturday of the event was donated by Towne Transport.

Four Rivers sponsored its traditional flag-raising event in Susan Campbell Park at City Dock, showcasing the color guard skills of the League Cadets of the USNA Training Ship Mercedes. The ceremony was led by Annapolis Mayor, Gavin Buckley. Stepping off after the ceremony, Watermark offered a unique free walking tour featuring Squire Richard Hillman, entitled "Annapolis in 100 Memorials," which drew more than 50 participants for a two-hour "ramble."

South County sites included Historic London Town and Gardens, the Galesville Heritage Museum, the Deale Historical Village & Museum, and the Edgewater and Deale libraries. More photographs from the day can be viewed at the event website, [www.marylandday.org](http://www.marylandday.org). Throughout the three-day weekend, more than twenty-four Annapolis and South County heritage attractions, organizations and businesses provided

activities about Maryland's history and heritage. Highlights of the weekend included: Historic Annapolis' "Hogshead" offered hands-on, interactive experiences led by interpreters from Annapolis's colonial past; Chesapeake Children's Museum and the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival featured guest Kwame Ansah-Brew, who shared his cultural experience from West Africa through stories and a drum-and-rhythm circle; and Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts offered its Art Fest event again this year.



Painting at Maryland Hall

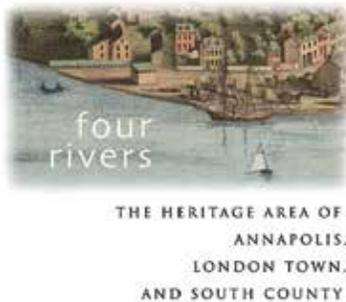


Experiencing colonial life at Historic London Town and Gardens



Activities at Annapolis Maritime Museum

Please remember the **Four Rivers Heritage Area** (legal name ALTSCHA, Inc.) in your charitable donations. Visit our website, [www.fourriversheritage.org/support](http://www.fourriversheritage.org/support) for details on how you can support the organization.



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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.

