

MEMORANDUM

May 1, 2009

TO: County Council

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *VY*

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY10 Operating Budget
Non-Departmental Account-Historical Activities –
Montgomery County Historical Society**

The Executive's recommendation for Historical Activities, which includes funding for the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS), is attached at ©1.

Summary of the Health and Human Services Committee Recommendations

The Health and Human Services Committee (HHS) held a worksession on the Montgomery County Historical Society FY10 Operating Budget request on April 17, 2009. The Committee recommends approval of the budget as submitted by the Executive.

OVERVIEW

For FY10, the Executive has recommended funding of \$64,500, the same level of funding as the current fiscal year. The County supports the MCHS in the form of a grant. The Historical Society is required to match \$27,750 of that amount. A letter from MCHS requesting funding totaling for FY10 is attached at ©2-3.

| (in \$000's) | FY08 Actual | FY09 Approved | FY10 CE Recommended | % Change FY09-FY10 |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Expenditures: | | | | |
| General Fund | 64,500 | 64,500 | 64,500 | 0.0% |
| TOTAL Expenditures | 64,500 | 64,500 | 64,500 | 0.0% |

Also attached at ©4-14 are excerpts of the MCHS Annual Report for the period January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The report describes activities of the organization during that period.

FY10 EXPENDITURE ISSUES

The County Executive has recommended funding as follows:

Education Director **10,500**

The Executive recommends this funding to support a portion of the salary of the Education Director, whose work supports educational programs including the National History Day program, exhibits, lectures, workshops, tours, a speakers' bureau, volunteer training, museum activities, history camps, and school programs.

Waters Housing Programming **16,250**

The proposed amount will be used to develop and support activities and resources for the Germantown site, which includes support for a site manager, a regular exhibit schedule on various facets of County history, the adjunct library, subsidized office space for two local history-related nonprofits, and free or subsidized rental space for community groups.

County Archives **10,000**

Funding is proposed to support a part-time archivist who will open the archives by appointment and provide archival supplies.

Matching Funding **27,750**

The Executive's request includes a grant of \$27,750 that will be matched by the Historical Society through private donations from county residents, businesses, foundation grants and special events. It provides partial funding for a research library on County and Maryland history, a publications program, three museums, community programs, conservation and storage of artifacts, and other MCHS activities.

HHS Committee Chair Leventhal requested that the Historical Society consider what would be needed to identify and digitize its most critically valuable historical records.

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.

| FY10 Recommended Changes | Expenditures | WYs |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| FY09 Approved | 380,340 | 0.0 |
| FY10 CE Recommended | 380,340 | 0.0 |

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.

| FY10 Recommended Changes | Expenditures | WYs |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| FY09 Approved | 337,700 | 0.0 |
| FY10 CE Recommended | 337,700 | 0.0 |

Housing Opportunities Commission

The Housing Opportunities Commission 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.

| FY10 Recommended Changes | Expenditures | WYs |
|---|---------------------|------------|
| FY09 Approved | 6,140,640 | 0.0 |
| Increase Cost: Annualization of FY09 Personnel Costs, not including cost of living adjustment | 169,300 | 0.0 |
| Reduce: Temporary Staff Budget for Housing Resources | -9,100 | 0.0 |
| Eliminate: Professional Services Budget for Legislative & Public Affairs | -12,500 | 0.0 |
| Reduce: Parent Resource Center Budget | -25,000 | 0.0 |
| Reduce: Tenant Services Contracts | -27,000 | 0.0 |
| Reduce: Resident Counselor Services | -50,000 | 0.0 |
| Reduce: Youth Services | -50,000 | 0.0 |
| FY10 CE Recommended | 6,136,340 | 0.0 |

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.

