



## BYWAY BITS

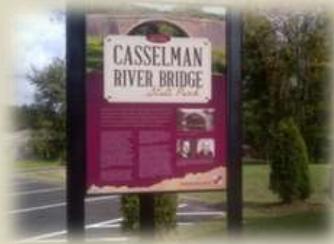
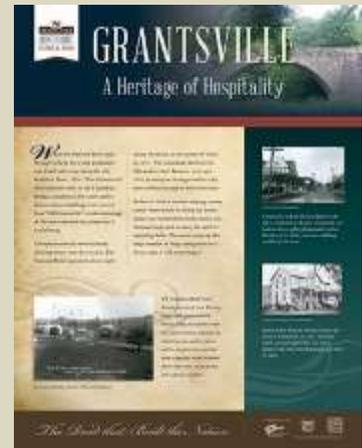
### MARYLAND NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[WWW.MARYLANDNATIONALROAD.ORG](http://WWW.MARYLANDNATIONALROAD.ORG)

#### Kiosk Installation Culminates with Casselman River Bridge Bicentennial

Three new kiosks were recently installed in Grantsville thanks to the efforts of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland National Road Association and the Gateway to Western Maryland Heritage Area. The beautifully designed panels provide visitors with historical information on the history of the National Road, the significance of the Casselman River Bridge and general information on what to see and do in the Heritage Area.

Kiosks are located in the center of town and on each end of the Casselman River Bridge. The project was funded by a Scenic Byways Grant with in-kind installation services donated by Maryland Park Service and the Town of Grantsville. A special thanks to local historian Al Feldstein for use of his historic images for the project.



*"The new kiosks add an element of history and tradition and do a great job of conveying those elements to residents and visitors alike. The installation of the kiosks during the bicentennial year of the bridge gives it a greater relevance to our Town."*

Mayor Paul Edwards, Town of Grantsville

#### Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday - Casselman River Bridge

A three day celebration was held in September that featured speakers, living historians, musical entertainment and a plein air event at Spruce Forest Artisan Village. A ribbon cutting was held at the site to celebrate the reopening of the bridge which had been closed for emergency repairs and improvements to the park. When the 80-foot span was erected in 1813, it was the longest single span stone arch bridge in the United States. Skeptics predicted that the bridge would collapse once the supporting timbers were removed - yet the bridge stood, serving as an important link on the National Road from 1813 to 1933.

#### Washington County Partners Embrace the National Road

##### *National Road Exhibit Planned for Transportation Museum*

The MNRA is pleased to work with the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum to obtain funding for a National Road exhibit to be housed in the new transportation museum. Plans include an interactive exhibit that represents the macadam process.

[www.ruralheritagemuseum.org](http://www.ruralheritagemuseum.org)



### ***New Museum celebrates the National Road in Boonsboro***

Boonsboro Town Council members have agreed to set aside \$45,000 over the next three years for further development of a proposed museum to celebrate the history of the National Road that passes through town. An organization known as the National Road Heritage Foundation plans to establish the museum in the Warrenfeltz building along Main Street. [www.nationalrdfoundation.com](http://www.nationalrdfoundation.com)

### **From the President - Virginia Frank**

As the days grow shorter, I have been reflecting on the busy summer that has just passed. The MNRA has been busy promoting many of the programs that have been taking place along the 170-mile corridor, from significant anniversaries to funding opportunities. Our website is up and running and receiving rave reviews. Thank you to our Byway Manager, Tiffany and staff at Octavo Designs for developing and launching the site. Please take time to visit the site at [www.marylandnationalroad.org](http://www.marylandnationalroad.org). Tiffany has also been busy replacing wayside interpretive panels in Garrett County, Allegany County and Washington County. Replacements will continue in Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City with the project nearing completion at the first of the year.



I want to take this opportunity to thank Tiffany for all of her work this year. She has been doing a fantastic job of getting the word out about the Maryland National Road Association and its mission to preserve and promote historic sites, small businesses and cultural resources on and near the byway.

### **MNRA on the Road in 2013**

There is no better way to promote the Historic National Road than interaction with the public at events and festivals. A special thanks to Lorna Hainesworth, Janet Davis and Laura O'Donnell for assisting with outreach efforts.

Transportation Forum (Frederick Co)  
Museums at the Mall (Frederick Co)  
Bell and History Days (Frederick Co)  
Annual James Shaul Wagon Train (Washington Co)  
MD Natl Road Yard & Sidewalk Sale (various locations)  
1<sup>st</sup> Call Civil War Event (Carroll Co)  
Motorcoach Operators Meeting (Howard Co)  
Howard County Fair (Howard Co)  
Casselman River Bridge Bicentennial (Garrett Co)  
The Great Frederick Fair (Frederick Co)  
Geocache Event (Frederick Co)

*"Folks are drawn to the maps and images on our displays which show classic cars and landscapes. I love handing out the literature and promoting the great sites along the National Road. We have such a wonderful landmark and it's a privilege to be an integral part of showing people how to enjoy and learn about the Road."*

**Janet Davis, MNRA Board Member**

### **National Road Brochure Most Requested at I-68 Welcome Center**

The Youghiogheny Overlook Welcome Center along Interstate 68 east of Friendsville has seen 12,548 travelers between May, when it reopened, and September, according to Nicole Christian, president and CEO of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce.

