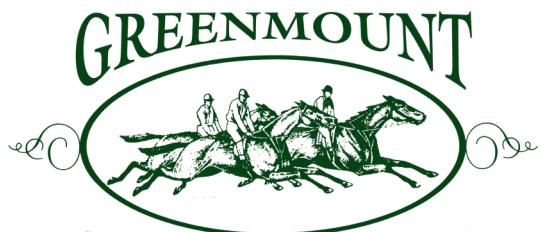




# The Horsemen's Newsletter

December 2017

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OFF TRACK BETTING

## Greenmount OTB Receives Approval

The Maryland Racing Commission the evening of Nov. 29 approved an application for a license to operate an off-track betting facility adjacent the Greenmount Station restaurant in Hampstead in Carroll County.

When the OTB begins operating, most likely before the end of this year, it will be the fifth such facility opened by the Maryland Jockey Club over the past several years. The others are at Hollywood Casino Perryville, the Boonsboro Event Center, the Maryland State Fairgrounds at Timonium, and Horsehoe Casino Baltimore.

MJC also operates a betting parlor at the Riverboat on the Potomac, which is located on Maryland waters just off the coast of Virginia. The MRC Nov. 30 approved the transfer of the Potomac OTB license to the MJC in light of plans for the owner to sell the entertainment facility.

MJC also offers year-round full-card simulcasts at its three tracks in the state: Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course and Rosecroft Raceway.

The Hampstead OTB parlor, in keeping with other facilities in the state, will be a partnership among MJC; the owner, in this case Greenmount Station; and the Maryland Thorough-

*Continued on Page 2* ➔

## Beyond The Wire Plans Informational Seminar For Horsemen

February 6, 2018, 11:30 a.m. at Laurel Park

A special program sponsored by Beyond The Wire, Maryland's Thoroughbred aftercare program, for owners, trainers and assistant trainers, is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Laurel Park.

The seminar, which will provide the latest information on injuries and their implications in racehorses as well as a look at racetrack retirement, will be provided by Dr. Patricia Hogan, a New Jersey-based equine surgeon who regularly works with retired racehorses.

The program, which will include lunch for attendees, will be held in the clubhouse beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Beyond The Wire was launched earlier this year to bring accountability to racehorse retirement and provide dedicated funding for retirees. The MTHA, Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Horse Breed-

ers Association each contribute \$25,000 a year; owners are asked to pay – and most do – a per-start fee of \$11 at Maryland tracks; jockeys pay an estimated \$20,000 a year based on mounts; and those who apply to place horses in the program are asked to make an initial donation.

Jessica Hammond, who coordinates the Beyond The Wire program, said the stable of partner farms is growing. Along with longtime Maryland farms

Mid Atlantic

Horse Rescue and the Foxie G Foundation, the program uses Aikindale Farm in New York, New Vocations in Pennsylvania, and After the Races and Life Horse in Maryland.

All of the partner farms are accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.



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Located in historic Hampstead in Carroll County, Greenmount Station restaurant and sports bar is one of the area's most popular restaurants and gathering spaces. Renowned for its famous Crab Cakes, Greenmount Station will be providing its full menu of award-winning cuisine to OTB patrons.

## MRC Approves Amendment To Claiming Regulations

A suspended trainer will not be permitted to claim horses with his or her owner's license under an amended claiming rule approved by the Maryland Racing Commission at its Nov. 30 meeting.

The current rule allows a suspended trainer to continue using his or her owner's license without restriction. The MTHA Board of Directors endorsed the change at its most recent meeting Oct. 30; it had been discussed at a previous MRC meeting and supported by commissioners.

The MTHA in October also issued its support for an equine medication and drug-testing standards compact that would facilitate adoption of model rules simultaneously in states that pass enabling legislation. The Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission and West Virginia Racing Commission are moving ahead with compact legislation for their upcoming 2018 legislative sessions.

The initial objective is to get lawmakers in



the Mid-Atlantic region to pass the enabling legislation, though any state could do so.

"This is going to make everyone's life a lot simpler," MRC Executive Director Mike Hopkins told MTHA board members. "Using the Mid-Atlantic, which has the largest population of racehorses, makes a lot of sense. I think it would be a good thing to get done in the Mid-Atlantic first since we have been a leader in adopting uniform medication rules."

The MRC at its Nov. 30 meeting also approved three expenditures from the Racetrack Facilities Renewal Account, which is funded through 1% of video lottery terminal revenue at the state's casinos. RFRA money is provided on a 50% matching basis.

The projects are \$857,591 for construction of "Barn 3" at Laurel Park; \$908,167 for capital improvements in the clubhouse area of Laurel; and \$106,854 for fencing along Race Track Road at the Bowie Training Center property.

### OTB from page 1

bred Horsemen's Association.

MJC President Sal Sinatra said he estimates the Hampstead facility to generate \$4 million to \$4.5 million a year in pari-mutuel handle, a range similar to those in Perryville and Boonsboro. Work has been ongoing in vacant space in a strip mall on MD-Route 30.

