



# The Horsemen's f Newsletter

August 2025

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## Fair Hill Preparing For First Meet Since 2019

Fair Hill is moving forward with its plan to offer Thoroughbred racing on its new turf course on Saturday, Aug. 30, and it will mark the first meet in six years at the Cecil County facility.

Though racing, primarily steeplechase events, has not been held in recent years, the Fair Hill Foundation and Cecil County Breeders Fair have regularly applied to the Maryland Racing Commission for dates. Fair Hill can apply for up to eight dates per year, but usually has raced one or two days a year.

A renovated turf course was part of a major construction project that was geared toward accommodating a major equestrian event called the Maryland Five Star at Fair Hill. But the course needed time to mature, and eventually needed further improvements.

MRC Executive Director Chris Merz said commission staff will have a final walk-through the week before the Aug. 13 MRC meeting, which will be held at Ocean Downs Casino. He said Fair Hill officials will present its proposed pari-mutuel wagering format and request approval for in-state wagering only, as well as review safety protocols with the racing commission, and noted the races will be on the flat, most likely for horses that have competed in steeplechase races.

The meet will be operated by Sports and Entertainment Corporation of Maryland. AmTote, which provides totalizator services to all in-state betting facilities operated by

## Racing Returns To Timonium State Fair For 7-Day Meet

Live racing returns to the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium for a seven-day meet beginning Friday, August 22, and running through Labor Day, Monday, September 1. The meet, known for its tight five-furlong oval and festive summer atmosphere, continues to be a popular and tradition-rich stop on the Maryland racing calendar.

Once again, the State Fair will sponsor the \$20,000 Maryland State Fair Trainer Bonus program to reward strong performances during the meet. The bonus is divided into two categories to give trainers of all sizes a fair shot at earning a share of the prize money.

The first category is open to trainers who have started 65 or more horses in Maryland between January 1 and July 31, 2025. The second category is reserved for trainers who have started between three and 64 horses over the same pe-

riod. Each category carries a \$10,000 bonus pool, with prize money awarded to the top five point-earners.

Points will be awarded based on a horse's first start at the Timonium meet only. A win earns five points, while a second-place finish is worth four. Third-place finishes receive three points, fourths receive two, and each eligible starter

earns one point regardless of finishing position. Horses making multiple starts during the meet will only earn points for their first race, and trainers

are not permitted to transfer horses for the purpose of earning additional points.

In each category, the top five trainers will be awarded bonus money, with \$5,000 going to first place, followed by \$2,500 for second, \$1,500 for third, \$600 for fourth, and \$400 for fifth.

The  
MARYLAND  
STATE FAIR



Continued On Page 2 ➔



## ➔ Fair Hill, Continued

or affiliated with The Maryland Jockey Club, will provide those services for the one-day Fair Hill meet. Merz said that an agreement had to be signed by July 30.

MRC officials already have visited Fair Hill, and Merz said reports indicated the turf course is in good condition.

Officials said the turf course, one mile in circumference, consists of Kentucky bluegrass that generally recovers quickly after use. The renovation included addition of a new irrigation system and enhanced grass and soil management.

In a related matter, replacement of the Tappeta surface at the Fair Hill Training Center, located across the street from the turf course and eventing center, began this summer. The entire Fair Hill property falls under the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

## Health Fair Upcoming This Fall

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, in partnership with MedStar Health and Adventist HealthCare LifeWork Strategies, will host its annual Health Fair on Tuesday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Recreation Room at Laurel Park.

As in previous years, the event will offer flu shots, blood pressure screenings, and bloodwork services performed by on-site phlebotomists. Blood test results will be mailed directly to each participant and shared electronically with the Maryland Horsemen's Health System for follow-up care.

MedStar physicians strongly encourage all backstretch workers—especially those who are regular patients in the Horsemen's Health System—to take advantage of this opportunity for preventative care, rather than waiting until a medical issue arises. In addition to improving health outcomes, this collaborative effort with Adventist HealthCare also results in significant cost savings for the MTHA.

To meet demand, the MTHA expanded the event last year and once again plans to accommodate up to 100 blood draws. Services are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so early arrival is advised.

