



The Horsemen's f Newsletter

November 2025

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Tickets Now On Sale For MTHA Christmas Party

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association is pleased to announce that its 2025 Christmas Party and Toy Drive will once again be held at The Corner Stable restaurant, located in the Kings Contrivance Village Center in Columbia, Md. The event will take place Tuesday, December 16, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Last year's celebration drew rave reviews, featuring a gourmet buffet, music from a DJ, and an energetic crowd representing every corner of Maryland's racing community. More than 200 horsemen, owners, trainers, and backstretch workers attended, and this year's event promises to continue that festive tradition.

Tickets are \$25 per person when purchased in advance, and all attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to support the MTHA's annual Toy Distribution at Laurel Park on December 20. Tickets may be purchased at the MTHA Office, located in the grandstand at Laurel Park or online at mdhorsemen.com.

The Corner Stable, known for its award-winning ribs and crab cakes, is owned by Chip Reed, a Thoroughbred racehorse owner and valued member of the MTHA Board of Directors.

Laurel Park Race Replays Return to YouTube!

Horsemen and fans will be happy to hear that Laurel Park race replays are once again available on YouTube following several weeks of technical difficulties that interrupted The Maryland Jockey Club's normal posting schedule.

The Maryland Jockey Club has worked to restore its MarylandRacing YouTube channel, where viewers can now easily find high-quality video replays of all the latest Laurel Park races. The return of this service is great news for horsemen, owners, and racing enthusiasts who rely on the channel to review race performances, scout horses, and share content on social media.

The MarylandRacing channel features two convenient formats:

- **Replay Shows** — complete daily programs for each card, perfect for watching an entire day's racing in order.
- **Individual Race Videos** — each race available separately, making it simple to find and share specific horses or performances.

To access the replays, visit MarylandRacing YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@MarylandRacing>

The YouTube platform remains one of the easiest and most accessible ways for owners, trainers, and fans to catch up on the action at Laurel Park. Whether you're reviewing a horse's most recent start, analyzing trips, or simply reliving a big win, these videos provide a quick and reliable tool for everyone in the Maryland racing community.

In addition to YouTube replays, live streaming of Laurel Park racing continues to be available exclusively for horsemen through Vimeo. The live stream can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/event/4865441>, Password: `mtha2025`



Free Notary Services

Available In MTHA Office



Contributions Released For Backstretch Pension Plan

Contributions to accounts in the Maryland Backstretch Pension Plan were released on October 21 for the most recent cycle.

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Board of Directors again this year contributed \$1 million to the plan. There are currently 549 participants in the plan, which now has total plan assets of more than \$11.7 million.

In 2024, the MTHA board approved the creation of a new "self-directed" online system for the plan. The platform allows individual account holders to actively monitor and manage their investments by choosing from a range of funds, much like traditional pension plans or 401(k)s. Participants now have the ability to make qualified withdrawals as needed and not wait for predefined withdrawal periods.

The plan operates through the John Han-

cock website and mobile app. Initially, funds were placed in a "default investment option," which consists of select financial funds. However, participants can update or modify their investments to curated options at any time to suit their financial goals.

If you haven't signed up for the online service, visit myplan.johnhancock.com or download the John Hancock Retirement app from the Apple App Store or Google Play and Click Register Now. You will need to enter your information, including the plan's contract number 167724.

After creating a username and password, setting up security questions, and confirming your details, you'll be able to explore the platform which offers a range of tools and resources to help make retirement planning simpler and more engaging.

Email System For Horsemen's Concerns Speeds Up Response Time By MJC

The email system for reporting backstretch and track surface concerns by Maryland horsemen has drastically improved response time by Maryland Jockey Club to address concerns at Laurel Park and Pimlico.

The MTHA created the system to improve communication among horsemen and track maintenance staff to expedite the process of issues being addressed.

Previously issues were communicated by horsemen by a paper-based ticket system which proved cumbersome.

Horsemen are encouraged to send emails, with photos, of their concerns to backstretchissues@mdhorsemen.com for backstretch concerns or to trackissues@mdhorsemen.com for track surface issues.

Messages to each of these accounts are forwarded to a multitude of relevant parties as well as to the MTHA so progress and response time can be tracked.

