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### ***New Visitor Guide Highlights African American History of Northern Prince George's County***

**HYATTSVILLE, MD** - ATHA (Anacostia Trails Heritage Area) Inc. is proud to announce the availability of a new African American heritage travel guide for northern Prince George's County. Titled, *Trail Blazing African American Stories: A Portal into the Past*, the 22-page, four-color guide presents users with an organized and interesting way to explore and learn about the important contributions made by African Americans in northern Prince George's County and in Maryland.

"There is a wealth of African American history in this area that is often overlooked," says Karen Crooms, Executive Director for ATHA Inc. "With this guide; we invite users to travel through those places and events of special significance in the lives of black Prince Georgians."

Organized around ATHA's diverse neighborhoods, the guide provides key insights into the events, places and personalities that helped shaped the distinctive character of ATHA's diverse communities. Though many of the attractions and sites featured are well-known, some are relatively unfamiliar including Abraham Hall, a benevolent society lodge located in Rossville and built in 1889 by a group of freedmen; the St. Paul's Free Hope Baptist Church, organized in 1866 by Sarah Miranda Plummer, the eldest daughter of a prominent African American family in Prince George's; and Lakeland Hall, one of the first high schools built for African Americans in the County, located in Lakeland, College Park. Users of the guide will have the opportunity to explore several of ATHA's communities including the Gateway Arts District; the Port Towns; Riverdale Park; Lakeland, College Park; Rossville, Beltsville; and the Grove in Laurel to name a few.

According to Crooms, "northern Prince George's County has a lot to offer; much more than people realize. This guide will help our residents and visitors explore and discover these fascinating stories on their own." The guide will be available at Maryland welcome centers, area hotels, local libraries, public offices, sites and attractions within ATHA, or through ATHA directly. Requests may be made by phone at 301.887.0777 or by visiting ATHA's website, [www.atha.com](http://www.atha.com), for a downloadable PDF version.

**About ATHA Inc.:** Founded in 1998, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) Inc. is a public/private partnership dedicated to protecting, preserving and promoting the cultural, historic and natural assets of ATHA Inc.'s member communities and for creating a competitive and sustainable heritage tourism destination within northern Prince George's County, Maryland. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that partners in the private, public and non-profit sectors to accomplish our goals and mission.

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