



Farm in Southern Maryland

Greetings!

The future of rural Maryland is strong, and we are going to do great things together in 2017. I'm honored to be serving as the newly elected Chair of the RMC, and I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Learn more about our 2017 leadership [here](#).

The RMC held a successful annual meeting on November 28th at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. We held our [Rural Impact Awards Ceremony](#) and honored Immediate Past Chair, Ms. Doris Mason, and Immediate Past RMC Health Care Committee Chair, Mr. Tom McLoughlin, for their commitment and dedication to serving rural Maryland communities. We also presented the 2016 Rural Champion Award to Maryland Department of Budget and Management Secretary David Brinkley.

On Friday, January 29th we will be hosting our Legislative Welcome Breakfast, and Quarterly Meeting and Legislative Luncheon at the President's Conference Center West, Miller Senate Building in Annapolis, graciously sponsored by Senator Adelaide Eckardt. Join us as we present our [2017 Legislative Priorities](#) and overview of events for the new year. Please [register for the Legislative Breakfast here](#), and the [Quarterly Meeting and Legislative Luncheon here](#).

For any questions about the Legislative Breakfast and Luncheon, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov or 410.841.5772.

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Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Kind Regards,
Josh Hastings
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

For the first time since 2006, the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) received \$2 million in funding for targeted investment to promote economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities.

By sustaining efforts to promote rural regional cooperation, facilitating entrepreneurial activities and supporting key community colleges and nonprofit providers, the quality of life in rural Maryland can be advanced over the next several years.

During Fiscal Year 2017, a total of 43 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,279,377.47 requested. A total of 18 grants totaling \$833,501.00 were distributed to 18 organizations. See the full list of grant recipients [here](#) for entrepreneurship, infrastructure and health care projects.

Together, RMC and Volunteer Maryland will offer information sessions throughout the State for attendees to learn more about both organizations and the resources available to rural-serving organizations, including the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) program and RMPIF. As part of the Governor's Office of Service and Volunteerism, Volunteer Maryland administers an AmeriCorps service training program. Come learn more about our programs and resources, and [sign up for a session](#) located near you!

If the Council can be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov, or 410.841.5774.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

Committee Updates



RMC Health Care Committee

The RMC Health Care Committee has compiled its Executive Summary of its activities for 2015 - 2016. [Learn more...](#)



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee met November 14th via conference call to discuss a draft of the [2017 Legislative Priorities](#). The

next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 2, 3pm-4pm.

[Learn more...](#)



RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee

The Committee finalized a [2017 -2020 RMC Strategic Plan](#) in the spring. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st, 10am - 12pm, via conference call.

To learn more about the

[Volunteer Maryland and RMC Information](#)

[Session](#)

Thursday,
December 15
10am - 12pm
100 Community Place,
Crownsville, MD

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)

Thursday,
December 15
10am - 12pm

[Transfer of Wealth Study Work Group](#)

Friday, December 16
10am - 12pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

Monday, January 2
3pm - 4pm

[Volunteer Maryland and RMC Information Session](#)

Thursday, January 5
2pm - 4pm
Shepherd's Clinic and
Joy Wellness Center
Baltimore, MD

[Volunteer Maryland and RMC Information Session](#)

Thursday, January 12
10am - 12pm
New Hope Lutheran
Church
Columbia, MD

RMC In The News

[Cecil Whig](#)

October 19, 2016

[The Enterprise](#)

November 17, 2016

[Bay Times and Record Observer](#)

November 24, 2016

[Associated Press](#)

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

To learn more about the RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact Chairman [Mike Thielke](#).

[Associated Press](#)
December 1, 2016
[Lancaster Farming](#)
December 12, 2016
[MyEasternShoreMD](#)
December 13, 2016

Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [2017 Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center \(MATRC\) - Early Bird Registration Open November 7th](#) - April 2nd - 4th, Leesburg, VA

Awards & Grants

- [2017 Kathleen A. P. Mathias Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program](#) - Maryland Energy Administration, Due December 15th
- [Rural Business Development Grant Program](#) - USDA Rural Development, Due December 16th
- [FY2017 MEA Clean Energy Communities Low to Moderate Income Grant Program](#) - Due January 7th

Programs & More

- [Maryland Government Contracting Guide](#) - Maryland Department of Commerce
- [Volunteer Maryland and RMC Info Session](#) - Thursday, December 15th, 10am-12pm, 100 Community Place, Anne Arundel County
- [Volunteer Maryland and RMC Info Session](#) - Thursday, January 5th, 2pm - 4pm, Shepherd's Clinic and Joy Wellness Center, Baltimore, MD
- [Volunteer Maryland and RMC Info Session](#) - Thursday, January 12th, 10am - 12pm, New Hope Lutheran Church, Columbia, Howard County, MD
- [Volunteer Maryland and RMC Info Session](#) - Wednesday, January 18th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, Chesapeake Church, Huntingtown, Calvert County, MD
- [Volunteer Maryland and RMC Info Session](#) - Wednesday, February 8th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm, Allegany College of Maryland, Cumberland, Allegany County, MD

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov to share links to your events and programs.

Transfer of Wealth Study



**Rural Maryland
Foundation**

The [Rural Maryland Foundation](#) is requesting proposals to conduct a Transfer of Wealth (TOW) Study to determine the potential economic impacts of transferred wealth from rural communities to urban counterparts.

The information gathered from the study will assist with creating solutions that will help to mitigate the financial burden transferred wealth has on rural communities, and will seek ways to encourage and strengthen rural philanthropy and investment.

View the [Transfer of Wealth Request for Proposals here](#).

The Transfer of Wealth Study Work Group will meet via conference call

on Friday, December 16th, 10am - 12pm, to discuss proposals received. [Learn more...](#)

Queen Anne's County and Allegany County Public Libraries

Queen Anne's County and Allegany County Public Libraries promote the excitement of recreational reading to boys in grade four in a program modeled after the Alaska "Guys Read" project, which brings men into the classroom to encourage boys to the fun and enjoyment of reading. The Libraries formed a partnership and have received a MAERDAF grant award for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017.

Last year, with the help of community partners, staff of the Allegany and Queen Anne's County Public Libraries recruited and trained over 50 volunteer men who visited schools to promote reading as a fun activity. A total of 92 visits were made to six elementary schools in each of the participating counties.

Teams of two to three volunteer men, acting as "reading role models", projected and read from the grant books while the students enjoyed their lunches. For Fiscal Year 2017, the Libraries will expand the program to include 5th grade students, who were last year's 4th graders, by the students' request. In order to keep the reading momentum going, the Libraries plan to conduct two visits to 5th grade with new titles, as well as continue with eight visits to 4th grade.



Guys Read Program in Allegany County

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Day

Please join the RMC as we celebrate [Rural Maryland Day](#) on Thursday, February 9, 2017 in Annapolis. The RMC and rural advocates will meet with key legislators as we discuss the challenges facing our rural communities.

We will start the day by meeting in the Neal Conference Room in the James Senate Office Building, graciously sponsored by Senator James Mathias, at 9am for a short debriefing. Groups will then meet with legislators and staff in the Senate and House Buildings from 10am until 12:30pm. We will wrap-up the day by reconvening at Harry Browne's Restaurant, located at 66 State Circle, for lunch.

For questions about Rural Maryland Day, or if you would like to participate, please contact the RMC at 410.841.5772 or rmc.mda@maryland.gov.



RMC Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, and Immediate Past RMC Board Chair, Doris Mason, presented with the Rural Maryland Day Proclamation by Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio of the Governor's Office on Rural Maryland Day 2016.

Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and non-discriminatory manner.

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