



# The Horsemen's Newsletter



January 2019

Vol. 28 • Number 1

## Lasix Admin Fee To Increase

The MTHA Board of Directors Dec. 10 voted to increase the fee charged for administration of race-day Lasix to bring it in line with several other Mid-Atlantic racing jurisdictions.

The fee for Lasix, which is administered by regulatory veterinarians, has been \$20 at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course. It will increase to \$25 effective Jan. 1 at Laurel.

According to a regional sampling, the fee at three New York Racing Association tracks—Aqueduct Racetrack, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course—as well as Parx Racing and Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course, is \$25. It's \$35 at Monmouth Park and \$20 at Delaware Park.

Dr. Jay Baldwin, Chief Medical Officer for First Equine Health Services, told the MTHA board that about 80% of the cost of a track's Lasix program goes to pay vets. Under the National Uniform Medication Program, Lasix is administered by third-party vets rather than private practitioners as was the case previously.

Baldwin, whose practice handles race-day Lasix administration, said it's important to maintain the quality of the program. He said he approached Delaware Park this past summer about a fee increase, and was told the track wanted to see progress on a uniform figure regionally.

## Backstretch Pension Program Receives Significant Boost

A few months after approving an increase in the backstretch pension fund contribution to \$500,000 from \$400,000, the MTHA Board of Directors recommended another increase to \$750,000 for 2019.

The amount put into the fund from the Thoroughbred Purse Account had been at \$400,000 since 2013.

Maryland law states that the Maryland Racing Commission may direct a deduction from open purse money of 0.25% of all pa-

ri-mutuel pools to be paid to the Maryland Backstretch Pension Fund, which equates to slightly more than \$15 million.

The MRC must approve the latest recommendation from the MTHA which it did at its last meeting on December 13.

The MTHA pension program began in 1988. Sign-ups for the program are conducted each spring at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course.

Licensed horsemen in good standing employed in the care of horses on the backstretch in Maryland, including trainers, are eligible to participate in the program. Employees must have worked a minimum of 1,000 hours during the specified year in Maryland and provide documentation to that effect.

Benefits become available when an employee reaches age 65, or at age 55 with 25 years of service.



## Daniel Takes Over As Equine Medical Director

Dr. Elizabeth "Libby" Daniel, who took over as state veterinarian for the Maryland Racing Commission in January 2017, has begun her duties as Equine Welfare and Medical Director for the MRC.

A 2013 review of the MRC by the state Department of Legislative Services recommended creation of the position, which was endorsed by the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and Maryland Jockey Club. Funding became available in 2018 through legislative action.

Daniel will continue serving as state veterinarian.

"I'm one month into it, so this is a work in progress," said Daniel, who served as state veterinarian at Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in West Virginia for many years. "The Standardbred industry will be part of it, too, so there will be some learning on my part."

Daniel said she'd like to establish an industry mortality review board to examine necropsies and solicit input from all stakeholders to identify ways to further reduce the changes of equine fatalities. "We can then see if anything could have been done differently," she said.

As part of her equine welfare responsibilities, Daniel said she hopes to work more closely with Beyond The Wire, Maryland racing's aftercare program, on the placement of retired racehorses.

Daniel, when hired as state veterinarian, replaced the retiring Dr. David Zipf, who for more than 50 years provided veterinary services to the Maryland horseracing industry.

California, Louisiana, Kentucky and New York are among the states with an equine medical director.





## Rec Report

### Van Service

The MTHA Express is continuing to help many on the backstretch for doctors, dentist, social security, and social service appointments. To schedule a ride, contact Dan Mangum at 410-802-5798, or see Bobby, Jessica, or Diana to make arrangements. Trips are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### MTHA Bowling League

The bowling league begins on January 8th at Laurel Lanes. It isn't too late to sign up as a team or as an individual. Please contact Dan at 410-802-5798 to sign up.

### Poker Tournament

The MTHA Texas Hold 'em Poker tournaments are moving to Wednesdays in January in Rec Room located at the Track Kitchen on the Laurel backstretch. Call Marty Leonard with questions and for the exact game times at 203-733-1367.

### MTHA Winter Clothing Drive

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.



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Published by the

**MTHA**

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# Study Puts Cost Of A Rebuilt Pimlico At Minimum Of \$424M

The Maryland Stadium, in Phase 2 of its study into the feasibility of rebuilding Pimlico Race Course, said the cost for minimal capital improvements is now \$424 million.

Phase 2 of the study, conducted by Crossroads Consulting Services along with Populous, Rummel Klepper Kahl and Turner Construction, sets the stage for "private development or another initiative" for parts of the Baltimore property not used for racing. The Stadium Authority collaborated with The Stronach Group and Maryland Jockey Club on a "Preakness Program," which offers specifics related to redevelopment of the racing facility.

"Pimlico Race Course is owned by the MJC and TSG," the Stadium Authority said in a release. "Therefore, the non-racing land use concept study is a hypothetical, conceptual analysis of potential uses that could occur—not a feasibility study of what will occur."

