

**Allegany Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, January 21, 2015**

ALLEGANY COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – CHRIS SLOAN/SANDI SAVILLE

- The Allegany Arts Council has just completed a grant application for an NEA Our Town grant, which is a special grant dedicated to Creative Placemaking projects. This grant seeks funding to erect a Large metal bell tower with three golden faces surrounded by moving bicycle parts. Hopefully this will be placed just across the bridge leading from Baltimore Street to the GAP. It will be large enough to be seen from 68, the train, the trail and downtown. The sculpture would be named the Rite of Passage and would help connect the towns of Cumberland and Frostburg, which has smaller companion pieces, by the same sculptor, at their GAP trail head.

CACIF – JEFF MCKENZIE

- PACE Reception January 22-23, 2015, Annapolis, Maryland

CUMBERLAND DDC – JENNIFER LIGHT/SANDI SAVILLE

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

- On December 17, 2014 Governor-elect Hogan announced that Kelly M. Schulz will serve his administration as the Secretary for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. The new federal workforce legislation, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), mandates strong guidance from the Governor of each state as to how the new law will be implemented beginning July 1, 2015.

CITY OF FROSTBURG – LIZ STAHLMAN

- Continued partnership with the City of Cumberland through the Municipal Economic Development Cooperative.
- Braddock Road Safety and Improvement project – Significant progress in 2014, interest expressed in Commercial Real Estate that will be made available through newly constructed SHA approved access road. Construction anticipated in 2015.
- City Zoning Ordinance passed in 2014 provides for small commercial businesses in the neighborhoods adjacent to FSU. Addition of an Infill Overlay Zone provides options for redevelopment with increased density.
- City pursuing new municipal parking lot, at site of current St. Michael's Parish Hall on First Street. Subject to Maryland Historical Trust requirements.
- Frostburg Enterprise Zone renewed and expanded Dec. 15, 2014 – Dec 14, 2024.
- Implementation of RISE Zone legislation expected in 2015, the City will support FSU's application.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES – DBED - VICKIE SWINK

- **Governor Elect Hogan Announces New DBED Secretary** - Mr. Robert Michael Gill, also known as Mike, has been named Secretary of Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development. Mr. Gill has spent a significant part of his 32-year business career developing and implementing business strategies in a number of industry sectors, including information technology and wireless communications. He joined IBM in 1974 where he spent seven successful years in sales and marketing. He joined Ernst & Young in 1981 as Director of Data Systems; and in 1983 became Regional Manager for American Teleservices, the majority shareholder of Cellular One. He oversaw the start-up of the first sales organization in the nation's capital. One year later he founded AMERICOM, providing cellular products and services to businesses in the Maryland area. He remained with Solectron as Vice President for Business Development until 2003, when he founded Hoyt Capital, a small investment firm providing capital and business advice to start-up and existing enterprises. Since 2006, he served as Executive Chairman and Board Member of Baltimore-based Bluefire Security Technologies, Inc., a developer of security software for wireless mobile devices, PDAs and smartphones. His Board and committee service have also included Baltimore County Economic Development Commission, Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce, the GBMC Foundation Board, the Bank of Maryland, Chairman of the Towson University Board of Visitors, and member of the Notre Dame Preparatory Board of Trustees. He is the Chairman of Advisory Board at Evergreen Advisors, LLC. He has been Director of Bay National Corporation and Bay National Bank since March 28, 2006. He has been Member the board of Corporate Printing Solutions, a public company; and serves as Chairman of Curtis Engine. In July 2004, he was appointed by Governor to a five-year term on the Board of Regents for the University System of Maryland. He serves as Chair of the Audit Committee and is also Treasurer of the board of Regents. In 1996, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Towson University. In May of 2005, he received Towson University's Distinguished Alumnus Award and in October 2005, became an Honorary Member of the Towson University chapter of the international business society, Beta Gamma Sigma. Recently, he was named to the President's Advisory Board at Clemson University. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Towson University in 1974, after first attending Clemson University on a baseball scholarship.
- **Startup Maryland Supports Fosterly COLLABORATE -- The Innovator's Conference in Washington DC, January 23 and 24** - Startup Maryland is delighted to be in the Resource Expo showcasing our initiatives around Celebration, Connections, Coaching and Capital.," stated Michael Binko, founder and president of Startup Maryland. "We'll be highlighting the results of the third-annual [Pitch Across Maryland](#), our upcoming [Raise Your Game](#) bootcamp for entrepreneurs and our plans to engage side-line angel investors across the region," added Binko. At Collaborate, you will be joining a stellar assembly of hundreds of innovators and entrepreneurs from organizations like Google X, Twitter, Github, Facebook, Alibaba, Makerbot, NASA, GSA, the White House and more for two days of engaging conversation and hands-on learning. Collaborate will feature over 120 speakers from across sectors including Tom Chi (Google X co-founder), Megan Smith (Chief Technology Officer of the United States of America), Dr. Robert Griffin (Deputy Undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security) and many others. You can check out the impressive speakers here: <http://collaborate.fosterly.com/speakers/>. Register for Collaborate at <http://collaborate.fosterly.com/registration> and use the code "STARTUPMD" to save 20%.
- **Comments on Proposed Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Regulations Accepted Through February 9th** - Proposed oil and gas exploration and production regulations have been published in the January 9, 2015 edition of the Maryland Register. The Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative portion of MDE's website is now updated with a link to the proposed regulation

