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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Updated 8/23/21: **new additions highlighted in red.**

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WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S RETURNING TO THE 140th MARYLAND STATE FAIR

AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

PREPARE FOR THE FAIR!

NEW THIS YEAR: Atlantis Fun House, K9s in Flight Dog Show, Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show, The Strolling Piano, a Twilight Thoroughbred Horse Race, and more.

(Timonium, MD) – Today, July 27, 2021 marks the 30-day countdown to the 140th Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota. Prepare for the Fair! The 12 Best Days of Summer begin on Thursday, August 26 and run through Labor Day Monday, September 6 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium. General hours are 10 AM - 10 PM on weekends and 12 Noon - 10 PM on weekdays. Fairgoers may arrive early for livestock and horse shows and remain late when Midway rides, games and food stands are still open. Maryland State Fair Home Arts and Farm & Garden buildings, barns and Exhibition halls will be open from 12 Noon - 9 PM on weekdays, 10 AM – 9 PM on weekends, and 10 AM – 8 PM on Labor Day Monday.

Live Thoroughbred horse racing begins on Friday, August 27 with a special evening of Twilight racing starting at 3 PM. Post Time is set at 12:40 PM for the remainder of the meet, Saturday and Sunday, August 28 and 29, and Friday, September 3 through Labor Day Monday, September 6. Fairgoers may watch and wager on the races in the Grandstand seats as Thoroughbreds round the 5/8th mile track, or relax in the air conditioned OTB Center inside and watch on multiple TV's and enjoy a meal at Nick's Grandstand Grill & Crabhouse.

Maryland State Fair Admission Prices are Adults ages 12+, \$10; Seniors ages 62+, \$8; Children 6+, \$5; Children ages 5 and under, Free Admission. Rides are individually priced.

Celebrating its 140th year, the Maryland State Fair recognizes the enduring appeal of Maryland's citizens, students, and 4-H and FFA members to share their talents and compete for ribbons, prizes and bragging rights. The Fair's buildings, barns and stages provide space for thousands of fairgoers to appreciate the exhibits, learn from the exhibitors, and consider entering a future fair.

"We are pleased to host the full Maryland State Fair this summer with thousands of talented individuals and fun-loving fairgoers participating from Maryland's great cities, towns, farms, mountains and shores," said Maryland State Fair General Manager Andy Cashman. "Our goal is to provide a variety of safe, enjoyable and educational experiences to help make memories for a lifetime."

The 140th Maryland State Fair will also feature the thrills and chills, sights, sounds and aromas of numerous Midway and Kidde Land rides, games, and fun fair food provided by Deggeller Attractions. For those with a more local palate, the Maryland Foods Pavilion, Dairy Bar, and Chesapeake Craft Brew & Wine Garden, will showcase fresh from the farm and Chesapeake Bay food and drinks.

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NEW THIS YEAR:

