

**Allegany Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, February 18, 2015**

ALLEGANY COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – CHRIS SLOAN/SANDI SAVILLE

- The Allegany Arts Council, CASA, the DDC and the City's Economic Development Office are finalizing plans for a Cumberland Comes Alive Weekend on June 5-7th. The weekend will include a Wine and Art Train Friday evening to attend a Plein Air (painting outside in the air) paint-out in Frostburg, music on the Bricks that night in downtown Cumberland, the annual Plein Air Quick Draw from 10-1 in Historic Town Center, a commercial Open House for realtors to show buildings for sale or lease in the downtown area from 11-3, CASA Uncorked wine tasting from 11-7, another music event on the downtown stage that evening, and a private Collector's Reception at the Arts Council from 5-7 with a public reception from 7-9. Sunday will feature a painting demonstration by the Plein Air judge, nationally recognized Plein Air painter, Stewart White. This is a collaborative attempt to bring tourists to Cumberland for the weekend and also to showcase our commercial real estate.

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

- The implementation of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is to begin July 1, 2015. One major change between the current law, the Workforce Investment Act and the new WIOA legislation is an increase attention to be paid to youth services. Currently under WIA the expenditure rates for youth is 30% of all youth program dollars must be spent on out of school youth (dropouts and graduates) with 70% of the funding to be spent on in school youth (high school students targeted for academic skill gains and providing incentives to graduate from high school). Under WIOA the funding percentages change to 75% for out of school youth and 25% for in school youth. A major factor that stimulated this change in the new law is the statistical data that documents the high unemployment rate nationwide in the 16 to 24 age groups, that include high school dropouts, high school graduates and recent college graduates (unemployed college grads may increase the number of defaults on student loans). WIOA will target those young people that are in need of assistance to become productive members of the world of work.

CITY OF FROSTBURG – LIZ STAHLMAN

- Community Legacy Funding Award FY 2015 Announced, Frostburg: \$25k Façade Program, \$75K Upper Story Program, \$50K Frostburg Museum Building Re-Use.
- SHIFT Ribbon Cutting ceremony – 2/17 at 5:15 pm.
- New financing opportunity for local food related businesses, through Maryland's Fresh Food Financing Initiative (new for 2015).

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

- In addition to its new *Kindergarten Garden Discovery* program which focuses on growing and eating healthy food and will be piloted at Mount Savage School in the fall, the Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation and its partners are developing a *Harvest Exploration* program for Head Start pre-K children who are at an age when they begin to formulate attitudes and tastes that will last their entire lives. This new program, which is based on USDA's "*Grow It, Try It, Like It*" module for pre-K, will teach children how food grows, introduce new foods and flavors, and promote healthy eating.