

**MEMORANDUM**

April 26, 2010

TO: Health and Human Services Committee  
FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst   
SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY11 Operating Budget**  
**Non-Departmental Account-Montgomery County Historical Society**

*Those expected for this worksession include:*

Debbie Rankin, Executive Director, Montgomery County Historical Society  
Jennifer Bryant, Office of Management and Budget

The Executive transmitted a FY11 budget adjustment for the Historical Activities NDA to the Council on April 22 (©1). The adjustment reduces the total originally recommended for the Historical Activities NDA (©2), which includes funding for the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS).

**OVERVIEW**

For FY11, the Executive has recommended a 50% reduction to the Historical Activities NDA with results in recommended funding of \$32,250 for MCHS. The County supports MCHS in the form of a grant. A letter from MCHS requesting funding totaling for FY11 is attached at ©3-6.

(in \$000's)	<b>FY09 Actual</b>	<b>FY10 Approved</b>	<b>FY11 CE Recommended</b>	<b>% Change FY09-FY10</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	64,500	64,500	32,250	0.0%
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>64,500</b>	<b>64,500</b>	<b>32,250</b>	<b>-50.0%</b>

In addition, the organization reports at ©7 that the reductions to funding for the Historical Preservation Commission in the Historical Activities NDA will result in an additional \$5,000 or more in reduced revenue to MCHS. The organization is also facing a reduction of \$4,500 in funding from the Arts and Humanities Council.

Also attached at ©8-17 are excerpts of the MCHS Annual Report for the period January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The report describes activities of the organization during that period.

## FY11 EXPENDITURE ISSUES

MCHS Executive Director Rankin reports at ©7 that the proposed reductions will require severe cuts to its staff, programs, and activities including the following:

- Eliminate access to the Montgomery County Archives;
- Eliminate two part time Weekend Coordinator positions responsible for staffing the Beall Dawson House (Rockville) and the Waters House (Germantown);
- Reduce library hours by 25-50% and similarly reduce the related staff position;
- Eliminate a housekeeping position;
- Eliminate a part-time Staff Assistant position; and
- Impose a 6% across the board pay reduction on an already underpaid staff.

According to Ms. Rankin, the MCHS Board will need to consider withdrawing from the arrangement with Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to maintain the Waters House History Center in Germantown. Ms. Rankin also notes that the reductions compromise the organizations ability to raise revenue through private and corporate donors, to increase membership revenue, and to leverage funding from other sources like the Maryland Historical Trust and Heritage Montgomery, which require dedicated matching funds.

Council staff notes the percentage reduction of the contract with MCHS is greater than other contracts reductions being reviewed by the Committee as a part of the Department of Health and Human Services budget review. **The Committee must decide the priority of human services delivered through MCHS in relation to other kinds of services supported with County funding and whether MCHS and other historical activities can or should sustain a greater reduction in funding. In addition, the Committee must decide whether to continue the operation of the Montgomery County Archives, a County Government function, and if so, at what level.**

### Montgomery County Archives

The Executive's proposed reduction would also eliminate the operations of the Montgomery County Archives, the permanent repository of County Government records of enduring value. MCHS currently operates the archives through a contract with the County and has received \$10,000 annually to support a part time archivist for about 10 hours per week to make the archives available to the public.

MCHS has previously discussed problems regarding the archives with the Committee. MCHS alerted the Committee to the poor condition of the archives, having been stored in the basement of the Red Brick Courthouse, which lacked appropriate temperature and humidity controls and was subject to flooding. MCHS also explained that because of the lack of storage space and funding for staff support, the Archives has not received records from the County since

FY2000 and has a substantial backlog of unprocessed records. The contents of the unprocessed records are generally unknown, and are thus unavailable to the public.

Because the Red Brick Courthouse is currently under construction to address structural problems, the historical archives are being temporarily stored at the Broome School. The records are not generally accessible to the public during this period. After construction on the Red Brick Courthouse is completed, Council staff understands that the records will be returned to the building and recatalogued. The environmental conditions in the Red Brick Courthouse will be improved over the conditions prior to the construction, but may not meet COMAR's temperature and humidity standards for archival records.

In order to provide a functional historic archival program, Council staff suggests that the following conditions should be met:

- **Adequate Storage Facilities:** Facilities should have appropriate temperature and humidity controls, be free from flooding, and be large enough to accommodate additional County records of historical significance.
- **Access to Public:** Records should be accessible to the public.
- **Archival Program:** There should be defined processes for identifying records of historical value and transferring them from the County Records Center to the historical archives.
- **Adequate Staffing:** There should be enough staff time to ensure that the Archival program is carried out, backlogs are process, and records are made available to the public.

