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Business News from The City of Frederick, Maryland

March 2025

BUSINESS IN FREDERICK MARYLAND

Greetings!

Each year March ushers in uncertain weather, college hoop madness, and more importantly Women's History Month. All month, Frederick has celebrated strong women community and business leaders. In fact, earlier this month Mayor O'Connor moderated a panel of women leaders who talked about the driving winds that pushed them into service and business. Check out the [video of the event](#) and their compelling stories. The City Department of Economic Development has been working hard to support women entrepreneurs as they shoot for success while growing their businesses across the city. This issue of Frederick Business eNews includes stories on Women-Led Organizations and Outreach, Maryland Women's Business Center along with stories on the new VFW center, Highland Logistics Center, and McClintock Food Hall and more.

I would like to highlight several strong women leaders who are part of Frederick's dream team and whom I have had the benefit of working with over the years. That team includes Olivia White, a retired executive who is presently serving as the President of African American Resource and Cultural Heritage (AARCH) Society which just held its groundbreaking for a new African American Museum in a prime retail location along East All Saints Street in a space leased from the City. I am proud of the deep relationship which DED has with AARCH and am looking forward to the museum becoming one of Frederick's top attractions. Other key team members rounding out the roster include the recently appointed President of Hood College Debbie Ricker, FCC President Annesa Payne Cheek, FCPS Superintendent Cheryl Dyson, FC Executive Jessica Fitzwater, City Council President Katie Nash, and Council Members Donna Kuzemchak, and Kelly Russell. Frederick is truly fortunate to have top talent.

Here's hoping that stormy March weather "leaves like a lamb" and that Maryland basketball dominates the next round of sweet sixteen basketball. Go Terps! Go Frederick!

Best,

Best,



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



Rising Up: Upcoming Projects in Frederick

Exciting developments are underway in Frederick! The new [VFW building](#) has commenced, meanwhile, the [Highland Logistics Center](#) is also making strides, and the [McClintock Food Hall](#) is underway. Read about these key projects and more updates as construction progresses!



Empowering Entrepreneurs: Insights from Karen Kalantzis of the Maryland Women's Business Center

The Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC) has been an invaluable resource for aspiring and established entrepreneurs since its founding in 2010. Karen Kalantzis, Senior Business Consultant at MWBC, shares insights into her work, the role of the center in the community, and some essential advice for new entrepreneurs.

[Dive in](#) for more details.



Build Your Network: Local Resources and Opportunities for Women Business Owners in Frederick

Securing and maintaining a professional network is one of the keys to success in business. For Women's History Month, we have compiled a list of local women-centered organizations and resources that business owners in Frederick can tap into for support, networking, and development. [Check them out here!](#)



Breaking Ground - The African American Heritage Center's Impact on Frederick's Tourism and Economy

The groundbreaking of the [African American Heritage Center](#) corralled community leaders, elected officials, and history enthusiasts to downtown Frederick this month; Waynesboro Construction Co., Inc. officially began construction on the 3,200-square-foot center, located at 125 East All Saints Street. Learn [more](#) about this exciting project!



Photo Credit: Office of the Governor

Governor Moore Joins Frederick County Hiring Event to Support Federal Workers

Governor Wes Moore attended the March 18th Rebuilding Careers Job Fair and Hiring Event in Frederick to uplift resources for Maryland's displaced federal workers. The event—which attracted more than 900 registrants and more than 75 participating employers —facilitated reemployment connections for former federal public servants, contractors and other interested jobseekers. Read more about the Governor's visit [here](#).



Community Input Sought to Help Form a Climate and Energy Action Plan

People, businesses, and organizations are invited to provide input on climate change impacts and help set climate priorities for our community. The Frederick County Government and the City of Frederick are working together to create the first Community-Wide Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). Get [involved](#)!



Job Openings with Economic Development

The Department of Economic Development is currently hiring for two positions: [Office Manager](#) and [Economic Development Specialist Returnship](#). Applications are now being accepted. Visit the City of Frederick Careers site and [apply](#) today!

Awards & Attaboys

Unraveling Obesity, a member of the Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI) startup community, is proud to [announce the launch](#) of its innovative Nurse Navigator Program. This initiative empowers individuals to take control of their health by providing personalized support in the fight against obesity.

At **Frederick Health**, the community can take comfort in knowing an expert team of healthcare professionals is on hand to offer excellent care. Frederick Health has received three [nationally recognized awards](#) from the American Heart Association for implementing specific quality care improvement measures.

Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. (FITCI) is proud to [announce the appointment](#)

of Andres Mendoza as the new Vice Chairman of the FITCI Board of Directors. Andres brings a wealth of experience and an entrepreneurial spirit to this leadership role, further strengthening FITCI's mission to drive innovation and support the growth of startups in Frederick and beyond.

Over the past year, **City Youth Matrix** (CYM) has taken a major step in strengthening its impact **by developing** a comprehensive logic model and evaluation plan. These tools will ensure that CYM effectively tracks data and demonstrates the meaningful difference it makes in the lives of the children and families it serves.

SilverVox.org, a newly launched nonprofit dedicated to supporting artists and fostering creative expression, is bringing an **exciting new vision** to Frederick—one that transforms local venues into a thriving hub for film, music, and live performance.

Melissa Aellen **has taken over** as president of the Maryland's wineries association. She is a third-generation vintner and the director of winery operations at Linganore Winecellars and **Simple Theory Wine Co.** in downtown Frederick, where she oversees all aspects of production and daily operations.

Openings & Anniversaries

Sandbox Brewhouse - 808 N. East Street, Suite 201 - Grand Opening

Briq Haus Pilates - 505 N. Market Street - Grand Opening

Morgan Keller Construction - 70 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 200 - 70th anniversary

Visitor Center - 151 S. East Street - New visitor center exhibits - Grand Opening

Punk 'n Peasant Pierogi - 1450 W. Patrick Street - Grand Opening

Midnight Baker - 1450 W. Patrick Street - Grand Opening

Calendar

SBDC MD: Getting Your Finances Sorted Part 1: Accounting, Bookkeeping, Taxes & Financial Reporting

March 31

techfrederick: Roundtable - Explore AI

April 1

Frederick County Chamber Lunch & Learn: Your Narrative: How the Right Words Build Business

April 2

FITCI Edge: Optimizing the IND Journey: Strategies & Tools for Faster Approvals w/Lonza

April 2

Frederick County Chamber of Commerce: Public Safety Awards

April 3

SBDC MD: Getting Your Finances Sorted Part 2: Budgeting & Forecasting

April 3

SBDC MD: How To Minimize Risk In Starting A Business

April 9

FITCI Edge: WIB-Capital Region: BioMixer at FITCI

April 9

FCWS: Frederick County Businesses - You're Invited: Frederick County Graduating Seniors Career Fair!

April 10

Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs: [Monthly 2025](#)

[Certification Workshop](#)

April 11

Frederick County Chamber of Commerce: April 2025 Business Card Exchange | FITCI and Bentztown

April 16



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