



*Photo courtesy of Edwin Remsburg Photography*

## Greetings!

The Rural Maryland Council has had an exciting year and believe it or not, fall is almost upon us. Since the 2019 Legislative Session ended we have been very busy. **The RMC received over 170 grant applications for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) for Fiscal Year 2020.** The RMC grant review board held two meetings throughout the summer to review all applications that were received for Phase I and Phase II of the application process. Awardees for the grants will be announced soon! This summer we also attended the [Maryland Municipal League](#) and the [Maryland Association of Counties](#) conferences. We had a chance to exhibit and network with state and local officials who came to our booth to learn more about our organization.

Our September Executive Board meeting will be held on **Friday, September 27, 2019** from 12 pm - 2 pm at the Wharves of Choptank Visitor and Heritage Center in Denton, Maryland. Registration for the meeting will be open soon!

## In This Issue...

### [Events](#)

### [RMC In The News](#)

### [Message from the Executive Director](#)

### [Committee Updates](#)

### [Community Links](#)

### [Rural Maryland Foundation](#)

### [MAERDAF/RMPIF Spotlight](#)

### [Special Feature](#)

## Events

[RMC Executive](#)

Sincerely,



Scott Warner  
Chair

## Message from the Executive Director

Summer is coming to an end and we are getting ready for fall! **The [Partners for Rural America Conference](#) was held on August 14- 17, 2019 in Springfield, Illinois at the President Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel.**

Conference agenda included panels and presentations, an all-day bus tour of Western Illinois, the Rural Partners 30th Anniversary Reception and the Annual PRA Annual meeting. For more information about the Partners for Rural America, please visit the website [here](#).



*PRA Board members and guests at Dr. Ugs Cafe in Virginia, Illinois during the 2019 PRA Annual Conference.*

**The RMC biennial rural summit "Rural Rising: Investing in Resiliency, Collaboration, and Innovation" will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland.** This one-day conference will feature a keynote speaker, legislative and secretary panels and breakout sessions focusing on Agriculture, Health Care, Community Development and Economic Development. For more information about the conference, please visit our website [here](#).

If the Council can be of any assistance, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov), or 410.841.5774.

[Committee Meeting](#)  
9/17/2019  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Council Executive Board Meeting](#)  
9/27/2019  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[RMC Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting](#)  
10/2/2019  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Rural Maryland Foundation Board Meeting](#)  
10/3/2019  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

## RMC In The News

[Fresh Oysters Farmed Year - Round in Southern Maryland](#)  
May 10, 2019

[CSM to hold Kids and Teens College summer programs](#)  
June 19, 2019

[Eastern Shore Innovation Center offers tour of medical cannabis labs](#)  
June 20, 2019

[Southern Maryland Meats has new signs and labels](#)  
6/29/2019

[Lisanti out, Carty in as LSHG executive director](#)  
7/15/2019

Rural Maryland

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis  
Executive Director

Foundation



Rural Maryland  
Foundation

## Committee Updates



### RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committees next meeting is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).



### RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet via conference call in November to prepare for the 2020 Legislative session.

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

**The Rural Maryland Foundation will hold its next conference call on Thursday, October 3, 2019 from 10 am - 2 pm.**

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation, please visit the website at [ruralmdfoundation.org](http://ruralmdfoundation.org)

## Community Links

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

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Maryland Rural Health Association Conference](#) - Maryland Rural Health Association - October 20-22, 2019

### Awards & Grants

- [2020 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards](#) - Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission- Nominations due by September 13, 2019
- [Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Application deadline is ongoing

## Programs & More

- [New Website Launch](#)- Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission
- [Launching, Refining, or Growing Your Farm Business Article](#) - Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center

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

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

## MAERDAF Spotlight - Hagerstown Community College jump-starts two substance abuse counseling programs



*Sheriann Holder-France, right, Academic Assistant/Outreach Coordinator, meets with Stephaney Marshall, a student majoring in substance abuse counseling at Hagerstown Community College.*

**The Hagerstown Community College received a MAERDAF grant from the Rural Maryland Council to fund the development of an associate of applied science degree which prepares graduates to become credentialed by the state to work as certified supervised counselor-alcohol and drug (CSC-AD), and a certificate-level program, which puts graduates in the pipeline for an**

**associate's degree or for an entry level position in the field as a trainee.**

Substance abuse, overdoses and overdose deaths are hitting communities from big cities to small towns hard in Maryland. Although staffing shortages are nothing new, the need for substance abuse counselors has been exacerbated by the demand caused by the opioid crisis. Learn more about the grant funding [here](#). Great timing for them to be here this year

## Special Feature - Tawes Crab and Clam Bake 2019

The 43rd Annual Tawes Crab and Clam bake was held on **Wednesday, July 17, 2019** at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, Maryland. The RMC was proud to be a sponsor. Thank you to everyone who joined us under our VIP tent. Mark your calendars for next year's Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. Learn more about the Tawes event [here](#).



*From left, Charlotte Davis (RMC Executive Director), Jerry McLaurin (People for a Change Coalition aka PFC and PFC Black Chamber Founder/President), Samuel Biddle (RMC Program Coordinator), Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan, Scott Warner (RMC Chair), Matt Teffeau (Choptank Electric Cooperative and RMPIF Co-Chair), and Chris Benzing (Maryland Rural Development Cooperation) at the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake on Wednesday, July 17, 2019.*

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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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