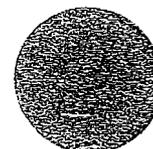
NAN
CC
MD

HHS

Guthrie, Lynn

From: Andrews' Office, Councilmember
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 12:33 PM
To: Montgomery County Council
Subject: FW: The Montgomery County Historical Society

040284



-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie Rankin [mailto:drankin@montgomeryhistory.org]

Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 12:08 PM

To: Ike Leggett

Cc: Lacefield, Patrick; Firestine, Timothy; Andrews' Office, Councilmember; Berliner's Office, Councilmember; Elrich's Office, Councilmember; Floreen's Office, Councilmember; Knapp's Office, Councilmember; Leventhal's Office, Councilmember; Trachtenberg's Office, Councilmember; Praisner's Office, Councilmember; Ervin's Office, Councilmember; rebhart@comcast.net; hhubble@comcast.net; Jack@Artcfa.com; jmcgraw5@verizon.net; karenbritto@hotmail.com; lauran@cpahelp.com; Lorraine Minor; mary.wolfe@mci.com; mgrassick@comcast.net; kkish@erols.com; mmconihe@aol.com; raymond.dacek@troutmansanders.com; sharonwashburn@verizon.net; Tad.Asbury@marriott.com; tchampion@medleyadvisors.com; William Allman; wconway@skadden.com

Subject: The Montgomery County Historical Society

Dear Mr. Leggett,

My appointment to meet with you personally was unfortunately delayed due to inclement weather last Tuesday afternoon. Although I am rescheduled to meet with you on February 24, I did not want to conflict with the timing of your important budget decisions and felt it critical to reach you in a timely fashion in regard to county funding providing to the **Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS)**.

The Montgomery County Historical Society has been a non-departmental line item for as many years as anyone can remember. We receive \$64,500 from the county to provide educational resources through our libraries, programming and events at our Rockville campus and at the Waters House in Germantown. In addition, we facilitate public access to the Montgomery County Archives, the historical repository of Montgomery County government. We've also engaged in creative partnerships throughout the county including our unique relationship with the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation's Reentry Employment Development Endeavor (REDE).

MCHS has received no increase in funding for over 5 years and in fact has received no increase in funding for education programming for over 18 years. The support provided by Montgomery County is currently 13% of our annual operating budget and we must fund the remaining portion of the budget through grants, membership, donations and sponsorships.

The Montgomery County Historical Society is the only heritage organization addressing the entire scope of county history and heritage. And it is during difficult times such as these that

2/3/2009

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the public turns to it's history for comfort and guidance. I know you appreciate our work as you have always shown tremendous support for our events, especially your willingness to cut the birthday cake at *Happy Birthday! Montgomery County*.

I look forward to meeting with you in a few weeks, and hope that even through economic adversity we will heed the comments of the French statesman and writer Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859) the author of "Democracy in America," the first classic commentary on American government written by a foreigner--

"When the past no longer illuminates the future, the spirit walks in darkness."

Warmest regards and I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

~Debbie Rankin

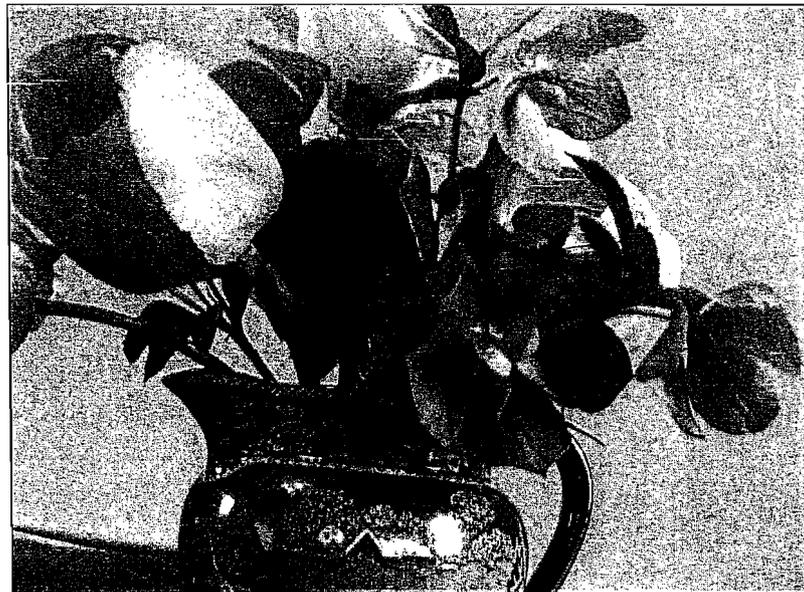
Debbie Rankin
Executive Director
Montgomery County Historical Society
111 W. Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
301.340.2825
drankin@montgomeryhistory.org



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

**Montgomery County Historical Society
Rockville, Maryland**



ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2007– June 30, 2008

Montgomery County Historical Society
January 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

In an effort to provide consistency, this report is based on an 18 month period. All future Annual Reports will reflect the MCHS fiscal year of July 1 - June 30