"We encourage all members of the backstretch community to use this important event to get their annual bloodwork done," said Dr. Kelly Ryan of MedStar Health. "It's a simple step that can make a big difference."

## Demolition Of Structures At Pimlico Begins



Structural demolition necessary for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course began July 24 with the razing of the existing barns and outbuildings adjacent to Winner Avenue. Clark Construction Group, the Maryland Stadium Authority's construction manager, is tasked with the demolition.

In 2024, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation authorizing the MSA to issue \$400 million in bonds to finance, demolish, design, and reconstruct Pimlico and to build a new training facility at Shamrock Farm in Carroll County. Design of both facilities is led by Ayers Saint Gross/Populous and Clark Construction Group is tasked with the construction.

The demolition package was approved by the MSA Board of Directors and the Maryland Board of Public Works in May 2025. After the successful completion of the 150th Preakness Stakes, the operator and all horses moved out of the facility, the Maryland State Archives removed and secured existing artifacts from the property, and the MSA and its project partners began securing the Pimlico site by installing temporary fencing, performing pest control, preparing utilities, and conducting abatement as necessary and important steps as part of the demolition process.

A ceremonial event to commence the demolition of the existing clubhouse is under development to mark this important project milestone later this summer.

As part of the project, MSA will develop an exhibition about the history and significance of

Pimlico. The exhibition will use artifacts, oral histories, photographs, salvaged materials, and other appropriate graphics for display in the newly constructed clubhouse and the publicly accessible spaces on the property and its perimeter. Themes highlighted will include, at a minimum, the history of Thoroughbred racing in Maryland; Pimlico's role in the history of Thoroughbred racing, African American jockeys' roles in Thoroughbred racing; and the history and significance of Preakness.

A high-level demolition schedule is available on MSA's website in the presentation provided at the recent Pimlico Community Advisory Board meeting. MSA encourages residents and businesses near the Pimlico project to sign up for the monthly community newsletter for information on upcoming construction activities, outages and major impacts, project milestones, plus bid and employment opportunities.

During the demolition and construction process all racing and training will occur at Laurel Park. The 151st Preakness Stakes will take place at Laurel Park and the 152nd Preakness Stakes is expected to return to Pimlico in 2027.

"Through this multi-year transformational project, the Pimlico Race Course will become a year-round racing facility bringing in economic benefits to the surrounding communities and further elevating Maryland, home of the Preakness Stakes, as a premiere sports tourism destination," MSA Chairman Craig A. Thompson said.

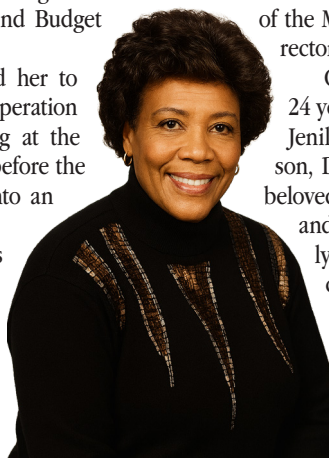
# Trainer Carlyne Tapscott Passes At Age 82

The Maryland racing community is saddened by the death of Carlyne Tapscott, a long-time trainer who passed away July 4 at age 82 at her home in Upper Marlboro, Md. She was surrounded by her husband, James, and daughter, Jenile.

Along with training Thoroughbreds, over the years she was a school bus driver for Prince George's County, taught driver's education for the state of Maryland, and held numerous positions within the federal government—including roles with the Public Defender's Office, the Office of the Surgeon General, and as Director of Medical Programs, Senior Program Analyst, Financial Specialist, and Budget Analyst.

Her love of horses led her to training horses, and her operation was one of few remaining at the Marlboro Training Center before the property was converted into an equestrian center.

Carlyne's last victory as a trainer came in February 2024 when Disputed Notion won at Laurel Park. The highlight of her career on the track came in



the fall of 2014, when Perfect Cross, a horse she owned and trained, rallied from 10th and last to win by a nose at 39-1 in the Onion Juice Breeders Classic at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races.

Perfect Cross, a West Virginia-bred, earned \$188,000 in more than 40 starts. In 2013, the gelding finished second in the West Virginia Lottery Breeders Classic and third in the Robert G. Leavitt Memorial Stakes, both at Charles Town.

