



March 14, 2018

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Maryland Wine Month Continues With a Challenge and a New Trail

In celebration of Maryland's thriving wine industry, Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed March as Maryland Wine Month, and the celebration continues with the opening of Maryland's latest wine trail. The Legacy Wine Trail, opening March 17, features four wineries in Prince George's County, and is the state's 10th scenic wine trail connecting more than 70 wineries throughout Maryland. Also this month, the [Maryland Wine Month Challenge](#) is a great way to get out and explore the Old Line State's remarkable wineries. Take the challenge by having your card stamped at wineries all month for a chance to win prizes. To find out more about Maryland Wine month, [follow this link to our wine month page at visitmaryland.org.](#)

TFA NEWS IN BRIEF



MSAC Hosts 13th Annual “Poetry Out Loud” Student Competition

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) and arts councils around the state held local and regional competitions with 7,450 students representing 34 schools taking part. "Poetry Out Loud provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to develop a relationship with poems that will continue the rest of their lives," says Chris Stewart, Program Director, MSAC.



This year's championship was held on March 10 at the Baltimore Museum of Art and was hosted by Aaron Henkin, with musical guest Wendell Patrick, both of WYPR's "Out of the Blocks." This year's Maryland State Champion is Cayla Turner of Indian Creek School in Anne Arundel County. Cayla will be eligible to compete in the National Poetry Out Loud Finals, held at the Lisner Auditorium in Washington, D.C., April 23-25.

Pictured: (Left to right) Student poets Jeanette Banko, Colonel Richardon High, Caroline County; Kaylor Stroot, Brookewood School, Montgomery County; Kate Maerten, Gerstell Academy, Carroll County; Wansi "Ivy" Huang, Thomas S. Wootton High, Montgomery County; Allison Latham, The King's Christian Academy, St. Mary's County; Faith Rogers, Tuscarora High, Frederick County; third-place winner Aevin Mayman, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, Washington County; second-place winner Amy Nguyen, Sts. Peter and Paul High, Talbot County; and Maryland State Champion, Cayla Turner, Indian Creek School, Anne Arundel County.

The 2018 Annapolis Film Festival Packs Serious Star Power

Now in its sixth year, the Annapolis Film Festival kicks off Thursday, March 22, opening its four-day run of early releases and hard-to-find films across the capital. This year's festival is packed with more than 80 films from 28 countries, as well as industry panels and Q&As with filmmakers. Some highlights include "Beirut," the opening night film fresh off its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival; Saturday night's spotlight film, "A Crooked Somebody," followed by a chat with actor Joanne Froggatt of "Downton Abbey" fame; and the African-American Experience Showcase featuring the documentary "Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me," followed by a discussion with award-winning director Sam Pollard. Sunday's Spotlight Event, "A Conversation with Joanne Froggatt," is sure to be a sell-out, so get your tickets early.



"The Annapolis Film Festival has quickly grown to be a favorite among industry attendees," says Jack Gerbes, Director, Maryland Film Office, "and a big part of that is its amazing fans. Last year the festival grew to more than 15,000 attendees, and generated an estimated \$7 million in economic activity." For more information and to purchase festival passes, [follow this link to the festival website](#).

OTD Transitioning from Maryland Green Travel to Maryland Green Registry

After eight years of managing the Maryland Green Travel (MGT) program, the Maryland Office of Tourism is merging it into the Maryland Green Registry, the State's standard for green recognition programs. As MGT was developed in partnership with the Green Registry, current MGT partners can easily transition to the program and it is easy for new members to join. The Maryland Office of Tourism will continue to promote tourism-related businesses that have achieved green certification (*Maryland Green Registry, Trip Advisor, Green Restaurant certification, etc.*) on our website; and to recognize those marinas that are members of the Clean Marina program.



The Maryland Green Registry is a free, voluntary program offering tips and resources to help businesses set and meet goals on the path to sustainability, as well as the opportunity to share environmental successes with others. In fact, the registry just reached its 500th member - the Chesapeake Brewing Company in Annapolis. Visit the [Maryland Green Registry website](#) for more information or to [join](#).

