

MEMORANDUM

April 17, 2015

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *my*

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY16 Operating Budget**
Non-Departmental Account-Montgomery County Historical Society

Those expected for this worksession include:

- Matthew Logan, Executive Director, Montgomery County Historical Society
- Jennifer Bryant, Office of Management and Budget

Budget Overview

For FY16, the Executive has recommended level funding of \$77,250 for the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS), which is included in the Historical Activities NDA (©1-2). The following table provides a six-year County funding history for MCHS.

	FY13 Approved	FY14 Approved	FY15 Approved	FY16 Rec	% Change FY15-FY16
Expenditures					
General Fund	\$32,250	\$77,250	\$77,250	\$77,250	0.0%
TOTAL Expenditures	\$32,250	\$77,250	\$77,250	\$77,250	0.0%

MCHS reports that the Executive's recommended FY16 funding would be allocated as follows:

Education and Outreach	\$19,000
Librarian	\$10,000
Archivist	\$36,000
<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>\$12,250</u>
TOTAL	\$77,250

In the MCHS FY16 funding request (©3-5), Interim Executive Director Mark Ohnmacht requested that the County continue its commitment to the organization's efforts to collect, interpret and promote the history of Montgomery. Mr. Ohnmacht explained that County funding

would support educational programs for children and adults; provide history and heritage outreach programs throughout the County; provide research and historical resources to the public through the Jane Sween Library and Archives and the Montgomery County Archives; and support Montgomery County History Day and the Montgomery County History Conference.

Information on MCHS's FY15 budget and draft FY16 budget is attached at ©6. The proposed funding is approximately 21% of the anticipated FY16 funding for the organization.

Council staff recommends approval the budget proposed for MCHS.

MCHS Updates Including Montgomery County Archives

MCHS has provided an update on FY14 programming at ©7-9 on FY15 programming at ©10-13. The updates highlight events like History Day and the organization's annual History Conference, public programs, the Speakers Bureau, and exhibits. The FY15 update describes the new strategic plan adopted by the MCHS Board of Directors on April 1. The plan is designed to stabilize the organization, make its work more widely accessible and position it for future growth.

The FY15 update also announces the re-opening of the Montgomery County Archives. The grand opening of the Archives took place on October 22, a couple of weeks after it became available to researchers. The Archives is open to the public 10 hours weekly (Tuesday from 10-4 and Thursday from 12-4) and by appointment. To date, there has been one record loan, 18 researcher visits, 22 telephone calls, 8 e-mails and 35 volunteer hours.

Representatives from the Department of General Services (DGS) met with the County Archivist on February 24 to begin the process of identifying and transferring records from the Records Center and to the Archives. A memo to be sent to all departments reminding that the Archives has re-opened and providing a description of records that are appropriate for the Archives has been drafted and is awaiting approval. Material that is already at the Records Center will be assigned to the Archives by DGS representatives and the County Archivist.

<i>FY16 Recommended Changes</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>FTEs</i>
FY15 Approved	20,000,000	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	20,000,000	0.00

Grants to Municipalities in Lieu of Shares Tax

This NDA funds payments required in accordance with State law. The 1968 Session of the General Assembly revised the tax structure to include a County income tax. As part of this restructuring, the shared tax on banks and financial institutions was eliminated, and a provision was adopted which requires counties to pay annually to municipalities the amount (\$28,020) which had been received by the municipalities in FY68.

<i>FY16 Recommended Changes</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>FTEs</i>
FY15 Approved	28,020	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	28,020	0.00

Group Insurance for Retirees

Group insurance is provided to an estimated 6,242 retired County employees and survivors, as well as retirees of participating outside agencies. Employees hired before January 1, 1987, are eligible upon retirement to pay 20 percent of the premium for health and life insurance for the same number of years (after retirement) that they were eligible to participate in the group insurance plan as an active employee. The County government pays the remaining 80 percent of the premium. Thereafter, these retirees pay 100 percent of the premium. Employees hired before January 1, 1987, are also offered the option at retirement to convert from the 20/80 arrangement to a lifetime cost sharing option.

Employees hired after January 1, 1987, are eligible upon retirement for a lifetime cost sharing option under which the County pays 70 percent of the premium and the retiree pays 30 percent of the premium for life for retirees who were eligible to participate in the County group insurance plan for 15 or more years as active employees. Minimum participation eligibility of five years as an active employee is necessary to be eligible for the lifetime plan. The County will pay 50 percent of the premium for retirees with five years of participation as an active employee. The County contribution to the payment of the premium increases by two percent for each additional year of participation up to the 70 percent maximum.