Jenile Tapscott, who worked closely with her mother, also was a trainer at Maryland, Laurel and Pimlico Race Course and is a member of the Maryland Horse Industry Board of Directors.

Carlyne is survived by her husband of 24 years, James V. Holland; two daughters, Jenile and Yetta Gilchrist (William); her son, Derrick Tapscott (Katherine); and two beloved bonus daughters, Sandra Mendez and Heidi Jensen, whom she loved dearly. She also leaves behind six grandchildren—Keisha, William Jr., Laytoya, Derrick Jr., Jazmine, and Lauren—as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends who were like family.

## Last Call For Those Interested In College Scholarship

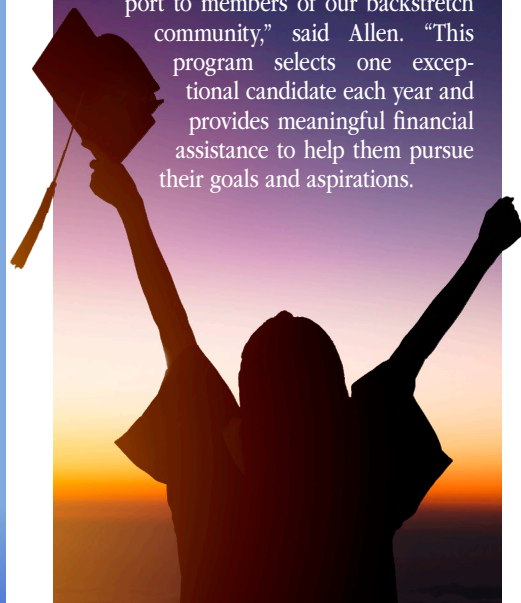
The deadline for submitting applications for the 2025 Ferris Allen Bootstraps Scholarship—an award created to support individuals working within the Maryland Thoroughbred racing community who aspire to further their education—is Aug. 15.

Eligible applicants include those who have been employed on the backstretch at Laurel Park or Pimlico Race Course, or have worked in a related support role in Maryland racing within the past three years. Candidates must also be enrolled—or planning to enroll—in a four-year college or university beginning in the fall of 2025 or shortly thereafter.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association launched this meaningful scholarship program in 2023, thanks to funding from longtime Laurel Park-based trainer Ferris Allen, who also serves on the MTHA Board of Directors. The program provides a significant financial award to one deserving individual each year to assist with college expenses.

A total of \$10,000 will be awarded annually to a single recipient following a thorough application review. The deadline to apply is August 15. Applications can be submitted at [ferrisallenscholarship.com](http://ferrisallenscholarship.com).

"I believe our industry must do more to offer real and lasting educational support to members of our backstretch community," said Allen. "This program selects one exceptional candidate each year and provides meaningful financial assistance to help them pursue their goals and aspirations."



## BACKSTRETCH RECREATION PROGRAM

# SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

AUGUST 2025		
11	BURGER DAY	NOON
12	SPAGHETTI NIGHT	6:00PM
18	AIR & SPACE MUSEUM	NOON
19	BASKETBALL GAMES	6:00PM
25	TACO DAY	NOON
26	MOVIE NIGHT	6:00PM

SEPTEMBER 2025		
8	CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT	11:30A
9	MEXICAN CUISINE NIGHT	6:00P
15	BACKSTRETCH COOKOUT	NOON
17	POKER TOURNAMENT	NOON
22	SANDY POINT TRIP	11:30A
23	HISPANIC HEALTH & WELLNESS	NOON
29	GOLF TOURNAMENT	NOON
30	HEALTH FAIR	1:00P

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BRYANT PAZ AT 240-319-1892



# MTHA GOLF TOURNAMENT

WALDEN COUNTRY CLUB

MONDAY, SEPT 29 AT NOON

\$65 PER PERSON



CASH PRIZES

Call Dan to Register 410-802-5798



## MTHA

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**August 2025**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #15  
WESTMINSTER, MD



NATIONAL  
**AIR AND SPACE**  
MUSEUM

**FREE TRIP FOR  
BACKSTRETCH  
WORKERS**

**AUGUST 18 AT NOON**



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