



# Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

# Introductions

- Click here to access the [sign-in sheet!](#)

# Agenda

1. 2024 Advocacy Agenda
2. Introductions
3. Walkable Neighborhoods
4. Transportation
5. Food Security
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# 2024 Advocacy Agenda

- James Brady of Chesapeake Climate Action Network is doing a presentation and Q&A session on The Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act
  - Resolution in support of the RENEW Act
- Questions? Contact James at [jbrady@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:jbrady@chesapeakeclimate.org)
- There were 6 votes in support of advancing this legislation to the Steering Committee to vote on adding it to HSMP's 2024 Advocacy Agenda.

# Walkable Neighborhoods

- Our next Walking Group - TBD!
- Please continue sharing the [HSMP Walking Maps & Resource page](#), corresponding [flyer](#) and [postcard](#) with your networks!
- “Walk With A Doc” Updates:
  - The 2nd event was on October 28
    - There was a lower turnout than expected due to conflicting Halloween events happening on the same day
    - NP Temeria Wilcox lead the walk and expressed interest in future walking events
  - Considering future dates
    - Combining it with an existing event
      - Cherry Blossom Festival - April 6
        - HSMP Vendor table promoting WWAD
      - Juneteenth - June 14



# Transportation

- Nate Evans, the Active Transportation Planner at Maryland Department of Transportation, provided updates on upcoming projects:
  - R&P's newly awarded \$1.2 million Bikeways grant from MDOT to complete construction of the Phase 7 of the Three Notch Trail. Construction is expected to begin early 2024.
  - MDOT is finishing up its draft 2050 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, which provides guidance on best practices for bicycle, pedestrian and micro mobility infrastructure and programming for state & local jurisdictions. It will be finalized in January.
  - He also shared a [list of grant programs](#) for Maryland jurisdictions.
    - We will review this list, note deadlines for grants of interest, and prepare the paperwork in advance in order to have adequate time for applying.
  - Sue shared [information](#) on Maryland pedestrian and bicycle funding programs.
- The team discussed forming a work group focused on grant applications to include:
  - DPW Rep, TCC Rep (George Clark/Jessica Richards), Regional Planner (Sean Varsolona)
  - We will consider combining it with the Bike Share Interest Subcommittee.
    - Ashlyn and Shan will hold off coordinating a subcommittee meeting until January/February in hopes of including Nate Evans in the discussion.
- Tri-County Council is holding its next BIAC meeting on December 14 from 12:00-2:00 pm. If you would like an invitation, send an email to [Jessica Richards](#).
- The Transportation Association of Maryland issued their [policy agenda](#) for the 2024 Legislative Session.

# Food Security

- SoMD Fridges Program Update:
  - Shan and Jacquie are meeting with Kristine Millen of St. Mary's Caring this Thursday to discuss program initiatives.
  - Ascension Pantry has requested more information on the program.
  - The Middle Mile Program can be a resource on HSMP's webpage - It is a food distribution program that collects unused food from businesses to be redistributed to Maryland food bank partners.
  - DED is working on a newsletter article on food waste.
- Promoting healthy food drives:
  - **Action Item:** The team decided to add language to the Healthy Meeting Toolkit that will assist in food waste/donation after events.
  - Please help develop language for this toolkit by editing this draft!
- HSMP's Food Pantry Platform is in development! Shan met with the developers last Tuesday to discuss updates. We are currently reaching out to local food pantries to obtain up-to-date contact information in order to create their profiles in the platform.
- EHAT's Food Connection Map will be receiving updates!
  - Please continue to submit edits for the map here and verify food pantry phone numbers, if you have some time!
  - The next Food Security Subcommittee Meeting will be on December 7 at 2:00 p.m.

## Partner Updates

- This spring, St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services is hosting a 4-week conference called "Keys to Senior Independence" at CSM Leonardtown. They are inviting HSMP Action Team members to participate as speakers. Speakers can present on a health topic of their choice. Available dates are March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9. If you are interested, reach out to [HSMP!](#)
- [Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland](#) is slowly moving to fix its STS bus stops. They are waiting on permits for sign placements.
- St. Mary's College of Maryland is opening a new [food pantry](#) location on campus. It's operating as a food pantry for now, but they are anticipating to provide additional services in the future. Opening day is this Friday, Nov 17 from 11am-1pm at Waring Commons Complex (47830 College Dr in St Mary's City). For questions about this event reach out to [Bill Roberts](#).



# Partner Updates

- St. Mary's County Health Department launched a [Health & Wellness campaign!](#) Participants that complete a Social Wellbeing [Assessment](#) will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Weis gift card. So far, there are over 300 people in the lottery pool!
- Recreation & Parks' Cherry Blossom Festival is April 6, 2024. The Easter Egg Festival is March 23 at St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. They will be hosting their annual food drive! There is a holiday bus trip to NYC on December 9, 2023. Three Notch Trail is near completion of design. Multiple construction projects are underway in the county, including a brand new playground that is being installed at Lancaster Park! For questions about these projects or events, reach out to [Christina Bishop](#).
- The University of Maryland School of Public Health is conducting an in-person focus groups on the use of Germicidal Ultraviolet (GUV) light and how it may impact your work and life. The focus group will be held November 28 at Lexington Park Library. A \$50 gift card will be provided for participation. View the [flyer](#) or contact [Shivan Angelo](#) for more information.

# Communications

- Submit event and news updates/information at:  
[healthystmarys.com/newsletter](http://healthystmarys.com/newsletter) or email [stmaryspartnership@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspartnership@gmail.com)
- Follow HSMP on Social Media
  - Facebook: [Healthy St. Mary's Partnership](#)
  - Twitter: [@HealthyStMarys](#)

# Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, December 20, 2023 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
- Interested in being in our Partner Spotlight? [Sign up here!](#)