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 Board of Directors, Trustees, staff and volunteers of the Montgomery County Historical Society worked conscientiously together to transition the society toward new leadership. The 2007 announcement of Mary Kay Harper's retirement as the Executive Director of MCHS, a position she held for 18 years, led to the formation of an ad hoc committee composed of representatives from several stakeholder groups in MCHS. The Transition Committee was charged with establishing a process to select a new Executive Director and implementing the plan. After surveying the board and the staff to establish a series of skills and experience desirable in a new Director, applications were solicited at the end of 2007. In March of 2008, the committee unanimously selected and appointed Debra Heibin Rankin as Executive Director effective May 1, 2008.

As Mary Kay's retirement approached, the Board chose to honor her years of dedication to MCHS with a legacy project. And with that, one of the most exciting initiatives of the society in recent years---- *The Mary Kay Harper Center for Suburban Studies*, was established. Mary Kay had long been intrigued by the trajectory of growth and the contradiction of interests that shaped our suburban development in the 20th century. The Center for Suburban Studies will likely fund an annual fellowship to research suburbanization and its impact on the county, enhancing the Historical Society's ability to document the historical dynamic of Montgomery County. Contributions to the Center were solicited and generously matched by former MCHS President Terry Beaty.

The outstanding work of MCHS continued undaunted through the leadership transition. Programs, events, research and preservation efforts were of the highest priority and MCHS continued to expand its presence in the up-county region of Germantown at the Waters House Special Park. School groups and scout tours increased and the number of speakers sent out into the community through our Speaker's Bureau under the guiding hand of Clarence Hickey (our own Dr. Stonestreet), grew exponentially.

This is an exciting time at the Montgomery County Historical Society and although there are numerous challenges in difficult financial climates such as this, the opportunities to move our mission forward are undoubtedly limitless.

Debbie Rankin

Executive Director

Jack Devine

President



Mrs. Beall (Mary Lou Luff) at
Happy Birthday Montgomery County

Program Highlights

Happy Birthday Montgomery County!
Montgomery County History Volunteers Conference
Montgomery County History Day
Heritage Days
Oral History Workshop and Panel Discussion
Family Treasures Workshop
Forgotten Montgomery
Genealogy Club
In Search of Ghosts
Tree Lighting and Holiday Tours
Holiday Fete
Afro-Maryland Foodways
Annual Meeting
Julia Child
Winter Pastimes Programs
Genealogy Club Workshops
Planning Your Family Reunion



Entertainment at the 2008 Annual Meeting

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

2,000

Attendees

10,800

Offsite Events

303

Genealogy Club

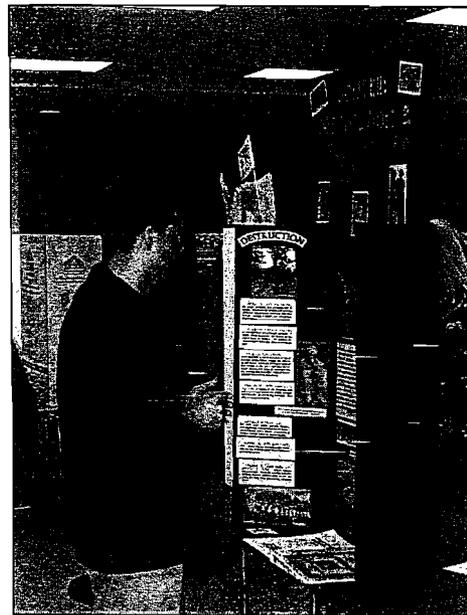
STUDENT PROGRAMS

National History Day

MCHS sponsored the eighth Montgomery County History Day competition at Julius West Middle School in March 2007. The competition is affiliated with both the Maryland and National History Day competitions. Over 3,000 Montgomery County students from 28 schools participated at their local school level. The 300 students who competed in the Montgomery County competition created exhibits, papers, performances, and documentaries relating to the year's theme, "Triumph and Tragedy in History." Of the 28 Montgomery County entries that advanced to the Maryland competition at UMBC in April, seven advanced to the National History Day competition in College Park in June. Two students from Eastern Middle School won the History of Religious Freedom prize at the National competition; a home-schooled student and a student from Richard Montgomery High School were finalists in their categories. In November, Emily Correll of MCHS, Sarah Withem of the Maryland Historical Society, and John Willard of the Maryland Humanities Council conducted a workshop on History Day Basics for teachers.

