



MARYLAND INSIGHTS

DIVISION OF TOURISM AND FILM
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Department of Commerce Holds Employee Appreciation Day

OTD team members joined colleagues in the Department of Commerce on June 1 for an employee appreciation day at M&T Bank Stadium. The day included lunch and a tour of the Ravens' facility. Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson presided over an employee awards ceremony and Deputy Secretary Signe Pringle presented certificates of appreciation to Commerce team members who oversaw recent renovations of the department's offices, and Assistant Commerce Secretaries Tom Riford and Heather Gramm offered remarks of appreciation for Commerce Department employees.

Pictured: Department of Commerce team at M&T Bank Stadium.



Governor's Office Announces Recipe Contest and Buy Local Cookout

Marylanders are invited to submit original recipes that include at least 50 percent Maryland-sourced products and focus on a partnership with at least one Maryland farmer, waterman, or other local producer for the Governor's Buy Local Cookout. The Cookout will be held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture's headquarters in Annapolis on July 20 and will kick off the 2023 "Buy Local Week."

"Maryland's farmers, watermen, and chefs produce an incredible bounty that is second to none," said Governor Moore. "I invite chefs from across the state to submit their most creative recipes using fresh, local ingredients as I invite all Marylanders to help strengthen the state's economy and buy local."

"Buying local is just one way Marylanders can stay involved in agriculture and their community," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. "Making Maryland farms profitable creates a stronger economy."

Visit [here](#) for more information and to submit a recipe.



Boonesboro and Brunswick Designated as Appalachian Trail Communities

Assistant Commerce Secretary Tom Riford spoke at the Appalachian Trail Community Designation Ceremony and National Trail Day Event at the Washington Monument State Park on June 3. The event commemorated Boonesboro's designation as the 52nd Appalachian Trail Community. The city of Brunswick was designated as the 53rd at a separate event. They are the first two

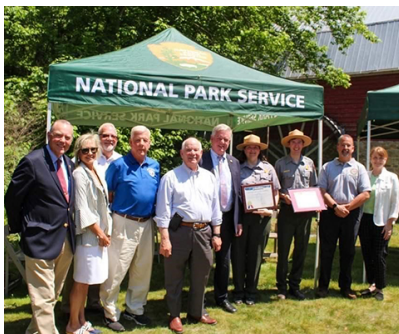
communities in the State of Maryland to receive this honor. The National Trail Day Event at Washington Monument State Park included music, demonstrations of equipment needed for hiking, volunteer recruitment, information on conservation, and food trucks. Riford presented a Commerce Secretary's Citation to Boonsboro Mayor Howard Long at the celebration.

Pictured: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Joshua Kurtz; Commerce Assistant Secretary Tom Riford; Washington County Board of Commissioners Vice President Jeffrey Cline; Boonesboro Mayor Howard Long; along with several other elected officials, Cynthia Miller from the Maryland Office of Tourism, Appalachian Trail volunteers, and members of the community.



Maryland Destination Marketing Organization Meets in Rock Hall

Members of the Maryland Destination Marketing Organization (MDMO) gathered at the Ark and Dove Lounge at Haven Harbour South Marina in Rock Hall for their regularly scheduled business meeting on June 2. During the day representatives from the Maryland Tourism Coalition and the Office of Tourism provided updates on each organization's activities and programs. "It is always wonderful to catch up with these amazing professionals to collaborate and communicate," said Liz Fitzsimmons, Managing Director, Office of Tourism & Film.



C & O Canal National Historical Park Receives Award

Assistant Commerce Secretary Tom Riford was the master of ceremonies for the grand opening and preservation awards event at the C&O Canal National Historical Park on June 2. The event recognized the C&O Canal National

Historical Park's exceptional efforts throughout the reconstruction and stabilization of the 0.9-mile stretch of the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal between McMahon's Mill and Lock 42. The total project cost was \$21 million. The National Park Service was presented with the Maryland Historical Trust's Excellence in Historic Preservation and Sustainable Design Award for 2023. Riford was joined by Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman David Trone and others at the event.

Pictured (left to right): Commerce Assistant Secretary Tom Riford; Western Maryland Representative for U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Nan Mann; Washington County Board of Commissioners Vice President, Jeffrey Cline; Washington County Board of Commissioners President, John Barr; Senator Ben Cardin; Representative David Trone; Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park Superintendent, Tina Cappetta; National Park Service Engineer, Joe Reed; Maryland Delegate William Valentine; and Maryland Historic Trust Director, Elizabeth Hughes.



Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the National Network to Freedom Act is Focus of Video Project

On June 5, OTD's Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons and Senior Assistant Director for Tourism Development, Marci Ross sat for an interview with veteran journalist Bob Nelson at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park. The video segment will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Network to Freedom Act on July 21, 2023, and Nelson will incorporate the interview into a larger story about nationwide collaboration across the Underground Railroad community. More specifically, the piece will explore efforts within the Network to Freedom to: advance this important history; demonstrate the wide-ranging impact of the Network to Freedom in preservation, interpretation, education, and historical research and scholarship; reflect on the value of knowing this history as society confronts contemporary issues; underscore the importance of public engagement programs such as the

Network to Freedom, the Reconstruction Era Historic Network, and the African American Civil Rights Network and tie these efforts to tourism outcomes.

To learn more about the Network to Freedom and other partnerships, visit the [Maryland Tourism Industry website's program page](#).

Pictured: Marci Ross, Dana Paterra, Bob Nelson, and Liz Fitzsimmons.



Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

Do your partners know how easy it is to add events to [VisitMaryland.org's events calendar](#)? If you or an organization or attraction in your region is hosting an event, it's easy to get the word out through VisitMaryland.org's events calendar. With tens of thousands of regular visitors, it's a great tool, and with our self-entry portal, it's never been easier to use! If you're wondering if an event has the right stuff for the VisitMaryland.org calendar, you'll find the inclusion criteria [here](#), [follow this link](#) for a step-by-step guide for self entry, or if it's not your first rodeo, jump straight to the entry portal [here](#).

Photo credit: Karmen Osei

IN THE NEWS

Ocean City Center for the Arts Opening Six New Shows on First Friday

Maryland 2023 License-free Fishing Days

Mountain Maryland Museum Week Promotes Historical Sites

Washington County Government Launches 3rd Annual Washington County, MD Ice Cream Trail

New Recognition for Maryland's Oldest-Settled Region

Transportation Authority Moves Ahead with Bike Access on Nice-Middleton Bridge

Maryland Ranked 15 in Top 25 States Americans Visit Most

Two Western Maryland Communities Receive Appalachian Trail Community Designations

B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore announces \$30 Million Transformation of Campus and Exhibit Space

CIAA basketball Tournament to Remain in Baltimore Through 2026

New Wine Crush Facility, Events Venue Has Grand Opening in Poolesville

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!](#)



