



Volume II, Issue I

January 31, 2006

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International Conference on Transportation and Economic Development to Cover Rural Issues



TED 2006, sponsored by the Transportation Research Board, the Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis and the FHWA, will address both regional and national transportation issues in economic development. The Transportation and Logistics Program of Institute for Economic Advancement at University of Ar-

kansas at Little Rock and the TRB Committee ADD-10 are the conference organizers. NADO members are invited to attend the conference. TED 2006 will be held March 28-30 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, AR, and will cover national and international issues but will also have special sessions to discuss the perspectives and analysis of transportation issues in the Southwest and Southeast regions. These sessions will cover NAFTA issues, and other related border, trade and trans-

portation issues. NADO Executive Director Matt Chase will be a panelist at one of the general sessions. For information about the conference and to register, visit www.ted2006-littlerock.org.

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Tri-County Council Launches Business Technical Assistance Program

The Business Technical Assistance Program is a service provided by the Tri County Council for Western Maryland. The program was established to help businesses get started, to grow and to flourish in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties. Below is a listing of services you can expect to receive from this program. There are no fees for these services.

- Work with clients collaboratively to develop a business plan: both financial forecasts and narrative preparation.

- Assist with the collection and analysis of regional demographic data.

- Help develop a marketing plan that targets your customer needs clearly.

- Assist with the development of sales forecasts, start up and operating expense estimates and over-all financial statement development needed for a business plan

- Identify the available sources of start up and operating capital that you may need to get started and stay running.

- Provide information about the many regulatory and licensing requirements of operating your business.

- Help analyze your current operating statements.

- Refer appropriate municipal, county, state and federal programs and agencies.

- Meet on site to help you with facility layout and design issues.

Our goal is to make our services as accessible to the clients as possible. While our main office is located in Cumberland, we do see business owners on site.

We are in the process of arranging service delivery in Garrett and Washington Counties, but for now, services are delivered by appointment only.

For further information, please contact Mark Malec at the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland at 301-777-2158 or mmalec@tccwmd.org.

Your questions and comments are welcome!

Please contact Leah Lowe at TCCWMD.

Email: llowe@tccwmd.org

Phone: 301-777-2158

The Development District Digest is a bimonthly publication. To be featured in the next issue, articles must be submitted to Leah Lowe ten days prior to publication, which occurs the last day of the month.

Regional Education

Arts in the Schools Week 2006

From April 3-7, the Allegany Arts Council and the Allegany County Board of Education, in cooperation with the S. Schwab Company and the Foundation for Education in Rural Maryland, will present Arts in the Schools Week 2006! This year's program will target the students at Northeast Elementary and West Side Elementary with a week-long "arts immersion" experience that

will expose students to a variety of art-related performances, presentations and hands-on workshops. Presentation topics include everything from storytelling to Shakespeare, ballet to the blues, and poetry to painting. The goals of this annual program are to stimulate creative and critical thinking, to encourage students to learn new ways for self-expression, and to spark the

students' interest in, and appreciation for, the arts that will last a lifetime! For additional information about this wonderful program, please visit www.alleganyartscouncil.org or call the Allegany Arts Council at 301-777-ARTS (2787).

Teets Named Maryland Superintendent of the Year



Garrett County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wendell Teets was recently named the 2006 Maryland Superintendent of the Year by the Public School Superintendents Association of

Maryland.

Teets has been Garrett County's superintendent since 1997, and is in his 17th year as a superintendent. His experience includes: Superintendent of Taylor County Schools (WV); Dean, Assistant Professor of Education, Department Chair, and Director of Athletics at Alderson-Broaddus College; and numerous positions in other West Virginia school systems.

All superintendents chosen by their state associations will be considered for the title of National Superintendent of the

Year, sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators (www.aasa.org). A national "blue ribbon panel" will choose four finalists from the fifty state Superintendents of the Year.

The fifty state finalists will be recognized at the National Conference on Education™. Cash awards and medallions go to the four national finalists, while the National Superintendent of the Year personally presents a \$10,000 scholarship to a deserving student from his or her high school alma mater.