The ninth Montgomery County History Day competition was also held at Julius West Middle School in March 2008. There were 1831 students from 25 schools participating at the local school level with 256 students in the county competition. The theme was "Conflict and Compromise in History." The 2008 competition saw the addition of the website category. There was an increase in the number of organizations sponsoring special prizes: Friends of Oakley Cabin and the Underground Railroad; Montgomery County Business and Professional Women, Montgomery County

League of Women Voters, Potomac Valley Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, Civil War Roundtable of Montgomery County, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, PFB Consult, and the Montgomery County Historical Society. Of the 31 entries from Montgomery County at the Maryland competition in April at UMBC, nine advanced to the National History Day competition in College Park, and another won the special prize in African-American History.



History Day at Julius West Middle School

School Programs

Students from 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades throughout Montgomery County participated in curriculum-based field trips to the Beall-Dawson House and the Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine. The 1,965 students from 43 schools learned about life in 19th century Montgomery County through hands-on activities and tours interpreted by trained docents in historic costume. The MCHS School outreach program was available to pre-schools interested in a program about 19th century life



Clarence Hickey as Dr. Stonestreet

Scouting Programs

Scouting programs continued to thrive at the Beall-Dawson House and the Stonestreet Museum. Cub Scouts and Tigers came to see "Dr. Stonestreet" during his office hours on second Sundays. Brownie and Junior Girl Scout troops brought their scouts for specially crafted programs designed to help them earn the Brownie "Listening to the Past", Try-It, and the Junior Local Lore badge.



Children's Crafts at Happy Birthday Montgomery County

Student Groups

2,264

Students came to Rockville with their school

47

Schools visited the Beall-Dawson House and Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine

22

Scout groups came to Rockville for their appointment with Dr. Stonestreet

6,000

Students participated in History Day from

56

Participating schools in Montgomery County

7,380

Students attended offsite programs

EXHIBITS

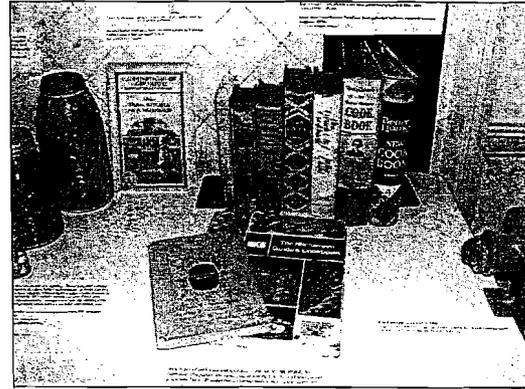
Beall-Dawson House

January 2007 saw the conclusion of our "Childhood" display in the Beall-Dawson House, which was followed by an exhibit on the Gold Mines of Montgomery County, guest-curated by local expert Walter Goetz. Over the summer we displayed a number of the fabulous 1920s dresses from our textile collection, adding some color and glam to the parlor. In the fall, gold mines and flapper gowns went away, replaced by an exhibit on "Winter Pastimes". This show lasted (naturally enough) throughout the winter, and was complemented by the holiday decorating theme for the house, "Christmas in Miniature."



"Winter Pastimes" at the Beall Dawson House (Winter 2007- Spring 2008)

This spring we opened our exhibit of "Good Advice," featuring hints and suggestions from a variety of 19th and 20th century housekeeping, cooking, health and etiquette guides.



"Good Advice" at the Beall-Dawson House

A small complementary exhibit on "Breakfast" is also on display. This show will stay up through the summer, and will be followed in the fall of 2008 by an exhibit on Montgomery County's amusement parks.

