



The CHAMBER



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD



Executive Director

There has been so much happening as we emerge from our winter bubble into event and program planning for the Chamber. First up is our **6th Annual Golf Outing** on May 6. Thank you to our current Gold sponsors **ABC Supply Company, AT&T, Cintas, Rocky Gap Casino Resort** and **UPMC Western Maryland**, and our Silver sponsors: **DelFest** and **Timbrook Automotive**.

Right around the corner is **Lucky Ladies Night Out**, scheduled for Friday, June 10. This event is open to the public and reservations can now be made for an early-bird price through May 27. More details are included on page 3. Thank you to **Bella, LLC, City Lights, Fore Axes, Homespire Mortgage, The Kristi Agency, and Sgaggero Event Planning** for sponsorship.

Earlier this month we held a ribbon cutting for **Startup Portal**, which has recently opened on Centre Street in Cumberland. The company offers coworking space, a small conference room, and hot desks. Our **Chamber After Hours** was held at **Horizon Goodwill** in Frostburg where we are starting to see an increase in attendance, which makes for a great networking event. Next up is **First United Bank** at Centre City in Cumberland on May 18, 5:30-7:30.

Our **Economic Development Committee** took things on the road in April and toured Western Maryland Works in LaVale. The makerspace and training center is a superb facility, both for young people looking to establish themselves in a trade, and for

individuals who want to explore new opportunities as entrepreneurs or a try a new career. If you are someone who would love to experiment with a new hobby, you definitely need to stay tuned to how they will make the makerspace portion of the facility available to the public.

The **2022 Legislative Session** wrapped up on Monday, April 11 with the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program passing, which will provide additional funds to makerspace programs across the state. Additionally, the **Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund** was established to push millions of dollars in economic investment into the three most-western counties of the state. With the session behind us, the **Legislative Committee** will now begin focusing on candidate forums, which will take place in June to accommodate the later primary elections. These will be both recorded and open to the public and we will make official announcements about this in the coming weeks. We will host a candidate forum for the **City of Frostburg** on Monday, May 9 at 7pm at the Frostburg Municipal Building. This, too, will be in person and on social media. If you wish to submit questions for this forum, please email me by Wednesday, May 4. Coming up on Friday, May 13 is our **Legislative Wrap-Up Luncheon**; the public is welcome to attend and can call 301-722-2820 for more information.

The **Leadership Allegany! Steering Committee** held its annual planning session to begin recruiting for the Class of 2023. An official application will be available soon and those interested in more information can contact the Chamber.

Our **Education Committee** had the joy of partnering with the **Cumberland Rotary Club** to present the **2022 Outstanding**

continued on last page

MAY 2022

Volume XL No. 5
Bell Tower Building
Cumberland, MD 21502

May Calendar

May 4

8:00 am
Membership Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

May 6

Chamber Golf Outing
Cumberland Country Club

May 9

Noon
Leadership Allegany!
Alumni Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

7:00 pm
Candidate Forum
Frostburg Municipal Building

May 12

8:00 am
Education Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

May 13

11:30 am
Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon
Cumberland Country Club

May 17

8:00 am
Leadership Allegany!
Steering Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

May 18

8:00 am
Economic Development
Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

1:00 pm
Leadership Allegany!
Rising Committee Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

5:30 – 7:30 pm
“Chamber After Hours”
First United Bank and Trust

May 20

Noon
Marketing Committee
Chamber Boardroom

May 23

3:00 pm
Local Business Showcase Com. Mtg.
Chamber Boardroom

May 26

Noon
Board of Directors Meeting
Chamber Boardroom

Golf Outing

Friday, May 6, 2022

Cumberland Country Club

"Chamber After Hours"

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Hosted by
First United Bank and Trust
Center City Location

Chamber Crab Feast

Friday, August 5, 2022



Ali Ghan Shrine
Picnic Grounds

6 – 9 pm

Leadership Allegany! Class of 2021-2022 Graduates



The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce **Leadership Allegany!** Program recently held graduation ceremonies at the Cumberland Country Club. Dr. Sara-Beth Bittinger, **Leadership Allegany!** Chair, served as master of ceremonies with assistance provided by Mr. Robert Godfrey, **Leadership Allegany!** Co-Chair and Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors. Graduation diplomas were presented by Ms. Juli McCoy, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director.

Mr. Seth Sgaggero, Sgaggero Event Planning, who was elected by the class to serve as valedictorian, provided comments along with Ms. Tanya Gomer, Chair of the **Leadership Allegany!** Alumni Committee.

