

HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Howard County Summer Restaurant Weeks

Highlights:

- July 18 - August 1, 2016
- Locally owned restaurants serving local produce and meats
- Low, fixed price menus
- Garden to Glass local fruit and produce drinks
- July 19 free Film Festival, farmers market & food demos

<http://HowardCountyRestaurantWeek.com>

Twenty-two locally-owned restaurants will offer fifteen days of fixed price menus showcasing creative meals including Maryland produce and meats.

Ellicott City, MD (July 2016) – Howard County Tourism & Promotion's Howard County Summer Restaurant Weeks runs July 18 – August 1, 2016. Howard County's finest restaurants are serving up savings and locally grown products to help your budget, local farms and the environment. With twenty-two participating restaurants and fifteen days to participate, residents and out-of-town guests will appreciate a chance to visit their favorites and try new restaurants at great prices while supporting local farmers, local breweries, Maryland wineries, and numerous other area food and beverage purveyors. Participating restaurants will offer fixed price chef's menus from \$15.00 to \$45.00 (beverages, tax, gratuity not included, promotions and menus vary) featuring local produce, meats, game, seafood, dairy, herbs, baked goods and more, often paired with Maryland wine or craft beers.

Featured this year are **Garden to Glass drinks**. Many restaurants will showcase a unique beverage that includes fresh garden fare like local herbs, fruits or vegetables. Restaurants may also choose to feature locally produced wine, beer and spirits as a garden to glass drink. Restaurants will feature the libations alongside or include it in their Restaurant Weeks menu. Howard County Tourism & Promotion will highlight the libations on the **HowardCountyRestaurantWeek.com** website and on social media channels where people can vote for their favorite!

Amanda Hof, Director of Community Development for Howard County Tourism & Promotion coordinates the program and adds "we are thrilled to have so many restaurants participating in our summer version of Restaurant Weeks. All the familiar favorites are back. There are also several new restaurants. While most are in Howard County there are a few that are just outside the county. We are happy to have them as their participation adds diversity and more choices for enthusiastic Restaurant Weeks fans and culinary travelers."

"The culinary scene in Howard County is booming - the diversity of food here, and the strength of the farm-to-table movement are one of the biggest reasons we see visitors to Howard County" said Anthony Cordo, Executive Director of Howard County Tourism & Promotion. He added, "its also a huge asset to residents giving them yet another great reason to live here. That's why Howard County Tourism & Promotion is so proud to host Howard County Restaurant Weeks. We encourage everyone to get out and support locally owned restaurants and enjoy the best Howard County has to offer!"

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

An up-to-date list of participating restaurants will be available

at www.HowardCountyRestaurantWeek.com along with behind the scenes YouTube videos of our top chefs preparing their farm-to-table and dock-to-dish feasts.

Participating Restaurants as of July 11, 2016:

*AIDA Bistro & Wine Bar
*The Alehouse Columbia
Alexandra's American Fusion
*Baldwin's Station Restaurant and Pub
*Centre Park Grill
Clyde's of Columbia
Coho Grill
The County Cork Wine Pub
Elkridge Furnace Inn
Grille620
*The Iron Bridge Wine Co.
Kelsey's Irish Pub
The King's Contrivance Restaurant
La Palapa Grill & Cantina
The Melting Pot of Columbia
Nora's Mediterranean Restaurant
Petit Louis Bistro on the Lake
Seasons 52
Stella Notte Restaurant
*Town Grill at Lisbon Citgo Auto Center
Victoria Gastro Pub
Waterside Restaurant at the Sheraton Columbia Town Center
**denotes Film Festival participation*

MEDIA "KICK-OFF" EVENT and 7th ANNUAL FILM FEASTIVAL

The seventh annual Howard County Film Festival will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at Clark's Elioak Farm from 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm. The Festival is a celebration of the local food movement in Howard County highlighting the connection between Howard County farms, restaurants, food producers and the community.

The event serves as a kick-off to Howard County's Summer Restaurant Weeks (July 18 -August 1), the annual food extravaganza when restaurants across Howard County incorporate locally grown products to serve scrumptious farm fresh meals at attractive prices. It will also promote the start of the nine-day Buy Local Maryland Challenge from July 23 - 31st.

The event is a joint effort between Howard County Tourism & Promotion, the Agricultural Marketing Program of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, Clark's Elioak Farm and the University of Maryland Extension, along with media sponsor the Business Monthly newspaper. This year the "Festival" will feature the film "Just Eat It" which focuses on food waste and food rescue. After catching a glimpse of the billions of dollars of good food that is tossed each year in North America, the filmmakers pledge to quit grocery shopping and survive only on foods that would otherwise be thrown away.

The Film Festival begins with an array of delicious farm fresh food samples prepared by several Howard County restaurants. The food samples will be a preview of the dishes the restaurants will offer utilizing locally grown products during Summer Restaurant Weeks. In addition, a Farmer's Market will feature Howard County farm produce and products for sale including Clark's Never Sell the Land Farm 100% grass-fed beef, local cheese, honey, fruits, vegetables and jellies.

There is no cost for the event but a donation will be accepted for Days of Taste, a program that brings together local farmers and local chefs to teach children about cooking and nutrition. Advance registration is required at www.hocofilmfeastival.eventbrite.com. Registration is limited.

TWEETS

Food, farms, films & fun? All this & more at the kick-off for #HoCoRestaurantWeeks at the Film FEASTival! www.howardcountyrestaurantweek.com/events

Howard County Restaurant Weeks is back! Savor the season, July 18 – August 1, 2016.
#HoCoRestaurantWeeks www.howardcountyrestaurantweek.com/

Tourism WORKS for HOWARD COUNTY, MD!

10,000 employed in County's Tourism industry (1 in 8 Nationally, 131,000 in Maryland)

35,000 visitors in Welcome Center (from 50 states, 18 countries, 3 territories)

\$16M in tax receipts reinvested to maintain County's citizens' nationally recognized quality of life

Howard County Tourism & Promotion

Howard County Tourism & Promotion (501c6 not-for-profit) is recognized by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland and funded by a legislated 2% of the county hotel tax, granted through Howard County Government. Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique location, sites, services, products and people. We are the first and foremost source of information on all that is wonderful about visiting and living in Howard County, Maryland.

www.VisitHowardCounty.com

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