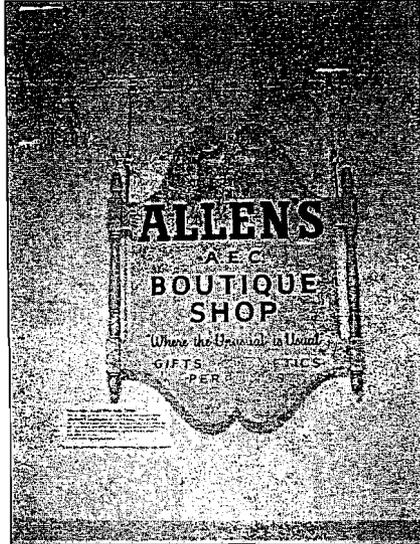


"Breakfast" at the Beall-Dawson House

Waters House History Center

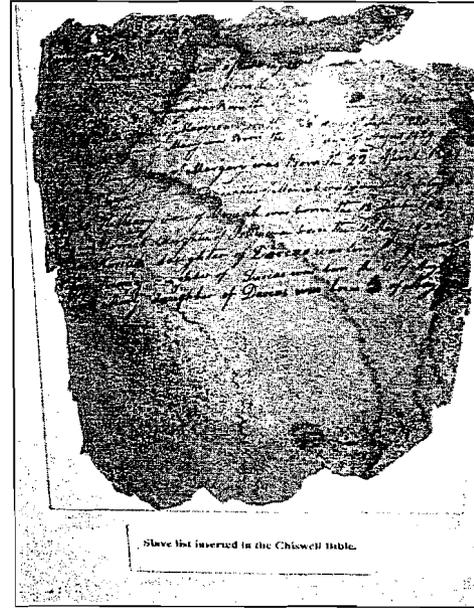
Over the past year, four new exhibitions were featured in the Waters House galleries. The summer 2007 exhibit, "As the Mill Wheel Turns," was organized by historian Michael Dwyer and MCHS. It featured detailed maps of the many historical mill sites created by Irv Billick.

The King Barn Dairy Mooseum sponsored an exhibit from September until November 2007 providing information about families involved in, and artifacts related to, the county's dairy farming industry in the twentieth century.



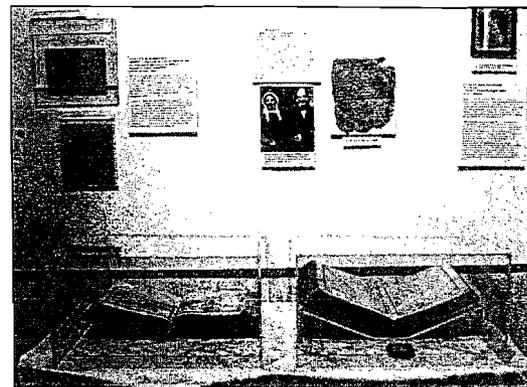
"Germantown" at the Waters House History Center

The MCHS exhibit *"Germantown"* looked at the history of the local community from its early settlement by German immigrants in the 1800s, through its agricultural heyday in producing wheat and dairy products, to its current role as the center of rapid suburban growth in the I-270 technology corridor. To complement the exhibit, an oral history program was organized by MCHS and held at the Waters House in March 2008. The program featured long-time Germantown residents Jean Phillips, Doris Hackey, and Don Unglesby, and was moderated by historian Cindy Pfanstiehl.



"Family Bibles" at the Waters House History Center

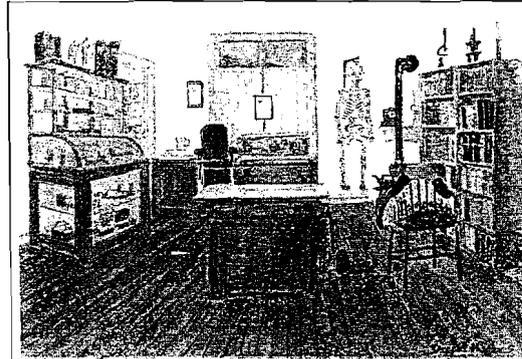
The *"Family Bibles: Keepsake & Testament"* exhibit opened in April 2008, and included 38 antique bibles and religious books from the Historical Society's collection. While examining general currents of religious life and the history of bible publishing in the United States in the 19th century, the exhibit also offered detailed information from bible, church, and other historical records about the early Montgomery County families who used/owned the bibles.



