



Queen Anne's County, Photo Courtesy of Brandt Bethke

## Greetings!,

Well, this has been an exciting year at the Rural Maryland Council and believe it or not, fall is here! At a time when collaboration is key to the success of public, private and non-profit organizations alike, the Council has continued to nurture ongoing partnerships and to create new ones!

As we celebrate some of our successes this year, we know that long term success is built upon a firm foundation of accountability, excellence, integrity and high performance. For the first time, we acquired the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund, and having completed the awards of our MAERDAF grants, we are nearing our timeline for awarding the RMPIF funds in our priority areas!

Between 2001 and 2016, the MAERDAF program has awarded more than \$3 million in grants to 79 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2017, 95 applications were submitted with a total of \$2,026,212.82 requested; 42 grants totaling \$555,917.00 were distributed to 42 organizations. [See the full list of recipients here.](#)

We believe that this has been a year of strengthening our organization in a myriad of ways. We went through a rigorous process of preparation and dialogue to create the draft of our Strategic Plan from which our updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) will emerge.

Our staff at the Rural Maryland Council, Charlotte Davis, Executive Director, and Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator, have worked harder and smarter than ever. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank each of you for all that you do to ensure that rural Maryland continues to thrive!

Kindest Regards,

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## Employment Opportunity

The Rural Maryland Council is seeking a full-time Contractual

## Message from the Executive Director

As usual, the Rural Maryland Council has been busy this summer with our grant programs including developing our newest, the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund. We submitted a [report to the Maryland General Assembly](#) and applications were due on August 15th. We received 43 applications, requesting over \$3 million in funding. The Grant Review Board will be meeting to make decisions. We look forward to announcing award winners soon!

On Friday, September 30th, we had our quarterly Executive Board Meeting at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Brian Prendergast, Program Manager of the Mosquito Control Administration in the Maryland Department of Agriculture, was our guest speaker and provided a presentation on the Department's initiatives to increase Zika awareness.



Pictured: Governor Larry Hogan with Charlotte Davis and Meredith Donaho of the Rural Maryland Council, and Odette Ramos of the Community Development Network of Maryland.

Save the date for ***The Future of Value-Added Agriculture Summit, Thursday, December 1st***, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, Kent Island. We will be partnering with Grow Maryland to host the summit.

The Future of Value-Added Agriculture Summit will bring together an estimated 150+ attendees for this first year event. We anticipate attendees to include value-added agriculture producers and small food businesses, state and county agency representatives (Planning & Zoning, Fire & Life Safety, Health, County Economic Development Offices, Tourism, Commerce, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture), state and county elected officials, food, aquaculture/seafood and agriculture

organizations, media and bloggers, and food policy organizations.

For sponsorship opportunities, please [click here](#).

In other news, Governor Hogan stopped by our booth at the Maryland Association of Counties conference in Ocean City, see the picture above.

The New York Times has published an opinion column, "[Helping Rural America Catch Up](#)," featuring several key debaters who share their thoughts for how to invest in struggling rural communities. What kind of investments would you like to see in Maryland's rural communities?

If you would like to share your thoughts, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov), or 410.841.5774.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Davis

Executive Director

## Committee Updates

Administrative Assistant. We need an organized, tech-savvy professional with event planning experience. Knowledge of government programs and/or rural communities is a plus! No benefits. Please submit a resume/cover letter to [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) by October 15th.

## Events

[RMPIF Grant Review Board Meeting](#)  
Tuesday, October 4

[Maryland Rural Health Association 2016 Rural Health Conference](#)  
Thursday, October 6 -  
Friday, October 7

[Rural Maryland Foundation Board Meeting](#)  
Thursday, October 13  
10am -12pm

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)  
Tuesday, October 25  
12pm -2 pm

[RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting](#)  
Wednesday,  
October 9  
10am - 12pm

[RMC Health Care Committee Meeting](#)  
Tuesday,  
November 1

["Farmland" Screening at Eastern Shore Land Conservancy 17th Annual Planning Conference](#)  
Thursday,  
November 10



### RMC Health Care Committee

The RMC Health Care Committee met Tuesday, September 6th, and received a presentation by guest presenter Walter Sallee, Health Care Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1st.

[Learn more...](#)

To learn more about the RMC Health Care Committee, please contact Chairman [Tom McLoughlin](#).



### RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee met September 19th via conference call to discuss a draft of the 2017 Legislative Priorities. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 14th, 1pm -2pm, via conference call.

[Learn more...](#)

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact Chairman [Josh Hastings](#).



### RMC/RMF Joint Planning and Development Committee

The Committee finalized a RMC Strategic Plan in the spring. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th, 10am - 12pm, via conference call.