Standing left to right (1st row): Tiras Jordan, *First Jordan Logistics, LLC*, Mark Gandolfi, *City of Cumberland*, Dr. Matthew Ryan, *Progressive Physical Therapy*, Tina Fazenbaker, *Allegany County Department of Social Services*, Christa McGee, *Historic Highlands*

Association of Realtors, Trish Tichnell, IBM, Allison Layton, *City of Cumberland*, Robert Alkire, *WEPCO Federal Credit Union*.

Standing left to right back row: Bret McHenry, *First Peoples Community Federal Credit Union*, Jason Merritt, *T3 Intelligence Services*, Jonathan Frye, *Jonathan Frye State Farm*, Sabrina DeWitt, *Allegany County Department of Social Services*, Daniel Gilpin, *Allegany County Sheriff's Office*, Robert Giffin, *Cintas*, and Seth Sgaggero, *Sgaggero Event Planning*. Absent when photo was taken: Savannah Kenney, *UPMC Western Maryland*.

Leadership Allegany! is a nine-month program dedicated to promoting positive change by creating a network of leaders with a clear understanding of the community and a commitment to its advancement. In a forum of open discussion and interaction, class members acquire a deeper understanding of the issues endemic to the region by observing and hearing the views of others and gain an understanding of the

public and private operations within Allegany County and the state of Maryland. Educational programs engineered for class participation and dialogue cover topics such as Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health Care, Local and State Government, Human Services and Arts and Entertainment. The program provides an opportunity for individuals to become acquainted with the processes, programs and challenges that exist in the region.

The Class of 2021-2022 joined the ranks of over 550 **Leadership Allegany!** alumni who have completed the program. The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce believes today, more than ever, that our future is tied to strong leadership. The more informed and involved citizens of a community become the stronger the community.

For more information about the **Leadership Allegany!** program please contact the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce at 301-722-2820.



The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce presents

Chamber After Hours

Hosted by



First United
Bank & Trust

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | First United Center City Community Office
115 West Harrison Street, Cumberland, MD

Tour our state-of-the art office and meet the associates that provide unique, customized solutions at our Center City Community Office. Join us for an evening of much anticipated networking and community connections.

Hors d'oeuvres • Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks • Network & Win \$3,750

- Must be pre-registered and present at time of drawing to win • Must be 21 years of age to attend • \$5.00 registration fee collected at the door



Offering FREE headshots for Chamber members.

Return to:

**Allegany County Chamber of Commerce,
Bell Tower Building, 24 Frederick Street
Cumberland, MD 21502**

Phone: 301-722-2820

Fax: 301-722-5995

Email:

andrea@alleganycountychamber.com

Registration Information:

Organization Name:

Member Names:

Member Guests:

Please respond by

May 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

MyBank.com



FROSTBURG CANDIDATE FORUM

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022 @ 7PM

IN-PERSON
FROSTBURG
MUNICIPAL
BUILDING

STREAMING LIVE:



WANT TO SUBMIT A QUESTION OR NEED MORE DETAILS?
ANDREA@ALLEGANYCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM

MADE POSSIBLE BY:





ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022
11:30AM
CUMBERLAND COUNTRY CLUB
\$20 PER PERSON

A REVIEW OF THE
2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FEATURING
SENATOR GEORGE EDWARDS
DELEGATES
WENDELL BEITZEL
MIKE MCKAY



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED



TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS OR TOPICS OF DISCUSSION
AND TO REGISTER

EMAIL: ANDREA@ALLEGANYCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM

Paying for education is as simple as 529



Whether your children are in grade school or high school, they'll be leaving for college before you know it. And with the cost of a college education rising now is the time to prepare for that day. At Edward Jones, we can help design an education savings strategy to fit your needs.

One option is a 529 education savings plan. It allows anyone, regardless of age or income, to contribute. Contributions are made with after-tax dollars and accumulate federal income tax free, and in some cases, contributions are eligible for a state tax deduction or credit. As the owner of a 529 plan, you have full control and can change the beneficiary to another eligible family member of the original beneficiary. Even better is that withdrawals for qualified education expenses are federally tax free.

To learn how a 529 education savings plan can make sense for your children, call my office today.

The earnings portion of withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal and state taxes, plus a 10% penalty. Under federal tax law, 529 Plans can be used to pay for up to \$10,000 of tuition expenses per year, per beneficiary, in connection with enrollment at an elementary or secondary school (public, private or religious). Before using funds for elementary and/or secondary education expenses, please consult with the plan sponsor and/or a qualified tax advisor to avoid incurring potential state tax consequences and/or penalties. There may be state tax incentives available to in-state residents who invest in their home state's 529 plan. Student and parental assets and income are considered when applying for financial aid. Generally, a 529 plan is considered an asset of the parent, which may be an advantage over saving in the student's name. Make sure you discuss the potential financial aid impacts with a financial aid professional. Tax issues for 529 plans can be complex. Please consult your tax advisor about your situation. Edward Jones, its financial advisors and employees cannot provide tax or legal advice.



