

October 19, 2015

Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties



Tri County Council
For Western Maryland

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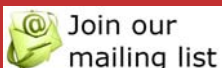
[2016 MEDA Award
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Dates to Remember

November 16, 2015
TCCWMD Board Meeting
Washington County
5:00 pm
Location: TBD

January 21-22, 2016
[P.A.C.E. Reception](#)
Loews Annapolis Hotel



Sideling Hill Welcome Center Officially Open for Business

Known as a gateway to Western Maryland, the center is home to the history, beauty, and adventure offered throughout Washington, Allegany, and Garrett counties. In the 1980s, a section of the Western Maryland mountains were blasted away to create room for Interstate 68. The explosion uncovered rocks that are hundreds of millions of years old, creating a site that is considered one of the best rock exposures in the northeast. Researchers from all over the world travel to Washington County to take advantage of the rock formation's views and accessibility.

Attached to the site is a rest stop and a pedestrian bridge that crosses I-68, offering stellar views of the man-made pass and the surrounding area. Inside the welcome center is a four-level exhibit and a geological time spiral of the earth's history.



Reopening Sideling Hill was a collaborative effort between the Department of Commerce's Office of Tourism Development and the Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration. SHA owns and maintains the center while Tourism operates and staffs the buildings.

The welcome center operates from 8:30AM to 4PM, Thursday through Monday, and is closed on major holidays. The rest area is open all day, every day, from May to December.



Calling for 2016 MEDA Award Nominations!

The MEDA Awards, sponsored by Miles & Stockbridge P.C., recognize the people, programs, and projects bringing economic prosperity to Maryland. If an individual, community, or business initiative has created jobs and renewed spirit in your hometown, then we want you to nominate for the 2016 MEDA Awards!

Submission Deadline: December 4, 2015

Click [here](#) for more information.



HHS, Federal Partners Announce Rural IMPACT Demonstration Designees

U.S Department of Agriculture Secretary Vilsack and HHS Acting Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield announced the 10 Rural IMPACT Demonstration designees. These communities will receive intensive technical assistance, increased capacity through AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers, and participation in a peer learning network-all to help them adopt a comprehensive, whole-family framework for addressing child poverty.

The selected communities are:

- Berea (KY), Partners for Education at Berea College
- Blanding (UT), The San Juan Foundation
- Blytheville (AR), Arkansas EOC
- Hillsboro (OH), Highland County Community Action

- Hugo (OK), Little Dixie Community Action Agency
- Jackson (MS), Friends of Children of Mississippi
- Machias (ME), Community Caring Collaborative
- Marshalltown (IA), Mid-Iowa Community Action
- **Oakland (MD), Garrett County Community Action Committee and the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission**
- White Earth (MN), White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

In Appalachian Maryland, Garrett County Community Action Committee and [Allegany Human Resources Development Commission](#) has pioneered an integrated service delivery system through a pathway planning model that focuses on both economic security of the family and school readiness of the child.

In all 10 Rural IMPACT sites, by embedding a two-generation approach in programs and systems, the Administration anticipate improvements in service delivery, program participation, and most importantly, better outcomes for low-income children and families.

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