Fall 2026
Vol. 5 No. 2

Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Promoting the Preservation, Protection and Enjoyment of Montgomery County's Rich Architectural Heritage and Historic Landscapes

Our Story

MPI is Montgomery County's county-wide nonprofit historic preservation organization. The group incorporated in 1984 to actively encourage and defend preservation efforts in local communities and throughout the county.

Today, MPI remains dedicated to saving our buildings, landscapes, and sites for future generations. MPI encourages preservation efforts in every corner of Montgomery County, working with all parties to ensure that our towns, owners of historic properties, businesses, and volunteer groups can step up to the modernization, revitalization, demographic, and development challenges of the 21st century.

Letter from the New MPI President

I can think of no time since the demolition of Pennsylvania Station in New York City in the 1960s where so much public anger and distress followed the wanton demolition of an important structure and landmark. The loss of Penn Station was a catalyst for the Historic Preservation movement and stronger protections of landmarks around the country. In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act became law, providing policies and guidelines that could be used at the Federal, State and Local levels that held for 60 years. Yet here we are with the White House East Wing demolished and the Kennedy Center under daily threat. This last year has been traumatic for those of us who care about our built historic legacy and the sites, landscapes, monuments, and buildings that make up the fabric of our nation and our shared history.

What shall we do about this? For one, we raise our voices to oppose the 'demolition' of the 1966 law signed by Congress. We raise our voices against threats to any designated historic site in this nation, this state, this county, and *our community*. You raise your voice to protect what belongs to *your* community. Historic Preservation is in the national news every day now. People are hearing about it, are concerned, and want answers about how this could be happening. We as Preservationists have an opportunity to inform those who may not know or understand what Historic Preservation even is and what it means to them. We need to reach out and explain, and teach, and inform *Now*.

Preservation is what makes a community unique. Preservation is recognizing our shared history, appreciating it, and saving it for future generations to learn from. I call on you to raise your voices to protest, to teach, to volunteer, and to Save a Place for others.

Karen Burditt, President of MPI

MPI celebrated 250 years at Glen Echo with Montgomery County partners

The Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park was the place to be on Saturday, October 10. Montgomery History took a break from restoring its Art Deco Bank to host a lovely party to celebrate Montgomery County's 250th birthday and invited some preservation and history folks to set up tables. Widow Janet Montgomery, train commuter Harry Truman, and printer Ben Franklin joined us, with Ben particularly telling many great stories about his role in helping our new country get started on the right path. Music by the Old Line Fife and Drum Corps, Washington Revels, and Whiskey Before Breakfast filled the air and led to dancing as well as listening. MPI volunteers offered games, lively conversations, information, and an introduction to local Mid-Century Modern architecture.

MPI volunteers enjoyed greeting party-goers at Glen Echo

Happy 250th, Montgomery County!

Contact Us

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Rockville Designates Historic Property in Haiti

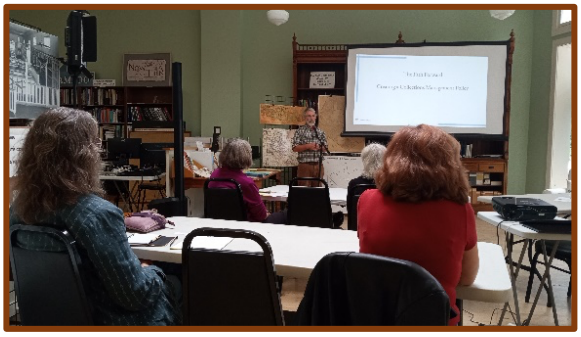
This house at 24 Martin's Lane recently was awarded historic status in the City of Rockville. Its land and adjacent parcels were deeded from Margaret Beall to individuals she formerly held in slavery. Flora Ross Powell and her husband Adam Powell were the first of their family to establish the community of Haiti just six blocks north of the Beall-Dawson house. Five generations grew up and remained here; many are buried in nearby Haiti Cemetery. Also on Martin's Lane lived the Wood and Smith families, and the free Martin family that settled near the county seat in the 1830s.

In reviewing the nomination, the Rockville Historic District Commission found that this property is representative of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of the city, providing a place for the recently enslaved and their descendants to live in peace, own land, and prosper. The Planning Commission agreed that the historic overlay meets Zoning and Master Plan goals, and the Mayor and Council unanimously voted yes on September 14. Congratulations to descendants, neighbors, Peerless Rockville, and the City of Rockville !

24 Martin's Lane, Rockville

New Programs from MPI - "Techniques and Tips from Peer Organizations"

This year and into next, MPI offers to Montgomery County history and preservation groups a series of opportunities to hear speakers, discuss workforce challenges, and share solutions with colleagues. The series began on September 29 with a stellar program at Historic Takoma's headquarters. The team of Jim and Janet Douglas, volunteers who've guided HT's program since 2019, hosted representatives from eight local nonprofits in a three-hour session.



Jim's presentation was professional and full of practical advice, describing how Historic Takoma created policy to govern a core part of its mission. He advised taking time to determine our own versions of *Why, What, How, and Who*. There followed detailed explanations of accessioning, keeping records, conservation, managing access, handling digital collections, working with volunteers, finding resources, and more. The afternoon concluded with questions and a walk-through of the reading room, library, and stacks of carefully-labeled collection boxes in a historic setting.

