



Governor Moore Announces Discovery of Home at Harriet Tubman Birthplace

Governor Wes Moore joined local, state, and federal partners on February 14 for the announcement that Maryland archaeologists had discovered a home where enslaved people lived on the Thompson Farm, the birthplace of Harriet Tubman. The excavation also revealed hundreds of artifacts, including a West African spirit cache. The artifacts were found in the ruins of an enslaved overseer's house not far from the home of Ben Ross, Tubman's father.

“Harriet Tubman’s birthplace is sacred ground, and this discovery is part of our ongoing commitment to preserve the legacy of those who lived here,” said Governor Moore. “The find reveals untold stories of the past that help us both understand the history we share and inspire us to make a better future.” Learn more about the discovery [here](#).

Pictured above: Governor Wes Moore with state, local, and federal partners. Credit: Executive Office of the Governor.



Tourism Day 2023

February 10 was Tourism Day in Annapolis, offering Maryland tourism industry professionals an opportunity to come together and promote our industry. This year, Tourism Day was held at Rams Head on Stage.

Unseasonably warm weather brought a record crowd to the event. Dozens of enthusiastic tourism industry leaders from every corner of the state made the trip to promote the Maryland Tourism Coalition's message, "Tourism DOES Work for Maryland." Speakers at this year's sold-out event included Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson, Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks, Assistant Secretary Tom Riford, and several state senators and delegates. For more information on MTC and its mission to support Maryland tourism, [visit their website here](#).

Pictured above: Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson. Credit: KRR Photography.



Introducing Theresa Donnelly, new *Insights* writer

Before joining the Office of Tourism as a writer and content developer, Theresa was the Assistant Director of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society in Frederick County. She has a master's degree in American History and experience in history, historic preservation, and heritage tourism work, including content development and writing for a wide range of web- and print-based outlets. Earlier in her career Theresa worked in academic publishing as an editor, editorial director, and freelance editor and writer. She lives in Catonsville with her husband and has two daughters. Although Theresa is not a native Marylander,

she says you'd be hard pressed to find a bigger fan of our great state! Please email her at Theresa.donnelly@maryland.gov to let her know about important news and events in your county.



Nominations Open for MHLA “Stars of the Industry” Awards

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association is now accepting nominations for the 2023 MHLA “Stars of the Industry” Awards. These awards recognize individuals and properties who have gone above and beyond to serve their guests and communities throughout this past year in Maryland. Categories for employee nominations are Administrative/Support, Food & Beverage, Guest Services, Heart of House, Housekeeping, Sales Professional, Emerging Leader, Manager, and General Manager of the Year. There is one property category, Outstanding Property of the Year. Properties must be a MHLA Member to submit a nomination. Deadline for entry is March 1. Click [here](#) for more information about nominations. Winners will be announced on April 20 at the College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center during the 33rd Annual MHLA Awards Luncheon. Sponsorship opportunities are available at the following levels: Presenting Sponsor, Event Sponsor, Industry Sponsor and Table Sponsor. Click [here](#) to register to attend and/or sponsor the event.



7th Annual OC Film Fest to Feature John Waters

This year's OC Film Fest takes place at venues in and around Ocean City March 2-5. John Waters will headline this year's festival with a live performance on March 4 at 8pm at Ocean Downs Casino. More than 70 films will be screened, along with parties, panels, and Q&A sessions with filmmakers and industry experts. Tickets are available at OCMDFilmFestival.com.



Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

With more than three million annual visitors to VisitMaryland.org, the site is a fantastic resource to promote your events. Using the calendar portal, you can add your events to the website and expand your marketing easily-- and it's offered as a free service of the Maryland Office of Tourism. Follow this link to see our [Maryland Events Calendar](#), and submit your event using the easy-to-follow [guidelines here](#).

IN THE NEWS

John Waters to Headline OC Film Fest

Restaurant Association of Maryland Announces Award Winners

Ward Museum of Waterfowl Art Closed to Public and Will Relocate

Maryland Minute

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. *Maryland Minute* is featured on Audacy radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

Maryland Travel Tips

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of [Visit Maryland Now!](#)

