



The CHAMBER



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



Executive Director

A new year brings the opportunity to look ahead at what's in store. There are quite a few things happening in our community that have been underway for what seems like a very long time, but 2022 is what we've been waiting on. In these few frozen months before spring, final details are being put into place before some significant projects start moving forward and from a growth and improvement standpoint, it's exciting to watch unfold. Not to be left out, the Chamber will also soon begin some improvement projects. We were recently awarded a grant from **Preservation Maryland** that will go toward the replacement and repair aspects of our hidden gutter system at the Bell Tower Building. It's time to say goodbye to the decorative buckets in our windows, and we hope this is just the beginning of some much-needed restorations.

The membership elected four new members to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in December, including **Ahmad Ahmad**, Rocky Gap Casino Resort, **Catie Brenneman**, AHEC West, **Marisa Bowen Miller**, IBM, and **Seth Sgaggero**, Sgaggero Event Planning. **Robert Godfrey**, UPMC Western Maryland, and **Mary Jane Marker**, R. H. Lapp and Sons were both reelected for a second term. New officers were also elected and include **Robert Godfrey** as Chairman, **James Crowder**, First Energy Corporation as first vice chair, and **Parika Andreassen**, Hampton Inn Frostburg, as second vice chair. **Nicole Wigfield**, Sky-

packet Networks will continue as immediate past chairwoman in 2022. The leadership of the Chamber will come together after the first of the year for its annual strategic planning session, at which time specific goals will be outlined for 2022.

Now one full year into serving as your Executive Director, I can honestly tell you that walking into this role at the beginning of 2021 during uncertain times was slightly terrifying as I pondered how we could safely get back to doing what we do. With health and safety always at top of mind, we managed, and in some ways, the Chamber stood as a leading example. To those who stepped out with us, thank you, and to those who are not quite ready, we miss you, and respect your decision to hold back a bit longer, but we hope to see you very soon!

At the end of 2020, we reflected on resilience, not only among ourselves, but as a community. *Resilience* was a word used to describe our circumstances and *resilient* were those who continued to show up and keep going. Now, at the end of 2021, *perseverance* is our focus. Whether professionally or personally, it's the only way to overcome the challenges we will undoubtedly face and to reach the goals we set.

There is so much to look forward to in 2022 and you won't want to miss out!

Happy New Year!

Juli McCoy
Executive Director

JANUARY 2022

Volume XL No. 1
Bell Tower Building
Cumberland, MD 21502

*Happy
New Year*

January Calendar

January 5

8:00 am
Membership Committee Meeting
Hybrid

9:15 am
Golf Committee Meeting
Hybrid

January 10

Noon
Leadership Allegany! Alumni Mtg.
Hybrid

January 13

8:00 am
Education Committee Meeting
Allegany College of MD

9:30 am
Leadership Allegany! Rising Mtg.
Hybrid

January 18

8:00 am
Leadership Allegany! Steering
Committee Meeting
Hybrid

January 19

8:00 am
Economic Development
Committee Meeting
Hybrid

January 24

Noon
Marketing Committee Meeting
Hybrid

February 2

8:00 am
Membership Committee Meeting
Hybrid

2021 Holiday Reception Memories



**Ugly Sweater Contest Winner:
Tom Ruppert**



Special Thanks To Our Sponsors

Pictured from the left:

Jonathan Frye, Jonathan Frye State Farm Insurance
Jonathan Dayton, Mountain Laurel Medical Center
Rune Andreassen, Hampton Inn
Parika Andreassen, Hampton Inn
Kristan Carter, The Toasted Goat
Donny Carter, The Toasted Goat
Amy Shillingburg, Rusco Home Improvement
Juli McCoy, Chamber of Commerce

Absent when the photo was taken were representatives from AT&T, Allegany Museum, Hunter Douglas, R. H. Lapp & Sons, and Long and Foster Real Estate.



For over 120 years, we have believed that it is our role to understand local businesses. At First United, you are not just a number, you are the heart and soul of our community who deserves financial advisors that know you and knows your business. Switch to First United today to experience what it means to work with a true community partner. Visit our website or give us a call to let us know how we can help. You'll be glad you did.

**Join us in congratulating Brandi Rice on her appointment to the
Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors!**



[MyBank.com/understands](https://www.MyBank.com/understands)



Chamber Elects New Officers for 2022

Pictured left to right:

James Crowder, *First Vice Chairman*

Nicole Wigfield, *Past Chairwoman*

Parika Andreassen, *Second Vice Chairwoman*

Juli McCoy, *Executive Director*

Robert Godfrey, *Chairman of the Board of Directors*



Items Needed For New Member Welcome Bags

The Chamber's Membership Committee is in the process of putting together items to include in a welcome bag to be distributed to new

members joining the Chamber. We would like the gift bag to include a variety of items such as coffee mugs, coupons, trinkets, and unique ad specialty items (such as pens, clocks, mouse pads, etc.)

If your business has an interest in welcoming new members to the Chamber by inclusion of your items in the new member welcome bag please contact the Chamber office at 301-722-2820 or by e-mail to peg@alleganycountychamber.com. To accommodate the number of new members joining the Chamber in the coming year we ask that you provide a quantity of 25 items to be included in the welcome bag.

Allegany County Chamber of Commerce



NETWORKING AT ITS BEST!

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting its members!! Our "Chamber After Hours" is just one of the many programs available for you to showcase your business, product or service.

It is a great opportunity for networking and having some fun!

