



RMC
Rural Maryland Council



Quarterly Newsletter



Photo: left to right, back row: Akil, Jr., "AJ" (grandson of Vince Leggett); Director of Wicomico County Parks, Recreation and Tourism & President of MACPRA Steve Miller. Front row: Co-Chair of Partners for Open Space & Executive Director of Rural Maryland Charlotte Davis, Maryland Senator Sarah Elfreth, Co-Chair of Partners for Open Space & Chesapeake Conservancy President & CEO Joel Dunn, Founder and President of Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation Vince Leggett at Elktonia Beach, that is now an Annapolis City Park made possible with Program Open Space Funds.

Message from the Chair

Dear {First Name},

Fall is just around the corner and the Rural Maryland Council has remained busy throughout the Summer. Recently, we announced our Fiscal Year 2023 grant awardees for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF). We had a total of 215 applications received and 84 applications were awarded bringing our total awarded amount to \$8,369,629. On behalf of the council, we thank every organization that applied for funding and we look forward to seeing the success of your projects in the future.

The Rural Maryland Council will be holding the 2022 Maryland Rural Impact Awards at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022. A location for the meeting is to be determined. The awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognize individuals and organizations that have performed extraordinary acts of service to communities throughout rural Maryland. Our award categories are Rural Community Volunteer, Outstanding Rural Economic Development, Outstanding Rural Community Development, and Rural Champion. We encourage you to submit your nominations.

View the award criteria and guidelines [here](#). The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, November 4, 2022. Submissions can be made to rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

Our Fall Quarterly Executive Board Meeting will be held on Friday, September 23, 2022, 12 pm - 2 pm. at Harry Browne's Restaurant, 66 State Circle in Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Please join us! There is no fee to attend and lunch will be provided. Thank you to the organizations that helped to sponsor this event: Horizon Farm Credit, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Upper Shore Regional Council, and the Maryland Broadband Cooperative.

Sincerely,



John Hartline
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

I hope everyone had a successful and productive Summer. The RMC Legislative Committee met on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at the Wye Research and Education Center in Queenstown, Maryland. The highlights of the meeting included a review of the 2022 Legislative Session and the 2022 Gubernatorial Election. Candidate outreach and the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session were also discussed. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 21, 2022, via zoom.



Photo: RMC Administrative Assistant Amanda Clevenger attending the annual Sunflower Festival on September 3-4, 2022 in Benedict, Maryland.

The Rural Maryland Council is currently looking for volunteers to help exhibit at our outreach events. Each year during the summer months the council attends festivals throughout the state such as Autumn Glory, Drink Maryland, and the Sunflower Festival. Our goal at these events is to educate the festival attendees about the mission of the council. **If you are interested in volunteering at our outreach events, please contact the RMC at 410-841-5772 or rmc.mda@maryland.gov.**

Events

[Fall Quarterly Executive Board Meeting](#)

9/23/2022
12 pm - 2 pm

[Medical Healthcare Transportation Roundtable-Cambridge, MD](#)

9/29/2022
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

[Tawes Crab and Clam Bake](#)

9/28/2022
12 pm - 4 pm

[Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)

10/6/2022
10 am - 12 pm

[Medical Healthcare Transportation Roundtable-Flintstone, MD](#)

10/25/2022
1:30 pm - 4 pm

[RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)

11/9/2022
12 pm - 2 pm

[Medical Healthcare Transportation Roundtable-Annapolis, MD](#)

11/17/2022
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

[RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting](#)

11/17/2022
10 am - 12 pm

[RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)



11/21/2022
12 pm - 2 pm

[RMC Annual Meeting](#)
12/1/2022
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[Grow & Fortify Summit](#)
12/1/2022
All Day

The Grow and Fortify Value-Added Agriculture Summit will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022, in Kent Island, Maryland. This summit will support and promote Maryland's value-added agriculture producers, agritourism operations, and small food businesses. The Rural Maryland Council, Horizon Farm Credit, and the Chesapeake Ag Innovation Center are proud to be co-sponsors of this event. Registration for the summit will open soon.