Northern High School Electric Vehicle

Up there with the Toyota Prius and other dominant electric vehicles (EV's), comes Northern Garrett High School's new breed of EV, "The Husky Hertz". An elite force of the electronics, automotive, and machine tool programs have combined heads to create an eight battery powered roadster from a gutted '87 Saab 9000. Students at NHS have come to understand the importance of fuel economy and

conservation during the project.

"I think that electric vehicles are a glimpse into the future of a much cleaner planet," says electronics student Andrew Wilburn. With the price of gas averaging nearly \$2.45, the need for more miles per gallon is also on the rise. Please visit our Electric Car Link on the school website at www.nh.ga.k12.md.us.



Northern High School's "The Husky Hertz"

Allegany College of Maryland -Winter Equine Fest Set February 25-26, 2006 for Tri-State Horse Enthusiasts

Tri-state horse enthusiasts have a rare area opportunity for hands-on training with nationally known horse experts and also can obtain information from numerous equine goods and service providers in Pre-Season Winter Equine Fest, scheduled Feb. 25-26 at Stables at Camelot.

This weekend event is presented by Allegany College of Maryland's Center for Continuing Education in cooperation with the Mineral County, W.Va., stables and Don Blazer of Scottsdale, Ariz. He is an author, teacher, trainer and trader of horses for more than 40 years. His book, "A Horse, of Course," is standard reading for thousands nationwide and he's taught training and horsemanship in this country and abroad, including for other colleges.

Blazer will be joined by Eleanor

Richards, a nutrition specialist for Western Reserve Farm Cooperative for over 20 years. She is also an author and fourth-generation horsewoman who has trained and traded horses most of her life. Both she and Blazer write syndicated columns.

The pair will lead hands-on clinical training and formal sessions to help riders learn how to maneuver and control their horse using various techniques and also how to modify horse behavior by speaking the language of horses. These sessions, limited to 12 participants, are arranged through ACM's Institute for Professional Development and Extended Learning, a CE unit.

Topics in these two day-long sessions, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., include how to determine good shoeing; how, when and why to

determine bits; the physiology of the equine digestive system; and the nutrients available in different feeds.

The public is invited, free of charge, to observe clinical training in the arena, attend mini-presentations by area authorities on equine subjects (at 10:30 a.m. and 1 and 2:30 p.m. both days) and speak with vendors of equine goods and services and participate in a swap meet of equine equipment.

For more information, including about the hands-on clinic and formal sessions, and the tuition for them, contact ACM at 301-784-5121 or Stables at Camelot at 304-788-6330. Information is also available on the college Web site, www.allegany.edu, or at stablesat-camelot.com. To register call ACM at 301-784-5341.

Career and Technology News – Northern High School

The carpentry program has collaborated with Community Action to build a house this school year. The house is being built on a platform trailer and will be transported to a home site in Grantsville when completed. For further details, click on the "house project" link at www.nh.ga.k12.md.us.

The CTE department continues to prepare the electric car for competition in the EV Challenge

in Raleigh, North Carolina. More information and photos are available at www.nh.ga.k12.md.us. Click on "electric car project". The program would like to thank Donald Manekin for his continued support. The program received another grant from his Foundation for Education in Rural Maryland.

Washington County Schools Lauded

Maryland State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick praised Washington County Schools for their students' achievements. In Washington County, students in all grade levels and categories required to take state tests met the objectives set forth by the state.

Many of the state's 240 schools are operating under a plan for

school improvement to address poor test scores, but none of them are located in Washington County.

As reported in the Washington Morning Herald, Grasmick stated that if she were choosing a place to live and had young children, she'd "choose Washington County."

Useful Economic Development Acronyms

CF

Community Facilities (USDA Rural Development Grant and Loan Program)

CFWC

Community Foundation for Washington County

CNCS

US Corporation for National and Community Service

COB

County Office Building

CPPDA

Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority

CTA

Consolidated Technical Assistance (ARC Funding Program)

CUED

Council for Urban Economic Development

CYF

Children, Youth, and Families

DBED

Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

DLA

Defense Logistics Agency

DHCD

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DHS

Department of Homeland Security

DLLR

Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

DMA

Defense Mapping Agency

DNR

Department of Natural Resources

Revolving Loan Fund

RLF Details

The Tri-County Council Revolving Loan Fund has had an active year. The RLF Committee has approved five loans totaling \$711,000 since January 2005. This money leverages over \$1.7 million in private funds invested and helps create or retain over 69 full-time jobs.