On March 5, 2002, the County Council approved a one-time opportunity for retirees still under the 20/80 arrangement with an expiration date to elect the lifetime cost sharing arrangement. The new percentage paid by the County for those electing this arrangement ranges from 50 percent to 68 percent, depending upon years of active eligibility under the plan and years since retirement. The cost sharing election process has been completed.

The budget does not include employer contributions from participating outside agencies.

<i>FY16 Recommended Changes</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>FTEs</i>
FY15 Approved	32,462,450	0.00
Increase Cost: Group Insurance Claims Costs	4,305,550	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	36,768,000	0.00

Historical Activities

This NDA contains a General Fund appropriation of \$77,250 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). Starting in FY14, funding to support the Commission is no longer budgeted in this NDA but is appropriated to the 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.

FY16 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY15 Approved	77,250	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	77,250	0.00

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 HOAs 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.

FY16 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY15 Approved	53,110	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	53,110	0.00

Housing Opportunities Commission

The Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (HOC) is a public body corporate and politic duly organized under Division II of the Housing Community Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended, known as the Housing Authorities Law. As such, the Commission acts 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.

FY16 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY15 Approved	6,376,480	0.00
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY15 Personnel Costs	222,910	0.00
Decrease Cost: Operating Expenses	-197,982	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	6,401,408	0.00

Inauguration & Transition

The Montgomery County Charter provides for the quadrennial election of a County Executive and County Council. This NDA provides for a ceremony and smooth transition of the County Executive and County Council every four years.

FY16 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY15 Approved	5,000	0.00
Decrease Cost: No Inauguration in FY16	-5,000	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	0	0.00

Independent Audit

Section 315 of the County Charter requires the County Council to contract with a Certified Public Accountant for an independent post audit of all financial records and actions of the County government, its officials, and employees. By County Resolution, the Office of Legislative Oversight is the designated administrator for this contract, which also includes an independent audit of the basic financial statement of the Employee Retirement Plans; an independent audit of the basic financial statements of the Montgomery County Union Employees Deferred Compensation Plan; and additional services related to reviews, tests, and certifications.

FY16 Recommended Changes	Expenditures	FTEs
FY15 Approved	420,820	0.00
FY16 CE Recommended	420,820	0.00

Interagency Technology Policy and Coordination Committee

This NDA supports the operation of the Interagency Technology Policy and Coordination Committee (ITPCC). The ITPCC was chartered by the Montgomery County Council to promote strategic planning and coordination in the use of information technology among County agencies. The ITPCC reports biannually to the County Council. By regularly convening the agencies' chief executive and chief information officers, the ITPCC provides an effective forum for the coordinated implementation of technology policies and guidelines. Additionally, the ITPCC facilitates interagency communication, the evaluation and sharing of new technologies, and

Non-Departmental Accounts



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

October 27, 2014

Timothy Goetzinger, Budget and Finance Manager
Department of Housing and Community Development
100 Maryland Avenue, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Goetzinger,

tel (301) 340.2825

fax (301) 340.2871

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The Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS) requests \$77,250 for FY16 in support of historical services that benefit Montgomery County and its citizens. Funding from the County will help MCHS to:

- West • support educational programs for children and adults throughout the County
- provide history and heritage outreach programs throughout the County
- Montgomery • provide research and historical resources to the public through the Jane Sween Library and Archives, and the Montgomery County Archives
- Avenue • support Montgomery County History Day and Montgomery County History Conference
- operate Beall-Dawson House Museum and Stonestreet Museum of 19th
- Rockville • Century Medicine

Maryland

20850-4217

The mission of the Montgomery County Historical Society is to collect, interpret, and promote the history, heritage and culture of Montgomery County, Maryland. As the only organization addressing the entire scope of County history, MCHS serves a unique role in creating a shared sense of place, a critical element to building and maintaining community. We *are* the County's historical society!

