

FrontROW

Aug./Sept. '07

The insiders' guide to the happenings at The Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center



Looking Forward, Looking Back: A Year at The Show Place Arena

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The Show Place Arena and Princes George's Equestrian Center are facilities of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The Show Place Arena truly believes in the adage “Make new friends, but keep the old.” As the fiscal year comes to a close, it’s time to celebrate new relationships while treasuring the long-standing ones.

“It’s been an exciting 12 months,” says The Show Place Arena’s General Manager Bill Chambers. “We’re always searching out new clients and creating new events, but we work hard to keep our signature ones, too. It’s a continuous effort to expand our menu of choices.”

One of the biggest additions this year was the arrival of indoor football. After more than 15 years, Maryland finally has a team to call its own – the Chesapeake Tide. The Tide launched its inaugural season at The Show Place Arena on April 1, 2007 and had six great home games.

The Show Place Arena was also the host of more cheer and dance competitions, with a total of nine events this year. These additions, plus a record number of concerts and long-standing consumer and trade shows, ensured that something interesting was always happening at the arena.

The Southern Maryland Home and Garden Show is another event that continues to grow and expand. “Because of our flexibility and size, we’re able to offer a greater variety of events, such as the Home and Garden Show,” says Chambers. “It’s now one of our staple events.” The show features hundreds of exhibits, demonstrations, and experts and returns in October 2007 and February 2008.

As we look back over the past year, we can’t forget the enormously popular equestrian events. There were newer events such as the annual Potomac Valley Dressage Association’s Ride for Life – benefiting the Johns Hopkins University Breast Center – as well as long-running shows like the Capital Challenge and the Maryland Horse and Pony Show.

Watching an event grow is always exciting – and there is no better example of that than the Calvert United Way Mardi Gras. “We moved the event to the arena floor this year so that we could accommodate a bigger crowd and better set-up,” says Chambers. This year’s event featured everything from belly dancers to jesters – and all for a truly worthy cause.

So what’s coming up in the next 12 months? “All of the events you’ve come to expect from The Show Place Arena and then some!” says Chambers. “We’re always searching out new opportunities. For example, we’re looking to fill weekday space with more private and corporate events. The market is expanding so we have to keep pace.”

Chambers says it’s the people who make The Show Place Arena so successful. “I am most proud of the people I work with,” he says. “They continue to take ownership of their particular roles and work hard to put a smile on everyone’s face as they walk out of the building.”

Arena Notes

for more exhibitions and events,
refer to the back of this newsletter

YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention

Thursday, August 2, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Free

As fun and quirky as its name, the 13th annual YMCA Thingamajig Invention Convention is back – and more exciting than ever. Come celebrate the creativity and ingenuity of our local kids. Children ages 5-14 compete by designing an “invention” in a range of categories, giving them the opportunity to exercise their imaginations, basic scientific principles, and problem-solving skills. The event also offers a wide variety of workshops, activities, and games to get creative minds thinking. It’s an educational event that the whole family will enjoy – and best of all, it’s FREE! Visit www.ymcadc.org for more information.

The Mega Fest 2007 Concert

Friday, August 3, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 4, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 5, 4:00 p.m.

Admission

Whether you’re a fan of funk, classic R&B, or blues, MegaFest 2007 hits all the right notes with three solid nights featuring mega music stars, such as Chaka Khan, Con Funk Shun, and Bobby Womack, and more. Friday is Funk Night, when you can see favorites like Denise Williams, Midnight Star, and Carl Carlton. Saturday night offers classic R&B, with live performances by the Emotions, Charlie Wilson, and the Temptations Review. The festival winds down on Sunday with an all-star Blues Night featuring blues greats Roy C, Millie Jackson, Clarence Carter, and Mel Waiters. VIP seating is available. Tickets are available through www.ticketmaster.com and The Show Place Arena box office.

Festival Eritrea

Saturday, August 11, 4:00 p.m.

Admission

There are at least nine different languages spoken in the tiny African nation of Eritrea, a fact that reflects the diversity of this fascinating country. Learn more about the customs, traditions, and history of this nation on the Red Sea at the Festival Eritrea. The festival features live music and performances, cultural exhibits, native foods, and much more. For more information, call 301-952-7999.

Light Up Washington

Wednesday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Admission

Whether you want to grow your business, refinance your home, learn about debt consolidation, improve your health, or network with other local businesses and consumers, Light Up Washington has something for everyone. Bringing together local businesses and residents in Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia, this tradeshow features more than 200 exhibitors offering everything from training seminars, network opportunities, business and consumer discounts, and expert advice. For a complete list of seminars and exhibitors and for information about attending, visit lightupwashington.com.

Fitness Expo/Gospel Fest 2007

Saturday, August 18, 8:00 a.m.