Currently the RLF has over \$1.3 million available to lend in six different loan funds. This includes over \$560,000 in the Rural Enterprise Loan Fund, formerly known as the Mountain Maryland Entrepreneurial Development Center's Rural West Fund.

Anyone interested in learning more about Tri-County Council's financing programs should contact Krisinda Heavener at 301-777-2158 or by email at kheavener@tccwmd.org.

Featured Business: The Stonebow Inn



The Stonebow Inn, formerly the Elliott House, in Grantsville, MD is owned and operated by Julyen Norman and Cathy Paine. The couple purchased the bed and breakfast in October 2004. Located along the Casselman River, this historic inn features seven deluxe rooms and two private cottages.

Julyen Norman noted that "TCC's revolving Loan Fund was instrumental in helping us leverage additional working capital and provided the means for us to retain two full-time jobs and engage much-needed part-time employees during our first full year as owners and innkeepers at the Stonebow Inn. The financial assistance of the fund has been critical during this period as it helped to ease our cash flow while we built the business from the ground up."

For more information about this business, please contact Julyen Norman at 301-895-4250 or 1-800-272-4090 or visit their website at www.stonebowinn.com.

HUD Issues Early SuperNOFA Notification

On January 20, in anticipation of publishing its FY 2006 SuperNOFA, HUD published the Policy Requirements and General Section that will accompany the SuperNOFA. The General Section numerates the application requirements and funding availability for the 2006 SuperNOFA and the early publication is designed to give applicants an opportunity to familiar-

ize themselves with the revised HUD funding requirements. HUD expects to issue the full SuperNOFA "in early 2006".

The General Section is available in PDF format at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01/jan2006/1800/edockett.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-531.pdf>.

Senate Bill Extends Life of New Market Tax Credit Program

On November 18, the Senate approved a tax reconciliation package (S 2020) that includes a one-year extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC). Under the bill, the NMTC program would be extended through 2008 with \$3.5 billion in credits to be issued to help spur investment in low and moderate income neighborhoods. The reconciliation bill

would also expand the NMTC program to aide reconstruction in the Gulf Coast areas hit by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Even though the tax reconciliation package (HR 4297) passed by the House on December 8 does not contain a similar NMTC extension, lawmakers are optimistic that the provision will survive during the conferring of the two tax bills.



Featured Project—Western Maryland Kiosks

Funded by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, tourists and residents of Western Maryland now have one-stop access to restaurants, recreation, shopping, and a calendar of events.

Located in each of the three counties that make up Western Maryland, the free-standing kiosks have touch screens that allow the user to access items on the tourism websites for all three counties.

Each kiosk is loaded with a database of information, directing users to local establishments for shopping, dining, and entertainment. The kiosk locations were

selected based upon visitor traffic, security factors, availability of a consistent power source and internet access. The four kiosks are located:

- at the Western Maryland Station at Canal Place;
- on Baltimore Street—the Downtown Cumberland Mall;
- at the Garrett Visitors Center in McHenry;
- and at Weaver's Restaurant in Hancock.

Each kiosk has a custom-designed screen saver. Allegany County's reflects the area's historical significance. Garrett County's centers on Adventure

Sports. Washington County's depicts local scenery.

Since the kiosks were activated in September 2005, they have seen almost 35,000 uses. Most usage takes place on the weekends, when more tourists are out and about.

This project is a great boost for the tourism efforts of all three counties.

Grants and Regional Projects

ON THE WEB

Federal Register
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>

Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance
<http://www.cfda.gov>

Appalachian Regional Commission
<http://www.arc.gov>

Economic Development Administration
<http://www.eda.gov>

Department of Agriculture—Rural Development
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd>

MD Department of Planning
<http://www.mdp.state.md.us>

MD Department of Business & Economic Development
<http://www.choosemaryland.org>

MD Department of Housing & Community Development
<http://www.dhcd.state.md.us>

Garrett County Government
<http://www.co.garrett.md.us>

Allegany County Government
<http://gov.allconet.org>

Washington County Government
<http://www.washco-md.net>

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland
<http://www.tccwmd.org>

Transportation Association Seeks Technical Assistance Project Applications

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is seeking applicants for its 2006 technical assistance programs. CTAA offers free hands-on technical assistance to rural communities to start new transit programs, expand or enhance existing services and develop facilities. Projects must be located in com-

munities with populations less than 50,000 and outside designated urbanized areas. Applicants must be for-profit or not-for-profit entities; potential governmental applicants should contact CTAA for further guidance.