The Society requests a funding appropriation of \$77,250, allocated for:

Education and Outreach	\$19,000
Librarian	\$10,000
Archivist	\$36,000
Executive Director	\$12,250
TOTAL	\$77,250

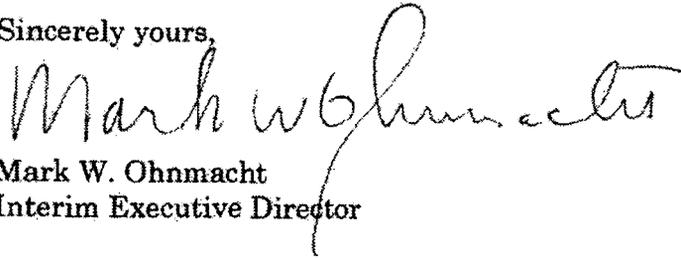
(continued)

1. The Education grant of \$10,000 partially pays the salary of the Education Coordinator who oversees 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 presentations, docent training, museum activities, school programs, and more. The Montgomery County Historical Society manages all aspects of the popular annual Montgomery County History Day for hundreds of middle and high school students supporting the National History Day event. Participants present history projects in school level competitions. Winners progress to the County level competition, then state and finally national competition.
2. The Outreach portion of funding for \$9,000 creates a source of funding to assist individuals and organizations throughout the County that conduct programs and collect critical historical capital to benefit their local communities. These groups typically function with little or no staffing and few resources. They benefit from the annual Montgomery County History Conference, a professional development opportunity for the general public as well as all County history and heritage groups, and from other shared opportunities for these groups to grow and thrive.
3. The Library and Archives portion of \$46,000 will partially support the salary of a staff librarian at the Jane Sween Library and Archives, and a part-time staff Archivist to continue processing important County records at the newly re-opened Montgomery County Archives, immediately adjacent to the County Records Center. The \$36,000 request for the County Archives funds the part-time archivist salary. The County Archives is now open 10 hours/week and by appointment. The Archivist and select volunteers will begin processing the backlog of materials and accept limited amounts of new material for inclusion in the Archives. MCHS is pleased to begin processing county papers and to serve as a good steward of the Archives. In addition, this funding provides partial support for "Paths to the Present," a valued, excellent program of County Cable Montgomery, and for storage of our artifact collection on the County's heritage, which includes two-dimensional papers and images, as well as large three-dimensional items.
4. The Executive Director appropriation, \$12,250, partially pays the salary of the Executive Director who oversees and coordinates MCHS events, education programs and exhibitions in our two museums, research library, publications, website, Speakers Bureau and special projects. The Society intends to continue its historical research and projects to inform and educate the public of the unique and vibrant history of Montgomery County. MCHS intends, as specified in its Strategic Plan, to create exhibits and programs to provide broader perspective on County history and its impact on today's residents. This category also supports expenses related to public access to the Society's headquarters in Rockville, to the Beall-Dawson Historic Park and the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine.

History provides a foundation on which we build our lives. The long and beneficial relationship between the Montgomery County Historical Society and Montgomery County Government demonstrates a public-private partnership that is practical in both fiscal and

philosophical terms. County funding support indicates an appreciation for the important work of the Montgomery County Historical Society to create a sense of community through outreach, the operation of the library and archives, our two museums, the increasing scope of our education and school programs, and the growing quality of the collection, which shows in a tangible way our growth and maturity as a County. As MCHS actively collects, interprets and promotes the history of Montgomery County for all County residents, we ask that the County continue its commitment by supporting the total funding request of \$77,250.

Sincerely yours,



Mark W. Ohnmacht
Interim Executive Director

cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive
George Leventhal, Vice President, County Council, HHS Committee Chair
Craig Rice, President, Montgomery County Council
Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council
Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council
Cherri Branson, Montgomery County Council
Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Council
Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council
Nancy Navarro, Montgomery County Council
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County Council

Montgomery County Historical Society
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 July 2014 through March 2015

