



# The Horsemen's Newsletter



November 2016

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## Unity Breeding Progress Within Racing Industry

Longtime owner and breeder Bob Manfuso liked what he saw on Jim MacKay Maryland Million Day this year, and he believes it's a direct result of investment in racing and cooperation among stakeholders in the state.

Manfuso, who owns and operates Chanceland Farm in West Friendship, Md., with trainer Katharine Voss, noted the "spectacular" capital improvements at Laurel Park and the size and diversity of the crowd that attended the Oct. 22 program that showcases the progeny of Maryland sires. He said the "passion for racing" shown by Tim Ritvo, chief operating officer of The Stronach Group; Maryland Jockey Club president and general manager Sal Sinatra; and their team is producing benefits.

"I think the results on Maryland Million Day are a reflection of that," said Manfuso, a member of the MTHA board of directors. "It was particularly fun to see the diversity of the people who had a great time. It was a positive experience for us who have been in the game a day or two and for newcomers as well."

"What we're seeing in Maryland is a simple fact: Success is a direct reflection of the quality of the team that operates the local racetrack. They recognize that they need to provide entertainment for fans as well as owners and trainers."

On the breeding side of the business, Manfuso noted the more than 15% increase in Thoroughbred mares bred in Maryland in 2016 is tied to a sense of optimism in the state. Manfuso is the breeder of 2016 Kentucky Oaks winner Cathryn Sophia, who was bred to the Kentucky stallion Street Boss but was foaled in Maryland.

"I was excited about the Maryland-bred potential," he said. "The owner and breeder bonuses here can compete with any state. It's very positive time for Maryland."

MTHA president Tim Keefe said that wasn't always the case.

"I always remember growing up here that horsemen and management never really got along," said Keefe, a Maryland native whose stable is based at Laurel. "Everybody was on a different page. There were aspirations toward the same goals but [the groups] took different paths to get there."

Keefe said another important development is that the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and MTHA have a congenial working relationship.

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## MTHA Christmas Party & Toy Drive

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 • 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

\$35 in Advance • \$45 at Door • \$300 Table of 10

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association will host the popular Horsemen's Christmas Party celebration on Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Laurel Park's Carriage Room.

Maryland Racing's Party of the Year, the MTHA Christmas Party will feature a buffet dinner, open bar and a dance floor with tunes provided by one of the area's top party bands, The New Ramanos.

Also that evening will be the presentation of the Horsemen's Awards, to be held at the outset of the party.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 each at the door or \$300 for a table of ten and can be purchased on race days in the MTHA racetrack office at Laurel Park, online at [mdhorsemen.com](http://mdhorsemen.com) or by calling 410-902-6842. See Diana Pinones in the MTHA office for more details.

Horsemen are urged to purchase tickets in advance.

MTHA will also be hosting its annual toy drive for the third consecutive year and is asking attendees to the party to bring a new, unwrapped toy to be collected at the door.

Gifts will be distributed to children of backstretch workers during the holiday season.



# OTB Network Expansion Project Continues in Perryville

The Maryland Racing Commission Oct. 5 approved a request by the Maryland Jockey Club to operate a satellite wagering facility at Hollywood Casino at Perryville in Cecil County.

It will be the second casino-based off-track wagering operation for the MJC, which last year launched a betting parlor at Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore. The company plans to pursue a similar venture at the under-construction MGM National Harbor casino south of Washington, D.C.

The MJC, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and Hollywood Casino are partners in the Perryville simulcast facility, which will employ about 800 square feet adjacent a poker area and bar. MJC president and general manager Sal Sinatra, during the racing commission hearing held at the casino, said there will be 30 betting carrels, high-definition television screens, and tablets that will allow players to open accounts and wager from their seats.

"We're trying to expand throughout the state," Sinatra said. "We see ourselves as an amenity for the casino."

Hollywood Casino general manager Matthew Heiskell noted the Perryville casino, located just of Interstate 95 near the Susquehanna River, competes with Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore to the south and Casino at Delaware Park to the north, and both of those facilities offer wagering on horse racing.