Plan Your Maryland Day Weekend

March 25 is Maryland Day, commemorating the 384th anniversary of the founding of the Maryland colony. The first European settlers journeyed to what would become Maryland on two tiny sailing ships, the *Ark* and *Dove*, with the goal of creating the first American colony dedicated to the ideals of religious freedom and tolerance. On Maryland Day, we celebrate the best of our state's heritage and traditions. Festivities will be held across the state from March 24-26, including Maryland Day at Historic St. Mary's City; Maryland Day: Orioles and Oaks at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore; and Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island. Annapolis will be celebrating Maryland Day Weekend a little late this year, with events running April 6-8. For more information and a full slate of events, [visit our website's Maryland Day page](#).



Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park Celebrates its First Anniversary

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park opened in March of 2017 with an expectation of welcoming 75,000 visitors in its first year. Through its first 10 months, this remarkable museum had already surpassed 100,000 visitors. Dedicated to the life and legacy of one of America's greatest heroes, native Marylander Harriet Tubman, the museum serves as the hub of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway, a fascinating and moving tour of important places in Tubman's life, as well as others who traveled the Underground Railroad. [Learn more about this remarkable woman and explore the Eastern Shore along the byway.](#)



First Event of the Commission of the Commemoration of the 19th Amendment

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which granted women the right to vote. To mark this historic event and the contributions of brave Maryland women who fought for the cause, Maryland will be hosting a series of events throughout the year. On March 3, the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland State Highway Administration unveiled the "Suffrage Motorcade" historic marker in Hyattsville, commemorating the July, 1913 pro-suffrage parade that carried a petition to the U.S. Congress bearing the names of 75,000 people demanding women's suffrage. Liz Fitzsimmons, Managing Director, TFA, and a member of The Governor's Commission on the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was on hand for the ceremony; and the unveiling event was emceed by Cynthia Miller, Director of Strategic Private Sector Partnerships, OTD, and commission marketing chair. Speakers included Hyattsville Mayor Candace B. Hollingsworth and Maryland Adjutant General Linda L. Singh. To find out more about the commission and upcoming events, [visit their website.](#)



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IN THE NEWS

[Vote Now for Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association's "Stars of the Industry" Best Bars & Restaurants 2018](#)



MSAC Executive Director Ken Skrzysz Featured in *Baltimore Business Journal*



Baltimore makes *Forbes* List of “10 Coolest U.S. Cities to Visit in 2018”



Trips to Discover Gives Its Annapolis 7 Best List



National Geographic Traveler Raves About Hagerstown’s Great Grooming



Harriet Tubman Park Shatters Projections, According to *The Washington Times*



Crow Wine Cellars Opening at Queenstown Outlet Center



New Maryland Wine Trail Opens March 17



Maryland Minute

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend’s events around the state. *Maryland Minute* is featured on CBS radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and on Baltimore’s WBAL-AM 1090.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH

10-18

Maple Syrup Festival, Thurmont

Have a sweet old time with maple syrup-making demonstrations and a pancake breakfast at this annual favorite. [Go to visitmaryland.org](http://visitmaryland.org) for more details.

MARCH

17

Eagle Festival at Blackwater Refuge, Cambridge

Get an up-close view of birds of prey, such as eagles, hawks and falcons at the home of one of the largest breeding populations of bald eagles in the United States at this free festival. [Find out more on our calendar page.](#)

MARCH

Talbot Restaurant Week

Participating restaurants offer prix fixe lunches and dinners, many with special menus designed to showcase their finest dishes. A wonderful

19-25

opportunity for diners to try new restaurants or revisit favorites. [For more information, go to our website.](#)

MARCH

23-25

Algonquest Fat Tire Fest, Pocomoke City

Inaugural Fat Tire Bicycle Fest offering overnight camping, BMX and skateboarding area, cross country race, geo caches and demo bikes. Also showcasing new trail in the Pocomoke River State Forest and Park. [Get more details on our website.](#)

MARCH

24

Annapolis Oyster Roast & Sock Burning

Say goodbye to this year's harsh winter and hail the beginning of boating season at this annual Eastport party. Celebrate with the sock burning, live music, cooking demos, oyster shucking contest, and exhibits highlighting the area's maritime heritage and ecology. Feast on oysters – raw, steamed, fried, and grilled. For more information, [visit our website.](#)

MARCH

24

Taste of Solomons

Taste of Solomons is a one-day food festival showcasing the many wonderful places to eat in this lovely waterfront community. [Get the details at visitmaryland.org.](#)

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