The BELLTOWER

VOL 43.2 - FEBRUARY 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Ruth Davis-Rogers

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- New Members
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- International Travel
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- And more...

NEW!

Clickable Links throughout the newsletter!

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Of all the things I am most excited for in February, it has to be the Small Business Roundtable that tops my list. This has been a goal of mine and the Board of Directors for quite some time and to finally bring it together is an exciting turn for our Chamber. Check out the details in this newsletter!

I committed time to PACE and MACCE in Annapolis in January and now is when all that I've learned starts to come together with the legislative session. We are reviewing bills, a draft proposal for FAMLI, and are heading to Chamber Advocacy Day in Annapolis on February 7.

Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat

FRONT ROW: Left to Right

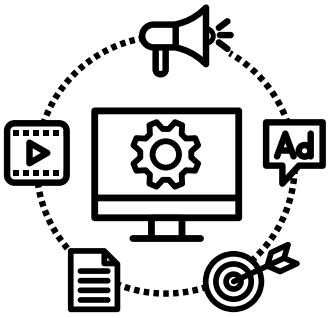
Crystal Bender, Marisa Bowen Miller, Parika Andreassen, *2024 Chairwoman*, Juli McCoy, *President & CEO*, Andrea Kraft, *Communications Manager*, Mary Jane Marker, Brandi Rice

MIDDLE ROW: Left to Right

Kim Leonard, Larry Jackson, Dr. Dong Wook Huh, Kristan Carter, Kate Barnard, Molly Beeman, Kristi Minnigh, Steve MacGray

BACK ROW: Left to Right

James "Snake" Robertson, S. Ramani Pillai, Rod Barker, Jeremy Irons, John Short, Julie Westendorff, *2024 2nd Vice Chairwoman*, Patrick Buck, *Immediate Past President*, Robert Godfrey, *Past President*, Jeff Blank, Rob Collette, *1st Vice Chairman*



KEEP IN MIND...

Success isn't defined as simply reaching a particular destination or goal; each step of the journey should hold growth and development. Embracing each moment and milestone can help us revel in every achievement, no matter how small.

Thank You!

To our members that have renewed their banner ads for 2024!

BUFFALO WILD WINGS
FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
ALLEGANY COUNTY MARYLAND
CHEW ON THIS AND MERCY
UPMC | WESTERN MARYLAND
CINTAS READY FOR THE WORKDAY
ABC Supply Co. Inc.
CHARIS REALTY GROUP
CBIZ
CHESSIE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Lifetime Dental Care of Frostburg
ServiceMASTER Clean
ALLEGANY COLLEGE of MARYLAND