"It should be open by the end of the year," Sinatra said. "We're targeting the week (between Christmas and New Year's Day), which should be a busy time at Greenmount Station. The restaurant is a full service sports bar, so we may get more play than usual on Sundays and Monday nights."

The community of Hampstead enthusiastically welcomed the new venture at the Maryland Racing Commission hearing which was attended by the Mayor of Hampstead Chris Nevin, Carroll County Commissioner Richard Weaver and other elected officials in addition to MJC and MTHA representatives.

"The town of Hampstead very much looks forward to working with Maryland Jockey Club and Greenmount Station restaurant to help grow the sport of Thoroughbred racing in our county," remarked Mayor Nevin at the hearing.

The facility, strategically located about 7 miles from Westminster along the busy Route 30 corridor just north of Hampstead, looks to lure bettors from not only Carroll County but from nearby Hanover and York in Pennsylvania. These customers usually frequent the Penn National OTB facility located in York.

In a related matter, the MJC continues working with MGM National Harbor, which plans to place a race book on its second floor. The wagering area is expected to be ready by Memorial Day weekend, Sinatra said, but in the interim he is working with the casino to equip a ballroom so it can take bets in time for the Triple Crown series.

"They were happy with that (temporary) proposal," he said. "The race book will have a state-of-the-art television wall. The design of the race book has to be approved by (corporate officials in Las Vegas)."

MGM National Harbor opened late last year and is a major contributor to the Purse Dedication Account.

## The Horsemen's Newsletter

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**Show Your Pride**

Stop in the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association racetrack office at Laurel Park to pickup a complimentary Maryland Flag racehorse sticker.



# Medstar's Dr. Ryan One Of Many Speakers At International Conference In Dubai On Health And Welfare

MedStar's Dr. Kelly Ryan, who serves as co-Medical Director and lead physician for the Horsemen's Health System at Maryland racetracks, was one of many speakers at the International Conference on the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys held Nov. 2-3 in Dubai.

The conference, which will be held in the United Arab Emirates' city again in two years, had a packed agenda that focused on the following: making weight and riding performance; the implications of making weight; concussion; injuries and falls and how to reduce them; and mental health. Near the end of the two-day event, there were reports and updates from various countries including the United States.

Ryan, who has for several years worked on concussion protocols for riders and has spoken at other conferences, discussed on-track evaluation and updates on management of concussions; returning to ride after an injury; and utilizing physical therapy for improved recovery.

"It was a really fantastic conference," Ryan said. "I go to a lot of medical conferences with really top-notch content, and this was a very ambitious group in Dubai. Sometimes I feel that no one knows what we're doing (to help riders), but then you attend a conference like this and see people having the same struggles."

"It gives you hope that we can improve medical care at racetracks."

The U.S. was also represented by Jeff Johnston, a regional manager for the Jockeys' Guild and a former rider primarily in Kentucky and Ohio. Other countries that took part included Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Ryan said she addressed expansion of the "sports medicine model," which is of particular interest to MedStar and various racing jurisdictions seeking to improve care for jockeys.

"Over and over it was noted jockeys should be treated like athletes, but they also should be training that way," Ryan said. "Ireland is really the model – they have some great, exciting stuff going on in this regard."

Ryan is one of five MedStar doctors who provide health services for backstretch workers, racetrack workers and jockeys under the Horsemen's Health System, which was developed and created by the MTHA in partnership with Maryland Jockey Club. The others doctors in the program include Dr. Frank Dawson, Dr. Christian Glaser, Dr. Jeffrey Mayer and Dr. Jason Podhast.

The Horsemen's Health System, headquartered in the MTHA office at Laurel Park, is one of, if not the most, advanced program of its kind in racing. The program has been held up as an example for other racetracks in the U.S.



## Over 400 Meals Served to Backstretch Community on Thanksgiving

The MTHA continued its Thanksgiving Day tradition Nov. 23 when it served more than 400 holiday dinners with all the fixings on the backstretches of Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course.

MTHA Benevolence Administrator Bobby Lillis said 336 dinners were served at Laurel from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and 93 at Pimlico from 7 a.m. to noon. There was a special 10-race card at Laurel on Thanksgiving that began at 11:30 a.m.

The MTHA provided the meals and supervision at both facilities, where turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, string beans and pie were served by Bryant and Miguel Paz. The Maryland Jockey Club provided whole pies to backstretch workers as Thanksgiving gifts.

"There were generous portions of food and lots of happy faces," Lillis said. "Backstretch worker's really look forward to this event."

Thanksgiving, as usual, featured live racing at Laurel Park which saw markedly improved revenue gains from the previous year.

Total all-source handle topped \$2.8 million for the 10-race card, which was up from \$2.5 million in 2016 and \$2.0 million in 2015.

With winter here, the importance of the MTHA's clothing drive is growing. Two collection bins are conveniently available at Laurel Park near the stable gate and horsemen's entrance with donations being distributed to backstretch workers in need.



Our dedicated backstretch workers can enjoy a free

# HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Christmas morning at Pimlico and Laurel Park track kitchens  
compliments of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's  
Association and the Maryland Jockey Club.



## MTHA

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**December 2017**

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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.

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