**In order to achieve these objectives, the Council would need to increase its investment in the Montgomery County Archives. However, the Executive has recommended no funding to continue operation of the archives, and fiscal restrictions may prevent the Council from reinstating funding or supporting improvements. In deciding what level of funding should support the operation of the Archives, Council staff provides the following options for the Committee's consideration:**

***Discontinue the Local Archives Program:*** The option would result in a small cost savings for the County (\$10,000) and would not require any additional investment to develop a fully functioning archival program. Although the collection would be offered to the State, it is not certain that the public would have immediate access to these records given potential backlogs in processing records at the State.

***Restore Funding to MCHS at the Current Level (\$10,000):*** This option would provide minimal access to the current collection after construction on the Red Brick Courthouse is completed and the collection is relocated and recatalogued. Environmental conditions in the Red Brick Courthouse would likely be improved but may not necessarily meet COMAR standards for archival records. Under this scenario, progress in addressing the backlog of unprocessed documents or accepting new records into the collection would not be possible. **Council staff recommends against this option. It would continue the status quo regarding the operation of the archives, which is currently inadequate.**

***Restore Funding to MCHS (\$10,000) and Fund Construction of an Adequate Facility at the County Records Center (\$50,000):*** Under this option, the records would be relocated to a climate-controlled “building within a building” developed specifically for the collection. The public would have limited access to the current collection after it is relocated and recatalogued. Without additional staff support, there would not likely be significant progress in addressing the backlog of unprocessed documents, but the facility would have additional room to accept new documents into the collection. The \$50,000 increase could be a charged to all departments for archival services through the internal services fund. Council staff understands that G.O. bonds are not eligible to finance construction of this nature.

***Restore Funding to MCHS( \$10,000), Fund Construction of an Adequate Facility at the County Records Center (\$50,000), and Increase Archival Staff and Operating Support (\$64,000):*** Under this option, staffing to the archives would be increased by a full workyear. Archival staff could make progress on cataloging the existing backlog of documents and begin working with Records Center staff to develop a seamless process for identifying documents to be accepted in the historical archives when they have passed their County Government useful life. With additional staffing hours, public access may be expanded as well.

**Council staff recommendation:** **Despite the valuable services provided by the Montgomery County Historical Society, Council staff concurs with the Executive’s recommended funding reduction because of the dire fiscal environment and the need to fund other services of a greater priority. If adequate funding is not available to support the historical archives, Council staff recommends that the collection be offered to the State.**

## Detail on Recommended Budget Adjustments

Tax Supported

**DECREASE COST: SUPPLEMENT TO PROVIDERS OF DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES (DD) SERVICES** -181,900

This reduction brings the total percent reduction to the DD supplement for non –Individual Support Services (ISS) and Family Support Services (FSS) from 4.7% to 7%. Funding for the supplement for ISS/FSS services was eliminated in the CE Recommended Budget because the ISS/FSS services are fully reimbursable by the State and therefore do not need a supplement. The 7% reduction is in line with the contract reductions taken department-wide.

### Human Rights

**TECHNICAL ADJ: SHIFT FUNDING FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TO COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR EEO INVESTIGATIONS AND DEFENSE OF COMPLAINTS** -44,200

Shift funding from the Office of Human Rights to the County Attorney to perform the EEO function regarding the investigation and defense of complaints filed against the County.

### NDA - Community Grants

**ELIMINATE: COMMUNITY GRANT TO CAPITAL PC USER GROUP, INC.** -2,500  
Nonprofit withdrew the request.

### NDA - Desktop Modernization

**DECREASE COST: DEFER DCM SERVER REPLACEMENTS** -450,000  
Suspension of Enterprise and Public Safety server replacements.

### NDA - Historical Activities

**REDUCE: HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES NDA** -177,670  
The Executive recommends a reduction of 50% in the General Fund support for this Non-departmental Account.

### NDA - Inauguration & Transition

**REDUCE: INAUGURATION & TRANSITION (NDA)** -45,000  
Reduce funding for fiscal considerations. In FY11, \$5,000 would remain for related expenses.

### NDA - Municipal Tax Duplication

**DECREASE COST: MUNICIPAL TAX DUPLICATION PAYMENTS AN ADDITIONAL 20%** -1,497,640  
The Executive recommends an additional 20% reduction to the Municipal Tax Duplication payment. This is in addition to the 5% reduction including in the March 15 Recommended Budget.