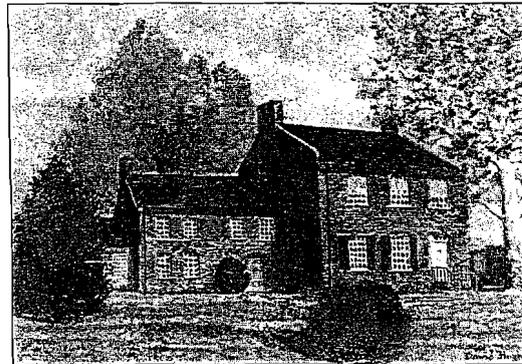
"Family Bibles" at the Waters House History Center

OUTREACH

Speakers Bureau
93 presentations
2,820 guests



Community Fairs
4 Fairs
2,075 fair-goers



Travelling Exhibit
3 Exhibits
3,250 visitors

Museum Shop
1 Show
10,000 shoppers



Watercolors by David Higgins

COLLECTIONS

The 20th century textile collection was enhanced this past year by a number of donations, including maternity clothes, several prom dresses, and four wedding gowns (with accessories, even better), all worn by Montgomery County women. Other highlights include a pair of bronzed baby shoes from Rockville; a cardboard cheerleading megaphone, used at BCC High School in the early 1930s; a plumb bob used in surveying for the future I-270, in the 1940s; a glass voting box used in Takoma Park; Girl Scout camping equipment from a local troop; a collection of local political bumperstickers from the mid 20th century; and a horseshoe, found during the construction of the new Richard Montgomery High School building, which is most likely a remnant of the old Rockville Fair. We thank the donors of these items and of all the other wonderful things we've received, too numerous to mention here.

LIBRARY

Catalogued library collections have expanded by 240 books during this report period. Additions to the Civil War Books, the research collection and others bring the catalog to 4,700 books.



Wedding dress worn by Mary England of Rockville, who married John Ignatius Ward in October, 1928. Donated by Churchill Ward.

COLLECTIONS

10,000

Objects

9,000

Photographs

4,700

Books

The photograph collection is over 90% scanned into the museum database program, Past Perfect. This improves the level of access and the ability of researchers, publishers and authors to use our resources.

The MCHS Archivist continues work to preserve, arrange, describe and improve access to documents in the collection.

MCHS offers an impressive schedule of open library hours thanks to the dedicated corps of volunteers in the library.

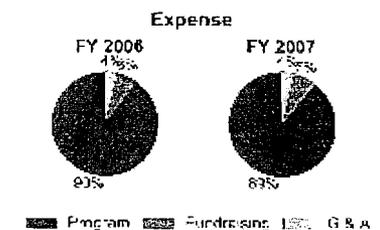
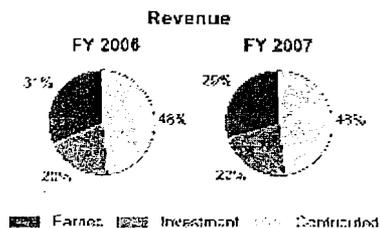
The Genealogy Club continues its popular "First Friday" each month and club members are frequently found assisting other club members to resolve diverse research issues.

FY08 Data will be available on our website following our Audit



Montgomery County Historical Society Annual Report

| Financial Activity | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | % chg |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Unrestricted Activity | | | |
| Revenue | | | |
| Earned | | | |
| Program | \$79,088 | \$79,162 | -0% |
| Non-program | 39,451 | 39,593 | -0% |
| Total Earned | 118,537 | 118,755 | -0% |
| Investment | 75,883 | 89,574 | 18% |
| Contributed | 182,484 | 194,372 | 7% |
| Total Unrestricted Revenue | \$376,689 | \$402,701 | 7% |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program | \$402,833 | \$416,898 | 3% |
| Fundraising | 26,021 | 31,885 | 22% |
| General & administrative | 19,833 | 20,091 | 1% |
| Total Expenses | \$448,487 | \$468,654 | 4% |
| Net Unrestricted Activity | (\$71,798) | (\$65,953) | |
| Net Temporarily Restricted Activity | \$0 | \$200 | |
| Net Permanently Restricted Activity | \$0 | \$2,000 | |
| Net Total Activity | (\$71,798) | (\$63,753) | |



| Attendance | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | % chg |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Total paid attendance | 2,580 | 2,300 | -11% |
| Total free attendance | 29,770 | 29,471 | -1% |
| Total attendance | 32,350 | 31,771 | -2% |
| Total school children attendance | 4,858 | 5,121 | 5% |
| Number of groups of school children | 48 | 64 | 33% |
| Number of other groups | 0 | 28 | n/a |
| Classes and workshops attendance | 3,211 | 4,628 | 44% |

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

111 W. Montgomery Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-340-2825
www.montgomeryhistory.org

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June 30, 2008

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Genevieve Wimsatt

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June 30, 2008

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Debbie Rankin

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