"We believe there is a sweet spot

here by offering something the casino doesn't currently have," he said. "Some customers may be looking for a change of pace, and this can really brighten up space that's dead or not used on the casino floor. It can something more vibrant and interesting."

Local and county officials were on hand for the racing commission meeting, and all spoke in favor of the satellite wagering facility.

Lisa Webb, director of the Cecil County Office of Economic Development, said the casino, the first to open in Maryland, has had a positive impact on the county, and the satellite wagering facility will be a great addition. Cecil County up until a few years ago had off-track wagering at Poor Jimmy's, a restaurant in North East that closed.

Sinatra said Poor Jimmy's generated about \$18 million a year in parimutuel handle a year; the projection for Perryville is \$10 million, which he called a "conservative number." Based on the projection, each of the three partners in the simulcast facility would net about \$431,000 a year, according to documents provided to the MRC.

The MJC also operates off-track betting parlors at the Maryland State Fair at Timonium, the Boonsboro Event Center between Frederick and Hagerstown, and the Riverboat on the Potomac accessible from Colonial Beach, Va.

# New Aftercare Program In Development

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association is moving closer to the launch of a greatly expanded aftercare program that includes additional funding and the tracking of retired racehorses.

The MTHA Oct. 4 authorized a commitment of \$25,000 a year over five years to the newly created "Beyond The Wire" Thoroughbred aftercare program. The Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Jockey Club have agreed to similar contributions to participate in the program, while the Maryland jockey colony collectively has agreed to participate through per-mount contributions.



MARYLAND THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE

"It's so great to have the entire industry support this important cause," commented MTHA Executive Director David Richardson. "We're all in this together and we all have an interest in providing long term homes for our retired race horses."

Under the current Thoroughbred aftercare program in Maryland facilitated by the MTHA Board, there is a voluntary \$11 per start donation that most horsemen participate in.

In total, about \$210,000 could be available in 2017 for the aftercare program, whose board of directors will include representatives of the MTHA Aftercare Committee, MJC, MHBA, the jockey colony, and the Maryland Racing Commission.

As noted during the Oct. 4 MTHA board meeting, Beyond The Wire will distribute funds to donated horses, not just to facilities that care for them. All foal papers must be stamped "not for racing," and The Jockey Club must be notified.

Completion of a "horse intake form" and a veterinary evaluation are mandatory when a horse enters the program. Beyond The Wire, which counts the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance as a partner, is only for horses that race in Maryland.

The MTHA is seeking 501(c)3 status, which will allow Beyond The Wire to accept tax-deductible contributions from third parties.



# Horsemen Will Miss Pryzbyla

The Maryland racing community recently celebrated the life of Karen Ann Pryzbyla, a long-time pony person who died Oct. 24 after a lengthy battle with leukemia.

Pryzbyla, who was 64, was remembered as a mentor with a passion for the racing community. Lisa McKlveen, an outrider on the Maryland circuit, said Pryzbyla was very instrumental in her career and assisted many others who work on the racetrack.

"She was my boss," McKlveen said. "She always took care of me when I first started in the pony business. She was like that with everyone. She never had children of her own, so she treated me and my friend like daughters."



"When she found out about (her condition) she said she was going to come back to work but that didn't happen. Karen always strong like that—she had a lot of hope she'd come back."

"She was a class act in the Maryland racing community and always had a radiant smile," said Bobby Lillis, who directs the Horsemen's Assistance Fund.

"She was my go-to person if I ever needed to find another pony person. She knew everybody and everybody knew her and loved her."

Pryzbyla, who resided in Laurel, is survived by her husband, Ed; sisters Vicki and Barbara and a brother, Bill; and several nieces and nephews.



## Rec Report

### MTHA Bowling League

The bowling league has already started, but it isn't too late to sign up. Please contact Dan at 410-802-5798 to sign up.

### Poker Tournament

We will be moving Poker to the second Tuesday of each month in the MTHA Rec Room located at the Track Kitchen on the Laurel backside at 12:00pm.