**INCREASE COST: ALLOCATE SPEED CAMERA REVENUES TO MUNICIPALITIES** 297,110

In order to efficiently and effectively deploy speed detection cameras within municipalities, the Executive has negotiated Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with Chevy Chase View, Kensington, and Poolesville for sharing speed camera revenues collected in the municipalities. Under recently approved amendments to State Law, municipalities are authorized to deploy their own speed cameras. However, since the County has an existing program it was more efficient and served broader public safety purposes to deploy these cameras under the auspices of the County's speed camera program provided the municipalities received the same amount of revenues (net of expenses) they would be due as if they issued these cameras on their own. The following distributions would be made pursuant to the MOA: Chevy Chase View (\$104,010); Kensington (\$144,980); and Poolesville (\$48,120)

### NDA - Rockville Parking District

**ELIMINATE: FREE PATRON PARKING AT THE ROCKVILLE LIBRARY** -143,540  
The County Executive Recommends eliminating free patron parking at the Rockville Library.

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<b>FY11 Recommended Changes</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>WYs</b>
<b>FY10 Approved</b>	<b>26,039,330</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Increase Cost: Premium contributions to cover increased claims costs	5,057,400	0.0
<b>FY11 CE Recommended</b>	<b>31,096,730</b>	<b>0.0</b>

### **Historical Activities**

This NDA contains a General Fund (\$355,340) and a State (\$25,000) appropriation and provides funding for the following agencies and programs:

- **Historic Preservation Commission:** The Historic Preservation Commission's main responsibility is to administer the historic preservation ordinance including recommending Montgomery County sites of potential historical significance. These efforts are administered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).
- **Historic Preservation Grant Fund:** The Historic Preservation Grant Fund is administered through the Historic Preservation Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission accepts proposals from County historical groups which compete for grant funding for historically significant or educational projects. Currently, historic preservation grant awards are recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission and executed by M-NCPPC.
- **Historical Society:** Funding for the Montgomery County Historical Society provides support for the Society's Education Program staff, educational and outreach programs for County residents, and to maintain the Historical Society's research library and museums.
- **Maryland Historic Grant:** The Maryland Historic Grant is a matching grant whereby the State of Maryland provides funds for historic preservation, and Montgomery County contributes matching funds totaling 25 percent of the State grant. These grant funds are passed through the County to M-NCPPC, which uses the dollars in its historic activity endeavors.

<b>FY11 Recommended Changes</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>WYs</b>
<b>FY10 Approved</b>	<b>380,340</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>FY11 CE Recommended</b>	<b>380,340</b>	<b>0.0</b>

### **Homeowners' Association Road Maintenance Reimburse.**

This NDA provides a partial reimbursement to homeowners' associations (HOAs) for their maintenance of certain privately-owned roadways. The payment is currently restricted to through roadways, accessible to the public, which are one-quarter mile or longer and which provide vehicular access to more than four dwelling units. In FY97, an Executive Regulation was enacted allowing homeowners' associations to request that their roadways be deemed "private maintenance roads." This designation qualifies the HOA for State reimbursement of their roadway maintenance costs. The County annually submits to the State its estimate of reimbursable miles, including those accepted as private maintenance roads. The State then reimburses the County and, subsequently, the County forwards the funds to HOAs.

<b>FY11 Recommended Changes</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>WYs</b>
<b>FY10 Approved</b>	<b>87,130</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>FY11 CE Recommended</b>	<b>87,130</b>	<b>0.0</b>

### **Housing Opportunities Commission**

The Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) is a public corporation established by Maryland law to act as a builder, developer, financier, owner, and manager of housing for people of low- and moderate- (eligible) income. The Commission also provides eligible families and individuals with affordable housing and supportive services.

<b>FY11 Recommended Changes</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>WYs</b>
<b>FY10 Approved</b>	<b>6,136,340</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY10 Personnel Costs	81,110	0.0
Reduce: School Supply Drive	-1,100	0.0
Reduce: National Night Out	-1,200	0.0
Eliminate: Saturday Karate Program	-9,360	0.0
Reduce: Supportive Housing Program Administrative Aide position to 30 hours per week	-11,000	0.0
Decrease Cost: Reduce Management Fee to HOC	-15,410	0.0
Reduce: .5 work years for Emergency Service Worker	-26,500	0.0

*Handwritten note:* Meet 2/20/09

*Handwritten initials:* VY  
CC  
SBF  
LL

**Guthrie, Lynn**

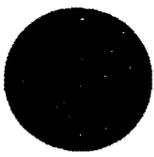
**From:** Debbie Rankin [drankin@montgomeryhistory.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 06, 2009 4:23 PM  
**Cc:** Navarro's Office, Councilmember; Montgomery County Council; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; Ervin, Valerie; Leventhal's Office, Councilmember; Ike Leggett; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Navarro's Office, Councilmember; Lacefield, Patrick; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember  
**Subject:** FY11 Funding request from the Montgomery County Historical Society

Please find attached our FY11 request for county funding. As always, we appreciate your support for our work.

