



Allegany County Library System
31 Washington Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
(P) 301-777-1200 (F) 301-777-7299

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PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Ashley Swinford
Director of Marketing and Outreach
301-777-1200 Ext 1051
aswinford@alleganycountylibrary.info

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title: Historic National Road Oak Tree Slice Now on Display at LaVale Library

The Allegany County Library System proudly unveiled the National Road Heritage Tree display in the newly remodeled LaVale Library hallway. This unique exhibit showcases a slice of a 366-year-old white oak that once stood along the historic National Road in LaVale, Maryland, a vital artery of American history known as “the road that built the nation.” This collaborative effort was funded and prepared by the LaVale Civic Improvement Association, the LaVale Lions Club, the Allegany County Forestry Board, and the Allegany County Library System.

The display commemorates the resilience and historical significance of the tree and the contributions of community organizations that made its preservation possible. The tree, donated by Gwen and Monroe Harris, was a silent witness to centuries of events and figures, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Daniel Boone. Its remarkable lifespan began around 1646 and ended after the devastating Super Derecho of 2012, which marked the tree’s decline.

The tree slice is accompanied by an in-depth narrative of its historical significance, highlighting the key moments and individuals it witnessed during its 366-year lifespan. Visitors can explore the tree’s story, which intertwines with the evolution of the National Road and the history of western Maryland, through a beautifully curated exhibit featuring the history and detailed timelines.

Community leaders and project contributors gathered at the LaVale Library to celebrate the collaboration. Among those present were Marie Miller, Chair of the Allegany County Forestry Board and Director of Forestry at Allegany College of Maryland; Adam Miller, Maryland DNR Forester and Secretary of the Allegany County Forestry Board, along with their children, Georgia and Denver Miller; Bernie Zlomek, member of the Allegany County Forestry Board; Champ Zumbrun, representing the LaVale Lions Club; Brad Metzger, representing the LaVale Civic Improvement Association; John Taube, Executive Director of the Allegany County Library System; Tuere Williams, Service Leader at the LaVale Library; and Renee Mason, Arts and Graphics Coordinator for the Allegany County Library System.

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The Allegany County Library System invites community members to visit the LaVale Library to view this extraordinary piece of history and reflect on the legacy of the National Road and its enduring impact.

For more information about the display, please contact the Allegany County Library System at 301-729-0855 or visit www.alleganycountylibrary.info/nationalroadheritagetree/.

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