Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties

Tri County Council
For Western Maryland

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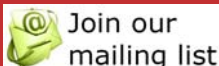
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Dates to Remember

January 19, 2016
TAM Legislative Reception
Governor Calvert House
Annapolis, MD

January 21-22, 2016
P.A.C.E. Reception
Loews Annapolis Hotel

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Happy Thanksgiving!

MARBIDCO
growing rural ventures™

2016 Maryland Value Added Producer Grant Extension

The Maryland Value Added Producer Matching Grant Program (MVAPMG) was established to make grants available to those pursuing support from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Value Added Producer Grants Program (USDA VAPG). MARBIDCO was created with a mission to assist Maryland's farm, forestry, and seafood businesses with achieving profitability and sustainability, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and nurturing emerging food and fiber markets. MARBIDCO will make

grants available to eligible applicants to provide up to 15% of the matching funds requirement under the USDA VAPG. These funds will be required to be used for planning or working capital purposes in accordance with USDA regulations. Eligible purposes include determining appropriate marketing techniques and creating business plans or paying operating expenses before a business has sufficient cash flow from operations.

Eligible applicants must be an independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or ranch cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture (all defined terms under federal regulations). In addition, applicants must be making a product that is "value added". A product that is value added has in incremental value realized by the producer as a result of: 1) change in physical state; 2) differentiated production or marketing; 3) product segregation; and 4) economic benefit realized from the production of farm- or ranch-based renewable energy.

For more information please click here or
contact Andra Davis at 410-267-6807

Register for the Rural Summit
December 3, 2015

The "Aspire Rural Maryland" Rural Summit will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel located at 210 Holiday Court in Annapolis, Maryland.

The agenda for the one-day summit features:

- Keynote by Washington College President, Sheila Bair
- Panel discussions with elected officials
- Panel discussions with State leaders
- Sessions on: Agriculture, Community Development, Economic Development, and Health Care

This event will provide attendees an opportunity to hear from and interact with elected officials and state leaders on efforts to improve quality of life in our state's rural areas.

The day's event will also include the 2015 Rural Impact Awards Luncheon recognizing individuals and organizations that have contributed to the improvement of rural Maryland.

Click here to view the agenda

Click here to register

Please call (410) 841-5772 or
e-mail rmc.mda@maryland.gov
if you have questions or need additional information.

Say Thanks to a Special Volunteer

If you've worked with a special someone who isn't a paid economic developer, consider submitting a nomination that recognizes his or her work. Your nomination should highlight the passion and commitment this person has for economic development. This is an individual who truly devotes their time and talent to enhance Maryland's economic vitality and prosperity. Ring a bell? Nominate today!

Nominations for Volunteer of the Year are submitted to the Awards Committee, which then makes a recommendation to the MEDA Board of Directors. The winner will be honored at the 2016 Annual Conference Awards Banquet on May 2, 2016.

As you prepare to compile your nomination there a few things to remember:

- the volunteer must be nominated by a MEDA member
- you may nominate more than one individual
- it is FREE to nominate a volunteer

For questions, please contact Sandy Sponaugle or visit RMC's website to learn more.

The last day to submit your nomination is
Friday, December 4, 2015.

www.tccwmd.org   301-689-1300

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