The study envisions total venue capacity of 75,000, with 30,400 "premium" seats and 44,600 general admission seats. It would have a four-level clubhouse that would accommodate 44% of the premium seating.

All existing structures on the property would be demolished including the two racing surfaces. The Phase 2 report indicates the surfaces would be moved and replaced with a 15/16-mile dirt track and seven-furlong turf course.

The cost breakdown is as follows: demolition and site clearing (\$21.5 million); infrastructure, utilities and site improvements (\$120.5 million); racing surfaces and infield (\$29.6 million); and the clubhouse (\$252.2 million). The project would take three years, according to the report.

The Maryland General Assembly is expected to take up the issue during its 2019 session.

"A logical next step in the planning process is for key stakeholders including the MJC, TSG, state and city to agree to execute a formal agreement to enter into future negotiations," the Stadium Authority said.

Comments included in a release indicated the report is designed to provide information so stakeholders can make informed decisions on the future of the Pimlico property. It did not make a recommendation nor did it propose funding mechanisms.



# Pimlico Backstretch Worker Of The Year: GABRIEL EMMANUEL

When Gabriel Emmanuel arrived from his native Haiti, he hadn't worked with horses. But that's where he landed in 1997, and he has been at it ever since.

Gabriel, 63, who moved to the United States in 1994 and lives in Glen Burnie, Md., with his wife,

Adeline, has been part of the team as a groom for trainer Mary Eppler at Pimlico Race Course for more than four years. He regularly has five horses under his care and was the groom for Mid-Atlantic favorite Page McKenney, who was retired in August 2018 with a tendon injury.

Page McKenney, who won 22 races and earned almost \$2 million in seven years of racing, took Gabriel to a variety of racetracks outside of Maryland. Gabriel said he had enjoyable experiences traveling to Gulfstream Park, Parx Racing, Charles Town and even Mountaineer to care for Page McKenney, who had most of his success after a claim by Eppler.

"He was a really nice horse to work with," Emmanuel said. "I started working with him when he was much younger. He knew me, and he even knew my wife. He was really special and had a lot of class."



# Laurel Park Backstretch Worker Of The Year: LUIS BARAJAS

Luis Enrique Barajas, a native of Mexico, said his love of animals has served him well during his 10 years working with horses in Maryland.



Barajas, 28, works as a groom for Laurel Park-based Brittany Trimble, who launched her own training operation in early 2018. The native of Mexico worked for Dane Kobiskie when he came to the United States in 2008, and after that was employed by John Robb.

"I really like the horses—I like animals," Barajas said. "They're really smart and they understand. And Brittany is very nice. She has helped me a lot and so has Sheldon (Russell, the jockey who married Trimble in 2018)."

Barajas, who is responsible for six horses daily, has worked for Trimble for almost 15 months. He said he got involved in the business through his family, which has raced horses in Mexico for many years.

"A lot of the people I've worked for and with (in Maryland) have helped me out," Barajas said. "I want to learn more so I can move up."

# Renaissance Awards Scheduled For Feb. 12

The best of the Maryland Thoroughbred industry in 2018 will be celebrated when the second Renaissance Awards program is held Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The awards celebration was first held in 2018 after the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Maryland Jockey Club joined forces to create a signature event to recognize racing's human and equine participants. The American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore's Inner Harbor at 800 Key Highway will serve as the location this year.

Organizers said the event will run from 6-10 p.m. Tickets, priced at \$150, will be available for purchase soon via Eventbrite.com. The American Visionary Art Museum regularly

hosts events and has the necessary space and catering services.

The format will be similar to the 2018 event, which was held at Sagamore Pendry in Baltimore, organizers said.

The MTHA will honor the leading owner, trainer and jockey, as well as recognize the Grooms of the Year at Laurel Park and Pimlico Race Course. The MHBA will present awards for breeder, broodmare and stallion of the year.

And the top Maryland-bred runners in the following categories will be recognized: turf, sprinter, 4-year-old and up filly and mare, 4-year-old and up male, 3-year-old filly, 3-year-old male, 2-year-old filly, 2-year-old male and steeplechase runner. The Horse of the Year will be selected from those categories.



# 2018 MTHA Toy Drive: A Resounding Success!

A visit from Santa Claus and boxes upon boxes of toys helped make for a memorable morning for children of backstretch workers Dec. 22 at Laurel Park.

About 70 children ages infant to 12 were on hand in the track kitchen for the annual event, a highlight of the holiday season. Hot chocolate and cookies were served.

Toys came from donations from attendees of the MTHA Christmas Party, which was held Dec. 11; from customers who attended the races at Laurel and participated in a gift exchange; and from MTHA staff members.

The MTHA would also like to thank the Maryland Jockey Club for its participation in the toy drive.





# MedStar Sports Medicine

## Horsemen's Health System Winter 2019 Schedule

January 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

March 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- Dr. Kelly Ryan
- Dr. Frank Dawson
- Dr. Jeffrey Mayer
- Dr. Christian Glaser
- Dr. Jason Pothast



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