

January 30, 2015

## Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties



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### Dates to Remember

**March 22-24, 2015**  
[DDAA Annual Conference](#)  
Crystal Gateway Marriott  
Arlington, VA

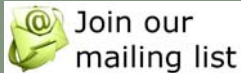


### Murray the Groundhog to Visit City Hall

Cumberland will celebrate Groundhog Day on Monday, February 2, with the highly anticipated emergence of Murray the Groundhog on the City Hall Plaza at sunrise. The event begins at 6:30 a.m. on the plaza, with polka music and free baked goods, donuts, hot chocolate and coffee, provided by the Salvation Army. Children are welcome to join with the Friends of Murray in the City Hall rotunda for a craft and coloring activity area.

Murray, the live groundhog, will make his appearance at sunrise. "It will be cold at 7:23 a.m., when the sun rises over City Hall this year, but I'm looking forward to Murray's weather prediction," said Mayor Brian Grim. Grim will don a top hat and black coat to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Bob Candy from the Tri-State Zoo will translate Murray's prediction to Mayor Brian Grim, for the official announcement. A proclamation by the Mayor and City Council will also formalize Murray as Cumberland's Official



2015 Weather Prognosticator.

Photos with Murray and the Mayor will be available immediately following the prediction, in the rotunda of City Hall. Families are encouraged to attend the event.

Businesses in Cumberland may request a special visit by Murray's friends on Groundhog Day. Business visits may be made online and additional information about the event is available at [www.GroundhogMurray.com](http://www.GroundhogMurray.com)



### **Maryland Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Update**

On behalf of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) the KFH Group invites you to participate in the update of the Maryland Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans. These regional plans identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes; provide strategies for meeting local needs; and prioritize transportation services and projects for funding and implementation.

Input from you and a wide range of stakeholders is a key component in the update of the Coordinated Transportation Plans. In addition, while the latest version of each region's plan will serve as the basis for funding through the MTA's Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) Program for State FY2016 and 2017, future projects through the Section 5310 program will be derived from the updated plans. Therefore, it is vital that current and prospective applicants for Section 5310 funds are involved in the planning process.

**Western Maryland** (Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties):

Date/Time: Monday, March 2, 2015 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Location: Allegany College of Maryland

12401 Willowbrook Road

Cumberland, MD 21502

Continuing Education Building Room 12-14

**Upper Eastern Shore** (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties):

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 9:00am-11:30am  
Location: Chesapeake College  
Routes 50 and 213  
Wye Mills, MD 21679  
Todd Performing Arts Center

**Lower Eastern Shore** (Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties):

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 2:00 pm-4:30 pm  
Location: Tri-County Council Multi-Purpose Center  
31901 Tri-County Way  
Salisbury, MD 21804  
Room 025

**Southern Maryland** (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties):

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 9:30 am-12:00 pm  
Location: Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center  
3090 Crain Highway  
Waldorf, MD 20601

Please confirm your participation by registering through this [link](#) at least one week before a workshop. If your organization provides or purchases transportation services, the registration process will ask for information on these services. Please complete these questions as much as possible, or bring this information to the workshop.

You may also register via email to [lschwartz@kfgroup.com](mailto:lschwartz@kfgroup.com) or by calling 301-951-8660. Please indicate if you would prefer any handouts in alternative formats, or need directions or bus schedule information for the workshop location.

Feel free to pass along information on the workshops to others that may have interest in attending. Additional information on the workshops and the planning process is available by clicking [here](#).

Your assistance in this effort is critical, and we look forward to working with you on the updates of the Maryland Coordinated Transportation Plans.



**Impact Analysis of the  
Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative  
in Maryland**

**Free Webinar  
Thursday, February 5th  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

Maryland policy makers have been studying ways to safely unlock natural gas in Western Maryland, where a portion of the Marcellus Shale is located. Potential gas production in Western Allegany and Garrett Counties would result in fiscal and economic impacts on the state and the residents of the affected region.

For this webinar, the guest speaker, Susan Steward, an economist with the [Regional Economic Studies Institute](#) of Towson University, will discuss an impact analysis conducted by the institute on future gas production in Maryland. She will explore the implications for economic output, jobs and wages, state and local tax revenues, and property and land values. She will also describe how RESI combined the traditional econometric approach and the REMI PI+ model to produce a comprehensive outlook.

Advanced registration is required.

Please click [here](#) to register online.

[www.tccwmd.org](http://www.tccwmd.org)

301-689-1300