BACKSTRETCH RECREATION PROGRAM

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

3	SPAGHETTI NIGHT	6PM
4	VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT	5PM
10	WELLNESS DAY	NOON
11	CHILLI NIGHT	6PM
17	BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT	NOON
19	POKER TOURNAMENT	NOON
24	MOVIE NIGHT	6PM
27	THANKSGIVING DINNER	7AM

DECEMBER 2025

8	SOUP & SANDWICH DAY	NOON
9	CHRISTMAS MOVIES	6PM
10	TREE DECORATING	NOON
15	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS VAN TOUR	6PM
16	CHRISTMAS PARTY	6PM
20	SANTA'S TOY DRIVE	11AM
22	SHOPPING TRIP	NOON
24	CHRISTMAS DINNER	11:00A
25	CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST	8PM
29	HOT DOG DAY	NOON
30	VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT	5PM

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

Community Discussion Groups:

Backstretch Community



MJC Racing Office



Trainers



Jockeys



Each discussion group will receive community announcements including track-related alerts.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

The traditional free Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association returns on Thursday, Nov. 26, in the track kitchen at Laurel Park.

The "dinner" actually begins early in the morning during training hours and continues through part of the afternoon. First post time for the special holiday racing program at Laurel is 11:25 a.m., so training hours will be adjusted.

The entire Maryland racing community and those who ship in from outside the state for racing that day are invited to stop by

the kitchen to enjoy turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and other sides. Miguel and Bryant Paz begin purchasing and preparing food for the dinner well in advance.

The Maryland Jockey Club will continue its tradition of giving away free pumpkin and apple pies to customers who purchase a racing program on Thanksgiving, and also will provide pies for the backstretch community. The MJC sends the pies to the track kitchen for distribution along with the Thanksgiving dinners. The pies are first-come, first-served.



Nominations Sought For Backstretch Employee Of The Year

Trainers at Laurel Park are encouraged to submit nominations for the MTHA Backstretch Employee of the Year for 2025.

The winner will be announced in early 2025 with a presentation at a later date. The deadline to submit nominations is Dec. 31.

The MTHA recognizes the contributions of backstretch workers who form a community dedicated to the daily care and well-being of our equine athletes seven days a week year-round. Many begin their day at 4 a.m. and return later in the afternoon to feed the horses in their care.

To submit a worker to be considered, email their name, position and a summary of why they deserve this award to info@mdhorsemen.com.



Fair Hill Eyes More Race Dates in Coming Years

Fair Hill, which hosted its first race meet in six years on August 30, plans to seek additional racing dates for 2026 and beyond, according to an update at the October Maryland Racing Commission meeting.

Trish Brown, Special Event Zone Manager for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, described the one-day flat turf meet as a "soft opening" designed to gather feedback from horsemen and fans. While the turf course has been extensively renovated, a few areas still require repair due to heavy equipment crossings for the annual Maryland 5 Star event.

"As soon as the 5 Star infrastructure is

removed, we'll begin remediation on the turf course," Brown said, noting that DNR is exploring long-term solutions to reduce equipment impact.

Brown said Fair Hill intends to apply for a race meet over Memorial Day weekend in 2026. By statute, the Cecil County Breeders Fair can hold up to eight race days per year, and Fair Hill hopes to expand its schedule in 2026, 2027, and 2028 with a mix of flat and steeplechase racing.

MTHA Preparing For Annual Toy Drive

This year's Toy Drive giveaway will be held Saturday, Dec. 20, in the Laurel Park Track Kitchen. The event will begin at 11 a.m.

Parents with children who are interested in receiving toys should contact Diana Pinones at the MTHA office (410-902-6844) no later than Dec. 1.

Cookies and hot chocolate will be provided courtesy of the Paz family. A visit from Santa Claus is expected. There is live racing Dec. 20 so make sure you are on time for the toy distribution.



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Manage Your Backstretch Pension Account With The John Hancock Retirement App

You can now view your balance, change your investments, request eligible withdrawals and more at **myplan.johnhancock.com** or download John Hancock's retirement app on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

- The Plan's Contract number: **167724**

Then follow these steps to register:

- Create a username and password,
- Choose your challenge questions and answers,
- Confirm your information and you're all set!

John Hancock
Download the app



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT FOR BACKSTRETCH WORKERS

SOUP & SANDWICHES

DECEMBER 8 NOON



FREE FOR ALL BACKSTRETCH WORKERS

FIFA

VIDEO GAME TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 12 5PM

LAUREL PARK TRACK KITCHEN



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