Warmest regards,  
Debbie

**052414**

*Debbie Rankin*  
Executive Director  
Montgomery County Historical Society  
111 W. Montgomery Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301.340.2825  
[drankin@montgomeryhistory.org](mailto:drankin@montgomeryhistory.org)



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Visit us at: [www.montgomeryhistory.org](http://www.montgomeryhistory.org)

"When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness."  
Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

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November 4, 2009

Mr. Frederick C. Wilcox,  
Administrative Services Coordinator  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
100 Maryland Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

The Montgomery County Historical Society is requesting \$64,500 for FY11 support of historical services. Funding from the County helps to:

- support our many educational programs for children and adults;
- provide outreach programming throughout the county;
- provide limited access to the County Archives;
- promote our funding-raising efforts by providing a match

Efforts of the Montgomery County Historical Society remain focused on our core educational mission encompassing collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of Montgomery County for residents and visitors. As the only organization addressing the entire scope of county history, we have an important role to play in creating a sense of place for all. Creating a sense of place is critical to building community. We *are* the county's historical society!

The Society is requesting this appropriation of \$64,500 be allocated as follows:

Education	\$10,500
Outreach	\$16,250
County Archives	\$10,000
Matching Grant	\$27,750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,500</b>

1. The education grant of \$10,500 partially pays the salary of the Education Manager who oversees the education and outreach programs designed to encourage all county residents - from preschool to senior citizen - to more actively appreciate County history. Programs include exhibits, lectures, workshops, tours, speakers' bureau, docent training, museum activities, history camps, school programs and more. These programs are conducted on site in Rockville and Germantown and at sites around the County.
2. The outreach portion of the grant \$16,250, will be applied to the continuing development and support of activities and resources for the Germantown site and programming throughout the county. With the multi-lingual project funded through the federal IMLS program, Montgomery Connections, creating opportunities throughout the county to display banners increasing the numerous contacts and opportunities for MCHS to expand beyond its physical space. Outreach efforts inflate beyond the limits of space and incorporate exhibits, present lectures and workshops and generate interest in the historical society. Reaching new

constituencies and building audience capacity with multi-lingual programming (currently Spanish and Chinese) engages previously underserved audiences in the work of MCHS.

Since 2002, the upcountry MCHS site in Germantown has offered the community programs and exhibits by MCHS and other local historical groups. The adjunct library has become the location for special collections, including 40 years of photos of the county school system and a collection of land plats and atlases. Office space in the building is rented to two local history-related non-profits at a subsidized rate, and to the Maryland Certified Heritage Area Authority- Heritage Montgomery . This funding also allows a subsidized rate for rental of community space for scout groups, community associations and other local groups. The Waters House is an important asset to both the local community and the county as a whole. In FY11, the Waters House History Center will serve as host for the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit (SITES) – *Between Fences*.

3. The \$10,000 request for the County Archives will be used as it was this past year for a part time archivist who opens the County Archives by appointment and works with volunteers to process the back log of materials and accept limited amounts of new material for inclusion in the Archives. We are pleased this funding provides the necessary public access to historical records of Montgomery County. However, providing appropriate stewardship to the archives becomes more challenging each year.
4. The “matching” grant of \$27,750, matched by the Historical Society through private donations from county residents and businesses, foundation grants and special events. This leverage allows us to double our money and is a critical tool in our fund raising efforts. It provides partial funding for our extensive research library on county and Maryland history, publications program including the Montgomery County Story, three museums, community programs, conservation and storage of our artifact collection on the County's heritage (from two-dimensional papers to large three-dimensional items, such as stoves, plows, etc.) and all other facets of society activities. Without these funds the Society would have to greatly curtail operation of the museums and libraries.

History provides a foundation on which we build our lives. The long and beneficial relationship between the Montgomery County Historical Society and Montgomery County demonstrates a public-private partnership that is practical in both fiscal and philosophical terms. Our outreach to the community, the operation of the libraries reflecting county history, the increasing scope of our school program, including National History Day, and the up-county history center in Germantown demonstrates our on-going interest in this partnership. As we actively collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of Montgomery County for all County residents, we hope that the county will continue its commitment by meeting our total funding request of \$64,500.

Sincerely,

Debbie Heibin Rankin  
Executive Director

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cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
George Leventhal, Montgomery County Council, HHS Committee, Chair  
Phil Andrews, President Montgomery County Council  
Duchy Trachtenberg, Montgomery County Council  
Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council  
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Council  
Michael Knapp, Montgomery County Council  
Valerie Ervin, Montgomery County Council  
Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council  
Nancy Navarro, Montgomery County Council

