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Business News from The City of Frederick, Maryland Fall 2025

BUSINESS IN FREDERICK MARYLAND

Greetings!

This has been one of the most beautiful autumns across the mid-atlantic in recent memory, with blue skies, cool nights, warm days, and incredible color. It has also been memorable in terms of the winds of business activity for the community and this issue of Frederick Business eNews is chock full of those acorns – new business openings, event, and accolades.

Last month, Frederick based [3 Roads Communications](#), launched its highly acclaimed documentary InSpired on MPT and across the nation. According to Russ Hodge, CEO – the film has been scheduled for 64 broadcasts including on networks in South Carolina, Georgia and South Dakota. We are fortunate for all those who participated in the revitalization story over the decades and those who continue to join the story today.

Business leaders are consistently saying that workforce is the top business need for continued capital investment and job creation. DED collaborates with [FC Workforce Services](#), [FCPS](#), [FCC](#), [Hood College/MSM University](#), [UMD](#), [MD Department of Labor](#), and more to ensure that Frederick businesses have the talent pipeline to keep delivering great products, services, and jobs. DED and its partners helped host more than 500 FCPS students at Harry Grove Stadium for a Construction Trades Event to introduce students to skilled jobs in the construction industry.

Fredericktonians are foodies for sure and strongly support new restaurant concepts. [FCC's Hospitality, Culinary & Tourism Institute](#) recently hosted its Food Business Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition, highlighting the creativity and drive of emerging food entrepreneurs in our region. Check out the story in this issue to see the top new food concepts.

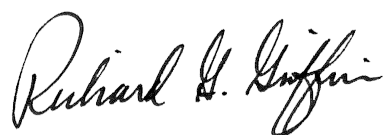
Kudos to DED's own business development specialist [Kennedi "KiKi" Wilson](#), who was chosen to be the emcee for the [2025 Annual Maryland Main Street Conference](#) in Easton. With hundreds of Mainstreet and economic development officials from across the state, Kennedi brought down the house with her wit, wisdom, and wonderful commentary. Hosted by Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) I was fortunate to help open the conference and welcome attendees. Frederick is a National Main Street Community and our partner – Downtown Frederick Partnership is the designated local MainStreet operator.

After two decades of service to the residents and businesses of Frederick as office manager for the DED, [Donna Goff](#) is retiring and is hoping for bagpipes as she exits City Hall. Donna has been involved in nearly every effort of the department, including budgeting, grant reporting, events, filming, scheduling, and so much more. She has been loyal, hard-working, and a friend to many here at city hall and across the city. Join me in wishing her much enjoyment of this next chapter of her life.

Veterans Day is next Tuesday. Please fly your flag, remember those who have sacrificed

much for our freedom, and thank the veterans in your life. My 100-year-old dad is a WWII Navy Veteran (Asheville, NC) and my mom was an Airforce nurse. My brother and I are both Army Veterans so service to country is important to my family and me. Allons.

Best,



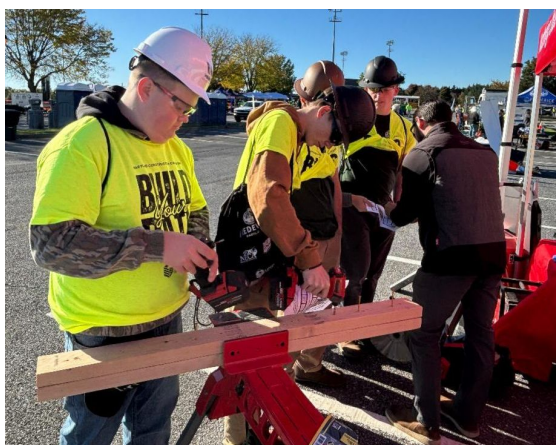
Richard G. Griffin, AICP, CEcD
Director, Economic Development

Business News



Donna Goff retires after 20 years with DED

It was November 14, 2005, when Donna Goff first stepped into her new office at City Hall, now the location of the Finance Office, as an Economic Development Specialist. In a recent conversation, [Donna shared what](#) has made her journey so meaningful and what she's most looking forward to in retirement.



Construction Trades: Next Gen Career Pathways

Maryland's construction industry is grappling with a critical shortage of skilled tradespeople, a challenge that's driving up project costs and threatening the pace of economic development across the state. Organizations such as the Maryland Center for Construction Education & Innovation (MCCEI) are dedicated to bridging the gap between education and industry, [advocating for career pathways](#) within the construction trades industry.

Women in the Trades: Developing a Pipeline of Talent

Local trade association, the Frederick County Building Industry Association, [launched an initiative](#) in 2021 to tap into a large segment of the potential construction trades workforce: women! The Professional Women in Building (PWB) Council was established in 2021 to empower women in the building industry by providing



opportunities for both professional and personal development.



2025 Main Street Maryland Conference: "Great Places Win: Powering People, Places, and Possibility."

The **2025 Main Street Maryland Conference** was held October 7–8 in downtown Easton, Maryland, a town celebrated for its historic Main Street roots. This year's theme, "Great Places Win: Powering People, Places, and Possibility," emphasized the importance of investing in vibrant, historic downtowns as engines of community and economic strength.



