



Chamber in the News

December 15, 2009

Montgomery County Green Business Certification Goes Live; First Companies to Be Recognized by County Leaders



After months of planning and Beta-testing, the **Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program** is now accepting online applications! A partnership of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, MCCC and Montgomery College, the Green Business Certification Program is designed to recognize businesses and other employers that have taken voluntary steps to protect, preserve and improve the environment. With an extensive online resource guide and [Montgomery College Crash Courses](#), the program helps companies adapt best business practices and compete in a green economy. Chamber President Gigi Godwin will join County Executive Ike Leggett and County Council President Nancy Floreen in announcing the first 13 businesses to earn the Green Business Certification, at an event in Silver Spring on Wednesday, December 16. For more information on the program and to review the complete application for certification, along with a resource guide, visit www.mcgreenbiz.com.

Success of Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) Leads to New Sessions for 2010!



VIP Class of 2009 and Presenters

Thirty-two veteran-owned businesses completed the six-session Veteran Institute for Procurement and received graduation certificates on November 16 from special guest **Mauricio Vera, Director of the Federal Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization.**

Based on the program's success, VIP 2010 sessions will now be offered, beginning in January, in two Maryland locations: Bethesda and Frederick. The **Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation (MCCCF)** in conjunction with **Congressman Roscoe Bartlett** will host the VIP session in Frederick. The next sessions will run from January through March. Established by MCCCF in partnership with MCCC and its GovConNet program, VIP is a comprehensive certification program, featuring instruction by professional service experts and designed for veteran-owned businesses to increase their ability to win government contracts. [Click here](#) to find out more about VIP and to register.

Expert Panel Reviews Electricity Re-regulation with Legislative Committee



(L to R) Harry Warren of Washington Gas Energy Services; Dennis Moran of Marriott International; Georgette "Gigi" Godwin, MCCC President and CEO; James Muir of Hughes Network Systems, Vice Chair of the MCCC Education and Workforce Preparation Committee; Delegate Brian Feldman (D-15), chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation; and Ray Bourland of Pepco.

On November 20, the Chamber Legislative Committee welcomed Delegate Brian Feldman; Harry Warren, President of Washington Gas Energy Services; Ray Bourland, Pepco; and Dennis Moran, of Marriott International, to discuss the issue of electricity re-regulation. Last year, Governor O'Malley put forward a legislative proposal that would have stopped the ability for consumers to competitively shop for their electricity. Warren and Bourland provided committee members with a historical perspective on the issue and the panelists encouraged members to save on their electricity costs, by competitively shopping for their energy. All of the panelists agreed that re-regulating the industry is not the correct approach for Maryland's future and that it is unlikely that a re-regulation bill will pass this legislative session. If you're interested in competitively purchasing electricity for your home or business, you can search for suppliers via the [Maryland Public Service Commission website](#).

Deputy MDOT Secretary Visits Infrastructure and Land Use Committee



(L to R) Georgette "Gigi" Godwin, MCCC President and CEO; Harold Bartlett, Maryland Deputy Secretary of Transportation; Gus Bauman, Vice Chair, Infrastructure and Land Use Committee

Maryland Deputy Secretary of Transportation's Harold Bartlett addressed members on December 8, to update the committee on several of the State's major transportation initiatives. Bartlett said the work on contract A of the InterCounty Connector, from Interstate 370 to Georgia Avenue, is now approximately 60 percent complete. MDOT continues to press forward on submitting three major transit projects to the Federal New Starts program, including the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway projects in Montgomery County. **MCCC Vice President of Public Affairs Lisa Fadden** asked how the State will fund its share of each of these projects without a revenue increase. The deputy secretary indicated that MDOT is optimistic. The federal reauthorization will include funding for some of these projects and that the federal government will begin to pay for more than the current 50 percent share it has been paying on these large scale projects. Many committee members took this as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of new revenue sources that will both build our transportation capacity and meet our system preservation needs.

A Great Day at FDA, As Businesses Hear From New Commissioner and Key Officials



(L to R) Georgette "Gigi" Godwin, MCCC President and CEO;
FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, MD;
Joan Kleinman, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen

More than 200 business leaders convened at the new U.S. Food and Drug Administration headquarters at White Oak on December 3, to hear from the new FDA Commissioner, Dr. Margaret Hamburg, and key FDA officials about the agency's primary initiatives and opportunities for businesses to support FDA in its critical mission. Panelists from the FDA included Glenda Barfell, Director of Office of Acquisitions and Grants Services; Victoria Johnson, Small Business Specialist; Lori Davis, Chief Information Officer; Kimberly Holden, Assistant Commissioner for Management; and Deana Murphy, Director, Office of White Oak Services. The panelists remained available to meet with participants after their presentation.

The program is part of the MCCC GovConNet initiative to connect business with federal contracting opportunities. Dr. Hamburg told the group: "One-quarter of every consumer dollar spent in our nation goes toward the purchase of FDA-regulated products." She also noted that the agency's priorities "include reforming the entire food safety supply system and supporting both innovations in medical products development and assessment of their safety." The presentations were followed by a tour of the facility. To view FDA PowerPoint presentations, [click here](#), and to view the photo gallery of the event, [click here](#).

Eric Seleznow of Governor's Workforce Investment Board Speaks to Joint Chamber Meeting



(L to R) William Robertson, Vice Chair, Economic Development Committee; Eric Seleznow, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; Georgette "Gigi" Godwin, MCCC President and CEO; James Muir, Vice Chair, Education and Workforce Preparation Committee.

Eric Seleznow, who serves as Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Investment Board visited a joint meeting of the Economic Development and Education committees last week. Mr. Seleznow, who is a life long Montgomery County resident, spoke about the changing demographics and challenges the County and State face for our future workforce. Even as Maryland remains a low unemployment State relative to other jurisdictions, our unemployment has doubled since 2007, and we can't ignore these trends. Workforce retraining, and an emphasis on our key industries is what we'll need to help position ourselves to bounce back from this economic downturn. Mr. Seleznow emphasized that Maryland's educated workforce is our greatest asset in order to keep our economy running.

Save the Date!

Crash Course on How to Become a Montgomery County Green Certified Business

Friday, December 18th, 2009

8:00am - 11:00am, Montgomery College

New & Prospective Member Orientation

Friday, January 22, 2010

8:30am - 10:30am, MCCC Board Room

Chamber After Hours

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

5:30pm - 7:30pm, Gordon Biersch, Rockville

36th Annual Public Safety Awards Luncheon

Friday, March 12, 2010

11:00am - 2:00pm, Bethesda North Conference Center

Visit www.mccc.md.com for more details.

New and Renewing Members

[WELCOME NEW MEMBERS](#)

[THANKS TO RENEWING MEMBERS](#)

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