**Yao, Vivian**

**From:** Debbie Rankin [drankin@montgomeryhistory.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2010 7:24 PM  
**To:** Yao, Vivian  
**Cc:** benstonestreet@yahoo.com; rebhart@comcast.net; hhubble@comcast.net; Jack@Artcfa.com; jmcgraw5@verizon.net; brittok@dteenergy.com; lauran@snydercohn.com; Lorraine Minor; mary.wolfe@mci.com; mgrassick@comcast.net; mmkchevy Chase@gmail.com; mmconihe@aol.com; ritalewi@yahoo.com; sharonwashburn@verizon.net; Tad.Asbury@marriott.com; William Allman; wconway@skadden.com  
**Subject:** Implications of a 50% reduction in county support

Dear Vivian,

Per your request, I am providing details regarding the impact of the County Executive's proposed 50% cut to NDA- Historical Activity funding. This reduction will have a massive detrimental effect on the Montgomery County Historical Society. Although the recommended 50% reduction to our direct funding is \$32,250, the cuts to HPC will also affect MCHS and would likely mean an additional \$5,000 or more in reduced revenue; thereby, making the net reduction in county support more than \$38,000. In addition, we are facing a 15.5% reduction in funding from the Arts & Humanities Council, or about \$4,500. Combined, these reductions will cripple our organization.

A \$38,000+ reduction in income will require severe cuts to our programs and activities. The Montgomery County Historical Society would:

- No longer provide access to the Montgomery County Archives
- Eliminate two part time Weekend Coordinator positions responsible for staffing the Beall Dawson House (Rockville) and the Waters House (Germantown)
- Reduce library hours by 25-50% and similarly reduce the related staff position
- Eliminate a housekeeping position
- Eliminate a part-time Staff Assistant position
- Impose a 6% across the board pay reduction on an already underpaid staff

In addition, the Board of MCHS would also have to consider withdrawing from the arrangement with MNCPPC to maintain the Waters House History Center in Germantown.

I also must point out that all of the above cited reductions compromise the organizations ability to raise independent revenue and provide programs, services and educational activities to county residents. Reductions this severe reduce our ability to raise funds through private and corporate donors as well as our ability to increase our membership revenue. Importantly, many of our grants require a match of funding and all of these reductions will have a cumulative effect on our ability to leverage funding from other sources. For example, the Maryland Historical Trust, Heritage Montgomery and several private foundations currently provide MCHS with support and require the dedication of matching funds. In addition, as MCHS reduces services, the organization becomes less relevant and thus begins a downward spiral from which your county historical society may not recover.

I would ask the County Executive and the County Council to consider the possibility of a county without a historical society.

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# Montgomery County Historical Society Rockville, Maryland



**MCHS**  
MONTGOMERY  
C O U N T Y  
H I S T O R I C A L  
S O C I E T Y

Did you ever wonder? **2**

您可曾想過?

¿Se ha preguntado?

[www.montgomeryconnections.org](http://www.montgomeryconnections.org)

**My name is Blanche Corwin. Did you ever wonder how farm women survived the Great Depression?**  
As the Home Demonstration Agent for the county, I helped local farm women bring their goods to market during the Depression. To hear how we worked together to support our families during tough times, make a **FREE\* call to 301-296-5603**

**我的名字是 Blanche Corwin。您可曾想過是持婦女如何度過大不景氣艱苦歲月，身為長年的家庭示範工作人，我曾協助農地的農村婦女在市場帶回她們的貨物維持生活。**  
如果您想知道我們是如何維持家庭生活共同度過這段困難時期，請撥免費電話 **301-296-5604**

**Yo me llamo Blanche Corwin. ¿Se ha preguntado como sobrevivieron las mujeres del campo durante la gran crisis económica antes de la Segunda Guerra Mundial?** En esos días yo era una promotora de actividades económicas en los hogares para el condado. Yo ayudaba a la mujeres crear sus productos de sus granjas al mercado para ayudar a sus familias en esos tiempos difíciles que llamábamos la Gran Depresión. Para escuchar como trabajábamos juntos para apoyar a nuestras familias durante tiempos difíciles, puede **LLAMAR SIN COSTO\* al 301-296-5605**

*Montgomery Connections  
Bus Shelter Poster- Blanche Corwin/The Great Depression*

## ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

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**Montgomery County Historical Society**

*July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009*

**The Montgomery County Historical Society is dedicated to encouraging the County's residents and the public at large to discover their common heritage. To achieve this, the Society uses its historic resources (historic buildings, artifact and library collections, educational programs) and fosters partnerships with others to create a shared sense of place in a changing environment.**

*Mission Statement of the Montgomery County Historical Society  
Revised and approved by the Board of Directors, June 1, 2005*

The past year has presented a number of extraordinary challenges, but just as many unique opportunities. While the Montgomery County Historical Society was not immune to the effects of the worst economy in decades, the organization was fortunate to receive federal funding for an ambitious multi-lingual project- *Montgomery Connections*. This incredible project offered the staff and the organization avenues to expand its impact in communities once considered impossible to reach. Personal relationships, professional partnerships, and public perception were all in play as the project development phase brought together a Community Advisory Group, several focus groups and produced an impressive first round of themes to engage the public.