### Soccer

The soccer league has come to a finish. We would like to thank Claudio Gonzalez, Cal Lynch, Tim Keefe, Mike Ueltzen of Germania Farms and jockeys Sheldon Russell and Angel Cruz for sponsoring teams this year. Congratulations to all the players and teams that played and to the two teams that made the championship game Germania and TLK Racing.

### Flag Football

We are currently playing Flag Football on Tuesdays at 1:00pm on the soccer fields located right off Brock Ridge Rd. Please contact Marty Leonard at 203-733-1367 for details.



### Trailer Parking

Trailers are no longer permitted to be parked in the Horsemen's lot or on the Howard County lot at Laurel Park.

Trailers will now only be permitted to be parked on the backstretch behind tent barn #3, however they will need to have a free permit. This can be obtained in the MTHA racetrack office by providing your license and a current registration for your trailer.

Any trailer not complying with this new policy will be towed at the owner's expense by MJC Security.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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**MTHA**

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# Board Actions

MTHA Board Meeting – September 30, 2016

**Members present:** Timothy L. Keefe (President), Linda S. Gaudet (Vice President), R. Larry Johnson (Vice President), Katharine M. Voss (Secretary), A. Ferris Allen, Christine E. Bricker, Dale Capuano, Ellen M. Charles, JoAnn Hayden, Robert T. Manfuso, H. Graham Motion, Lawrence E. Murray, Charles J. Reed and Michael J. Trombetta.

**Member absent:** Michael F. Horning (Treasurer).

### Election of Officers

The Board unanimously approved the existing slate of officers to continue their term for one year by acclamation.

### Christmas Party

The Board unanimously voted to approve all expenditures related to the 2016 Horsemen's Christmas Party to be held in December at Laurel Park.

### Counseling Program

The Board unanimously appropriated necessary funds to continue the Counseling Program through June 30, 2017, in partnership with Maryland Jockey Club.

### Perryville OTB

The Board unanimously voted to approve the proposed OTB to be located within Hollywood Casino Perryville.

### Bonus Award

The Board unanimously voted to increase the Bonus award by \$20. The Bonus Award is paid to all horses who start an overnight race and finish beyond 6th place including horses who do not finish a race in which they started.

### Beyond The Wire

The Board unanimously voted to approve the Beyond The Wire Thoroughbred aftercare program, a joint industry-wide effort under development in conjunction with Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Jockey Club and the Maryland jockey colony.

In addition, the Board authorized all current funds earmarked for aftercare endeavours be used for this program and authorized a \$25,000 contribution to support this new program.

### Unity, From Page 1

"Things seem to be aligning really well right now," he said. "When we do have arguments and disagreements we get in a room and iron things out. There are a lot of good people on both boards."

"Everything is headed in the right direction. People in Annapolis have told us there's one thing we need to know: 'Figure out how to work together.' That's what we're really trying to focus on."

# THANKSGIVING DINNER



The MTHA will continue the tradition of serving Thanksgiving dinner free of charge on Thursday, Nov. 24 to all backstretch workers and their families at Laurel Park and Pimlico.

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy and all the trimmings will be served from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Laurel Park in the track kitchen and from 8 a.m. to noon at Pimlico in the Snack Room above Barn 8.



**MTHA**

500 Redland Court, #105  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

**November 2016**

STANDARD  
PRE-SORT  
US POSTAGE  
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## Obamacare Registration Assistance Provided



**OBAMACARE**

The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association will assist backstretch workers to learn more about and sign up for health care under the new Affordable Care Act.

For help in English or Spanish, stop in the MTHA racetrack office during live racing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call Bobby Lillis at 410-902-6843 or Jessica Hammond at 301-776-0404.

## Board of Directors

Timothy L. Keefe, President  
Linda S. Gaudet, Vice President  
R. Larry Johnson, Vice President  
Michael F. Horning, Treasurer  
Katharine M. Voss, Secretary

A. Ferris Allen, III  
Christine E. Bricker  
Dale Capuano  
Ellen M. Charles  
JoAnn Hayden  
Robert T. Manfuso  
H. Graham Motion  
Lawrence E. Murray  
Charles J. Reed  
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