It's easy to host a "Chamber After Hours" event. Hosting can be done by one business or several businesses can join forces and host together. Contact the office today (301-722-2820) for details – openings for 2022 are now available.

LEADERSHIP *Allegany! Alumni* SPOTLIGHT



Christine Funk

The **Leadership Allegany!** Alumni Committee is proud to “spotlight” a **Leadership Allegany!** alum quarterly in the Chamber e-newsletter. The alumni member is asked to answer a few questions about how their personal and/or professional life has been impacted by their **Leadership Allegany!** experience.

The **Leadership Allegany!** Alumni Spotlight series this quarter highlights the Class of 2000 and we are proud to introduce you to class member **Christine Funk**.

What is your current role/title?

Christine Funk
Business Development Loan Officer
Tri-County Council for Western Maryland

What is your favorite memory from your Leadership Allegany! experience?

While it is difficult to pick one favorite memory from my **Leadership Allegany!** experience, my most fondness was the canoe trip down the Potomac River. Actually, my first time in a canoe. At first, I was scared, two people who really didn't know each other maneuvering a canoe down a river, but as we moved along, it became a great team building time with lots of laughs. The biggest laugh was two of the other classmates canoeing ahead of our canoe and they capsized. At first, it was OMG they are in the river, but when we found out the water was only knee deep in that area and they both stood up, we all laughed so hard and the laughs kept coming when we found out it was Tom and Jerry.

How did Leadership Allegany! impact you professionally or personally?

Both professional and personally, **Leadership Allegany!** had a huge impact. I was switching positions in my banking career from Credit Analyst to a Commercial Relationship Manager. **Leadership Allegany!** enhanced my confidence in social situations and networking opportunities. Besides learning about my fellow classmates, it also gave me a better understanding of the local, county and state areas through the monthly classes focusing on specific topics. I truly appreciated the diverse nature of those that attended and the chance to learn more about their lives and to share more about myself. The program was a great opportunity to meet

new people, to establish friendships and future business relationships and to make a difference in Allegany County. In addition, the program helped me develop my communication skills, delegate, and better manage several tasks and deadlines at once. If you are looking for a program that will enhance your connections in the community and deepen your network of trusted business colleagues, **Leadership Allegany!** is the opportunity of a lifetime.

What do you want people to know about the Leadership Allegany! Program?

The **Leadership Allegany!** program builds relationships with your classmates, individuals from all types of businesses and organizations throughout the state and local area. You learn things about your community you would have not known. Another important relationship you develop is with the Chamber. For example, during my banking career, I needed to organize a Community Reinvestment seminar. The Chamber was instrumental in assisting me with organizing and hosting the event. I can't say enough wonderful comments about our Allegany County Chamber leadership. The Chamber is dedicated to the growth and success of our business community and the local economy.

Describe a rewarding moment in your career?

My career in banking, including commercial lending has been assisting small business in Allegany County achieve their goals and to be successful. Small businesses are the bread and butter of our economic success. I have been assisting small business for over 23 years with the last two through Tri-County Council for Western Maryland (TCCWMD) gain access to capital and secure financing for business acquisition and expansion, purchase of owner occupied commercial real estate, lease-hold improvements, purchase of equipment and working capital. More importantly, I have seen first-hand the struggles our businesses have endured due to the COVID-19 pandemic. TCCWMD is a regionally focused economic partner committed to helping the region respond to this unprecedented challenge by providing capital through the CARES revolving loan fund to help businesses across Western Maryland respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

2022 Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN

Robert A. Godfrey
UPMC Western Maryland

SECOND VICE CHAIRWOMAN

Parika M. Andreassen
Hampton Inn Frostburg

FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN

James S. Crowder
FirstEnergy Corporation

PAST CHAIRWOMAN

Nicole R. Wigfield
Skypacket Networks, Inc.

Ahmad H. Ahmad
Rocky Gap Casino Resort

Catie M. Brenneman
AHEC West

Patrick W. Buck
CBIZ Insurance Services

Kristan S. Carter
The Toasted Goat

Robert W. Collette, Jr.
Cumberland Healthcare Center

Christina J. Mallow
Berry Global

Mary Jane Marker
R. H. Lapp and Sons

Marisa Bowen Miller
IBM

Kristi N. Minnigh
The Kristi Agency

Dr. Ronald H. Nowaczyk
Frostburg State University

Brandi L. Rice
First United Bank and Trust

Rebecca L. Ruppert
Allegany College of Maryland

Seth A. Sgaggero
Sgaggero Event Planning

Debra J. Shaffer
City Lights American Grill and Bar

Julie B. Westendorff
Allegany Arts Council



New Member

(Patronize this member and welcome them to the Chamber)

Ella J. Holly

173 S. Water Street
Frostburg, Maryland 21532
240-920-9283
www.curtisandgrammykindkids.com
Contact: Ella J. Holly
E-mail: ella@ejhollyvoices.com
Category: Individual

Mark Your Calendars 2022 Events



Sixth Annual Golf Outing
Friday, May 6, 2022



Lucky Ladies Night Out
Friday, June 10, 2022

Crab Feast
Friday, August 5, 2022



Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday,
December 1, 2022



The
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ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

The Chamber News is published monthly by
the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

www.alleganycountychamber.com

Juli R. McCoy, Executive Director

Allegany County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Officers

Chairman: Robert A. Godfrey

First Vice Chairman: James S. Crowder

Second Vice Chairwoman: Parika M. Andreassen

Immediate Past Chairwoman: Nicole R. Wigfield