



## Governor Moore Announces Appointment of Harry Coker, Jr. as Secretary of Commerce

On January 24, Governor Wes Moore announced the appointment of Harry Coker, Jr. as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce. Coker will assume the post as acting secretary on February 5 and his appointment is pending confirmation by the Maryland State Senate during the 2025 Legislative Session. Coker will succeed Secretary Kevin Anderson, who will transition to a new role as Senior Advisor to the Governor for Economic Development.

"At the heart of our economic growth agenda is a commitment to investing in industries of the future—from cyber to quantum. Harry Coker understands that mission and brings a wealth of experience working on the leading edge of the very sectors Maryland stands to win," said Gov. Moore. "Our entire administration is grateful for Kevin Anderson's distinguished service and we look forward to this new chapter at the Maryland Department of Commerce under Harry Coker's leadership."

*Pictured: Senior Advisor to the Governor for Economic Development and outgoing Maryland Secretary of Commerce Kevin Anderson, Governor Wes Moore, and Acting Maryland Secretary of Commerce Harry Coker, Jr.*

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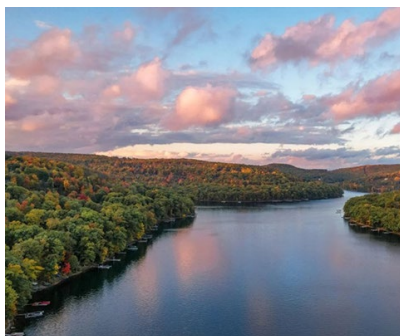


## OTD Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons Retires

The Maryland Office of Tourism's Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons has retired. A well-known figure in the tourism industry for more than 30 years, Fitzsimmons was given a warm send-off by the Maryland Tourism Development board at their January meeting and honored at an event at Phillips Seafood on January 14 attended by the staff of the Maryland Department of Commerce and tourism professionals from across the state. In recognition of her years of service, Ms. Fitzsimmons was presented with citations of merit from Governor Moore and Maryland Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson. On February 3, Senior Assistant Director of Tourism Development Marci Ross assumed the role of Acting Managing Director of the Maryland Office of Tourism. Please join us in wishing Fitzsimmons, an avid skier, well as she hits the slopes to "ski off" into retirement.

*Pictured: Liz Fitzsimmons with retirement party attendees.*

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## OTD Secures Print and Broadcast Media Coverage

The OTD Public Relations team recently secured impressive media coverage in print and on broadcast television. In January, Deep Creek Lake made the list of "[The 25 Best Places To Go In The South In 2025](#)" in *Southern Living* and [Maryland's Scenic Byways](#) and our [Destination Maryland](#) guide got the spotlight on Fox 45's [BMORE Lifestyle](#) segment at the end of the month for



## OTD Launches Next Phase of “Stay in the Loop” Series

Beginning March 3, the Maryland Office of Tourism will launch the next phase of its “Stay in the Loop” series, a social media campaign promoting the Great Chesapeake Bay Loop (GBCL). This phase will debut on Instagram, featuring nine themed videos that highlight authentic experiences along the Chesapeake Bay. These include: General GCBL Experience; Unique Lodging; Quintessential Bay Towns; Coastline & Beaches; Culinary; Seafood; Water-Based Activities; Land-Based Activities and Maritime History.

New videos will be shared every other day, offering inspiration and guidance to potential travelers as they plan their spring and summer multi-night trips. You can watch all of the themed videos on our YouTube channel [here](#).

We encourage you and your partners to amplify the campaign by sharing and engaging with our posts, and by using #MDinFocus and #GreatChesapeakeBayLoop.

Photo credit: @ashleyarc02travels



## Model United Nations Student Delegation Visits Bay Country Welcome Center

A group of 40 students from Calvert County visited the Bay Country Welcome Center on their way to Philadelphia for the University of Pennsylvania’s Model United Nations Conference, a four-day event that attracts students from

across the country. The goal of the conference is to promote critical thinking and international cooperation. The Welcome Center visit presented an opportunity for the students to ask questions of the staff and learn about the center's operations.

*Pictured: Model UN student delegates at the Bay Country Welcome Center.*



## The Restaurant Association of Maryland Holds Raffle to Support Culinary Program

The Restaurant Association of Maryland is hosting a raffle that offers winners a choice between a 2025 Lexus NX 350h or \$45,000 cash. A maximum of 300 tickets will be sold. Proceeds benefit Maryland ProStart, a culinary program for high school students. Click [here](#) to learn more and to get your tickets.



## Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

Do your partners know how easy it is to add events to [VisitMaryland.org's events calendar](#)? If you or an organization or attraction in your region is hosting an event, it's easy to get the word out through VisitMaryland.org's events calendar. With tens of thousands of regular visitors, it's a great tool, and with our self-entry portal, it's never been easier to use! If you're wondering if an event has the right stuff for the VisitMaryland.org calendar, you'll find the inclusion criteria [here](#), [follow this link](#) for a step-by-step guide for self entry, or if it's not your first rodeo, jump straight to the entry portal [here](#).

*Photo credit: Karmen Osei*



## IN THE NEWS



Observation Deck Level at Baltimore World Trade Center Will Close in May, BOPA Says

Historic Fells Point Inn gets \$10M overhaul

Ocean City, Md., Kicks Off its 150th Birthday Celebration with Social Media Campaign, More

Cheaper Beer is Coming to Camden Yards

Three New Members Named to Maryland Horse Industry Board

Maryland Among Locations That Could Host 2026 World Cup Games

Maryland Outlines Vision For Cannabis Consumption Lounges

Concerns Over The Plans For Northwest Stadium Once New Commanders Home Is Built

\$450M BWI Airport Project Nears Completion

Ocean City, MD,, Hailed Near Top of List of Best Boating Cities For 2025 by BoatBooker.com

Maryland Horse Industry Board Awards 2025 Grants

Lucrative BWI Concessions Contract up for Approval

Shuck & Stout Celebrates Maryland Oysters & Beer

### ***Maryland Minute***

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. [\*Maryland Minute\*](#) is featured on Audacy radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

### ***Maryland Travel Tips***

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of [Visit Maryland Now!](#)

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Wes Moore  
Governor