All the while, the staff, board and volunteers of the Society focused on maintaining programming while simultaneously evaluating not just the dedication of actual financial resources, but also resources more difficult to quantify, our human resources. Where is it best to dedicate our time and effort? Does a particular program, event or interest support our organizational mission? Are we serving our members, donors, constituents, and county residents in the best possible way? How can we do better?

In an effort to address these question, the Board of Directors engaged in a self study exercise evaluating their own structure, process and goals through a Museum Assessment Program for Governance (GMAP) conducted by the American Association of Museums (AAM). The GMAP is intended to increase communications between board, staff and volunteers and create a venue for new ideas to flourish.

As always, MCHS presented outstanding programs and events such as Happy Birthday Montgomery County!, History Volunteers Conference, History Day, the Waters House tree lighting; unique exhibits such as *The Other Member of the Family: Montgomery County Pets*, the *From Spring to Snow: a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Heirloom Garden* and *Amusement Parks*, reached out into the community through the Speakers Bureau, welcomed researchers and the curious to our exceptional libraries and archives and maintained a focus on research and interpretation by providing the first fellowship through the Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies to create an annotated bibliography of county historic resources.

So while these are indeed challenging times, these are also times of great opportunity to recreate, re-energize, re-focus and rededicate ourselves to the mission of the Montgomery County Historical Society- creating a shared sense of place in a changing environment.

*Debbie Rankin*  
Executive Director

*Jack Devine*  
President

## Program Highlights

Happy Birthday Montgomery County!  
Montgomery County History Volunteers  
Conference  
Montgomery County History Day  
Heritage Days  
In Search of Ghosts  
Holiday Fete  
From Spring to Snow: a 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Heirloom Garden

Pet Exhibit Reception  
Workshop: Book Appraisal  
Workshop: Book Preservation  
Used Book sale  
Genealogy Club  
Tree Lighting and Holiday Tours  
Annual Meeting  
History of Cabin John lecture



*From Spring to Snow: a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Heirloom Garden*

### PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

3,600  
Attendees

20,500  
Offsite Attendance

Library  
730 research visits  
612 research requests

190  
Genealogy Club participants

## **Student Programs**

### **School Programs**

The fourth and fifth grade field trip program continues to hold steady. Although the economy and gas prices had an impact on field trips overall, there were over 1300 fourth and fifth grade students from 25 schools who came to the Beall-Dawson House and Stonestreet Museum of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Medicine to participate in the *Changes* program. Their evaluations were full of rave reviews. A typical comment was the students "spent the afternoon exchanging museum stories with one another."

Outreach to pre-schools and kindergartens expanded in 2008-2009. Costumed docents go to pre-schools, kindergartens, and first grades for a brief talk about life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and some hands-on activities with the children. We worked with over 500 students at 12 schools. We expect this program to grow in 2009-2010 with the drop in field trips.

### **Scout Programs**

Dr. Stonestreet continues to fascinate and teach Cub Scouts, both Tigers and Bears, at his Sunday afternoon "office hours." One Cub Scout leader wrote that "His presentation was fascinating. None of us wanted to leave!"

Girl Scouts and Brownies continue to come for their Local Lore badge and Listening to the Past Try-It. We had 78 girls, mostly Brownies enjoyed playing "old-fashioned" games and listening to stories about Montgomery County in the "old days." They are also very interested in the aerial maps of their communities.



*The Main Hall, Richard Montgomery High School- the venue for History Day 2009*

### **National History Day**

The Montgomery County Historical Society sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> Montgomery County History Day competition. This was the events first year at the new Richard Montgomery High School. At the school level over 2000 students from 29 schools participated with over 300 participating in the county competition. The 2009 theme, "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacy" brought many outstanding entries. Montgomery County students did well at the Maryland History Day competition; seven entries went on to the National History Day competition, and two others won special prizes. Two Montgomery County students were among the top ten in their categories at the national competition.

## Student Groups

2,600  
Students

41  
Schools

231  
Scouts kept their appointments with Dr. Stonestreet

3,500  
Students participated in Montgomery County History Day

## Exhibits

### **Beall-Dawson House**

After the closing of our popular *"Good Advice"* display in September 2008, our next exhibit was *"Amusement Parks of Montgomery County,"* curated by Dan Caughey, an intern from the Museum Studies graduate program at George Washington University. Thanks to the assistance of Maria Capozzi and Kimberly Robinson of the National Park Service, we were able to borrow and display many wonderful artifacts, documents and images from Glen Echo Park that are not often seen.



