

produces NAL. The 2021 Capital Challenge will be held at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro.

## Chicoteague Pony Swim Canceled

The Chicoteague Island Volunteer Fire Department decided to cancel this year's pony swim and live auction due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. State restrictions on gatherings were behind the organizers' decision to cancel the July event.

## Barn Fire in Montgomery County

The cause of a barn fire that occurred on May 12 in Montgomery County is still under investigation. The fire caused more than \$2 million in damages at a Peach Tree Road farm. The fire was mainly located in a large barn containing round hay bales but had also spread to two attached structures and nearby fuel tanks. No animals or people were hurt in the fire.

## WIHS Stays at Tryon and Morven Park for 2021

The Washington International Horse Show will be held at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (NC) again this year. The WIHS Regional Horse Show and USHJA Zone 3 Championship return to Morven Park International Equestrian Center (VA).

WIHS stated that it has moved to Tryon for the second year in a row due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place for the Capital One Arena in Washington, DC. As of press, there was no official comment on why the WIHS Regional show has moved away from the Prince George's Equestrian Center for the second year in a row. Last year, it was moved to Morven Park due to COVID-19 restrictions at PGEC.

## Rosecroft Reopens to the Public

On April 30, Rosecroft Raceway was given approval by Prince George's County to reopen to the public. Beginning on May 1, the track was allowed to host up to 300 spectators daily, in addition to Maryland Racing Commission licensees affiliated with live racing, for both simulcasting and live racing. Live racing will take place at Rosecroft on Wednesdays and Sundays with simulcasting available Wednesday through Sunday each week.

## Baltimore Mounted Unit Saved

Last spring, funding for the Baltimore Police Department's mounted unit was cut by the City Council amid protests and calls for reduced police spending. However, behind the scenes, then-Mayor Jack Young moved the unit from the Police Department to the Recreation and Parks Department, thus saving the unit.

Unfortunately, according to *Baltimore Brew*, protesters are still angry with the money spent on BPD with current Mayor Brandon Scott stating it will take more than one fiscal year to cut the BPD funding as he promised during his campaign. Scott has recently proposed a 5% increase in the BPD budget. Scott is however, moving the mounted unit budget from BPD to Recreation and Parks and is dedicating the unit "exclusively" to community relations.

"The program is now entirely focused on community engagement exclusively," stated Deputy Director of Communications Stefanie Mavronis. According to Lindsey Eldrige, a spokeswoman for BPD, four officers, a sergeant and the three remaining horses will be assigned to the Community and Youth Division.

The unit is currently housed at the B&O Railroad Museum where the unit will work with the museum on a variety of youth-focused programs.

## Laurel Park to Close Temporarily

Due to renovations of the track surface at Laurel Park, horsemen have been asked to leave Laurel immediately after the Preakness Stakes on May 15. Officials from the Mary-



Each year, the St. Mary's Riding Club donates equestrian books and DVDs to the county library in Leonardtown. The club donated 14 new books and six new DVDs this spring. Participating in this year's donation are librarians Amy Dickinson and Elizabeth Davis, club member Kathy Glockner aboard Mr. Fitz, and Emily Repenning, club president, with her daughters, Lulu and Jodie.

land Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association held a Zoom meeting on April 30 at which Aidan Butler of 1/ST Racing stated the track may remain closed through July 1. Butler is the Chief Operating Officer for 1/ST Racing and is overseeing the track resurfacing project at Laurel Park.

MTHA Executive Secretary David Richardson stated during the meeting that as many as 140 temporary stalls will be set up at Pimlico immediately after the Preakness. MTHA is also in discussions with the Maryland State Fair officials about possibly using stalls at Timonium, which currently has 580 stalls.

Butler added that during the closure, other projects at Laurel Park will also be addressed, such as eradicating a rat infestation on the backside.

## MD TB Career Program Restarts

After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Horse Industry Foundation's Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program is back for 2021 with five participants from across the United States: Charles Churchill (Louisville, KY), Ashlee Marcy (Hannover, MD), Sophie O'Connor (Shorewood, WI), Cayla Reeder (Kearneysville, WV) and Zaharia A. Selman (Conyers, GA). During the five day program, participants tour several Thoroughbred-related sites in Maryland learning about all aspects of the industry. Graduates of the program are eligible to apply for Career Development Funds, one-time funding that can be used to further career pursuits within two years after the program ends.



Susan J. Strickle

Congratulations to David Ziegler and Saladine STC, who are currently ranked number one on the USEF 2021 Breeding Championships list for 5-Year-Old list!