on oil and gas exploration and production. The website also includes the "Pennsylvania Guidelines for Administering Oil and Gas Activity on State Forest Lands," which the proposed regulation incorporates by reference in proposed 26.19.01.02A, and refers to in proposed 26.19.01.26B. Comments may be sent to Brigid Kenney, Senior Policy Advisor, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21234-1720, or call (410) 537-3084 or email to brigid.kenney@maryland.gov or fax to (410) 537-3888. Comments will be accepted through February 9, 2015. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

- **New Maryland Historic Preservation Tax Credit Available for Small Commercial Property Owners** - Small commercial property owners take note: Apply now for a state tax credit to renovate your old buildings. The Maryland Sustainable Communities Tax Credit-Small Commercial program supports historic rehabilitation on a small scale, funding projects such as roof repair, façade replacement, refinishing floors and restoring windows. The new tax credit exclusively for small commercial property owners became available January 1, following action last year by the Maryland General Assembly expanding the 19-year program. Administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, the tax credit program encourages historic rehabilitation to preserve Maryland history as well as support older communities across the state. Often, historic districts serve as a lynchpin for the success of towns, cities and suburban centers. For that reason, to be eligible, small commercial projects must be located in a designated Sustainable Community. Small commercial property owners may receive a 20 percent tax credit up to \$50,000 for projects that are under \$500,000 in eligible costs. Tax credit applications need to be submitted and approved before project work begins. The state small commercial tax credit may be used with federal and local historic tax credits. The small commercial program adds to the existing Homeowner Tax Credit Program and Competitive Commercial Tax Credit Program, which have been credited with creating jobs, enhancing values of nearby properties and transforming neglected neighborhoods.
- **SBA Government Contracting Classroom** - Did you know the federal government buys nearly \$100 billion worth of goods and services from small businesses each year? Government contracts can offer significant opportunities for small businesses, but selling to the government requires a very different approach than selling to the commercial sector. SBA has created a series of free online contracting courses designed to help prospective and existing small businesses understand the basics about contracting with government agencies. Whether you are just getting started or looking for ways to compete in the government contracting marketplace, the courses below are for you. These self-paced courses include audio and take about 30 minutes to complete. You can exit a course at any time. Before entering a course, you may be prompted to complete a registration form, which includes a few short questions and takes less than a minute. To learn more visit <https://www.sba.gov/gcclassroom>.

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

- The Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation and its partners, including Allegany County Public Schools, the Western Maryland Health System, and Life Fitness Management, are developing a *Kindergarten Garden Discovery* program that will provide experiential learning on food and nutrition, teaching children and their families about how food grows and how to prepare healthy snacks and meals. This program, which includes gardens in the schoolyard and window box gardens for families, will be piloted at Mount Savage School in the fall.
- Make Healthy Choices Easy, a group of community partners collaborating to support healthy choices and physical activity among children and adults, has launched a Facebook page to inform the community of local wellness initiatives. The page can be found in Facebook under

"Make Healthy Choices Easy" and is a useful community resource for upcoming community events and wellness information.

- The Frostburg Community Coalition received the Drug Free Communities Grant in October 2014. This large, highly-competitive federal grant is giving the Coalition more access to support to deter alcohol and marijuana use and abuse by youth and teens in Frostburg, MD. For a copy of our press release announcing this award, please see <http://www.frostburg.edu/home/news/university-news-portal/frostburg-state-university-achieves-federal-drug-free-communities-grant/>.
- Bridges to Opportunity (a community wide approach to ending poverty in our region): Interested in helping everyone in the community Get Ahead instead of Just Getting By? There are five workgroups: Policy, Mentoring, Youth Engagement, Resource Building, and Getting Ahead/Engagement of All. Call 240-964-8422 or email nforlifer@wmhs.com
- Do you or a loved one have a chronic disease and want to improve your health? The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a six-week course designed for anyone who is living with a chronic condition and wants to meet others who have similar concerns, improve their health behaviors, enhance communication skills with physicians, and learn self-management skills. Each participant may bring a family member or friend to the class. For details on this free program, call 240-964-8424.

BILL ATKINSON

- C&O Canal proposing user fees public hearing January 29th 6:30 pm at Western Maryland Train Station.
- Next edition of Trail Book now being prepared any business interested in advertising in the book should contact Gail Hall at mountainsidebikes@gmail.com.