	Actual Jul '14 - Mar 15	FY15 Budget	FY15 \$ Over Budget	FY15 % of Budget	FY16 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
General Admissions	1,735.00	2,750.00	-1,015.00	63.09%	2,000.00
Library and Education Services	2,280.00	8,000.00	-5,720.00	28.5%	3,500.00
Museum Shop Sales	12,912.03	24,250.00	-11,337.97	53.25%	13,850.00
Program Activities	8,759.00	11,150.00	-2,391.00	78.56%	11,500.00
Revenues-Public Support	99,584.37	110,750.00	-11,165.63	89.92%	119,205.00
Revenues-County Grants	59,846.55	77,250.00	-17,403.45	77.47%	77,250.00
Other revenue	10,967.38	38,850.00	-27,882.62	28.23%	25,532.00
Interest Income-redesignated	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%	0.00
41180 · MKH-CSS	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%	3,000.00
41600 · Money from Endowment Fund	107,000.00	107,000.00	0.00	100.0%	107,000.00
41900 · Supplement-Board Designated	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.0%	6,500.00
42000 · Repairs to 113	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	100.0%	8,000.00
Total Income	<u>325,084.33</u>	<u>405,500.00</u>	<u>-80,415.67</u>	<u>80.17%</u>	<u>377,337.00</u>
Gross Profit	325,084.33	405,500.00	-80,415.67	80.17%	377,337.00
Expense					
Museum Shop	9,826.59	12,000.00	-2,173.41	81.89%	12,000.00
Program & Educational	149,225.55	182,450.00	-33,224.45	81.79%	180,000.00
Library and Archive Services	76,830.63	64,400.00	12,430.63	119.3%	60,000.00
Collections, Publications & Museum Activities	6,759.80	8,550.00	-1,790.20	79.06%	8,500.00
Management & General, Fundraising	74,129.70	138,100.00	-63,970.30	53.68%	90,000.00
Total Expense	<u>316,772.27</u>	<u>405,500.00</u>	<u>-88,727.73</u>	<u>78.12%</u>	<u>370,500.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>8,312.06</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,312.06</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>6,837.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>8,312.06</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>8,312.06</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>	<u><u>6,837.00</u></u>



FY14 Report
Montgomery County Historical Society
April 9, 2015

HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 2014 History Conference, held on January 25, at the Johns Hopkins Campus at Shady Grove, provided a full day of lectures, discussion panels, and workshops, and featured talks on the War of 1812, including the general session on the town of Brookville, Montgomery County's "Capital for a Day."

HISTORY DAY

The 2014 History Day was held on March 15 in Rockville at Richard Montgomery High School. Over 125 middle and high school students from across the county participated with the top two finishers in each of nine categories moving on the state competition. Ten of our students won at the statewide competition and moved on to represent the county at the national level.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Speakers Bureau serves as a resource for community organizations interested in learning more about our local Montgomery County history and community heritage. The Bureau's cadre of 27 speakers was quite busy during Fiscal Year 2014 (July 2013 through June 2014), offering 129 presentations to an estimated audience of 3,601 people. In doing so, the Speakers Bureau averaged between two and three presentations per week, to an average audience of about 28 people per presentation.

In April 2014, we began a new partnership with Montgomery College's Lifelong Learning Institute. The Speakers Bureau began a five-session class titled *Montgomery County in the Civil War* at the Rockville Campus. This partnership has blossomed and we are continuing to partner with MC to take history into the community.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Happy Birthday, Montgomery County!

On Saturday, September 8, 2013, dozens of families and friends visited our Rockville campus to help us celebrate the 237th birthday of the county's founding. Attendees enjoyed tours, an archeology dig (in our sandbox!), face-painting, and birthday cake.

Montgomery County Heritage Days

On June 28, 2014, MCHS participated in this annual countywide event at the Beall-Dawson Historic Park in Rockville. Our two museums, the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine and the Beall-Dawson House were open for free with many family oriented activities, as well as docent-led and self-guided tours of both museums. MCHS also set up a family oriented field hospital under a Civil War era tent, with reenactors teaching about wartime medicine and surgery.

Misc. Events

MCHS participated in other local county events in FY14:

- Takoma Park Middle School STEM Night, April 4, 2014
- Rockville Science Day at Montgomery College, Rockville, April 6, 2014
- M-NCPPC Oakley Cabin & Poole Middle School, May 2, 2014
- M-NCPPC Archaeology Day at Needwood Mansion, May 3, 2014

Walking Tours

- Garrett Park History Walk, October 12, 2013
- Washington Grove History Walk, October 19, 2013
- Cabin John History Walk, November 3, 2013

Genealogy Club

Genealogy Help at the Jane C. Sween Research Library the first Friday of every month.

Stonestreet Museum

“Office Hours” at the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine the second Sunday of every month.

Beall-Dawson House Museum

“Seen but Not Heard: A Tour from the Perspective of the Beall Family’s Enslaved” on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month.

Summer Program

“Oils, Ceramics, Needlepoint, and Hair? Exploring the Art of the Beall-Dawson House” on the second and fourth Wednesdays, June 26 – August 14.

