

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

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**UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, ONE OF SIX MONTGOMERY PARKS SITES
FEATURED IN HERITAGE DAYS CELEBRATION**

SILVER SPRING, MD – Montgomery County Parks will participate in the 9th annual Heritage Days Celebration on Saturday, **June 24 and Sunday, June 25** from **noon to 4 p.m.** with six sites, including the historically significant Uncle Tom's Cabin in Bethesda. Sponsored by the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, this expanded celebration offers a total of 37 historic and cultural places open during the weekend to explore the county's rich heritage.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, also known historically as the Riley house, is located at 11420 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. This unique site is the former home of Josiah Henson, a slave that served as Harriet Beecher Stowe's model for her groundbreaking novel on slavery, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Acquired this year by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the property will be opened to the public for the first time since the deed transfer ceremony in January 2006, so visitors can learn about its world-wide significance. **There is no parking available on the site, although handicapped drop-off will be permitted. All other visitors must park at the nearby Montgomery County Aquatic Center, 5900 Executive Boulevard at Nicholson Lane and walk to the site.**

In addition to Uncle Tom's Cabin, other historic sites on Montgomery County parkland participating in the weekend-long event include:

- **Agricultural History Farm Park**, 18400 Muncaster Road in Derwood, featuring a visit through a turn-of-the-century farm and a history hunt tour. Events include wheat binding with the wheat shocked in the field, old-fashioned games and farm animals by the Back-in-Time 4-H Club.
- **Hyattstown Mill**, 14920 Hyattstown Mill Road in Hyattstown, featuring the Hyattstown Art Project's first-ever gallery showing of the unique artwork of the folk artist "Bird House Man." In addition, Sunday at 7:30 p.m., visitors will enjoy a song circle, an evening of new tunes and old favorites.

- **King Barn Dairy MOOseum in South Germantown Recreational Park**, 18028 Central Park Circle, Germantown, featuring crafts for children, demonstrations, dairy artifacts, barn tours and milk MOOsic. For details, call 301-528-6530 or log on to www.MOOseum.com.
- **Oakley Cabin**, 3610 Brookeville Road in Brookeville, featuring Michael Baytop of the Archie Edwards Blue Foundation playing guitar, harmonica and bones as well as demonstrations of 19th century crafts and tours. This 1820's African American cabin housed enslaved people and was later part of a roadside community of free blacks.
- **Waters House**, 12535 Milestone Manor Lane, Germantown, featuring Doug Jimerson's Gilmore's Light Ensemble each day at 1 and 2 p.m. playing Civil War tunes, and a photo exhibit of historic Montgomery County barns on display in the gallery. Log on to www.montgomeryhistory.org.
- **Woodlawn Manor House** (open Sunday only), 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, featuring a living history museum with an 18th century brick manor house, stone barn and outbuildings surrounded by extensive meadows, woods and streams. Woodlawn is the start of the Rural Legacy Trail. English tea will be served from 2-4 p.m. for a fee with advanced reservations required by calling 301/570-5722.

All events are free (except as noted above) and family-friendly, so visitors can spend some time during the weekend of June 24 and 25 exploring the County's rich historical and cultural past.

For additional information on Montgomery County' national award-winning parks system, log on to www.mcparkandplanning.org. For details on Montgomery County Heritage Days, call the Heritage Tourism Alliance at 301-515-0753 or visit their website at www.heritagemontgomery.org for a complete listing of all sites and events.

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