[Learn more...](#)

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

November 10  
[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)  
Monday, November 14

[LEAD Maryland Class IX Presents "The Many Faces of Maryland Agriculture"](#)  
Saturday, November 19

[The Future of Value-Added Agriculture Summit](#)  
Thursday, December 1

## Community Links

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

### Training Opportunities

- [Eastern Shore Best Management Practice \(BMP\) Inspection, Maintenance, and Retrofit Workshop](#) - October 5th at Chestertown, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- [Ag Labor Webinar Series](#) - October 5th
- [Maryland Forests Association Regional Seminars - Eastern Shore, Central Maryland, Western Maryland](#) - October 6th

### Awards & Grants

- [Nominations Due for Community Development Network of Maryland's Awards for Excellence](#) - Due September 30th
- [Maryland Value Added Producer Grants for Capital Assets Now Available from MARBIDCO](#) - Due Tuesday, October 18th
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#) - USDA
- [FY 2017 Rural Health Network Development Grant Program \(Opportunity Number: HRSA-17-018\)](#) - Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Due November 28, 2016

### Programs & More

## RMC In The News

August 11, 2016  
[The Frederick News Post](#)

August 28, 2016  
[Herald Mail Media](#)

September 6, 2016  
[The Delmarva Farmer](#)

September 15, 2016  
[The Frederick News Post](#)

## 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 improve the

- [2016 Upper Shore Regional Job Fair](#) - October 12th, Talbot County Community Center
- [3rd Annual Community Development Week, October 17th - 26th](#) - Community Development Network of Maryland
- [9th Annual Frederick Community Health Fair](#) - Saturday, October 22nd, Frederick Fairgrounds, Asian American Center of Frederick
- [Chesapeake Regional Food System Survey](#) - Maryland Department of Planning and Land Stewardship Solutions, LLC
- [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) - USDA
- [Beginning Farmers and Rancher Development Program \(BFRDP\)](#) - USDA

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.

### Got a link to share? Send it to us!

Email: [rnc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rnc.mda@maryland.gov) to share links to your events and programs.

## Special Feature - Startup Maryland Announces STRT1UP Road Show



**2016 STRT1UP ROAD SHOW**

|       |          |                                                                               |
|-------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat   | Sept. 10 | Washington College   UpperShore                                               |
| Sun   | Sept. 11 | Coastal WI-Wo   Berlin "Coolest Small Town in America"   Rural Innovations    |
| Tues  | Sept. 12 | East Bay Salisbury U.                                                         |
| Wed   | Sept. 13 | Talbot + Eastern                                                              |
| Thurs | Sept. 14 | Dorchester   Cambridge Bridge Jump + STRT1UP Screening @ RAR Brewing          |
| Fri   | Sept. 15 | Southern MD Indian Head   St. Marys (Rural) / DoD / IoT-IoE                   |
| Sat   | Sept. 16 | Frostburg   Cumberland                                                        |
| Sun   | Sept. 17 | Continental / Great Valley                                                    |
| Mon   | Sept. 18 | Piedmont: Frederick (MosaicPower)                                             |
| Tues  | Sept. 19 | MD Royal Block Party @ uBall + MIC/A + DP + BOC                               |
| Wed   | Sept. 20 | Baltimore County   Sparrows Point                                             |
| Thurs | Sept. 21 | Howard County (GreenNEED)                                                     |
| Fri   | Sept. 22 | Harford County                                                                |
| Sat   | Sept. 23 | Annapolis Startup Champions Summit: LaunchAnnapolis-CRTC @ Metro Tavern       |
| Sun   | Sept. 24 | Spark Baltimore: SCN Summit: UA HG Big Data   Cannabusiness Crawl             |
| Mon   | Sept. 25 | Spark Baltimore: SCN Summit: Innovation Village   BetaCity @ City Garage      |
| Tues  | Sept. 26 | Spark Baltimore: SCN Summit: WIN Awards @ MIC/A                               |
| Wed   | Sept. 27 | Prince George's County + Maryland Open Crab Soup Challenge   UMD vs. Purdue   |
| Thurs | Sept. 28 | TOUR BREAK                                                                    |
| Fri   | Sept. 29 | MyCoreBenefits (Health/Wellness)                                              |
| Sat   | Sept. 30 | MD Cyber Day - STRT1UP + CRTC + CAMI + year 8-Day @ NCCOE                     |
| Sun   | Oct. 1   | Annapolis   State Capitol: LAST STOP                                          |
| Mon   | Oct. 2   | Annapolis   State Capitol: LAST STOP (Rain Date)                              |
| Tues  | Oct. 3   | AFTER-PARTY TAILGATE + Maryland Open Crab Soup Challenge FINALS @ USNA vs. UH |
| Wed   | Oct. 4   | Subject to Change                                                             |

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION  
Check out [www.startupmd.org](http://www.startupmd.org)  
Contact Mike V. @ [mikev@startupmd.org](mailto:mikev@startupmd.org)  
Type in: rnc, rncm, rncm, rncm

Startup Maryland announced dates (September 10th - October 8th) and the rough route for the [STRT1UP Road Show](#), the fifth annual state-wide tour and celebration of entrepreneurship and high-growth innovation-centric startup companies.

The STRT1UP Road Show will again traverse the state all in the name of celebrating Maryland's diverse ecosystem of venture building.

At each STRT1UP Road Show tour stop, Tour Partners/Sponsors host rallies sharing information about their entrepreneurial ecosystems across the state. Entrepreneurs are provided coaching, guidance and support from business mentors and other leaders from academia, incubators/accelerators, economic development agencies, service providers as well as active angel/VC investors.

As the tour unfolds, entrepreneurs climb onto the Startup Maryland bus and pitch their idea/business in the mobile UpStart Show™ video studio. Videos are uploaded to the Startup Maryland YouTube® Channel and then open to public

viewing/voting. This aspect of the STRT1UP Road Show embodies the Pitch Across Maryland competition allowing the entrepreneurs, sponsors, investors and tour hosts to activate social networks for even broader awareness and celebration.

For more information see scheduled STRT1UP Road Show tour dates and tentative route locations by visiting <http://www.startupmd.org>.

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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