At the bottom of this newsletter is a list of rural-focused COVID-19 links and resources for you and your business. If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

Committee Updates



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet on Thursday, November 17, 2022 via zoom. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet on Monday, November 21, 2022, 12 pm - 2 pm via zoom. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

RMC In the News

[Arboretum completes sustainable facilities improvements with help of grant](#)
July 13, 2022

[Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act Passed by the House of Representatives](#)
July 21, 2022

[Rural Maryland Council supports Channel Marker crisis bed construction](#)
August 12, 2022

[High bid derails Rising](#)

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov

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

[Sun plans for street paving](#)
August 12, 2022

[Harford Community College announces first heavy equipment graduating class](#)
August 30, 2022

[TidalHealth and Salisbury FD receive grant](#)
September 9, 2022

[Wood energy fuel supply analysis underway in Maryland](#)
September 12, 2022

Community Links

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

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Maryland Rural Health Association Conference](#) - Rocky Gap Resort - October 24-25, 2022

Awards and Grants

- [Maryland Industrial Partnerships Grant Proposals](#) - Proposals are due on October 17, 2022
- [Initiative for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness](#) -Housing Assistance Council - Applications due on October 20, 2022
- [FY23 Low-to-Moderate Income Energy Efficiency Grant](#)- Maryland Energy Administration - Applications due on December 2, 2022
- [Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture- Applications due on November 2, 2022

Programs and More

- [Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program](#)- Maryland General Assembly
- [TeachUNITED Education](#) - TeachUNITED
- [Maryland Small Business Credit Initiative Program](#)- Maryland Department of Commerce
- [Maryland Offshore Windforce Training Program](#) - Maryland Energy Administration

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

Rural Maryland Foundation



**Rural Maryland
Foundation**

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, October 6, 2022, 1 pm - 2 pm via zoom.

The Rural Maryland Foundation Transfer of Wealth Advisory Committee met on June 28, 2022, to discuss possible outcomes or goals regarding the Rural Maryland Philanthropic Development Strategy. Our guest speaker was Ms. Maggie Gunther Osborne, Maryland Philanthropy Network. View a recording of the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation or to become a member, please visit the website at ruralmdfoundation.org.

Cemetery Workshops Launch Across Maryland



**PRESERVATION
MARYLAND**

Preservation Maryland and The Campaign for Historic Trades will visit 18 rural counties across the state training the next generation of historic preservationists on how to preserve cemetery gravesites. These workshops take Preservation Maryland out into the community to educate attendees on the correct preservation techniques to maintain irreplaceable history in their own backyards. Tasks taught during the workshops include cleaning the gravesite, maintaining the landscape, and cleaning the markers. Preservation Maryland is planning to hold seventeen workshops within the next year in counties throughout the state of Maryland. To learn more about the workshops, visit presmd.org/cemeteryworkshops. These workshops were made possible by a grant from the Rural Maryland Council. Additional support was provided by the Save a Grave fundraising campaign and Atlas Preservation.

2022 Co-op Academy

Join a cohort of new cooperators from across the Mid-Atlantic in this virtual 4-month learning series. Keystone Development Center will guide groups through the phases of cooperative development from start to finish. Learn key concepts along the way through hands-on, collaborative work, guided by an expert KDC Co-op Developer and experienced cooperative members.

The Co-op Academy program is tailored to address the unique challenges and highlight best practices of starting and managing a cooperative enterprise for emerging cooperative leaders. This program is recommended for groups looking to start a cooperative. [Apply today!!](#)

**2022
CO-OP
ACADEMY**

Gain the tools you need to start your cooperative in a supportive, collaborative 4-month learning series.

**REGISTER
HERE!**

KDC
Cooperative Solutions

RMC Launches Outreach Campaign

Bringing people together to solve the challenges of rural Maryland

Photos by: Edwin Remsberg

Real change only happens when an organization makes a strategic decision to go directly to the source to discover the real issues and works with the people who really understand what's going on to solve problems.

That's what the Rural Maryland Council does every day.

We need to attract a diverse group of people to share their stories and their challenges in underserved rural communities. Are you passionate about equity and creating real change in rural Maryland?

Our work doesn't stop there. We'll provide you with the financial resources and opportunities to connect with legislators and like-minded people in the state who can create policy and help you put the pieces together to create real impact. Ready to roll up your

Join Us

Please provide your contact information so we can connect with you regarding grant deadlines, upcoming events and opportunities, and when we'll be in your community.