Rod Barker
Financial Advisor

16113 Mc Mullen Hwy S W
Cumberland, MD 21502-6207
301-729-2022

MOBILE TEXT ALERTS

EASY OPT-IN

EASY TO
MANAGE

INCREASES
WEBSITE
TRAFFIC

LINK TRACKING

Communicate with members
quickly & efficiently

Prevent information overload:
Opt-in to groups to get the info you want
without all the extras

- Event Details & Registration
- Programs & Updates
- Monthly Newsletter
- Member to Member Offers & Discounts
- General Announcements & Reminders

OPT-IN:

Text "Chamber" to 74121

or scan QR Code





The seventh annual **"Lucky Ladies Night Out"** will be held on **Friday, June 10th** at the Ali Ghan Shrine Club Picnic Grounds, Cumberland, Maryland. Tickets are \$40.00 per person and include hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, seltzer, soft drinks, bottled water and a raffle ticket chance on a grand prize drawing. Reserved tables of 7 are available at a cost of \$250.00. Doors open at 5:30 pm. You must be 21 years of age to attend – **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

Reservations can be made by using QR code, calling the Chamber office at 301-722-2820 or by emailing peg@alleganycountychamber.com or andrea@alleganycountychamber.com.

"Lucky Ladies Night Out" is a fun evening with friends. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres from **Hornet's Nest/ Wing and a Prayer Catering** and then browse the wide variety of themed gift baskets on display. Baskets are raffled off throughout the evening; purchase just one ticket or if you are feeling lucky purchase a ticket for all the baskets being offered. There is no limit to the number of raffle tickets you can purchase. Raffle tickets are just \$5.00 each. At the end of the evening, you could walk away with some fabulous gifts including salon treatments, outdoor fun, massages, overnight accommodations, automotive detailing, restaurant gift certificates, rounds of golf, a Mystery Basket chock full of fabulous items and more. Throughout the event male volunteers will replenish your drinks so you can sit back and enjoy the evening without missing all the fun.

"Lucky Ladies Night Out" is proudly sponsored by **Bella LLC, City Lights American Grill and Bar, Fore Axes, Homespire Mortgage, Sgaggero Event Planning** and **The Kristi Agency.** 📌

**Allegany County
Chamber of Commerce**

After Hours

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 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 still
available.**

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome Startup Portal to the community. They are located at 48 North Centre Street, Cumberland, Maryland. At the ribbon cutting Startup Portal announced its newest feature—a fully equipped coworking facility—to support startups, solopreneurs, and small to medium-sized businesses in need of an office, a video conferencing meeting room, or simply a dedicated desk space.



Beyond its newest coworking space, Startup Portal is a cloud-based platform that specializes in guiding current and future entrepreneurs, startups, equity crowdfunding ventures, helping small businesses scale operations, and infusing struggling companies with fresh strategies to jump-start their ventures. The team at Startup Portal provides outsourced financial services as well, including training seminars for future entrepreneurs, business financial projections, business funding expertise and business planning with benchmarking data of approximately 25 industries.

“We are honored for Startup Portal to be part of the entrepreneur eco-system in Cumberland and Western Maryland,” Rick Leimbach, CFO Advisor and founder commented. “Our role is to educate and guide current and future business owners with the financial expertise to build a business plan, manage cashflow, prepare for the appropriate funding or build metrics to scale their business.”

To learn more about them please visit their website at www.StartupPortal.com.

Pictured left to right front row:

Nicole Wigfield, *Skypacket Networks* and Chamber Past Chairwoman
Brandi Rice, *First United Bank and Trust* and Chamber Board of Director member
Seth Grove, Senior Accounting Manager, Startup Portal
Don Watson, *Cumberland Times News* Delegate
Michael McKay
Mark Widmyer, Western Maryland Field Representative for Governor Larry Hogan
Cumberland City Councilwoman Laurie Marchini
Rick Leimbach, CFO Advisor and Founder, Startup Portal
Amy Shillingburg, *Rusco Home Improvement*, Chamber Membership Committee member
Melinda Kelleher, Executive Director, Cumberland Development Commission
Robin Summerfield, Western Maryland Representative for Senator Ben Cardin
Cumberland City Councilman Richard “Rock” Cioni
Steve MacGray, *Charis Realty*, Chamber Membership Committee member

Back Row(left to right):