The series continues through the remainder of 2026 and into spring 2027. All sessions are free. Submit your interest in future meet - ups to mpi@montgomerypreservation.org

Open Houses at the Historic Silver Spring B&O Station

Join us the First Saturday of the month, 10am-2pm

This is a drop-in program for families. Admission is free!

Nov. 7 – Ben Sullivan, Georgetown Branch of the B & O Railroad. Co-sponsored by Bethesda Historical Society
Dec. 5 – Sticky G band. Co-sponsored by Silver Spring Historical Society
Jan. 2 – To be announced
Feb. 6 – "Passenger Trains That Went Through the Silver Spring Station," Nick Bulgarino
Mar. 6 – "Olive Dennis, Train designer" w/ Nick & Sharon, Art Deco Society of Washington, D.C.
Apr, **3** - 4-H Club

8100 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Additional parking is available across Georgia Avenue at County garage and lot #4 (8100 Fenton St., accessible from Sligo Ave.) and at the lot at 938 Philadelphia Ave; both are one block from the station.

Please contact MPI to coordinate assistance with HC parking adjacent to the station.

For specific happenings at each Open House or for rentals go to www.montgomerypreservation.org https://www.facebook.com/MontgomeryPI

Historic Takoma

Now the home of Historic Takoma, the brick building at 7328 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park was the very first architectural design by Ronald Senseman AIA (1912-2001) who later became a famous architect with over 2,000 projects all over the world. Senseman was just 19 years old, a student at the nearby Adventist Missionary College, when he designed the building as a Piggly Wiggly store in 1931. Piggly Wigglys were the first grocery stores in the country to allow customers to come into the aisles to pick their purchases instead of having them brought to the counter by a clerk. The building's impeccable lines and geometric embellishments on the façade foretell Senseman's later interest in Art Deco designs. In the 1960s the building became the Barcelona Nuts store for mass production of roasted nuts. In 2006 Historic Takoma purchased the building as home for its archives, educational programs and historical exhibits. www.historictakoma.org For more information on Ronald Senseman: https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/historic/montgomery-modern/montgomery-modern-architects/ronald-senseman/

Silver Spring Train Station Open Houses

This autumn, we thank everyone who made the historic Silver Spring B&O Railroad Station a destination this summer. You may have spotted MPI at events around the County, including Maryland House & Garden Tour in Kensington, Juneteenth with Scotland Foundation, and Hometown Treasures at Capital Region Expo. MPI's September Open House welcomed the "Dinosaur Park" pop-up museum, courtesy of Montgomery Parks. Paleontologist JP Hodnett and his team introduced visitors to the Astrodon—Maryland's State dinosaur—and attendees viewed the latest excavated fossil. In October, the Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society brought a program all about brains.

There is much to look forward to. See our website for Open House events calendar and upcoming outreach events. Please be sure to stop by and say hello.

Funding from African American Heritage Preservation Program

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust are pleased to announce $250,000 in funding for non-capital projects through the newly renamed Speaker Adrienne A. Jones African American Heritage Preservation Program. This grant invests in the people, planning, and programming of organizations dedicated to preserving African American heritage and culture across Maryland. Applications close November 20, 2026, with award notifications expected in March 2027. Interested organizations can access information: https://mht.maryland.gov/funding/african-american-heritage-preservation-program-grants

Fall Preservation Calendar

Oct. 17, Sat. 10:30am-12:30pm – **Fall Festival at the Mooseum**, 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds. www.mooseum.org
Nov. 1, Sun. 1pm -- Emancipation Day African American sites walking tour of Rockville. Ralph Buglass and Chiquita Sorrels. https://peerlessrockville.org/events/
Nov. 5, Thur. 10:30-11:30am ---- Montgomery County's Well-Kept Secret: The Mid-Century Modern Suburb of Wheatcrest. Focus on architecture by Charles Goodman. Oasis offers this class in partnership with the Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association (GFNCA). https://washington-metro.oasiseverywhere.org/product/montgomery-countys-well-kept-secret-the-modernist-suburb-of-wheatoncrest/
Nov. 5, Thur. 7pm --- What's New in Montg Co Planning and Historic Preservation? Speaker: Rebeccah Ballo, Chief, Historic Preservation Division, Montg. Planning; Kensington Historical Society, in person or Zoom www.kensingtonhistory.org
Nov. 7, Sat. 8am-4:30pm – Montgomery County History Conference. Montgomery College, Germantown. https://montgomeryhistory.org/2026-history-conference/

End of 2026: Opening of the Metropolitan Hiker-Biker Trail

2027 Montgomery County Awards for Historic Preservation

Committee members wanted; volunteer at awards@montgomerypreservation.org

Nomination forms are available at https://www.montgomerypreservation.org/awards/

Awards to be presented fall 2027

Mo. Co. 250th Heritage Passport available

New 172-page pocket-sized guide to discovering people, places, and stories that shaped Montgomery County will debut in late October. Easy-to-navigate regional maps allow visitors to create their own heritage itineraries at 62 historic sites. **www.heritagemontgomery.org**

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