EXHIBITS

“This is the Way We Wash Our Clothes”

June 2013 to January 2014, Beall-Dawson House

“Montgomery Maternity: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infant Care at the Turn of the 20th Century”

September 2013 through present, Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine

“The Colonial Revival: Exploration of the colonial aesthetic from 1850s to present”

February to May 2014, Beall-Dawson House

Traveling Tabletop Exhibits

- C&O Canal in Montgomery County
- The Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad
- The History of African American Education in Montgomery County
- Mills in Montgomery County

Other Exhibit

“Plenty to See from A to Z: Ag Fair entries and activities from 1876 to present”
August 11-17, 2013, Montgomery County Fairgrounds

DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

The Society accepted an interesting array of artifacts and historic items, all of which will strengthen our collections and help us with future exhibits, research, and interpretation. Recent donations include:

- An 1834 English textbook used by a student at the Brookeville Academy;
- Melodeon (a portable organ) played by Fidelia Walker of Browningsville at church services around the area, early 20th century;
- Early 19th century comb-back Windsor writing chair and flax wheel from Goshen;
- Richard Montgomery High School student pins, 1972;
- “Washington Shopping Plate” credit card with leather case, 1950s;
- Wedding gown and veil, 1976; and
- Pair of Girl Scout sashes owned by twin sisters, as well as the troop’s Scout Handbook, 1958-1962.

LIBRARY

The collections in the Jane C. Sween Research Library feature oral histories, yearbooks, maps, insurance company papers, police docket, newspapers, photographs and glass plates, cemetery and church records, and much, much more. All are in great demand from genealogists, academic researchers, students, businesses, and journalists. Additions to the collections during FY14 included new histories of Laytonsville, St. Mary’s Parish, and Brookdale; Provincial Land Office Records for the State of Maryland; and family histories of Edmund Norris and James Francis Giddings.

The library is open on Wednesdays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 12:00 till 4:00 p.m. In FY14, library staff responded to over 190 research requests and 20 requests for assistance with photos from 399 visitors and 120 callers. All this was possible thanks to the active volunteer support of 22 dedicated individuals who provided over 1,200 hours of assistance.

FY15 Highlights
Montgomery County Historical Society
April 9, 2015

NEW LEADERSHIP

The summer of 2014 saw significant turnover on the staff of the Society. While big transitions can be difficult, the organization has assembled a new team that is bringing new energy and urgency to the Society's work. Matthew Logan was hired in November as Executive Director, Amanda Elliott began in January as Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Elizabeth Lay joined the organization as Collections Manager in March.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The Society's Board of Directors adopted a new strategic plan on April 1 that identifies six primary goals:

1. Embrace our role as the countywide historical organization;
2. Increase the awareness and accessibility of our work;
3. Utilize technology to document, preserve, and make accessible our programs and the items in our library, archive, and museum collections;
4. Explore options for new or expanded facilities to meet our current and future needs;
5. Maximize our revenue streams; and
6. Create strong and sustainable governance, financial, HR, and administrative systems to facilitate future growth.

This plan is designed to stabilize the organization, make its work more widely accessible, and position it for future growth.

ACCESS: HISTORY

In 2015 and 2016, the Society will be launching a new initiative—*Access: History*—to better secure the future of our priceless artifact and library collections. Our goal is to bring these collections to life for students, researchers, visitors, and the over one million people who call Montgomery County home. This effort will involve a comprehensive assessment of our collections and our facilities, professional conservation and digitization of prioritized collections, and the development of exciting and innovative events, programs, and online tools to make the objects more accessible and meaningful to our stakeholders.

HISTORY CONFERENCE

In spite of threatening weather, our annual History Conference on January 24, 2015 attracted over 150 people and featured presentations with a mix of scholarly merit and popular appeal. Session topics

included Maryland Emancipation Day, an archeological study of Josiah Henson's former home, a history of Laytonsville, and a look at the one- and two-room schoolhouses in the county.

HISTORY DAY

History Day, held on March 14, 2015 at Richard Montgomery High School, was a great success for the county's young people thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers and community members. Final numbers: 200 students (up from 130 in 2014), 16 schools, 23 teachers, 125 entries, and 60 judges. Fifty-five students from the County will be heading to the state competition at UMBC on May 2!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Already this year we added two exciting new programs to our menu of speakers: *Laytonsville: From Crossroads to Community* and *Capital Splendor-Gardens and Parks of Washington DC*. Thus far during the first three quarters of FY15, the Speakers Bureau has offered 90 programs to an audience of about 3,066 people from all walks of life. It has also completed another popular five-session course for Montgomery College's Lifelong Learning Institute about the Civil War in Montgomery County.