Nathan Price, *Allegany County Economic and Community Development*
Suzanne Joy, Senior Accounting Manager, Startup Portal
Lisa Tartaglia, Financing Reporting Specialist, Startup Portal
Allegany County Commissioner David Caporal
Robert Godfrey, *UPMC Western Maryland*, Chamber Chairman of the Board of Directors
Nick Bartel, Business Development Coordinator, Startup Portal
Adam Strott, *Allegany County Economic and Community Development*
Allegany County Commissioner Jake Shade
Eric Bowlus, *Chew On This – Jerky*, Chamber Membership Committee member
Stu Czapski, *Cumberland Economic Development Corporation*
Brandon Hillegas, *M & T Bank*, Chamber Membership Committee member
Trevor DeVore, *M & T Bank*
Juli McCoy, Executive Director, Allegany County Chamber of Commerce

New Members *(patronize these members and welcome them to the Chamber)*

Continuum Global Solutions, LLC

10701 New Georges Creek Road SW
Suite 16
Frostburg, Maryland 21532
301-500-7713

www.continuumgbl.com

Contact: Martha Simpson, Vice President Business Solutions
E-mail: martii.simpson@continuumgbl.com
Category: Call Center

Servpro of Allegany and Garrett Counties

29000 Garrett Highway, Suite # 1
Accident, MD 21520
301-746-6037

www.servproalleganygarrettcountries.com

Contact: Tim Duck, Business Development
E-mail: 10276servpro@gmail.com
Category: Fire/Flood Restoration
Water Damage/Mold
Description: *Fire, water, smoke, mold and trauma clean up & restoration*

Willdan Energy Services

19847 Century Blvd., Suite 220
Germantown, MD 20874
301-355-0955

www.willdan.com

Contact: Steve Edwards, Auditor
E-mail: sedwards@willdan.com
Category: Contractors/Electrical
Renewable Energy Company



Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon With Western Maryland Delegation Members

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce will present a Legislative Wrap Up Luncheon on **Friday, May 13, 2022** at the Cumberland Country Club beginning at 11:30 am. The program is sponsored by the Legislative Committee of the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce.

The Western Maryland Delegation will be in attendance to provide a wrap up the 2022 Legislative Session. The session review will consist of comments by Senator George Edwards, Delegate Wendell Beitzel and Delegate Michael McKay followed by a question-and-answer session.

The cost to attend (*which includes a buffet lunch*) is \$20.00 for Chamber members and \$30.00 for non-members.

Reservations are required;

please contact the Chamber office at 301-722-2820 or email: andrea@alleganycountychamber.com.

Executive Director... continued from page 1

Business Student Awards. We have included their bios and details highlighting why they were selected on our website, and I encourage you to take a look. There is often so much focus on what we lack in our community and it leaves little space to celebrate the academic gifts and accomplishments being made by our youth. Congratulations goes out to the students who received awards, and an equal congratulations to their parents and others in their lives who have helped them achieve such successes in their educational journeys.


Juli McCoy
Executive Director

Leadership *Allegany!* Alumni Committee Update

The recent graduates of the **Leadership *Allegany!*** Class of 2021-2022 join the rank of almost 560 individuals who have graduated from the leadership program. To allow graduates an opportunity to continue networking with fellow classmates and interact with other alumni graduates the Alumni Committee was created. On a monthly basis Alumni Committee members meet to develop social, networking and educational programs.

To assist future class members the **Leadership *Allegany!*** Scholarship Fund was created to make the program available to individuals whose financial resources may prohibit or restrict their involvement. Small business owners, non-profit agencies, and individuals are the primary target group for the scholarship fund, but funds are available to everyone. To date, 85 individuals have accessed over \$33,000 from the scholarship fund from the first Class of 1998 through the current Class of 2021-2022. Sixteen percent of the **Leadership *Allegany!*** alumni have been given an otherwise unavailable opportunity to learn about our region, develop their leadership skills, and make a positive impact in our county and communities through the Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund covers up to 50% of the tuition. We hope you will consider contributing to the scholarship fund as we continue to provide educational and leadership opportunities to all members of our region.

We extend special thanks to members of the Alumni Committee for their contributions, time, and energy in keeping the **Leadership *Allegany!*** experience alive and for building opportunities for other leaders. If you have an interest in being part of the committee, please contact the Chamber office.

Alumni members are notified of upcoming events by way of e-mail. If you are not receiving emails please contact the Chamber office with your updated information. Stay Involved — Your **Leadership *Allegany!*** adventure does not have to end at graduation! 



The
CHAMBER

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: Patrick W. Buck

Second Vice Chairwoman: Parika M. Andreassen

Immediate Past Chairwoman: Nicole R. Wigfield