Admission

Hypertension, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, osteoporosis, diabetes, back pain, anxiety, depression, insomnia: these are some of the conditions and diseases that can be eliminated or improved through better physical fitness. On Saturday, August 18, take a step in the right direction and head to the Gospel Fitness Expo. This all-day event features workshops on nutrition and exercise, cooking demonstrations, fitness-related vendors and experts – and even a Boot Camp session with local trainer, Rich the Body Sculptor. Then reward yourself that evening at 8:00 p.m. with a relaxing and inspiring gospel concert, featuring Vickie Winans and some of the industry’s other top performers. For more information, call 301-395-4634. Tickets are available through www.ticketmaster.com and The Show Place Arena box office.

2nd Annual Metropolitan Jazz Festival

Friday, August 31, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 1, 7:00 p.m.

Admission

This Labor Day weekend, stop working and start kicking back to some truly amazing jazz. The 2nd Annual Metropolitan International Jazz Festival offers two nights of exciting entertainment featuring an impressive line-up of contemporary jazz and R&B artists. “This is an event you don’t want to miss,” says event coordinator Emmett Roberts of the Shortcake Entertainment Group. “We’re bringing in some great national acts, with strong local followings.” Tickets are available through www.ticketmaster.com and The Show Place Arena box office.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Calvin Johnson, Equestrian Events Operations Worker

Not much bothers Calvin Johnson: he doesn't mind cleaning up after horses, doesn't mind working weekends, doesn't mind long hours in the summer heat. The Show Place Arena's equestrian events operations worker is about as easy-going as a guy can get. And that may explain why he's still going strong after 26 years on the job.

Calvin grew up in Brandywine, MD, in the southeast corner of Prince George's County. He's spent his life around horses, and though he gets to see all equestrian events at The Show Place Arena, his favorite is barrel racing.

What's the best part of Calvin's job? "I love being outside all day," he says. Worst part? Calvin pauses. "I don't think there is a worst part," he says. "I love my job." In fact, when Calvin retires in another few years, he said he'd like to keep working part-time. "Just weekends, maybe."

But for now, Calvin is content to keep the horse shows running smoothly. The most important lesson he's learned after so many years? "Keep a back-up plan," he says, "Cause stuff always happens. Be ready for anything."

Mark your Calendars

more info, next edition

October 2007

1 – 7 Capital Challenge Horse Show

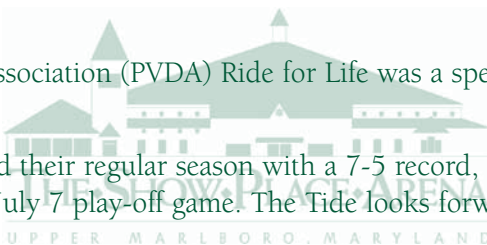
20 – 21 Parelli Natural Horsemanship

26 – 28 Suburban Maryland Fall Home Show

■ ARENA EVENTS ■ ARENA EVENTS ■

SHOW PLACE SHORTS

1. Potomac Valley Dressage Association (PVDA) Ride for Life was a spectacular show – everyone loved those "dancing" horses!
2. The Chesapeake Tide ended their regular season with a 7-5 record, and lost to the #1 Atlantic Division Seed the Rochester Raiders in a July 7 play-off game. The Tide looks forward to another great season next year.



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Schedule of Events

Arena Directions

August 2007

2	YMCA Thingamajig	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
3	Mega Fest: Funk Night	8 p.m.
4-5	Maryland Saddle Association Horse Show	7 a.m.
4	Mega Fest: Classic R&B Night	8 p.m.
5	Mega Fest: Blues Night	4 p.m.
11	Festival Eritrea	4 p.m.
15	Light Up Washington	9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
18	Fitness Expo/Gospel Fest 2007	8 a.m.
18-19	Maryland Saddle Association Horse Show	8 a.m.
25-26	Southern Maryland Horse Show Association	8 a.m.
26	Gospel Spreading Church	5 p.m.
31	International Jazz Festival 2007	7 p.m.

September 2007

1	International Jazz Festival 2007	7 p.m.
6	Prince George's County Fair	4 p.m. – 10 p.m.
7	Prince George's County Fair	5 p.m. – 11 p.m.
8	Prince George's County Fair	11 a.m. – 11 p.m.
9	Prince George's County Fair	11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
13-16	Maryland Horse and Pony Show	8 a.m.
22	Bill Pickett Rodeo	1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
29-30	Capital Challenge Horse Show	8 a.m.

All events are subject to change and are correct at time of printing. Receive updated information by calling our **Events Hotline at 301-952-7999** or visit us on the web: www.showplacearena.com

From Washington
Take I-95 (Washington Capital Beltway) to exit 11A Pennsylvania Avenue South/East (Route 4). Follow for seven miles to Upper Marlboro exit. Turn right at stop sign.

From Baltimore
Take I-695 (Baltimore Beltway) to Route 97 to Route 3. Route 3 turns into Route 301. Continue to exit at Route 4 North/West (toward Washington). Take first exit to stop sign. Turn left and follow to the infield at the Prince George's Equestrian Center.

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