Celebrating Food Business Innovation at FCC

Frederick Community College's Hospitality, Culinary & Tourism Institute recently hosted its **Food Business Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition**, highlighting the creativity and drive of emerging food entrepreneurs in our region. Each participant presented their business idea to a panel of industry professionals and local economic development leaders.



25th Annual Business Appreciation Week in Frederick

This year marked a **major milestone** for our economic development partners at the Frederick County Office of Economic Development (FCOED): the 25th anniversary of Business Appreciation Week (BAW), a beloved tradition that honors the businesses fueling our community's growth and vitality.

Smart, Strategic and Showing Up: Women in Economic Development 2025



Area Development's Women in Economic Development Forum brings together women professionals in the economic development field to network, learn about the latest trends in site selection, business attraction and community growth, and exchange real-world strategies. **Attending the Forum** with our partner the Frederick County Office of Economic Development (FCOED) was nothing short of invigorating.



Frederick's Biotech Cohort Returns

Frederick's BioTech BootCamp is gearing up for another cohort! The Biotech Boot Camp is an innovative, 4-week, training program designed to help job seekers gain the fundamental skills necessary to enter Frederick's **growing biotech industry**. The program is intended for both first-time and experienced workers looking for a new career pathway.

Awards & Attaboys

Monocacy Brewing Company is putting Frederick's craft beer scene on the national map, **earning a Bronze Medal** at the 2025 Great American Beer Festival (GABF) in Denver, Colorado. The award recognized Monocacy's Riot Rye Pale Ale in the Rye Beer category, a testament to the brewery's technical skills and commitment to quality.

RS Will Wealth Management is pleased to announce a **significant milestone** for the firm as Josh Donofry, Frank Jarboe, Sr., and Steven Wilson have been named partners. Their leadership, expertise, and commitment to clients have been an integral part of our firm's continued success, and we are proud to recognize them as an essential part of RS Will's future.

Hood College's Black Student Union (BSU) **celebrated its 51st anniversary** with award-winning actor, best-selling author, entrepreneur and philanthropist Hill Harper. The BSU at Hood, established in 1974, was founded as both a social and educational union, meant to increase inclusion and understanding on campus and make a lasting impact at Hood and in the local Frederick community.

Leading accounting and advisory firm, **Brown Plus**, is thrilled to announce that it was recently named the **#5 Best Place to Work** for Women in 2025 in the medium category by Best Companies Group.

A lifelong dream took shape in Frederick when **Critters, Reptiles & Exotics** **officially opened** its doors on August 26, 2025. Owned and operated by Frederick native Chris Enders and his father, Bob, the store is more than a pet shop—it's an interactive, zoo-like experience designed to educate and inspire the community about the animal world.

The inauguration of **Hood College's** 12th President, Debbie Ricker, Ph.D., **commenced** in the Hodson Outdoor Theater on the College's campus in Frederick, Md. The ceremony brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni and distinguished guests from across the region.

The House on Jonathan Street, [3 Roads Communications](#)' seminal documentary about the history of Hagerstown, MD's African American community, [has received](#) a Silver Award from the Paris Film Awards in the Best Feature Documentary category. The one-hour film chronicles the rise, fall, and rise again of Hagerstown, Maryland's African American neighborhood.

[Doug's Automotive Services](#), a family-owned and operated automotive repair shop, marked the [official grand opening](#) of its new location at 312 E 4th Street with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

[Visitation Hotel Frederick](#) has received a recent honor, Award of Merit for Best Renovation – Historic Preservation from the [NAIOP DC/MD chapter](#).

Frederick-based [BioEvanesce](#) was awarded [TEDCO Funding](#) to Advance Hydrogel Spray for Post-Surgical Adhesions.

Openings & Anniversaries

[Artspiration Frederick](#) - 915 Tollhouse Ave - Grand Opening
[Critters, Reptiles and Exotics](#) - 904 N. East Street. - Grand Opening
[JBC Rice Noodle & Ramen](#) - 2060 Yellow Spring Rd, Suite #104 - Grand Opening
[Bates Architects](#) - 121 N. Court Street - 20th Anniversary
[Sass Magazine](#) - 125 E. Patrick Street - 10th anniversary
[Mindset Quality LLC](#) - 1750 Monocacy Blvd - New Program
[YMCA Ausherman Arts Center](#) - 115 East Church Street - Naming Ceremony
[TEEL Construction](#) - 115 West Patrick Street - Grand Opening
[Goldfish Swim School](#) - 353 Ballenger Center Drive - Grand Opening
[House of Colour East Frederick](#) - 116 N. East Street - Grand Opening

Calendar

techfrederick - [Quarterly Breakfast @ Hood College](#)

November 6

Fort Detrick Alliance/FITCI: [16th Annual Technology Showcase](#)

November 6

techfrederick: [Hackathon](#)

November 8

Fort Detrick Alliance: [Quarterly Networking Breakfast](#)

November 8

techfrederick: [Technician to Manager](#)

November 19

Cowork Frederick: [Brain Boost - Hiring Here, Hiring There, Smart Staffing for Small Businesses](#)

November 21

techfrederick: [Technician to Manager](#)

December 3

Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: [Latino Businesses Networking](#)

December 3



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