- ❖ **Chick-fil-A Baltimore presents OPENING DAY at the Maryland State Fair in support of the Maryland Food Bank, Thursday, August 26, 12 Noon – 9 PM** – Each Fairgoer who brings five unperishable food items to the Maryland State Fair will be admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Proceeds will be donated to the Maryland Food Bank.
- ❖ **M&T BANK PRESENTS THE Live! ON TRACK! AT THE MARYLAND STATE FAIR CONCERT SERIES** with live national concerts on the **Live! ON TRACK! Infield Stage**. All shows begin at **7:30 PM** and gates open at 6:30 PM. A limited number of premium tickets, **priced at \$25 each**, are on sale now at <http://bit.ly/2019MSFConcertTickets>.
American singer, songwriter and actor **Jesse McCartney** – Friday, September 3
Legendary Rock Band **Blue Öyster Cult** - Sunday, September 5
- ❖ **MARYLAND STATE FAIR LIVE, LOCAL BANDS & ENTERTAINMENT** - on the **Maryland State Fair Park Free Stage**. A variety of popular bands/entertainers are scheduled daily, among them: A.L.O.; Baltimore Rockabilly; Billy Harrison & The Haywire Band; Charles Parker; Chesapeake Sons Band; Deni Starr Band; Denim and Lace; Jamnation; Kickback Classic; Kittyback; Memphis Sons; Who Knew?; Out of Time; Rat Pack; Rob Fahey and the Pieces; Route 66 Band; Shake the Room; Sharon and the Edge; Spellbound; The Uncommitted; Latino Day Bands (TBA); Jarrett Lembach Karaoke; and, Allison Barnett School of Dance.
- ❖ **GET VACCINATED COVID-19 MOBILE VACCINATION CLINIC** – The Baltimore County Department of Health will give COVID-19 vaccination shots while supplies last to Fairgoers at their **GET VACCINATED** Mobile Vaccination Clinic in the **Exhibition Hall**. **Monday – Friday, 3 PM–7 PM. Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM–7 PM. No appointment needed.**
- ❖ **GREAT 8'S MEMORABILIA Booth will showcase sports and entertainment memorabilia. An additional feature:** "The Purple Takeover" Meet & Greets with some of Baltimore's biggest and brightest sports names to raise funds for The Gold in Fight Children's Cancer Foundation. For dates, times, and to purchase tickets to meet Colts Legends Lenny Moore and Tom Matte; Ben Cleveland, Daelin Hayes, Brandon Stephens, and Ben Mason; "Hollywood" Brown, Odafe Oweh, and Shaun Wade; and/or Ronnie Stanley and James Proche, go to Great8sMemorabilia.com. Dates and times subject to change.
- ❖ **K9s IN FLIGHT Dog Show** - Come see these amazing dogs, many that have been rescued or adopted from shelters, showcase high-flying, high-energy K9 sports including dock diving, high-jump and frisbee. Meet the stars and learn a few training secrets. **Next to Farm & Garden Building. Daily at 1 PM, 4 PM & 7 PM.**
- ❖ **THE NORTH AMERICAN CLASSIC 6-HORSE HITCH CLASSIC SERIES** – Feel the Maryland State Fair Infield tremble when horse teams made up of six gleaming one-ton horses stomp around the Maryland State Fair Infield pulling historically restored freight wagons. Hitches are divided into three breed categories; Belgian, Percheron; and Clydesdale/Shire. The horse teams will compete for a spot in the national finals show in Indiana. Showtime is **Tuesday, August 31, 6 PM**, in the Maryland State Fair **Racetrack Infield**.
- ❖ **ODYSSEY AXE THROWING** - Get ready to yell "BULLSEYE!" and throw some axes in the amazing and super safe Odyssey mobile axe throwing trailer. At the end of the training, throw some axes and even participate in a competitive game. Minimum age of 9 and above required. Additional fee. **Monday – Friday 12 PM – 10 PM, Saturday – Sunday, 10 AM – 10 PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM, in the Maryland State Fair Park.**
- ❖ **ODYSSEY ESCAPE ROOM** – Channel you inner Sherlock Holmes and step into an immersive adventure! Use team work to solve puzzles and mysteries in a race against time! Winners emerge victorious with bragging rights. Additional fee. **Monday – Friday 12 PM – 10 PM, Saturday – Sunday, 10 AM – 10 PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM, in the Maryland State Fair Park.**

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NEW THIS YEAR (CONTINUED):

- ❖ **PAUL BUNYAN LUMBERJACK SHOW** - For great old-fashioned fun and family entertainment, see this action-packed competition with Lumberjacks using specifically-built speed axes to cut through wood in a matter of seconds. The show includes log rolling, chopping, sawing, and more. **Daily, 12 PM, 3 PM, 6 PM, across from the Cow Palace.**
- ❖ **THE STROLLING PIANO** – The unique and fully mobile Strolling Piano with a multi-talented pianist/singer aboard will travel throughout the Fairgrounds to entertain fairgoers with a variety of fun and favorite songs. Various times, various location.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:

- ❖ **UNDENIABLY DAIRY SHAKE-OFF CELEBRITY MILKSHAKE CONTEST** – American Dairy Association North East returns to the Maryland State Fair to host its *4th Annual Undeniably Dairy Shake-Off Celebrity Milkshake Contest* using local ice cream provided by the Maryland Farm Bureau Young Farmers, **Thursday, September 2, 2 PM, on the Maryland State Fair Park Free Stage.** Celebrities including local media personalities will work with Maryland dairy farmers to create their own unique milkshakes to compete for bragging rights, and the coveted *Undeniably Dairy Trophy.*
- ❖ **CHESAPEAKE CRAFT BREW & WINE GARDEN** – Enjoy the flavor of local craft beers such as Guinness Blonde and Heavy Seas Loose Cannon; local wine selections from Harford Vineyard & Winery; and other beer and wine favorites at the Chesapeake Craft Brew & Wine Garden. A raw bar featuring oysters and more will complement the beer and wine, **next to the Maryland Foods Pavilion. Daily, 12 PM – 10 PM.**
- ❖ **COLLEGE DAY AT THE RACES** – College students may stop by for a day of horse racing fun, learn all about horse racing, hang out with old friends, meet new friends, and have a chance to win one of multiple college scholarships, **Friday, August 27, beginning at 3 PM – 7:30 PM, in the Grandstand.** Note: must pre-register by Thursday, August 26 at 5 PM to be eligible for the scholarship drawings.
- ❖ **LEGO® Interactive Display** – Baltimore’s own Classic Plastic Bricks returns and expands to transform tens of thousands of LEGO® pieces into a walk-around, interactive, lighted LEGO® display for fairgoers of all ages. The display will feature sections with iconic Maryland, fair, and other themes. Fairgoers may push buttons to make the LEGO® trains run, the Ferris wheel rotate, farm animals move, other scenes light up, and more. Several LEGO®-themed workshops will also take place. **Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 9 PM. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM-10PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM- 8 PM, in front of the Bulk Candy Store in the Exhibition Hall.**
- ❖ **MOBILE GLASS STUDIO** – Experience the artistry and education of the lost art of glass making when Mobile Glass Studio artists manipulate hot glass into various shapes during live glass blowing demonstrations **daily from 2 PM – 8 PM in the Maryland State Fair Park.** Some items will be available for purchase.
- ❖ **UME MASTER GARDENER LEARNING GARDEN** – Learn organic vegetable gardening techniques and tips, how to find and naturally eliminate garden pests, how to improve your garden soil and more, when University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners provide hands-on teaching activities in the ***UME Master Gardener Learning Center, daily in the Maryland State Fair Park.***

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WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S RETURNING TO THE 140th MARYLAND STATE FAIR--Prepare for the Fair—Pg. 4

- ❖ **KIDDIE LAND RIDES AREA** – features 15+ tame, exciting rides among them *the new Cruiser Car Ride*, and favorites the *Dragon Coaster, Tea Cups, Circus Train, Baja Buggie, Rockin’ Tug, Happy Swing, Merry-Go-Round* & more. **Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – Close, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close.**
- ❖ **MAIN MIDWAY RIDES & GAMES OF SKILL AREA** - presented by Deggeller Attractions and located in the center of the Fairgrounds, will offer thrills & chills for the bravest fairgoers. The *new two-story walk-thru Atlantis Fun House*, spectacular rides *Space Port* and *Hydra*, family favorites *YoYo* and *Cliff Hanger* and all-time traditional favorites the *Merry-Go-Round*, and the *Giant Ferris Wheel* are among 30+ rides and 30+ games of skill. **Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – Close, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close.**
- ❖ **MELODY FARM FOLLIES** - Animated entertainment featuring fruit and vegetables, a hen and a cow singing healthy eating stories will perform **daily near the Cow Palace. Daily, 10 AM – 10 PM. Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM**
- ❖ **FAVORITE FAIR FOODS** - A wide selection of favorite fair food, including the Crabby Patty named one of “50 Best Fair Foods” by Food Network, will satisfy the spirit as well as the palate. Enjoy the traditional taste of cotton candy, corndogs, and deep-fried delights on the **Midway** and fresh fruit, rib-eye steak sandwiches, ice cream, a raw bar and more from Maryland Farms and the Chesapeake Bay at the **Maryland Foods Pavilion, the Dairy Bar** and the **Chesapeake Craft Brew & Wine Garden.**
- ❖ **BIRTHING CENTER** - Fairgoers will have the opportunity to witness hatching chicks and see baby calves and piglets, **daily, 10 AM – 10 PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM**, in the **Cow Palace.**
- ❖ **J BAR W RANCH BATTLE OF THE BEASTS PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDING AND COWGIRL BARREL RACING** –The cowboys will once again face the bulls for one of America’s fastest growing extreme spectator sports when J Bar W Ranch hosts the *Battle of the Beast Bull Riding and Cowgirl Barrel Racing Competition*. 25 professional International Bull Rider Association (IBR) riders will compete on some of the toughest bulls in the world of rodeo, and cowgirls will be timed racing around a barrel course, **Mon., Aug. 30, 7 PM**, in the **Horse Show Arena.**
- ❖ **RAGING BULL ENTERTAINMENT MECHANICAL BULL** – Try your luck riding the mechanical bull, **Saturday, Sunday, and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Monday - Friday, Noon – 10 PM**, in the **Maryland State Fair Park.**
- ❖ **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)** - The DNR will provide a variety of displays and interactive Exhibits that highlight Maryland’s magnificent outdoors, **Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM, and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM, in the Mosner-Miller Building.**
- ❖ **GOAT MOUNTAIN** –Watch goats in their natural habitat, **daily, 10 AM – 10 PM in Maryland State Fair Park.**
- ❖ **HORSELAND SPECTACULAR** - Pet a pony; participate in hands-on horse demos; learn about the Maryland horse industry; and enjoy a variety of daily educational activities in the **Horseland Tent near the Grandstand entrance. Mon. – Fri., 12 PM – 6 PM, Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day, Monday, 10 AM – 6 PM.**