PUBLIC EVENTS

150th Commemoration of the Battle of Fort Stevens

On July 12, 2014, MCHS participated in this National Park Service event at the Fort Stevens historic site. MCHS set up its Civil War era tent and partnered with other re-enactors to offer a day-long program of battlefield medical and surgical care.

Happy Birthday, Montgomery County!

On Saturday, September 6, 2014, the Society celebrated the 238th birthday of the county's founding at the Beall-Dawson House with a day of crafts, games, and, of course, the cutting of the birthday cake.

Ghost Story Night

On October 29, MCHS hosted a crowd-pleasing Ghost Story Night in the Beall-Dawson House. It was a fun family activity with re-enactors and storytellers sharing ghost stories based on actual historic people and events in Montgomery County.

Maryland Emancipation Day

On November 1, 2015, 150 years to the day that Maryland freed all slaves within its borders, MCHS commemorated the occasion at our Rockville campus with musical performances, period reenactments, and story-telling. President Lincoln spent the afternoon with the visitors and made several speeches about slavery and congratulating the people of Maryland on their support of emancipation.

"Coming Home 1865: Returning from the Civil War"

"Coming Home," an event organized by Heritage Montgomery, will be held on May 16 at Riley's Lock on the C&O Canal. The Society is bringing in Bob Urban to set up his authentic 19th century medical tent and provide surgical reenactments throughout the day.

Heritage Days

We will also participate in the annual Heritage Days event on June 27. The Society is planning to celebrate the Beall-Dawson House's 200th anniversary, feature the award-winning herb garden, and serve as the finish line for a bike tour of historic properties in Rockville, in partnership with Peerless Rockville.

Misc. Events

MCHS participated in other local county events in FY15:

- Montgomery County Agricultural Fair during August 8-17, 2014
- Montgomery County Annual Farm Tour at Red Wiggler CSA, Clarksburg, July 26, 2014
- Annual Waterford Fair, Waterford, VA, October 4-5, 2014
- National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Frederick, Annual Night at the Museum program, December 13, 2014

EXHIBITS

"Montgomery Maternity: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Infant Care at the Turn of the 20th Century"
September 2013 through present, Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine

"Let Your Voice Be Heard!: Civic Activism in Montgomery County"
July 2014 through June 2015, Beall-Dawson House

"A Walk Down the Aisle: Bridal Gown Retrospective"
February 5-26, 2015, Helz Music Room at Kentlands Mansion

LIBRARY

Already this year the Jane C. Sween Research Library has received 270 visitors who are now able to utilize a plethora of new primary sources. Among the new acquisitions are:

- Collection of 40 genealogy and local history books from Mary Gordon Malloy
- 1960 Program of Events from the Rockville Centennial
- A history of "Leisure World at 45" by Fred Shapiro
- Several old maps including of the Rockville West End, 1889-1890 and the Street Map of Rockville 1959
- Original diploma from Andrew Small Academy 1897/8, and an original diploma from Briarly Hall Seminary 1904 for Mabel Ward Webb
- 1917 Burpee Seed Catalogue, and Gardening Guide published by Potomac Almanac

The Library is currently working with OCI, a company in Oklahoma, to have its entire yearbook collection—over 200 annuals in all—digitally scanned and preserved. The goal is to make the information searchable and therefore accessible to future generations.

COUNTY ARCHIVES RE-OPENING

2014 was an exciting year for the Montgomery County Archives. The move into the new space took place on July 29 and three high school students provided 84 hours of SSL service during August to shelve approximately 1,000 cubic feet of record boxes, update finding aids to reflect the materials' new locations, unpack supplies and equipment, and assist in setting up computers and electronic equipment.

The Archives was ready for researchers on October 7 and the grand opening was held on October 22. It is open to the public 10 hours weekly (Tuesday from 10-4 and Thursday from 12-4) and by appointment. To date there has been 1 record loan, 18 researcher visits, 22 telephone calls, 8 emails and 35 volunteer hours (not including SSL). Researchers have been interested in a variety of topics including Montgomery Village, school and library buildings, early courthouses, early County Council photographs, police cadets, housing, low income housing, League of Women Voters records, and aerial photographs.

A meeting to begin the process of identifying and transferring records from the Records Center and County departments was held on February 24, 2015. A memo that will be sent to each of the departments with a reminder that the Archives are open and a description of which records are appropriate for the Archives has been drafted and is awaiting approvals. Material that is already in the Records Center will be assigned to the Archives by Ed Buchanan and Linda Kennedy, County Archivist.