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**QA's to host War of 1812 events Slippery Hill battle helped American defenders avoid 'huge pickle'** By CHRIS KNAUSS For The Star Review

CENTREVILLE Local historian Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin delivered good news at the Board of Commissioners public meeting Sept. 13.

According to Goodwin, a Program and Events Advisory Committee member for the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, of 15 signature events scheduled in Maryland during its War of 1812 commemoration, Queen Anne's County will host two of them, one of which is expected to bring thousands of band members, their families and spectators to Centreville. The Bash of the Bands is scheduled for next June 9 to 10 at the Board of Education school grounds on Ruthsburg Road.

This will be the first major event in the entire state," Goodwin said. Invitations are being sent to middle schools, high schools and colleges in Delaware, Maryland, parts of Virginia and Washington, D.C.

"We've taken the assumption that we will probably have about 40 bands that will come, and assuming that each of those 40 bands will be composed of about 50 members, we're talking about a minimum of 2,000 band members and that's not including the families of those who are playing, nor does it represent the viewing public," Goodwin said.

She said plans are to host the middle school competition in the field between Centreville Middle School and the Board of Education warehouse; high schools would compete in the field between Queen Anne's County High and the middle school, and college and some high school bands would compete at the high school football stadium.

The biggest challenges facing organizers are parking, food and overnight accommodations.

"We're already working on parking and food. I need to wait and see how many invitations I get back to try to figure out what the housing requirements are going to be," Goodwin said.

The following weekend, Baltimore is hosting a weeklong maritime event in the Inner Harbor capped by an air show with the Blue Angels.

Goodwin, through the Eastern Shore 1812 Consortium, created a website [www.easternshore1812.org](http://www.easternshore1812.org) focusing on "all things 1812."

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The site includes places of interest on the Eastern Shore, key figures in the conflict here (people like John Leeds Kerr and Thomas Emory) and lesson plans for teachers. It also includes rare photographs and newspaper accounts of historical events such as the British invasion of Kent Island and the attack on St. Michaels.

"The whole effort for getting tourists here is you need eyeballs to come to your website," Goodwin said. "We're in competition with every other place in the rest of the country that had anything to do with the War of 1812. My idea was, if we got all of the original newspapers and we put up the sections from those papers that dealt with the actions in all the other places, we'd have everyone from all across the country coming to our website, and it's working."

Goodwin also said work is continuing on extending the 1812 Byway route through Grasonville to Slippery Hill.

"We are still awaiting the visit of those responsible for deciding how many official 1812 signs we get, versus those we must pay for," she said. "I have been working with the byways contractor for the general history signs already planned, and will be coordinating the 1812 signs as well."

Slippery Hill is the site where an attempted raid by the British on Queenstown was repulsed on Aug. 13, 1813.

"All those British soldiers were really, really wrecking so many of the plantations on Kent Island and marching down to Queenstown, and then to Centreville had it not been for that little band of men at Slippery Hill, just a dozen of them, who stopped more than 300 British," Goodwin said. "One great shot shooting the poor horse under the commanding officer that's what did it. You can't command all the troops on foot, and they sent them back."

"Our guys were in the cornfield, running every which way, shooting and shooting and shooting to try to make up for the fact that there were so few of them to make the British leave, and somebody hit the horse. Otherwise, we would have really been in a huge pickle and the story would have been a lot different."

The second event will be a half marathon the third weekend in August 2013. Goodwin said the event will feature "British" runners starting from Terrapin Park in Stevensville and "American" runners starting from the circuit courthouse, with both groups finishing in Queenstown.