



News from the Chamber

January 26, 2010

New County Council President Nancy Floreen Addresses MCCC Economic Development Committee



County Council President Nancy Floreen (center) and Bill Robertson, CEO of Adventist HealthCare, MCCC Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair and Board Member (right)

County Council President Nancy Floreen, who took office for her one-year term in December, outlined her economic development agenda, before a packed room of Chamber members at the MCCC Economic Development Committee meeting Jan. 14.

The Council President fielded a broad range of questions on business and economic issues facing the County this year. Among the many subjects she addressed were the Council's upcoming votes for approval of two key master plans now being considered by the Council - for White Flint and Shady Grove West - and the hurdles the county faces in seeking to restore lost jobs and attract headquarter companies, such as Northrop Grumman.

Legislative Committee - Industry Expert Details State's Strategies For Reigning in Unemployment Insurance Costs



(L to R) MCCC Chair William Eisig, President Gigi Godwin and Ron Adler, president and CEO of Laurdan Associates.

In the midst of the economic crisis, a key factor driving up business costs, locally and nationally, is skyrocketing rates for unemployment insurance. As this is one of the key legislative issues that will impact businesses in this year's General Assembly session, the Chamber's Legislative Affairs Committee recently hosted a presentation by Ron Adler, president and CEO of Potomac-based Laurdan Associates, and one of the nation's foremost experts on unemployment insurance issues.

Adler gave members a snapshot of the condition of the state's unemployment insurance trust fund, which has nearly dried up over the past three years, mirroring a national trend. He discussed a range of options that state lawmakers will be considering as they seek to enact legislation once again to reform the unemployment insurance system and stem the tide of the rate increases, while working to stabilize the trust fund. Nevertheless, Adler reminded the group that the state's guiding principle for reform should be driven by the notion that "the best unemployment benefit is a job."

MCCC's VP of Public Affairs Updates Small Business Committee On Bills Of Impact to Small Biz in Maryland General Assembly



After briefing the Legislative Committee on key issues facing small business in the Maryland General Assembly this year, MCCC Vice President of Public Affairs Lisa Fadden chats with Joan Berghane of Argy, Wiltse & Robinson, PC, and Seth Kramer of the Kramer Law Firm.

Chamber Vice President of Public Affairs Lisa Fadden provided Small Business Committee members with an overview of the top legislative issues in the 2010 Maryland General Assembly that would impact the small business community. Speaking at the Jan. 20 committee meeting, she briefed members on the Maryland Small Business Credit Recovery Program, the job creation and recovery tax credit, unemployment insurance, the Maryland Economic Adjustment Fund, and energy "re-regulation."

Looking ahead to issues more likely to rise to the surface in the Assembly next year, she noted that business taxes, transportation funding, and ways of addressing the general fund deficit were all likely to dominate the 2011 session.

You're a Member; So Become a 'Fan' Too!



One of the many ways you can keep up with what's happening with your Chamber and to network with your colleagues is by [becoming a Facebook "fan"](#) on the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce page. Keep up with key issues, Chamber programs and events, and more, and keep in touch with us!

Going Green? Make It Official with the Montgomery County Green Business Certification



If your business is doing all it can to adopt green business practices, you now have the opportunity to be recognized for your success by applying for and earning the new **Montgomery County Green Business Certification**. The Chamber is proud to have worked in partnership with **Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection** and **Montgomery College** to launch the new certification program, which would not have been possible without the leadership and involvement of many of our member companies that helped to develop the application process and beta-tested it.

Complete details on how the certification program works, and information on how to register for the Montgomery College "crash courses" on the certification process can all be found at www.mcgreenbiz.com.

Honoring Our Heroes - A Chamber Tradition And an Annual Event Not to be Missed! Public Safety Awards - Friday, March 12



2009 Public Safety Awards

No business can succeed in an unsafe environment. Be part of the [36th Annual Public Safety Awards Luncheon](#) on March 12 to pay tribute to our local heroes. The largest event of its kind in the region, join over 1000 elected officials and the business community as we honor public safety acts of valor and community service. Click here for sponsorship and ticket information

Save the Date!

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

Tuesday, February 9th, 2010

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

New & Prospective Member Orientation

Friday, January 29, 2010

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

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.

Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members!

[WELCOME NEW MEMBERS](#)

[THANKS TO RENEWING MEMBERS](#)

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