

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Parks & Recreation



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

“Ensuring a Safe Harford”

#### EDUCATION

“Preparing Now, Building for the Future”

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

“Governing Smarter”

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

“Growing and Sustaining Harford’s Prosperity”

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“Protecting Our Environment”

#### QUALITY LIVING

“Safeguarding What is Important to Harford County Citizens”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2009

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### **Ma and Pa Trail Group Donates \$500 to Offset County Budget Cuts and Support Trail Monitors**

(Bel Air, MD) - - The MA & PA Heritage Trail, Inc., a Bel-Air based not-for-profit organization, made a \$500 contribution today to Harford County Parks and Recreation Department to help fund trail monitor positions and keep public restrooms open at two of the trailheads.

The MA & PA Heritage Trail is a walking, running and bicycle trail located on portions of the former Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad corridor in Bel Air and Forest Hill. The group’s contribution comes at a time that the county government must address significant budget shortfalls by cutting staff and services in some departments.

“Harford County Parks and Recreation Department is extremely grateful to the MA & PA Heritage Trail organization for their generous and timely contribution that will help us to continue to provide services to the trail,” said Joe Pfaff, Director of Harford County Parks and Recreation. The \$500 contribution will help to pay the salaries for one fiscal year, starting July 1, of part-time trail monitors who patrol the trail for two hours each day, and also unlock and clean the public restrooms at Melrose Lane in Bel Air and Friends Park in Forest Hill.

“The MA & PA Trail is one of Harford County’s greatest recreational assets and it’s important that it continue to be supported with basic services,” said Rod Bourn, Board President of the MA & PA Heritage Trail, Inc. “Our primary mission is to work in partnership with Harford County Parks & Recreation to make the MA & PA Trail a great place to enjoy the local outdoors. In this difficult economy, we feel this is an opportunity to step up and take action to support the county and to support the trail.”

The MA & PA Heritage Trail, Inc. helps preserve the MA & PA Railroad corridor for the present and future generations of Harford County’s citizens. The organization’s more than 100 members also work to preserve the heritage of railroads in Harford County and to promote the development of trails for recreation and an alternate means of transportation. More information is available at [www.mapatrail.org](http://www.mapatrail.org).

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”

