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Another value-added agricultural initiative on the shore is MarylandFarming.com. The Caroline Economic Development Corporation was awarded a grant from the Rural Maryland Council to create a marketing campaign to attract new value-added agricultural businesses to the Eastern Shore. The website features all nine counties of the

Eastern Shore, a resource library, case studies, information about the Eastern Shore lifestyle, and more.

Keep informed by signing up for their newsletter or by following them on their Facebook Page.



DORCHESTER Currents

A monthly publication of Dorchester County Maryland

TOP STORY

MAY 2015

Agriculture is Regional Effort

Agriculture is the leading industry on the Eastern Shore encompassing the majority of Maryland's farms. The Upper Shore's Harvest Directory aims to preserve our land and the rural character of our region by encouraging residents to sustain this valuable industry. The directory is expanding to include Dorchester County and become a more regional resource.

Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC) Executive Director Doris Mason said, "We at the USRC are excited to be partnering with the Dorchester County Economic

Development and Dorchester County Tourism offices to add the county to our Harvest Directory partnership, as we support agriculture across the shore! As we collaborate regionally on projects such as this, we position ourselves to compete globally, as even larger projects and opportunities to emerge for us!"

The partnership between Dorchester County Economic Development, Dorchester County Tourism, Washington College, and the Upper Shore Regional Council is an exciting collaboration. Washington College's Geographic Information Systems Program will expand the directory's web and mobile application to in-



clude Dorchester County. The current branding will change from the Upper Shore Harvest Directory to the Eastern Shore Harvest Directory. For more information about the Harvest Directory, please visit them at www.uppershoreregionalcouncil.org/harvestdirectory.

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Congratulations to Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe, CECD, for being elected the new Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) President announced at MEDA's annual conference held in April.



MEDA President Keasha Haythe and MEDA Executive Director Pam Ruff

FEATURED EVENT

Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage Visits Dorchester

The 2015 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage (MHGP) is planned for this Saturday, May 9. The tour will include stops in East New Market and Cambridge. The Chicone Village Longhouse and Garden at Handsell, Huntington Residence, Choptank River Lighthouse,

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www.ChooseDorchester.org

Currents is the monthly newsletter of the Dorchester County Economic Development Department. For information or suggestions, contact info@ChooseDorchester.org or call 410-228-0155.

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Haller Garden, and Summer Inn are just a few of the named stops on the tour. The Dorchester Visitor Center is serving as the information headquarters with tickets, tour information, and available restrooms.

Dorchester County Tourism Director Amanda Fenstermaker said, "We are pleased to welcome the Maryland House and Pilgrimage Tour to Dorchester County. This is truly a unique opportunity to showcase the historic treasures of Dorchester County while generating economic impact through heritage tourism."

By advanced reservation only, a box lunch is available for \$15 the day of the tour by calling the Dorchester Center for the Arts at 410.228.7782. The 2015 MHGP benefits Dorchester County's Handsell, an 18th-century plantation house located on Indian-town Road just north of historic Vienna. Other 2015 tours will be in St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, and Washington counties.

For tour schedules, additional information, or reservations, visit mhgp.org or call 410.821.6933.

FEATURED STORY
Building Sustainable Working Waterfronts

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Chesapeake and Coastal Service (CCS) will host a Working Waterfronts Exchange on Thursday, June 18, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Although attendance is free and

open to the public, space is limited and registration is required.

Nicole Carlozo, natural resource planner with DNR, said, "The Working Waterfronts Exchange will highlight working waterfront protection and revitalization activities in Maryland's coastal zone and provide an opportunity to connect communities and share lessons learned from other coastal states."

DNR will share information about the state's Working Waterfronts Program, and the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center will share the results of an economic and business analysis completed for the City of Cambridge.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. A reception will follow at the Richardson Maritime Museum. Water-dependent businesses are encouraged to take part in the Working Waterfronts Exchange. If your business would like to advertise

or set up a booth, please contact Nicole Carlozo for more information at 410.260.8726 or nicole.carlozo@maryland.go. Registration will be available soon.



SMALL BUSINESS
New Clothing Store Features Formal Wear

Perfect Image Fashions specializes in men and women's dress clothes. Showcasing beautiful dresses and suits perfect for your Sunday best or an evening out. Tuxedo rentals and tailoring are also available to provide the perfect fit for their customers.

Owners Elder Rod and Pastor Porter have always had a love for clothing and design. This was the motivation behind opening their business in Cambridge at 111 Maryland Avenue. Pastor Porter said, "Stop by Perfect Image Fashions, where fashion is what we're all about and dressing is impressive!"

The retail store opened five months ago and continues to

thrive in the spring months. Open for business Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, please call 443.477.6373.

FEATURED EVENT
Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference

The 2015 Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference will take place June 5 and 6 at Chesapeake College in Cambridge. Focusing on Harriet Tubman and the waterways used in Dorchester County, the annual conference aims to educate attendees on Tubman and the network of people who helped slaves escape the region.

Accomplished actor, writer, and producer Millicent Sparks will be the banquet dinner keynote speaker on Friday. The recipi-

ent of numerous national literary honors, Carole Boston Weatherford will be the keynote speaker on Saturday. The conference theme "Freedom, Family, Faith and Community: Unsung Heroes of the Underground Railroad" will be the focus for the two-day symposium. Dorchester County Economic Development Director Keasha Haythe will lead the Water Moves Us: Past, Present and Future Workshop.

The conference will feature several workshops and local tours of sites associated with Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Last year's conference attracted visitors from all over the East Coast, had 20 workshops, and hosted esteemed keynote speakers Vincent Leggett and Jeffrey Fortin. For more information or to register for the conference, please contact them at 410.228.1064 or visit www.tubmanugrr.net.