Additionally, enjoy multiple other Horseland special equine events, among them: The *Military & First Responders Appreciation Performance* including cavalry, veterans, mounted police, and Liberty and Roman Riding with Sadie Fisher. **Sept. 3, 4 PM – 6 PM. In the Horse Show Arena;** and, the **U.S. Pony Races** non-wagering steeplechase races with young jockeys ages 3-16, at the **Racetrack. Saturday, Aug. 28, 10:45 AM and 12:45 AM and Sunday, Aug. 29, 11:15 AM and 12:45 PM.**

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WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S RETURNING TO THE 140th MARYLAND STATE FAIR--Prepare for the Fair—Pg. 5

- ❖ **HORSE PULL COMPETITIONS** – Miniature Horses show their strength by pulling sleds in the **Miniature Horse Pull Competition** on **Saturday, September 4, 5 PM**, followed by the traditional **Light Weight Draft Horse Pull Competition** at **7:30 PM** in the **Horse Show Arena**. The **Heavy Weight Draft Horse Pull Competition** will take place on **Sunday, September 5, 7:30 PM**, in the **Horse Show Arena**.
- ❖ **MARYLAND STATE FAIR MUSEUM** – Learn about Maryland State Fair’s rich history reflected in a variety of museum exhibits that span multiple generations. Donations of Maryland State Fair memorabilia are welcome. **Mosner Miller Building, Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM.**
- ❖ **MASON DIXON SQUARE DANCING FEDERATION DEMONSTRATION** –There will be a twirl of color on the Maryland State Fair Park Stage as Mason Dixon Square Dancing Federation members show off their moves to promote Maryland’s Official Folk Dance Square Dancing under the direction of Square Dance Caller Virgil Forbes. **Saturday, August 28, 2 PM – 4 PM**, on the **Maryland State Fair Park Stage**.
- ❖ **NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL EXHIBIT** – The exhibit, highlighting Hank Aaron this year, incorporates historical videos, life-size photos of Negro League Players, autographed baseballs, bats, and other memorabilia from The Hubert V. Simmons Negro League Baseball Collection. The goal is to create awareness of the cultural, social, and economic impact of the Negro Baseball Leagues. Negro Leagues Baseball Ambassador Ray Banks, along with some former players such as Baltimore Orioles and Washington Senators Fred Valentine, Satchel Paige All Stars Luther Atkinson, and Geraldine Day, widow of Hall of Famer Leon Day will be on hand to share oral histories. And, Jason Isaac will perform a rendition of Jackie Robinson in uniform. **12 Noon - 9 PM on weekdays, 10 AM – 9 PM on weekends, and 10 AM – 8 PM on Labor Day Monday in the Exhibition Hall.** www.smnlnbinc.org
- ❖ **NATURE PLAY SPACE** - will provide the opportunity, during the Fair, for children to freely and safely play and explore sand, nature art, gardening, climbing, building, listening, observing wildlife, artifacts and more. Nature Play Space will be staffed by nature-based educators coordinated through the Eastern Region Association of Forest and Nature Schools. The play to learn adventure will feature multiple interactive stations that encourage youth, ages 2 – 8, to experience and enjoy nature at its best. **Thursday, August 26 – Monday, September 6, 11 AM – 7 PM, next to the Maryland State Fair Horseland Spectacular Tent.**
- ❖ **TEAM PUREBRED BARNYARD OLYMPICS** – Team Purebred presents a variety of fun Olympic-style events for the hog show exhibitors in the **Swine Barn, Friday, September 3, beginning at 4:30 PM.**
- ❖ **U-LEARN AG EDUCATION ZONE** – Count on U-Learn AG Education Zone to teach fairgoers of all ages how agriculture impacts their daily lives with a variety of fun and educational hands-on activities and exhibits, among them: the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association’s interactive **Susan the Dairy Cow** and bigger than life-sized **Milk Carton; Kids Growing with Grains** exhibit, the **Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Showcase Trailer; Farm to Table** themed interactive educational exhibits; a variety of **farm equipment, horticulture machinery and tools**; and more. Maryland 4-H/FFA youth members and University of Maryland Extension staff will be available to answer fairgoers questions about agriculture. **Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 AM – 8 PM, Monday – Thursday, 10 AM – 2 PM and 5 PM – 7 PM, and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 6 PM**, in the **Cow Palace south end.**