Of the 10,043 visitors who signed in, the top five states of origination were Ohio, Maryland, Kentucky, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The center has seen 157 international visitors. The top five destinations of travelers were Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., Ocean City, Baltimore and Annapolis.

The National Road brochure is one of the most requested brochures at the center. "The National Road is of particular importance because it does come into Garrett County and specifically goes through Grantsville and by the Casselman Bridge," said Christian. The center is open October through mid-May.

## Wayside Interpretive Panel Replacement Project Underway

The much anticipated update and replacement of wayside panels began this past summer. Panels have been replaced in Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties. Phase two of the project includes identification of sites, stories and view sheds for new panels. The most important part of the project is the development of a maintenance program and agreement with heritage areas and county destination marketing organizations to ensure longevity and appearance of the panels. A downloadable guide to all the markers is now available on the website with future plans to update and reprint the original map and guide.

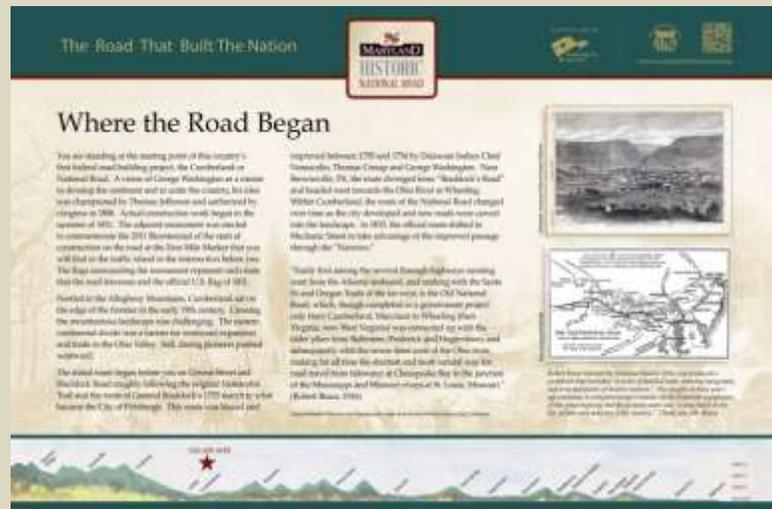
*"The new panels are most welcome in Washington County", according to Tom Riford, president and CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau.*

*"From South Mountain to just past Sideling Hill, the way west was through Washington County. Telling the story of the National Road's history is important for attracting the heritage traveler."*

*Riford said that new wayside markers are an important addition to the tourism product, "These are interesting and informative, while also being a key part of our destination marketing initiatives."*

**Tom Riford, President & CEO of the Hagerstown-Washington CVB**

The project is being funded through an FY2013 Scenic Byways Grant and a FY2014 Maryland Multi-Heritage Area Grant.



**New Panel Design! Website, contact information, corrected topography map, product logo, and improved graphics**

## Historic Preservation - New Initiatives Identified in 2013

### Historic Preservation Committee Formed

An official committee is being developed to address preservation issues along the 170-mile corridor. From development to revitalization, there is an increasing need for the MNRA to be a steward of landscapes, historic sites, and culturally important resources.

Well known preservationist and MRNA Board member, Janet Davis will chair the committee which will consist of representatives from all eight jurisdictions. Please contact the MNRA if you have an interest to serve on the committee.

### Frederick County Chapter of DAR Mile Marker Project

Last June, members of the Frederick DAR and MNRA spent the day locating, documenting and photographing existing mile markers in Frederick County. Chapter representatives, Joanne Baume, Barbara Shealer and Carole Larkin have expressed interest to beautify and help preserve mile markers located in Frederick County which guided travelers in the heyday of early transportation.



## Membership – Help Us Preserve & Promote the MD Historic National Road!

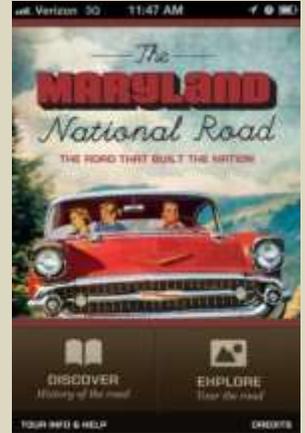
Your new or renewed membership is fully tax-deductible and will assist us with our goal to secure 17 members by the end of the year. That is one member for every ten miles of the Byway.

<http://marylandnationalroad.org/wp-content/themes/mnra/pdfs/membership-form.pdf>

As a member you are eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Decal
- Discounts to participating businesses along the byway
- Discounted advertising opportunities
- Quarterly MNRA Newsletter
- Invitation to quarterly/annual meetings & special events
- Listing on the MNRA website

Please contact Tiffany Ahalt to learn more about sponsorship, volunteer and partnership opportunities. [Tiffany@marylandnationalroad.org](mailto:Tiffany@marylandnationalroad.org) or (240) 626-0963.



**FREE MOBILE APP  
COMING IN 2014!**



## SAVE THE DATE!

**HISTORIC ROADS CONFERENCE  
SEPTEMBER 26 – 28, 2014 (SAVANNAH, GA)**



**BEST WISHES FOR A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**THE MARYLAND NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION**

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