

**Allegany Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Committee
Wednesday, November 19, 2014**

ALLEGANY COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – CHRIS SLOAN

- **Creative Placemaking Initiative**
The Arts Council is continuing its efforts to focus the arts community on using the arts for economic revitalization. This is done by making this area an arts destination where artists come to live and work and tourists come to experience and enjoy. There continues to be great interest in this effort from the arts community and we are making progress on specific initiatives.

- **Plein Air Event**
The Arts Council is promoting the Mountain Maryland Plein Air Event (June 2-7) as one of its premier annual events. We expect more entries from artists this year as well as more attendance from out-of-town guests. We will be working closely with Tourism, the DDC, and CASA to coordinate efforts on that weekend.

- **S.T.E.A.M. Initiative**
The Arts Council is generating great interest in its plan to link the arts to science through a mobile learning lab called the S.T.E.A.M. Bus. The arts put the "A" into STEM education. Numerous local partners will participate in creating a sustainable plan for the program, which is seen as an important component for workforce development in our region.

CACIF – JEFF MCKENZIE

- CACIF is gearing up for PACE

CITY OF CUMBERLAND – SHAWN HERSHBERGER

- Economic Development Strategic Plan available for review online
- Incubation Feasibility Study consultant recommendation made; work should begin during first week of December
- 2014 CDBG Community Needs Survey available at www.ci.cumberland.md.us, please take time to fill this out
- Maryland Economic Development Association held it's Fall Conference at Rocky Gap on October 26-27
- Attended the International Economic Development Council's Annual Conference for education and site selector meetings
- "Unique Boutique" opened on Centre Street
- Cady Kirkwood has been hired on a temporary basis to serve as the Economic Development Assistant

CUMBERLAND DDC – JENNIFER LIGHT/SANDI SAVILLE

- Downtown Cumberland Tree Lighting - Friday, November 28 at 7 pm
- Small Business Saturday - Saturday, Nov. 29. #shopsmall
- Breakfast with Santa - Saturdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20. Times and locations vary
- Visits with Santa - Saturdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20 at the Book Center from 1-3 pm
- Moonlight Madness - Thursday, Dec. 11. Shop downtown from 5-10 pm
- New Year's Eve Celebration - Wednesday Dec. 31. Music, Ball Drop and Fireworks

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

- The Allegany County One Stop Job Center will host an industry specific Health Care Provider Job Fair on Thursday November 20, 2014 from 9am to noon at the Job Center 128 Baltimore St. Suite 102 Cumberland. Potential employers include: Allegany Nursing and Rehabilitation, Comfort Keeper, Dawnview Center, Devlin Manor, Frostburg Village, Golden Living Center, Goodwill Retirement Community, Moran Manor, Optimal Health Care, ProCare Home Health Providers, Rest Assured Living Center and Tender Loving Home Care. Hiring for the following positions: Certified Nursing Assistant, Geriatric Nursing Assistants, Registered Nurses, In Home Nursing Assistants, Geriatric Nursing Assistants, Registered Nurses, In Home Nursing Assistants and Support Staff.

CITY OF FROSTBURG – LIZ STAHLMAN

- New Business: *Shift*, 39 S. Broadway – Farm to Table Restaurant, owner Jess Clay.
- Frostburg Industrial Park Subdivision approved by Frostburg Planning Commission.
- Small Business Saturday – November 29, City partner in marketing.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES – DBED - VICKIE SWINK

- **City of Cumberland Economic Development Strategic Plan**
Now available for public review/comment. Take time to review the Executive Summary or detail of the entire Plan by visiting <http://www.choosecumberland.org/economic-development-strategy-report/>
- **RESI Economic Outlook Conference - 11/17/2014**
Maryland's Economic Forecast & the Economic Impact of the Craft Brewing Industry in Maryland
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The Economic Outlook Conference (EOC) is RESI's premier event. Started in 1995, the EOC focuses on the opportunities and threats associated with Maryland's economy, and features economy-driven panel discussions and notable speakers from Maryland. Dr. Daraius Irani, Executive Director of RESI, chairs the EOC and presents the annual economic forecast for the region. 2014 Conference Highlights: Release of 2015 Economic Forecast for Maryland; Networking with over 200 policy, economic development, and brewing professionals, entrepreneurs, and enthusiasts; Short screenings of Brewmore | Baltimore – a recently released

documentary chronicling the rich history of the beer industry in Baltimore; A look at economics and the beer industry with Chief Economist of the National Beer Wholesalers Association in Washington, DC, Lester Jones; An optional beer tasting with Heavy Seas. For more Information <http://www.towson.edu/innovation/conference/> and to register Phone: [410-704-2415](tel:410-704-2415) or Email: innovation@towson.edu.

- **Invest Maryland Challenge 2014**

The InvestMaryland Challenge is a national seed and early-stage business competition hosted by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development and Inc. Magazine. The Challenge will award \$400,000 in grants and a host of business services to companies in the life sciences and high tech industries. Grants are provided by the Department's Maryland Venture Fund and BioMaryland Center. All categories are open to Maryland, U.S. And International companies. In addition, companies have the opportunity to receive direct investments from venture capital firms and angel investors.

The competition is for independent ventures in the seed, start-up, or early-growth stages. The company must be a duly-organized legal entity and in good standing with the state in which they are legally registered. Sole proprietorships are not eligible. Non-Maryland winning ventures are expected to establish a place of business in the state either through acquired space or a state incubator. At least 51% of the grant money must be spent within the state. Entrants can only apply for one category. A non-refundable \$99 application fee required. Subject to other requirements. **DEADLINE TO APPLY - December 12, 2014.** For additional information visit <http://www.investmarylandchallenge.org>

- **Advanced Manufacturing Survey 2014**

The Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development has released the 2014 Advanced Manufacturing Survey. Check out all the latest facts and stats regarding the Manufacturing Industry Sector in Maryland and learn more about what Advanced Manufacturing means to Maryland.

<http://business.maryland.gov/Documents/ResearchDocument/manufacturingSurveyFinal.pdf>

- **NEW WEBSITES!**

Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development – NEW WEBSITE – DBED has revamped its website. This user friendly site can help you better understand opportunities available through the State to support businesses. www.business.maryland.gov

- Western Maryland Small Business Development Center – NEW WEBSITE - Come check out the new website and learn how SBDC can help grow and support the development of your business. http://marylandsbdc.org/western/index_western.php

- City of Cumberland Economic Development - NEW WEBSITE - The City of Cumberland's Economic Development Office has created their own website specifically geared to assist with Business Attraction, Retention and overall Business Development. Check it out at www.choosecumberland.org

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

- Life Fitness Management, 1226 National Highway, LaVale, MD will hold their celebration of artists and farmers on Friday December 5th from 4-9pm and Saturday December 6th from 9am-2pm. This event is intended to provide a venue for local artists to honor and promote their talents and products through a fun shopping event. It is open to the public free of charge.
- A yearlong Make Healthy Choices Easy Worksite Challenge will be culminating in December with a posting of participating worksites and prize winners. Businesses interested in the 2015 initiative should call 240-964-8422.

TRAILS - BILL ATKINSON

- Counts again were up over 12%.
- Yearly totals will be available next month Counters will be removed in the next week and placed back up in March or April.
- Group of tourism and trail professional from Canada visited the GAP for the third year to gather information on the economic impact the trail has on the region.
- Trail Art Sculptures along the switch backs in Frostburg were dedicated.