In April we opened our current exhibit, *"The Other Member of the Family: Montgomery County Pets."* This exhibit has been a great success in terms of outreach to new audiences. Our appeal to the general public to send in photos of their pets resulted in over fifty submissions (some of which included multiple pets). The exhibit also afforded us the opportunity to get involved with some local events that would usually be outside of our scope, including the Montgomery County Humane Society's annual "Paws in the Park" walk (where we had a vendor booth advertising our exhibit and programs), and the Rockville Science Consortium's monthly "Science Café" which held its July 2009 meeting at the Beall-Dawson House.

*Totem pole from the "Jungle Land" ride at Glen Echo, on loan from the National Park Service*

The "Montgomery County Pets" exhibit was generously supported by our sponsors, all local businesses: Animal Exchange, BARK!, Heavenly Days Animal Crematory, Living Ruff, Pro Feed, Inc., Sugarloaf Pet Gardens, The Groomery & Olde Town Bed & Biscuit, and Whole Pet Central.



*A view of the exhibit, including veterinary implements from our collections, and loaned portraits of cats.*

### **Waters House History Center**

The exhibits featured at the Waters House over the past year were many and varied. Summer and fall 2008 saw the annual exhibits by the Art League of Germantown, featuring local subjects and themes, and the King Farm Dairy MOOseum, focusing on farm kitchens. In November we opened our own exhibit, "Washington Shopping," an exploration of the history of department and specialty stores in the D.C./Montgomery County area. This display was very popular with visitors, who reminisced about their favorite stores (many of them now gone). Particular thanks go to Julie Rude Thomas, who loaned many of the Woodward & Lothrop items from her personal collection.



*Visitors enjoying the 20<sup>th</sup> century dresses on the last day of the exhibit*

Next came "Something Old: Wedding Traditions in Montgomery County," a decorative arts/textile exhibit chock full of wedding-related items from our collections. The highlight was the display of ten wedding gowns, each worn by local brides, one from every decade 1870 to 1960. Also included were an 1860 wedding ring, a 1747 wedding present, a 1972 father-of-the-groom suit, an assortment of bridal accessories, and two wedding cake tops. Many of these items had never before been on display.

**Outreach      20,500 people**



*The Museum Shop is OPEN*

**Museum Shop**

1 show over 10,000 shoppers

450 visitors purchased in the store

**Speakers Bureau**

115 presentations

2910  
attendees

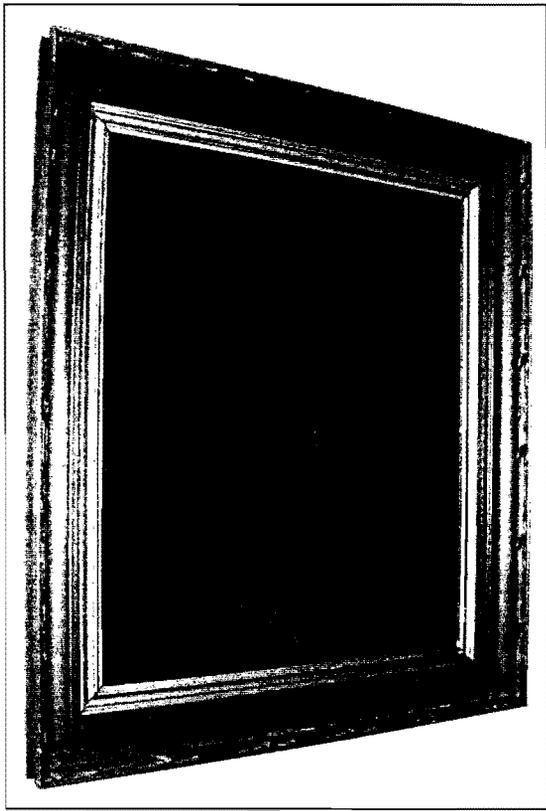


*Dr. Stonestreet holds office hours*

**Traveling Exhibit** 1 loan enjoyed by 1,000 visitors

**Community Fairs** 10 fairs and festivals over 8,550 people

## Collection



*Portrait of Ann Williams Offutt, ca. 1850.  
Donated by Richard and Hilda Offutt*

The months of July 2008 to June 2009 (our fiscal year) saw many wonderful donations to the artifact collections, such as several pet-related items for our "The Other Member of the Family: Montgomery County Pets" exhibit; a collection of ladies' accessories from Washington, D.C. department stores, thanks to our "Washington Shopping" exhibit; a painting of the Holland farmhouse in Damascus, thanks to correspondence with a descendant of one

of the brides featured in the "Something Old" exhibit; and many yard signs and bumper stickers collected during the historic 2008 presidential campaign.

