



Calvert County NEWS

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Video, Audio Tour Highlights History of Calvert County

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – Oct. 24, 2012 – Calvert County’s Historic District Commission is working to compile a series of driving tours that will allow listeners and viewers to learn about the history of the county.

The first of the series, “Heritage Tour, Part I: The Mackall Road Route,” is already available through the county’s website, www.co.cal.md.us, under Community Planning and Building and Historic Preservation. There are both audio and video versions of the tour, although both versions use the same audio. Drivers can download the audio and take the tour as they listen, or users can watch the video.

Comcast Cable Channel 6 will televise the video tour at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings through Nov. 3.

On the website, an interactive map accompanies the videos. The map allows users to pan and zoom on specific county sites mentioned in the series, as well as select a stop to view its information.

The Mackall Road Route was chosen as the first in the series because the area was settled early during the Colonial period and had been home for thousands of years to Native Americans who hunted, fished and later farmed here.

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The video segments included in this interactive web tour begin with a 20-minute introduction. For those physically driving the tour, the introduction is just long enough to drive south from Prince Frederick or north from Solomons to the turn onto Parran Road. The first stop is at the historical roadside markers, just past the turn. There are 14 more sections to the tour, anchored to different parts of the landscape along the route.

Narrators relate the history of the area, and listeners hear the stories of people who live here, in their own voices, from interviews that have been conducted over the last 20 years.

“You’re getting the history from the points of view of the people who lived it,” said Kirsti Uunila, historic preservation planner for the county. Uunila stressed that the people who served as narrators, Marcia Monnett and Willis Davis, are Maryland natives. Uunila said she wanted viewers to hear the local manner of speaking as they listened. “As soon as you start the tour you only hear Maryland voices.”

The next tour in the series will focus on a Lower Marlboro route, and Uunila said the project is already partially funded.

“There are many stories to tell and we think this is going to be an effective way to do it,” she said.

The videos were produced by the Calvert County Historic District Commission. They were financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, made available through the Maryland Historical Trust, an entity within the Maryland Department of Planning.

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Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to nearly 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, energy, advanced manufacturing and administrative services.