Applications are due by February 28, 2006. For more information

contact Charles Rutkowski at 202.299.6593 or rutkowski@ctaa.org or visit CTAA's website at www.ctaa.org.

Featured Website—www.tccwmd.org Tri-County Council for Western Maryland

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland's website, www.tccwmd.org, provides not only information about TCC's programs, but also includes information on the US Economic Development Administration and Appalachian Regional Commission. Federal Standard Forms required for all federal grants are posted on the site as Adobe PDF documents that can be filled in using

Adobe Acrobat.

Each month, all federal grants announcements from the previous month are posted in the grants section.

Prospective clients of the Revolving Loan Fund can access information and forms online. The Council's annual planning documents are also available on the site.

The Council also maintains the

Western Maryland Regional Directory, which is updated on the website regularly. The Directory contains contact information for state, local and federal agencies, representatives, organizations, municipalities and county governments.

The website also features current and past editions of this newsletter, The Development District Digest, in electronic format.



Board Members

Officers:

Jim Stakem, Chairman
 Allegany County Commissioner

Ernie Gregg, Vice Chairman
 Garrett County Commissioner

Greg Snook, Secretary/Treasurer
 Washington County Commissioner

John Kirby, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
 City of Frostburg Administrator

Members:

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Jim Stakem Lee Fiedler
 Bob Hutcheson Robert Smith
 Tom Cooley

Garrett County

Ernie Gregg Leo Martin
 Jim Hinebaugh
 Dr. Stephen Herman

Washington County

Greg Snook Richard Trump
 James Kercheval Fred Papa
 Tim Troxell William Pennington

Western Maryland Delegation

Senator John Hafer
 Senator Donald Munson
 Delegate George C. Edwards
 Delegate Kevin Kelly
 Delegate Christopher B. Shank
 Delegate John P. Donoghue
 Delegate LeRoy Myers
 Delegate Robert A. McKee

The mission of Tri-County Council is to serve our constituent counties and to promote inter-jurisdictional coordination, cooperation and communication on issues affecting the region and to provide local technical assistance. Our goal is to work with local governments, businesses and educational institutions throughout the region in providing the programs and services most needed by the region and our member governments.

Calendar of Events

2006 Tri-County Council Board Meetings

Locations to be Determined
 9:00 a.m.—Executive Committee
 10:00—Full Council
 Friday, March 24, 2006
 Friday, June 23, 2006
 Friday, September 8, 2006
 Friday, December 1, 2006

Development District Association of Appalachia Conference

March 12-14, 2006
 8:00 a.m. Registration
 Arlington, VA

National Association of Development Organizations

2006 Washington Policy Conference
 March 13-15, 2006
 Crystal City, VA

International Economic Development Council

Economic Development Summit
 March 20-22, 2006
 Washington, DC

Development District Association of Appalachia National Conference

The DDAA Conference will be held March 12-14, 2006, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Registration Deadline is March 10, 2006.

This year's conference is examining ways for Local Development Districts to improve operational standards and increase organizational efficiency in a time of budget cuts and reductions.

This conference will help encourage LDDs to think "entrepreneurially" from both inside and outside of the organization. Conference sessions will challenge districts to see themselves as catalysts whose mission is to help foster thriving, active communities; and present ideas and strategies to help districts think creatively to improve their management standards and overall operational effectiveness.

As part of this discussion, grant-seeking and fundraising educator David Bauer will share funding strategies and advice on how districts can be effective entrepreneurial organizations. As participants in DDAA-sponsored satellite telecasts know, Mr. Bauer is a dynamic communicator with exceptional knowledge of grantsmanship and fundraising.

The 2006 Development District

Association of Appalachia conference also marks the start of a new partnership with the National Association of Development Organizations' annual Washington Policy Conference. This partnership will help Appalachian districts reduce their conference time and travel costs as well as help strengthen the quality of both events.