Other items of note include a chair owned by the first "resident curator" of the Beall-Dawson House in the 1960s, a 1967 wedding ensemble (which then went into the "Something Old" exhibit), a child's sled from Gaithersburg in the 1940s, several pieces of late 20<sup>th</sup> century voting equipment (including a portable voting booth) from the Board of Elections, and a pair of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century portraits showing Edward and Ann Offutt of Georgetown. Our thanks go to the donors of these and all the items given to the collections!



*Wedding gown worn by Elizabeth Meehan Spano, 1967. Donated by Betty Spano*

## **Library**

The library continues to receive many donations of books, photographs and manuscript collections; but our focus this year has been on efficient use of our collection, and disposition of books no longer needed to allow us to focus our attention on using and maintaining those items most important to the society.

### Highlights:

- The completion of our digital photograph catalogue on Past Perfect – we no longer have a backlog, but can accession photographs as they are received.
- Receiving and making accessible the Montgomery County cemetery inventory, prepared by Peerless Rockville and the Coalition for Preservation of Maryland Burial Sites.
- Creating biographies of over 200 Civil War Soldiers with Montgomery County connections, using our civil war resources.
- Adding over 7,000 entries to our slave data base, an important tool as an underground research site.

The Genealogy Club continues as a vital part of the historical society with monthly club meetings now held at the Rockville Senior Center from September through November and January through May. Club volunteers are a valuable resource in the library, with oversight of the genealogy section of the newsletter, assisting with the popular First Friday events, and in their generous donations of funds used for various library projects. The members of the Club enjoyed two parties- the Annual Holiday Party and a summer social event.

## **Archives**

### **Montgomery County Archives**

The Montgomery County Archives served as a major source of primary materials for the PhD dissertation of Jeremy Sullivan, who is writing about the transition of the Montgomery County Public Schools from post World-War II to their present form. With Jeremy's assistance, and the resources of Alan Rough at the University of Maryland Non-Print Media Department, we have digitized approximately 20% of the Office of Public Information radio programs that describe current issues facing Montgomery County Government in the 1970's and 1980's. The Archives also provided research assistance to County Council staff seeking photographs of the Council, Parks and Planning staff researching historical preservation sites, and the local geotechnical consultants who use aerial photographs for environmental impact studies. The MCHS archivist has worked to consolidate the backlog of unprocessed collections and develop a list of resources that may be made available to researchers in the near future.

### **MCHS Special Collections**

Thanks to a grant from the Janet Montgomery Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, MCHS successfully digitized all the real estate atlases that are heavily used by library patrons. In an ongoing partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Corrections, MCHS has begun production scanning of back issues of the Montgomery County Gazette. Graduate students from the University of Maryland arranged collections of the Health and Welfare Council of Montgomery County, and the Gaithersburg Chapter of the A.A.U.W.

## Volunteer hours

Museums = 1248 hours  
Library = 1892 hours  
Waters House = 624 hours  
Montgomery Connections = 980 hours  
Heirloom Garden = 160 hours  
School tours = 500 hours  
Miscellaneous (i.e. special projects, community events etc) = 100 hours

History Volunteers Conference = 45 hours  
Heritage Days = 70 hours  
HBMC = 78 hours  
Book Sale = 447 hours  
Genealogy Club = 60  
Speakers Bureau = 479 hours

*(We apologize to anyone who was inadvertently omitted. Please notify us if you are not listed.)*

## Volunteers

### **Book Sale**

Herman Alderman  
Rhoda Alderman  
Margaret Church  
Pete Cottrell  
Virginia Downes  
Tony Dwyer  
Ellie Hagner  
Dianne Jensen  
Jane North  
Carl Paperiello  
Dorothy Paperiello  
Dorothy Pugh

### **Collections**

Millicent Gay  
Pat Laine  
Margo Langer

### **Genealogy Club**

Carol Cummings  
John Herman  
Linda Kennedy  
Lorraine Minor  
V. L. Skinner

### **Heritage Garden**

Kay Hoffman  
Amanda Jacobs  
Carolyn Camacho  
Maude McGovern  
Meg Williams  
Jette Rimon  
Karen Buscemi  
Nancy Jorgenson  
Susan Glick

### **Library & Archives**

John M. Barnes  
Carol Bentley  
Janine Boyce  
Diane Broadhurst  
Lois Cuddy  
Carol Cummings  
B.J. Diggs  
Gloria Dillon  
Pat Douglas  
Patty Elton  
Annette Fletchall  
Diane Graham  
Lizzie Greenberg  
Ellie Hagner  
Mary Hertel  
Dianne Jensen  
Suzanne Johnson  
Linda M. Kennedy  
Linda Layman  
Karen MacKavanagh  
Kera Ann Manion  
Larry Moore  
Anne Perrera  
Gwen Reese  
Jen Ruffner  
Jane Sween  
Diane Tamayo

**Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban**  
Mary Alexander  
John T. Beaty  
Philip Cantelon  
Isabelle Gournay