

Allegany Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee Wednesday, December 17, 2014

CACIF – JEFF MCKENZIE

- Meeting with City Administrator to discuss the Strategic Economic Development plan that was completed.
- Finalizing PACE.

EDUCATION/WORKFORCE TRAINING - ONE STOP JOB -PAUL SMITH/ACM – BECKY RUPPERT

- The Allegany County One Stop Job Center, a member of Maryland's American Job Centers, during the month of December celebrates the 10th anniversary of the collocation (under one roof) of partner agencies that provide access to FREE resources that are offered to job seekers and to businesses, by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation utilizing the Maryland Workforce Exchange system. The Allegany County One Stop partners look forward to the continuation of programs and services offered through the newly authorized national legislation-the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES – DBED - VICKIE SWINK

- **RISE Zone Program Application Announcement** - DBED is now accepting application for new RISE Zone Program from higher education institutions and targeted nonprofits. RISE - Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise - was created this year to leverage the economic development potential of colleges and universities. It creates areas around or connected to the institutions in which relocating or expanding businesses can take advantage of special State benefits. RISE has a two-stage application process. In the first stage, higher education institutions, regional higher education centers, and nonprofits associated with federal agencies can apply to DBED to be certified as qualified RISE institutions. Applications for the first stage are being accepted now. Once qualified, institutions partner with their county or city government to apply to DBED to create the Zone itself. The second round of applications will be accepted starting July 1, 2015. Businesses that move into or expand significantly in RISE Zones will benefit from local real property and income tax credits as well as priority consideration for other State incentive programs. RISE is also funding the creation of a business concierge position within DBED to direct RISE Zone businesses to other State programs that could benefit them. The Zones will be in effect for five years and could potentially be renewed for five additional years. For additional information visit our website at www.business.maryland.gov or contact Regional Representative, Vickie Swink at vickie.swink@maryland.gov or 301-722-0054.

HEALTHCARE/WELLNESS - BARRY RONAN (WMHS)/AMY SCHWAB-OWENS (LIFE FITNESS MANAGEMENT)

- Sierra Wigfield explained the Allegany County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan at the monthly meeting of the Make Healthy Choices Easy. The group is contemplating how to best support this initiative and garner local support.
- The State received a 1422 grant from the CDC which will focus on diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Allegany/Garrett is one of the targeted areas. Funds will support 1 FTE early next year and the project will involve environmental and policy changes as well as prevention. The grant term is 4 years. It was noted that the pre-diabetes program being considered by the YMCA is not linked with this CDC grant, but in the local budget there may be some funds for non-personnel support.
- Make Healthy Choices Easy established a Facebook page to promote wellness initiatives.

TRAILS - BILL ATKINSON

- Final trail counts are done for the year Allegany counts were over 80,000 and trail wide near 900,000 an increase of 12% from last year.
- Mountain Maryland Trails was awarded a Recreational Trails Grant for \$20,000 to provide improved signage at Canal Place, Cash Valley and Woodcock Hollow. MMT will be providing the \$5,000 match for the grant.
- The City of Cumberland received a Recreational Trails Grant to improve signage from the Downtown area and parking areas to the Trail Head at Canal Place.
- Allegany County received a Recreational Trails Grant to purchase maintenance equipment for use along the trail.
- The City of Frostburg has put out a request for proposals for a major upgrade to their trail head at New Hope Road. The improvements will include a new Pavilion, benches, water fountain, bike repair station and signage anticipate construction in Spring 2015.
- MMT is working with the Allegany Arts Council to develop a plan for Art Along the Trail.