

# TOURISM

SPRING 2005

Carroll County Maryland

## MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE ATTRACTS VISITORS

Carroll County will host the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage on Friday, May 13, with properties in Uniontown, Taneytown and Keymar on display. The last time the event was held here, in 1999, it brought more than 500 visitors, some from as far away as Philadelphia. The Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage is a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to help preserve and restore architecturally significant properties in Maryland. Proceeds from the tours are awarded to each participating county's designated projects.

### A Warm Springtime Welcome

The 2005 pilgrimage offers tours of historic homes, farmhouses, churches, gardens and a plantation turned country inn. While the pilgrims enjoy Carroll County's hospitality, they will bring in tourism dollars through lodging, dining, shopping and travel expenses.

A dozen properties will be open for tours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$25 for admission to all 12 of the properties. A \$10 ticket is also available for those wishing to visit one site only. Visitors may purchase tickets the day of the tour at any of the tour locations, or they may buy them in advance by calling the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage at 410-821-6933. A driving map designating the showcased homes will be available at each location.

### Stop and Smell the Flowers

Visitors can enjoy an elegant lunch in Taneytown at Antrim 1844 Country House Hotel, one of this year's featured properties. Once a thriving 2,500-acre plantation, it is now a 29-room hotel and restaurant on 24 acres of gardens. Lunch, served in the glass-enclosed pavilion overlooking the formal gardens, is \$15 and will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by April 29 by calling 410-876-0237.

### 2005 Pilgrimage Sites

#### Uniontown

- The Weaver-Fox House, an Italianate-style home built in 1874-75 for a country physician
- John and Carol Ann Wildesen's farmhouse, constructed between the late 1700s and the mid 1800s, is a working cattle farm today



- Thomas and Freda Birchett's 1875 late-Victorian vernacular home
- Uniontown United Methodist Church
- Old Uniontown Bank
- Uniontown Academy



#### Taneytown

- Antrim 1844 Country House Hotel (lunch by reservation)
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 1863, the Union army used the church's bell tower to send signals to Gettysburg about the location of Confederate troops.
- Shoemaker Homestead, an 1844 farmhouse built of fieldstones from the adjacent Monocacy River

See [Pilgrimage](#) page 3

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## COMMENTS FROM COLLEEN THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Colleen M. Cole

It is time to close the door on 2004 and come alive in 2005! Just a little rhyme to say goodbye to 2004 with fond memories of the many tourists who visited Carroll. I thank the Tourism Council members, the Visitor Center personnel and the Carroll County Tourism staff for all the work they do to make Carroll County a great place to live and visit.

As we say hello to 2005 and the many faces and places to see and visit in our own backyard, the Calendar of Events booklet is a must to have. This booklet lists so many wonderful events held here in our county. It's one of my favorite things to have handy in my car (I also have a spare one in my briefcase) for when someone asks "What do you want to do this weekend?" It's an easy way to plan your whole year. And remember, not all events fit into the booklet, so you can check out the website at [www.carr.org/tourism](http://www.carr.org/tourism) to find even more activities. There is something for everyone to do! As Steve Kerkam, past president of the Tourism Council, once wrote: "Remember you don't have to go far—you just have to go!"

Which is a great tie-in to my next subject, an invitation, for everyone to join me at our first Carroll County Travel Expo. Our theme is "Backyard Traveling" and the date is Sunday, May 1, from 12 to 4 p.m., at Boulevard & Beyond, Ltd. The Travel Expo will highlight places throughout Carroll County and nearby. A collection of exhibitors will be there with information about their products (accommodations, attractions, dining, shopping, and much more). It's an easy way to visit many places under one roof, all in one day!

Also, mark your calendar for March 13 and I'll see you at McDaniel College for a meeting between the Harlem Wizards and The Carroll County Shooting Stars. We'll all have a ball "hooping" it up with the crowd.

As I follow in the footsteps of Steve Kerkam, I can only hope the many years of service and energy he has put into the community and the council will spill over to me so I can continue the momentum. I look forward to working with the Tourism Council members, who bring such good ideas and enthusiasm to helping promote our great county. ◀

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#### Tourism Focus

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## NEW SIGNS INCREASE VISIBILITY

You may remember that last spring Tourism Council members dashed around the county, sprucing up the directional signs to the Visitor Center. This year many of those signs were beyond sprucing up. So, many thanks to the Westminster Roads Department staff for installing clean, bright blue Visitor Center signs to welcome our guests and direct them to the Carroll County Visitor Center. ▶

## BEST CUP OF COFFEE CONTEST

The Tourism Council is looking for the establishment that serves the "Best Cup of Coffee" in Carroll County. As a reader of our newsletter, vote for your favorite establishment ... where would you send visitors to savor that perfect cup of java?

Send your vote by April 1 via email to [coffee@woodsgain.com](mailto:coffee@woodsgain.com) or call 410-386-2983 to give us your vote.