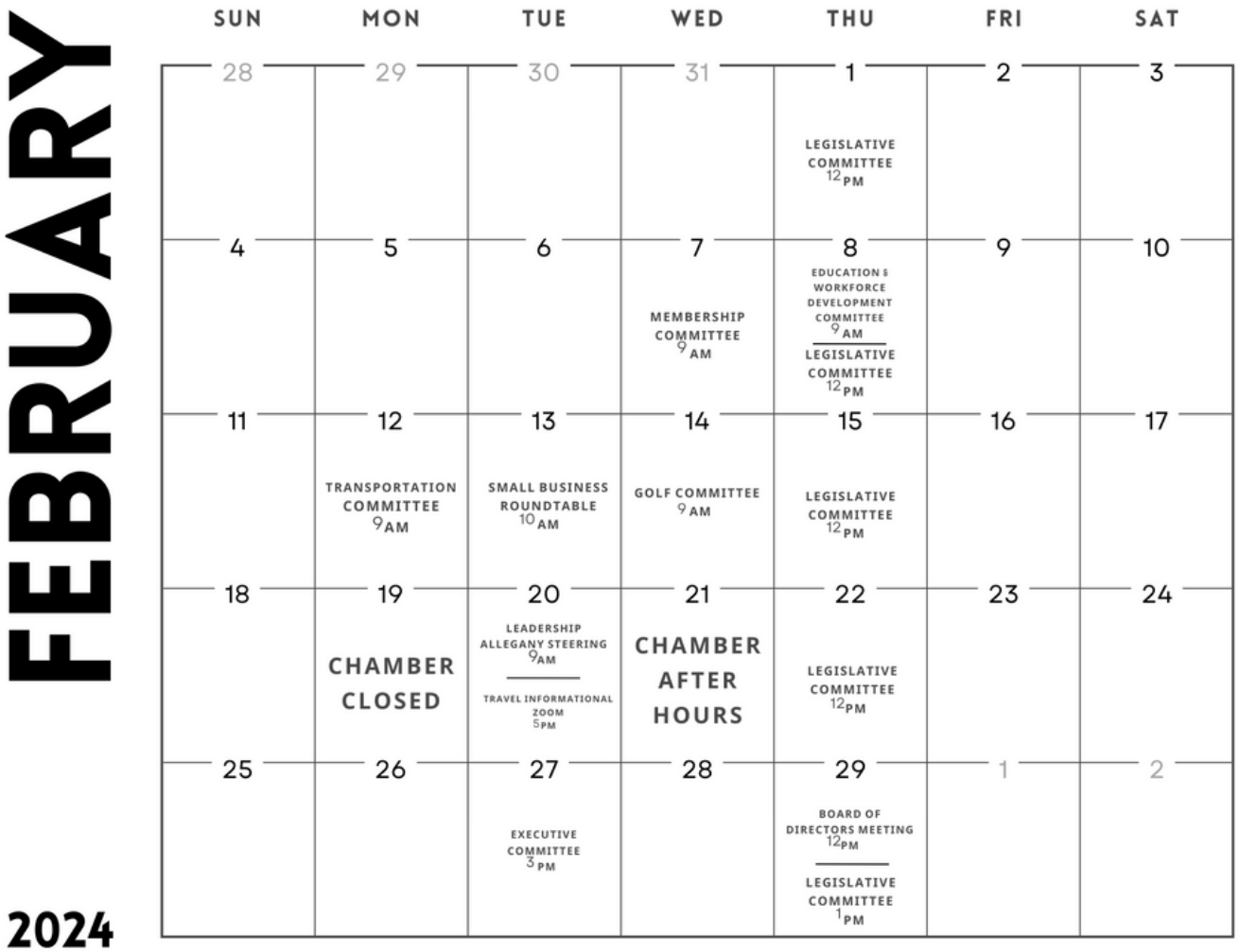
New Members

Stone Lyons Media
9 North Centre Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
Contact: Stone Lyons
stonelyonsmedia@gmail.com
202-246-7657
Category: Video Production, Digital Media

Dream Vacations Nicole Meyers, LeRoy Myers and Associates
11748 Ashton Road
Clear Spring, MD 21722
Contact: Nicole Meyers
nmeyers@dreamvacations.com
Category: Travel

Sherwin Williams - Frostburg
10601 New Georges Creek Road
Frostburg, MD 21532
Contact: Courtney Neilson
301-689-5227
sw705162@sherwin.com
Category: Paints-Manufacturing, Dealers & Contractors

Upcoming Events & Meetings



The CHAMBER
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

SMALL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Tuesday, February 13 | 10am

A forum for small businesses to join together to discuss challenges, successes, solutions, and strategies.

Registration is required - open to any business with 25 or fewer employees.

Register Here!

‹‹‹ International Travel

Informational Zoom

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th at 5:30P.M.

2024 BANNER AD AVAILABILITY

$250 Sponsorship Level

- 10 After Hours
- Golf Tournament
- Holiday Reception
- Lucky Ladies Night Out
- Crab Feast
- Leadership Allegany Graduation
- Recognition Reception
- Local Business Showcase
- Legislative Wrap Up

2 spots open!

Member Resources Defined

Access to advocacy, community, and connection that you can't do on your own.

Members Only

Cumberland Times-News Advertising Discounts

Frostburg State University Discounts
Check with the Chamber for details about saving on tuition.

Constant Contact Discounts
A 25% savings is available to you as a Chamber member. Ask how.

CQI Energy Co-Op
Available for members and their employees.
Join the energy co-op to save on your energy costs and pass the benefits on to your employees!

Advocacy | Community | Connection

The Chamber advocates year-round through the Federation and Maryland Chamber of Commerce, and representing the members through local, state, and regional boards and committees.

We build meaningful relationships with local stakeholders, elected officials, community groups, and other businesses to ensure we can help make connections for you.

Ask yourself what your business needs.
Talk to us about how you can leverage the Chamber to meet them.

The Chamber makes connections for you, whether through referrals or networking.