Name (required)

First Last

County

Email (required) Phone

What are you passionate about?

[Get Connected](#)

The Rural Maryland Council has remained steadfast in its belief that in order to be relevant and truly impact communities throughout Maryland it must continuously connect with and engage individuals and organizations that are working on the ground. Simply put we can't address challenges in our underserved communities without speaking to the people who know those challenges best.

This premise provides the foundation for a newly launched outreach campaign. The primary goal of the campaign is to attract new members who may ultimately join a committee work and possibly take on a leadership role in the future.

Branding or effectively telling the story of who RMC is and what it does in the context of building a strong, unified Maryland is a secondary goal, which must be achieved through the campaign in order for the primary goal to be achieved.

The campaign includes a variety of digital marketing tactics including geofencing at state and county fairs, targeted emails, and targeted video and advanced digital strategies such as billboard reveal ads as well as print advertising. All tactics drive visitors to a new lead capture landing page at ruralmatters.net. In addition to an email address from the landing page includes three Edwin Remsberg photographs, an updated version of the 2015 Aspire video, and succinct messaging on what RMC is and how it supports our communities.

Email addresses captured through the form are sent to a unique RMC email address. Respondents immediately get an automated email thanking them for this interest and a follow-up email within 48 hours of the initial email. This response includes things like upcoming events and invites to a committee meeting and other RMC public events and programs. New respondents will also be included in all future RMC communications.

Look for outreach updates in future newsletters.

COVID-19 Resources

The links below are for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [Maryland COVID -19 Crisis Support Program](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [Coronavirus Resources for Maryland](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [Updates from Governor Hogan's Office](#) - Maryland Governor's Office

Announced



MAERDAF

Maryland Agricultural Education &
Rural Development Assistance Fund

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant awardees were recently announced for Fiscal Year 2023.

The MAERDAF grant funding provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. The grant program has five focus areas- Agriculture and Forestry Education, Community and Economic Development, Energy, Rural Broadband, and Youth Engagement and Leadership Development. **In FY2023, this program received 123 applications totaling \$4,382,335 in requests. Out of these requests, 47 grants totaling \$1,153,203 were awarded.**

View our Fiscal Year 2023 grant awardees [here](#).

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Council and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to host roundtable discussions to improve non-emergency health transportation services



Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) remains one of the largest obstacles patients face in accessing health care service. According to the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, annual studies show that transportation disadvantaged populations suffer a higher prevalence of single or multiple health conditions when compared to the general population and higher and costly hospital re-admission rates. Meanwhile funding from the State of Maryland for transit services has been flat, demand for services has increased and there is little program coordination outside of a county or region. To address this issue, the Rural Maryland Council and the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland will host three roundtable discussions to collect information on existing programs, identify gaps in services and make recommendations on policy changes. At the end of the roundtables, a report will be compiled and delivered to Maryland State administration officials and Maryland General Assembly legislative leaders. As a part of this project, the organizations developed and released a survey. Residents are welcome to complete the survey at: https://uah.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_249zhcsAez3j8Gy?jfe=new.

The roundtables will be held in-person and by Zoom teleconference. Since each meeting builds on information previously received, it is recommended to attend all three meetings. The first meeting, held in Cambridge, inventories NEMT current programs and seeks common definitions. The second meeting analyzes these perceptions and synthesizes them into possible concepts. The third meeting will translate the preferred ideas into concepts. Attendees will guide conclusions by providing interactive feedback during the meetings.

Meeting locations and dates are scheduled:

- September 29, 2022: Delmarva Community Services, Cambridge, MD from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
- October 25, 2022: Rocky Gap Casino Resort, Flintstone, MD from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
- November 17, 2022: Maryland Department of Agriculture, Annapolis, MD from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

To register to attend, visit link: <https://rural.maryland.gov/events/medical-healthcare-transportation-roundtables/>. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the roundtables, contact

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 nondiscriminatory manner.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772 | rmc.mda@maryland.gov | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Copyright © 2022. All Rights Reserved.

Rural Maryland Council | 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

[Unsubscribe rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by rmc.mda@maryland.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!