

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
MEDIA ADVISORY AND PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release:

April 14, 2006

For more information:

Marion Joyce, Manager
Community Outreach and Media Relations
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
The Montgomery County Planning Board
301/495-4602

**300 YEAR-OLD ASH TREE IN SANDY SPRING TO RECEIVE
HISTORIC MARKER ON APRIL 29**

SILVER SPRING, MD – The Montgomery County Planning Board invites the public to join elected officials, history buffs, hikers and others to dedicate an historic marker for a 300 year-old white ash tree on **Saturday, April 29 at 10 a.m.** at the historic tree on the Rural Legacy Trail in Sandy Spring. A reception will follow at the Sandy Spring Museum.

Winchester Homes recently donated the champion tree and 1.2 acres of land around it to the Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning.

A walking tour and a two-mile hike to the tree where the dedication will be held will begin at 8:30 a.m. from the Woodlawn Manor Park located at 16501 Norwood Road in Sandy Spring.

“Dear to the hearts of many residents of Sandy Spring, this giant of the forest has witnessed the founding of the Village of Sandy Spring in the 1720s, the clearing of the land for farming and possibly the passing by in the darkness of many people seeking freedom from enslavement,” said park historian Susan Soderberg.

Details are available at 301-563-3400.

WHO:

Montgomery County Planning Board Chairman Derick P. Berlage
Elected officials
Members of the community

WHAT:

Dedication with historic marker – 300-year-old, Maryland champion white ash tree

WHEN:

Saturday, April 29
8:30 a.m. walking tour
10 a.m. dedication
11 a.m. reception

WHERE:

Woodlawn Manor Park (8:30 a.m.)
16501 Norwood Road
Sandy Spring, MD

Rural Legacy Trail (10 a.m.)

End of Auburn Village Drive, south of Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Rt. 108) between Bentley Road and Sky Meadow Way in Sandy Spring. Parking is available along Auburn Village Drive in Sandy Spring.

Sandy Spring Museum (11 a.m.)

17901 Bentley Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Light refreshments will be served and tours of the museum will be available.

###