Directory | News & Info | Advertising & Promotion

Your **directory listing** is online and comes free with your membership.
Our online presence is strong and our SEO and promotion pushes the Chamber to the top of search engines, giving your business listing an elevated presence.

We send **e-News weekly + a monthly newsletter** packed with information and resources for your business and the community.
Our readership has grown exponentially in the past two years with click and open rates far beyond industry standards.

You know that **advertising and promotion** are the keys to success and we help you with that through **exclusive event and program sponsorship** opportunities.

Offering **unique discounts to fellow members** is a great way to promote a new produce or service, and our advertising ranges from enhanced digital directory listings and sponsored ads on social media to printed displays.

The CHAMBER
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

Membership 101

Friday, March 15 at 10am

Join us at the Chamber office to discuss membership, available resources, sponsorship opportunities, and advertising options. We will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

Growth Zone 101

Friday, March 29 at 10am

Join us at the Chamber office to discuss our new Chamber software. How to use it to maximize your membership!
We will be available to help you get set up in the member hub and to answer any questions you may have.

ALLEGANY COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
presents

MARDI GRAS
After Hours

Wednesday, February 21
5:30–7:30 p.m.

HOSTED BY THE ALLEGANY COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

LAVALE LIBRARY

815 National Highway, LaVale, MD 21502

- *Let the good times roll!*
- Join us for Jambalaya and King Cake
- Networking, door prizes, and refreshments!
- Come in costume (optional)

- Chamber Network & Win: $2,750!
- Must be pre-registered and present at time of drawing. Must be 21 years of age to attend.
- $5.00 registration fee collected at the door.
- Please RSVP by February 15 at 5:00 pm

We've got a need for beads and reads!

Register Online

ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
24 FREDERICK STREET, CUMBERLAND, MD 21502
301-722-2820 PHONE, 301-722-5995 FAX,
ANDREA@ALLEGANYCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM

National Civics Bee | The Chamber Allegany County, MD

Calling All Middle School Students!

Share your ideas and show off your civics skills in the National Civics Bee.

More Prizes Added!
Double cash + surprises!

LOCAL

$1,000 cash prize
FIRST PLACE

$500 cash prize
SECOND PLACE

$250 cash prize
THIRD PLACE

STATE

$1,000 cash prize
FIRST PLACE

$500 cash prize
SECOND PLACE

$250 cash prize
THIRD PLACE

NATIONAL

State Finalists who advance to the national competition will compete for prizes worth more than **$50,000**.

About the Bee

The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In the first round of the contest, students will participate in an essay competition. Judges will then select 20 finalists to participate in the final round: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge.

How to Enter

If you are a 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student with an idea about using civics to solve a problem in your community, review the rules and guidelines on this page:

alleganycountychamber.com/civics-bee/
(case sensitive)

Next, complete the online submission form, including contact information for your parent or guardian, and upload (preferred method) or mail your 500-word essay.

DEADLINE EXTENDED – must be received by February 19th

Allegany County Chamber of Commerce
24 Frederick Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
info@alleganycountychamber.com

The National Civics Bee is presented by the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce, with support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Save the Date!

Friday, May 10, 2024

Cumberland Country Club
10200 Country Club Road NE
Cumberland, MD 21502

Tee Time: 9AM

Rain Date: May 31, 2024

The CHAMBER
ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

8th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament

CQI ASSOCIATES

Energy & Sustainability Management Consultants

Celebrating 25 YEARS

Electricity and Natural Gas Utility Rates have increased on average over the past 24 months by **55%.** Members of the Chamber Energy Purchasing Cooperative program have signed long-term fixed price contracts resulting in **11% to 16%** annual savings. Review your current invoice and if you are on the current utility rate or are paying more in your current contract than the posted utility rate, contact CQI Associates for an no obligation rate assessment.

The ***Chamber Energy Purchasing Cooperative*** increased purchasing power allows members to receive lower rates than they could typically attain on their own. The program provides competitive electric and natural gas rates for your business and your home.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

REGISTER NOW in the current campaign which runs from **February 5, 2024, to March 1, 2024.**

CQI Associates - 20 Years Energy Procurement Experience, Expertise, Superb Customer Service. Contact Sean Corcoran with CQI Associates at sean@cqiassociates.com or 410-500-9555