The winner will receive a suitably framed certificate from the council to honor their distinction of winning a Reader's Choice Award for the Best Cup of Coffee in Carroll County. ▶



From **Pilgrimage** page 1



**Keymar**

- Kent Krebeck's house, built in the late 1790s or early 1800s, constructed of local red fieldstone, the house retains its original pine floors and seven fireplaces.
- Linda and Larry Webster's gardens on Middleburg Road, 20 acres filled with 250 azaleas plus viburnum, rhododendron, lilac, hydrangea, spring bulbs and blossoming trees.



- John and Katie Fiesler's restored log farmhouse built in the 1790s. Cover's Tannery operated here until after the Civil War. ◀

## HARLEM WIZARDS BOUNCE BACK TO CARROLL COUNTY



Sunday, March 13, 2005

If you like family fun and entertainment, the Harlem Wizards is the team for you! The Wizards make basketball much more than a spectator sport by getting the youngsters in the audience involved before the game and at half time. Their show is a magical and hilarious adventure the entire family is sure to enjoy.

The Tourism Council of Carroll County is delighted to bring their full-court fireworks back to the Gill Gymnasium at McDaniel College on Sunday, March 13. Please note the change of day to SUNDAY this year. The doors open at 1 p.m. and the show starts at 2 p.m. Food is provided by the Westminster Optimist and Wizards souvenirs will be on sale during the game. The Wizards are poised to take on their annual rivals, the Carroll County Shooting Stars, made up of members of the county's recreational basketball teams. The Wizards will be available after the game to sign autographs.

So come out, bring the kids and your camera, and enjoy a close encounter of the best kind with the 2005 Harlem Wizards. ◀

## VIRTUAL VISITORS

The Carroll County Tourism website first appeared on the worldwide web back in 1995. During the past 10 years, we have continued to update information and add new items. We have responded to travel trends and the interests of visitors and, over the years, we've added Civil War information, antique shops, Christmas tree farms, and most recently, tea rooms.

We've also begun to track data through WebTrends® beginning in 2002. The following chart reflects an increase in numbers, which demonstrates why the Internet is so important in the marketing mix for tourism.

**Visitors to**

[www.carr.org/tourism](http://www.carr.org/tourism)

**Unique Visitors** (individuals who came to our website)

FY '02	19,287
FY '03	25,479
FY '04	29,671

**Visitor Sessions**

FY '02	36,005
FY '03	48,151
FY '04	54,620

**Page Views**

FY '02	69,320
FY '03	95,889
FY '04	107,640

**Phone Calls to Visitor Center from the Website**

FY '02	206
FY '03	310
FY '04	517

FY (Fiscal Year) = July 1 thru June 30

# SPRING EVENTS

## **Annual Toy Show**

March 13—9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Taneytown Volunteer Fire  
Company Carnival Grounds  
410-756-6253

## **Harlem Wizards**

### **Basketball Game**

March 13—2 p.m.  
McDaniel College,  
Gill Center  
410-848-9095/  
800-272-1933

## **8th Annual Maryland & the Civil War:**

### **A Regional Perspective**

March 19—8:30 a.m.  
to 4 p.m.  
Carroll Community College  
410-386-8100/  
410-848-6494 ext. 202

## **Carroll County Farmers Market**

March 26, April 9, May 7  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Agriculture Center  
410-848-7748

## **7th Annual Carroll County Home Show**

April 2—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
April 3—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Agriculture Center  
410-857-7884

## **Carroll County Tractor & Truck Pull**

April 24—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Raindate: May 1  
Agriculture Center  
410-848-9426

## **36th Annual Flower & Plant Market**

April 30—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
May 1—Noon to 4 p.m.  
Union Mills Homestead  
410-848-2288

## **Quilt Show/Auction**

May 7—8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Agriculture Center  
410-635-6342

## **Sykesville Flower Festival**

May 7—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Main Street, Sykesville  
410-795-6577

## **Westminster Flower & Jazz Festival**

May 7—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
East Main Street,  
Westminster  
410-848-9393

## **Herb Festival**

May 7—11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Piney Run Park  
410-795-6043

## **Westminster Renaissance Faire**

May 7 & 8—  
10:30 a.m. to dusk  
Carroll Community College  
410-386-8575

## **Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Tour**

May 13—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Uniontown, Taneytown  
& Keymar  
410-848-6494

## **Mt. Airy Mayfest**

May 14—9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
May 15—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Main Street, Mt. Airy  
301-829-2112

## CARROLL COUNTY VISITOR CENTER

210 East Main Street  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-848-1388 • 1-800-272-1933  
Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday & Most Holidays: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## CARROLL COUNTY OFFICE OF TOURISM

Administrative Office  
224 N. Center Street, Room 100  
Westminster, MD 21157  
410-386-2983  
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Website: [www.carr.org/tourism](http://www.carr.org/tourism)



## TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY, INC.

P.O. Box 2125  
Westminster, MD 21158  
[www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org](http://www.tourismcouncilofcarrollcounty.org)

TOURISM COUNCIL OF CARROLL COUNTY, INC.

# TOURISM

*Focus*

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