Additionally, U-Learn AG Education Zone will feature **U-Learn Food & Fiber animal and interactive exhibits. Daily 10 AM – 8 PM, Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 6 PM.**

- ❖ **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DAIRY HERD AND EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY** – **daily, 10 AM - 10 PM, Cow Palace.**

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TRADITIONAL FAVORITES

4-H & FFA Competitions: Maryland State Fair recognizes the talents of Marylanders of all ages, as well as the hard work of **thousands of 4-H and FFA members**, who compete in shows and demonstrations throughout the 12 days of the Fair among them:

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Beef Shows – First weekend, Friday, August 27- Sunday, August 29.

Remaining 4-H/FFA Livestock Shows – First weekend, Friday, August 27 – Sunday, August 29.

Maryland State Fair 4-H/FFA Youth Livestock Auction – Monday, August 30, 7 PM, Buyer's Social/Registration, 6 PM, Cow Palace.

Open Class & 4-H/FFA Dairy Shows – Second weekend, Thursday, September 2-Labor Day Monday, September 6.

Remaining Open Class Livestock Shows – Tuesday, August 31 - Labor Day Monday, September 6.

4-H/FFA Costume Animal Contest – Friday, August 27, 7 PM, Horse Show Ring.

4-H/FFA Robotics Showcase, Sunday, Aug. 29, 9 AM – 4 PM, Grandstand Lower Level.

4-H/FFA Large Tractor Operator Safety Event, Wednesday, August 25, Track Infield.

4-H/FFA Small Lawn Tractor Operator Safety Event, Thursday, August 26, 4 PM, Grandstand Lower Level.

4-H/FFA Bicycle Safety Event, Friday, August 27, 1 PM, Grandstand Lower Level.

4-H/FFA Electrical/Energy Event, Friday, August 27, 5 PM, Grandstand Lower Level.

4-H/FFA Judging and Competition – Horticulture, Dairy, Poultry, Rabbit and Livestock events throughout the Fairgrounds, Saturday, September 4, 8 AM – 3 PM.

4-H/FFA Judging and Competition Awards Program – Saturday, September 4, 4 PM, Cow Palace Show Ring.

4-H Fashion Revue – Monday, September 6, 4 PM, Park Stage.

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TRADITIONAL FAVORITES (continued)

BUILDINGS and EXHIBIT HALLS

Cow Palace, Horse Show Ring, Sheep & Swine Barns, Poultry & Rabbit Area – See thousands of livestock and horse competitions and exhibits.

Exhibition Hall – View a variety of commercial exhibits, participate in fun family activities, and enjoy shopping and learning opportunities. Also, visit the Baltimore County Health Department booth for COVID-19 vaccines and information.

Farm & Garden Building – See thousands of Maryland's best fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, flowers, plant exhibits, and more. Purchase fresh, local produce at the Farmers Market, Thursday, August 26 – Monday, September 6, 12 Noon – 6 PM, in the Farm & Garden Building.

4-H/Home Arts Building – Enjoy thousands of Maryland's best fine arts, handwork, canning, woodworking, baking exhibits and more.

Grandstand & Infield – Get up close to the action as you watch live Thoroughbred Horse Racing from the Grandstand and racetrack apron. And, enjoy a variety of national concerts and special events in the racetrack Infield.

Maryland Foods Pavilion, Dairy Bar and Chesapeake Craft Brew & Wine Garden – Taste a selection of local food and beverage favorites.

Mosner Miller Building: Explore the Maryland State Fair Museum and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Exhibit Room.

Park Stage – Watch local bands and enjoy other entertainment and educational activities in this shaded area.

PARKING on the fairgrounds is \$10 and free parking at the Park and Ride on Deereco Road are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Light Rail with an easily accessible Light Rail stop at the fairground Cow Palace Gate is encouraged.

ATM MACHINES are conveniently located throughout the Maryland State Fairgrounds.

SPONSORS

Proud sponsors of the 140th MY Maryland State Fair include: Toyota, M&T Bank, WBFF-Fox45, Chick-fil-A Baltimore, Pepsi, and American Farm Publications/Delmarva Farmer, Maryland Lottery, among others.

A variety of other exciting events for the 2021 *Maryland State Fair* will be announced soon. For general Maryland State Fair information, hours and prices, visit www.marylandstatefair.com.